

TRAFFIC (International) BULLETIN

VOL II Nos 5 & 6

June/July 1980

in this issue:

JAPAN AND THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION	46
JAPAN, RUSSIA AND THE IWC	46
SURVEY OF FLAMINGOS IN BRITISH ZOOS by Jon Barzdo and Steve Pollock	47
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN SOUTH AMERICA: A Report by Obdulio Menghi	49
DISCREPANCIES IN CITES TRADE STATISTICS BETWEEN GERMANY AND BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY & URUGUAY by Caroline Boydell	52
INTERESTING COMPARISONS FOR VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE GERMAN FUR INDUSTRY	54
STATUS OF CROCODILIANS IN COLUMBIA By Federico Medem	55
NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND	57

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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.

and lots more..

SORRY

We apologise for the delay, and to get back on schedule we are publishing a double issue, to help cope with the backlog.

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JAPAN AND THE CITES

The Japanese Diet passed legislation enabling them to ratify the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) on 25 April 1980, but no instrument of ratification has been deposited to date. Unofficial information indicates that Japan will place reservations on fin whale, musk deer, green turtle, hawksbill turtle, olive ridley turtle, saltwater crocodile, Bengal monitor lizard, yellow monitor lizard, desert monitor lizard.

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS

It is possibly not generally known that, at present, no Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) should import specimens of Appendix I or II species originating from Nigeria. This was advised at the 3rd Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee at Nairobi, Kenya on 26th April 1980. Apparently the Convention is, in practice, not applied in Nigeria due to lack of authorising legislation. Under these circumstances, no export permit may be delivered and consequently no specimen of Appendix I or II species should be imported by other Parties.

RETURN TO GHANA

Ghana would like to recover any live specimens or products originating from Ghana which are confiscated by importing Parties, though without having to pay for return transport.

MALAYSIA PLANS NEW REPTILE TANNERY

A new reptile tannery, to be built next year at Kota Baru, Malaysia, will be the biggest of its kind in South East Asia it is reported. Skins are to be procured domestically and from Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore, and the establishment of a crocodile farm is also envisaged. Handbags, belts and other items will be made for export. The project is expected to entail investment of some Malaysian \$1,000,000 from private and government sources.

(Source: *FUR REVIEW* June 1980)

PROGRESS REPORT FROM BAHRAIN ON ANIMALS RESCUED FROM ROME AIRPORT

Last September the remaining live animals stranded at Rome Airport (see *Bulletin Vol. I Nos 8 & 9, page 8*) were rescued by the Al-Areen Wildlife Park in Bahrain. We have recently received a progress report on them from the Al-Areen Wildlife Park. Apparently the surviving groups of animals are doing very well. They are healthy and have settled into the routine of Al-Areen Park with births being expected or having occurred in all the groups.

TROPHIES BANNED IN WEST GERMANY

Following the example of Australia and the Scandinavian countries, West Germany will no longer exempt hunting trophies, usually taken on African safaris, from the CITES import controls.

(Source: *Oryx*, April 1980)

SURVEY OF FLAMINGOS IN BRITISH ZOOS

In the second half of 1978 the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK) jointly undertook, with the TRAFFIC group, a survey of flamingos kept in British collections.

The original stimulation for the survey was a proposal put forward by the United Kingdom at the Costa Rica meeting of CITES concerning flamingos. Relatively little data was then available. The data now collected suggest that the numbers now in captivity are sufficient to produce enough to supply the demand of zoos without further imports, provided that zoos manage them properly, but very few appear to do so.

It would be useful if all flamingos not on Appendix I were on Appendix II of the CITES to allow effective monitoring of this trade.

The survey form asked how many adults and immatures were kept of each of the following species:

Caribbean flamingo	-	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber ruber</i>
Old World flamingo	-	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i>
Chilean flamingo	-	<i>Phoenicopterus (ruber) chilensis</i>
Andean flamingo	-	<i>Phoenicoparrus andinus</i>
James' flamingo	-	<i>Phoenicoparrus jamesi</i>
Lesser flamingo	-	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i> .

