

TRAFFIC (International) BULLETIN

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Editors: Shirley Bennett and
John A. Burton

TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) is a Specialist Group of the Survival Service Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Its function is to monitor the international trade in wildlife.

Any opinions expressed in this Bulletin are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN or any other organisation connected with TRAFFIC. Information may be quoted freely, but an acknowledgement to the TRAFFIC Group of IUCN/SSC should be made where appropriate.

Turtles are tasty

"Rub six individual turtle steaks with a damp cloth dipped in vinegar. Dip each steak into seasoned breadcrumbs, in beaten egg, and finally in sieved bread crumbs. Heat 1/4 cup butter and stir in one tablespoon finely chopped shallots. Cook the steaks in this to a delicate brown on both sides. Pour over the browned steaks one cup bordeaux and season with salt, pepper and a dash of nutmeg. Cover the pan and simmer gently for 15 to 20 minutes. Dress steaks and keep in hot platter....."

This recipe is one of many produced by Mariculture Ltd., part of the Cayman Turtle Farm organisation of Grand Cayman Island in the British West Indies.

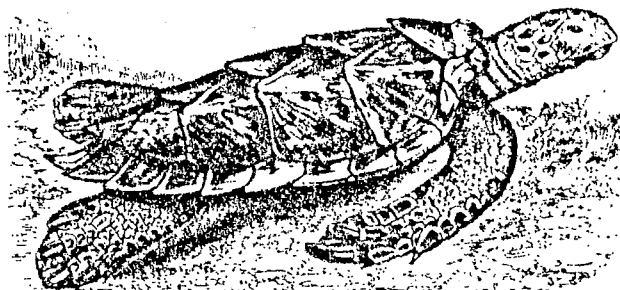


Illustration by David Mack

Cayman Turtle Farm was hotly debated at the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington DC. Sue Wells of TRAFFIC International and David Mack and Nicole Duplaix of TRAFFIC USA compiled a report on the international trade in sea turtle products and presented it at the Conference. Sue Wells will give her account of the conference in the next Bulletin.

DODD BACK IN JOB

In early October C.K. Dodd Jr. was given notice of a proposal that he be removed from his job as herpetologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service because of his conservationist enthusiasm (see Bulletin Nos.8 & 9 p.10). On 18 October Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Robert L. Herbst, ordered that the proposed disciplinary action against Mr Dodd be withdrawn and suggested that a letter of admonition be substituted.

(Taken from a Department of the Interior News Release).

Canada leads the field

The Canadians were one of the first parties to CITES to produce an identification guide to help their enforcement officers. They followed up with an audio-visual kit (which was demonstrated at the Geneva meeting of CITES). They have now launched a public awareness campaign and, maintaining the close cooperation between TRAFFIC and the Canadian Wildlife Service CITES administration, TRAFFIC has just been sent copies of their TV 'adverts' and a leaflet relating to CITES.

John Heppes (the CITES Administrator) will be pleased to supply details of their programme and offer advice to anyone contemplating a similar project - if you want further information please write to John Heppes, CITES Administrator, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, ONTARIO KIA 0E7, Canada.

CITES LEAFLETS

The UK and Canadian management authorities have both produced leaflets designed for tourists outlining the effects of CITES. The Canadian leaflet is available from John Heppes (address above), and the UK leaflet from John Goldsmith, Wildlife Conservation Licensing Section, Room 310, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, BRISTOL BS2 9DJ.

Wild fur prices

The December issue of the British journal 'Fur Review' published figures produced by the Ontario Trappers Association for wild pelt prices, extracts from which are tabulated below:

SPECIES	AVERAGE VALUE	MAXIMUM VALUE
Fisher (marten)	£ 179 00	£ 330 00
Mink	£ 24 43	£ 71 00
Otter	£ 98 74	£ 194 00
Lynx	£ 377 78	£ 655 00
Bobcat	£ 208 15	£ 485 00
Canadian sable (marten)	£ 30 05	£ 93 00
Black bear	£ 79 03	£ 215 00
Grizzly bear	£ 250 00	£ 300 00
Polar bear	£ 428 65	£ 500 00
Brown bear	£ 126 45	£ 200 00
Coyote	£ 70 63	£ 235 00
Timber wolf	£ 127 67	£ 360 00
Red fox	£ 92 69	£ 220 00
Raccoon	£ 36 26	£ 135 00
Arctic fox	£ 55 78	£ 104 00
Weasel	£ 1 48	£ 5 00
Wolverine	£ 173 42	£ 240 00
Cougar	£ 267 14	£ 305 00
Badger	£ 16 70	£ 100 00
Hair seal	£ 10 22	£ 16 25
Musk rat	£ 7 07	£ 14 75

The price paid for musk rat (£14 75) is apparently "historically the highest price in the world ever paid for musk rat pelts."

Colombian Calamities

We received news from Colombia recently that 40,000 freshwater turtle hatchlings were taken from the eastern plains of Colombia. Bound for The Chinese Food Company in Tokyo, they were loaded in crates specifically constructed to secure their survival during the journey (presumably to ensure their freshness for the table). However they were seized by the Colombian authorities and delivered to INDERENA for return to their place of origin, but according to another source they have all since died, due to lack of proper care. Apparently small lizards or small alligators were the next consignment to The Chinese Food Company, as they were ready for despatch, but we have not heard whether the authorities acted on this information.

Monkeys, parrots, iguanas and snakes and their products (all specified as hides) are being smuggled out of the country from two villages, Puerto Escondido and Puerto Rey, situated west of the Rio Sinu on the Caribbean coast. Apparently the local authorities find this trade very lucrative.

Monkeys, mainly squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) are exported illegally from Bogota and Baranquilla.

In August it was reported in 'El Tiempo' that 10,000 turtle hatchlings were sent to Miami, the flight being authorized by the airport authorities in Baranquilla. Many of the hatchlings were dead or dying. The species was not named, nor the company who undertook the transport, but there are no freshwater turtles hatching in August in Colombia or the Brazilian Amazon, only marine turtles - they were possibly collected from the island of Salamanca, and could be Loggerheads, which were breeding there at that time.

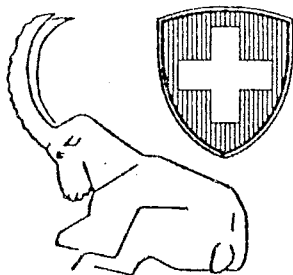
All in all, a sad state of affairs.

Stuffed turtle saga

A stuffed hawksbill turtle, purchased in the Seychelles by a holiday maker from Wales, was seized and impounded by customs officials at Heathrow. Paul Henry, the purchaser, had an export licence from the Seychelles but no import licence. The Seychelles have ratified CITES and should therefore not be issuing export licences for commercial purposes. The Hawksbill is on Appendix I and the Convention clearly states that an export licence should not be granted unless "...a Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that an import permit has been granted for the specimen."

The 3ft turtle was sold to Paul Henry for £130 in the Seychelles. His application for an import licence to the DOE Wildlife Conservation Licensing Section has been rejected and he is unable to send it back to the Seychelles as an export licence cannot be issued for what is a purely commercial transaction. However the Member of Parliament for Swansea has written a letter of protest to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Hector Munro MP, who has replied saying that an export licence will be granted. However Article III4(a) would preclude this "a Scientific Authority of the State of import has advised that the import will be for purposes which are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved;" and of course Article III3(c) makes it clear that every single movement was in contravention of the Convention since it states that licences for Appendix I can only be issued if "a Management Authority of the State of import is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes.

Daily Telegraph reporter Charles Nevin is obviously no champion of conservation, as an article on October 30th was obviously slanted in favour of the purchaser's indignant protestations, using such quotes as: "Conservation of animals is great, but it's a bit late if they're dead" from Paul Henry and "It seems a ludicrous piece of red tape to make him send it back rather than let him keep it now it's here" from the Labor MP for Swansea.

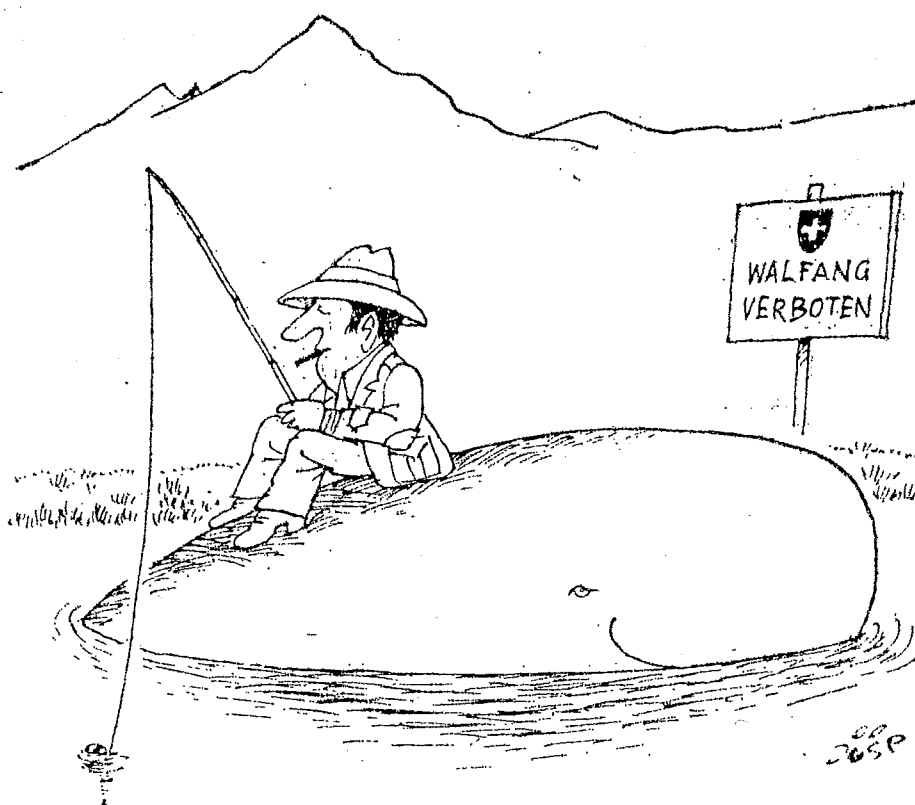


News from Switzerland

by Dr Peter Dollinger

FEDERAL VETERINARY OFFICE

- On November, 16, Swiss customs at Basel detected 1 Hyacinthine Macaw, 5 Amazons, 5 Timneh Grey Parrots, 1 Goffini's Cockatoo, 4 Fruit Bats, and 5 Thai Squirrels which were to be illegally imported from Germany. Customs seized the car in which the animals were hidden, and the Veterinary Office confiscated the animals. The smuggler, a German subject, will be prosecuted on the basis of the Customs Law and the Law on Animal Health.
- On November, 27, the National Council (House of Representatives) gave its approval to the ratification of the Whaling Convention. 146 votes were in favour and none against the membership of Switzerland to IWC. Presumably in March 1980 the "Ständerat" (Senate) will deal with the matter, and hopefully Switzerland will become a Party before the next IWC meeting.



- Switzerland, as most Parties to CITES, applies some tolerance regulations for the import of small commercial consignments or in the frame of the passenger traffic. The import of consignments up to 2,5 kgs gross weight is tolerated without permits, except for live animals, reptile skins, watch straps made from reptile skins and zoological preparations, where tolerance is zero. With effect from 1st of December the tolerances for raw and worked ivory and turtle shell (tariff headings 0509 and 9505) have now been cancelled.

African observations

GHANA

An appreciable amount of ivory in the form of carved whole tusks and tusk sections, along with bracelets, necklaces, rings and so on, are on open sale inside the departures area at Accra International Airport. Other wildlife products offered for sale in the same kiosks included zebra skin bags and trinket boxes, Python and Monitor skin handbags and several rough cured civet skins.

KENYA

The recently passed Wildlife Products Ban seems to be working effectively. There were virtually no trophy sales and several discreet enquiries as to the availability of ivory products produced negative responses in each case. The nearest thing to ivory being sold was plastic elephant hair.

MALI

Small amounts of ivory are carved and sold in the Craftsmans Market in Bamako, along with python skin products. In another shop approximately 25 Harnessed Antelope (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) skins were for sale. Around 80% of these were juvenile and the remainder females.

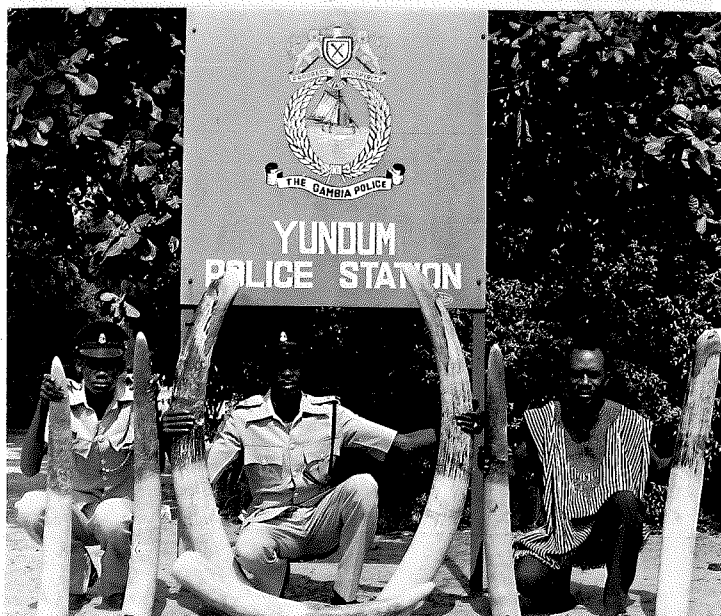
(Source: Philip Steele, Conservation Education Officer in The Gambia.)

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Police swoop in The Gambia

We received news from Eddie Brewer, Director of the Gambian Wildlife Conservation Department, that the Gambian Police have intercepted seven elephant tusks.

They were smuggled into The Gambia by a person claiming to have bought them, and were discovered by The Gambian Police who had been tipped off by the Senegalese Police and The Gambian Wildlife Conservation Department.



Gambian police with poached ivory

Examination of the tusks by Col. A Dupuy, Director of the National Parks of Senegal, confirmed that one of them was from Johnny, an elephant well known to visitors to Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal.

The affair has been given maximum prominence in The Gambia and Ms Connie Wadner of Radio S I D which broadcasts in English, Swedish, German and French has produced a short programme which begins with the Elephant Song and is followed by a text appealing

to the people of Africa to help save their priceless natural heritage.

Eddie Brewer writes: "Compared with ivory poaching activities in East Africa, seven tusks are but a drop in the ocean - but here in this region of West Africa they represent four elephants at least poached from a National Park which is engaged in a constant struggle to protect its already depleted resident herd - over 50 are thought to have been poached from an estimated overall Park population of 300 in recent years (excluding the four elephants under reference)". The Gambian police force (3 of which are shown above) are to be congratulated on their vigilance.

ZAMBIA

(Taken from Annual Report of National Parks and Wildlife Service of Zambia for 1977).

According to the report the export of unworked elephant ivory was banned in 1977, and at the end of 1977 the Government ivory stocks were 4,833 kgs. Sales of ivory realised K 25,818. The report records that 158 elephants were killed in protection of property, 28 were killed by the National Parks Wildlife Service, and 97 by Safari operations.

On the operational side it is interesting to note that the Department's allocation was K 1,488,100 (K 270,460 less than 1976) plus a capital fund of K 298,000. A further K 969,870 was gathered in revenue making a total of K 2,755,970 (approximately £2m). At the end of 1977 the total staff strength stood at 595 - which gave a field distribution of one guard for every 350km². With only 70 hours of flying time, and many of the landrovers and other vehicles out of action, due to the petrol shortage, the problems besetting conservation can be appreciated.

Micronesian fruit bat trade

(Taken from Forest Bird and Fruit Bat Populations and their Conservation in Micronesia: Notes on a Survey by C. John Ralph and Howard F. Sakai, Elepaio Vol. 40(2).)

Fruit bats (*Pteropus spp.*) are considered a delicacy by some residents of Micronesia. Two of the species involved, which both occur on Guam and the Mariana Islands (Saipan and Rota), are listed in the Red Data Book. The *P. tokudae* is endangered and the *P. mariannus* vulnerable.

A recent survey in Guam indicates a population of less than fifty bats in the wild, but more than 15,000 were imported for food from the other islands in less than three years (see Table). The rate of harvest of this resource is possibly endangering the future supply and is deserving of immediate study.

TABLE: Number of Fruit Bats Imported into Guam for Food

	SAIPAN	ROTA	YAP	PALAU	PONAPE	PAGEN	TINIAN	TOTAL
1974	0	6	22	350	0	0	0	378
1975	76	1 421	865	5 069	0	0	50	7 321
1976 (through October only)	1 514	1 379	2 737	10 722	212	190	132	16 886
TOTAL	1 590	2 806	3 624	16 141	212	190	182	24 745
Number/ha of forest land	0.19	0.47	0.67	0.61	.01	.04	.02	

Source: Pers. commun. Ronald Strong, Guam Division of Aquatics and Wildlife

In Saipan some exploitation of fruit bats continues despite their relative scarcity, while Rota is increasing its output to Guam. Between January 1974 and October 1976 approximately one bat per five acres of forest land was exported.

During the same period the Yapese exported to Guam more than one fruit bat for every two hectares of their forest, the highest rate recorded for an extended period (see Table). On Palau fruit bats are being harvested for the Guam market at a steadily increasing rate, more than doubling in each of the three years since 1974, reaching 10,722 in the first ten months of 1976 (See Table).

(This information is from data supplied by Ronald Strong of the Guam Division of Aquatics and Wildlife. These imports are only an approximation and many more are probably taken).

Thailand

Pong Leng-EE, former Director of Wildlife Conservation Division of Thailand's Royal Forestry Department, has been transferred to the National Park Division as Director and Pirote Suvankorn is now Director of the Wildlife Conservation Division.

Statistics of Live Wildlife Exported from Pakistan during April to October 1979

(Source: S.A. Ghalib, Zoological Survey Department, Government of Pakistan).

	2	Striped Hyaena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>)
	10	Indian Grey Mongoose (<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>)
	12	Bats
1	42 961	Red Avadavat (<i>Amandava amandava</i>)
	700	Red Headed Buntings (<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>)
6	600	Indian Silverbill (<i>Euodice malabarica</i>)
	110	Alexandrine Parakeets (<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>)
	600	Budgerigars (<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>)
	100	Indian Krait (<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>)
	135	Indian Cobra (<i>Naja naja</i>)
	290	Saw Scaled Viper (<i>Echis carinatus</i>)
	329	Russell's Viper (<i>Vipera russelli</i>)
	30	Asian Sand Viper (<i>Eristicophis macmahoni</i>)
	259	Sand Boas (<i>Eryx johani</i> and <i>Eryx conicus</i>)
	175	Dhaman (<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>)
	20	Sea Snake (<i>Hydrophis</i> , <i>Enhydrina</i> and <i>Pelamis</i> spp.)
	523	Brown River Turtle (<i>Kachuga smithi</i>)
	86	Indian Garden Lizard (<i>Calotes versicolor</i>)
	613	Indian Spiny-tailed Lizard (<i>Uromastyx hardwicki</i>)
	220	Leopard Gecko (<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>)
	90	Rock Gecko (<i>Cyrtodactylus</i> spp.)
	100	Sind Broad-tailed Gecko (<i>Teratolepis fasciata</i>)
	30	Fan toed Gecko (<i>Ptyodactylus homolepis</i>)
	70	Turkish Gecko (<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>)
	200	Sand Gecko (<i>Crossobamon lumsdenii</i>)
	38	Agamids (<i>Agama</i> spp.)

COUNTRIES TO WHICH EXPORTED:

Austria, Belgium, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Japan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, USA, West Germany.

Twenty five years ago

"Controlled exportations of Antilope skins from French Equatorial Africa reached 308,200 kilos in 1953. The estimated number of animals killed each year is over 2,000,000. This means over 15,000,000 kg of food. These figures must be considered from both points of view: Nature Protection and economic value of wild fauna."

(Taken from *Mammalia* 19 P.346, 1955).



This Bulletin completes the first volume and we would like to give a great big **THANK YOU** to all the people who send us data, information, news.....please keep on sending it in.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
(and don't forget to renew your subs.....)