The collections were asked how many were captive bred and how many were imported wild caught, and they were also asked to provide available data on mortality rates and longevity.

Only thirty-four of the forty-two collections for which there were responses kept flamingos. In those collections there was a total of 1,121 flamingos at the end of 1978, made up as follows:

274	Caribbean
139	Old World
528	Chilean
64	Lesser
40	Andean
16	James'
6	Unidentified (from one collection).

1 121

(See Table 1).

It is believed that most of the survey returns probably did not include 1978-bred birds.

Of these 1,121 only 267 (23.8%) were known to be captive bred, 194 (72.6%) of which had been hatched at the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, and 164 were still exhibited there (See Table 2).

The major mortality of flamingos occurs during collection and transport. Once the birds have settled in they can live a long time, 30 years or more, but they are susceptible to stress and to disease, especially in the first few weeks after arrival.

Although there are well over 540 Chilean flamingos in British zoos, to make no mention of private collections, only about forty-four chicks were hatched in 1978.



240 Caribbean flamingos produced thirty-three chicks and 130 Old World's produced only six. Of course the sexes of the adults are not known, but unless there is a devastatingly large male population it is safe to say that the overall breeding record is appalling. And what makes it so is the number of collections that keep species in small numbers in the full knowledge that flamingos only rarely breed under these conditions. Other poor management practices such as shutting flamingos away every night in the breeding season, because fences are not predator-proof, are contributory. This practice obviously disturbs the nest-building activities of the birds and almost certainly prevents them from reaching even the first stages of reproduction.

Recently London, Chester, Bristol and San Diego zoos have sent their Andean and/or James' flamingos to the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge to build up numbers in the flocks. Already, then, a positive approach is being made, but wider cooperation is required.



Rubra (Lat. *red*), the Flamingo.

	Caribbean	Old World	Chilean	Lesser	Andean	James'
Banham Zoo	-	-	6	-	-	-
Blackpool Municipal Zoological Gdns	6	10	19	-	-	-
Bristol Zoo	8	1	9	-	-	-
Cot Survival Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chessington Zoo	2	2	4	-	-	-
Chester Zoo	6	5	21	1	1	2
Clea Hill Bird and Animal Garden	(6)	-	7	-	-	-
Cricketer St Thomas	-	-	10	-	-	-
Druffin Zoo Park	1	-	5	-	-	-
Falconry Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flamingo Gardens	29 + 1	8 + 1	6	5	8	2
Guernsey Zoo	-	-	3	-	-	-
Haigh Hall Miniature Zoo	2	-	4	-	-	-
Mosswood Bird Garden	-	-	32	-	-	-
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust	-	-	25	-	-	-
Kelling Park Avicaries	-	3	-	3	1	-
Kilwarstone Wildlife Park	4	-	17	-	-	-
Knowsley Safari Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lions of Langloot	-	-	-	-	-	-
London Zoo (Z S L)	8	11	31 + 1	16	-	-
Lowther Wildlife Park	4	-	4 + 4	-	-	-
Marwell Zoological Park	9	28	-	-	-	-
Mole Hall Wildlife Park	12	-	11	-	-	-
Norfolk Wildlife Park	-	-	13	1	-	-
Paignton Zoo	2	-	8	-	-	-
Rode Zoological Gardens	12 + 2	-	8	-	-	-
Pencynor Wildlife Park	4 + 3	-	39	-	-	-
Skagness	-	-	-	5	-	-
Southport	-	-	3	-	-	-
Stagdan Bird Gardens	-	-	4	-	-	-
Suffolk Wildlife Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tropical Bird Park, Isle of Wight	-	-	3	-	-	-
Twyross Zoo	10 + 3	-	16 + 4	-	-	-
Walsh Mountain Zoo	-	-	9	-	-	-
West Midland Safari Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whipsnade Zoo Park (Z S L)	46 + 20	8	36 + 16	-	-	-
Wildfowl Trust, Arundel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wildfowl Trust, Martin Mere	-	-	25 + 2	-	-	-
Wildfowl Trust, Peakirk	-	-	18 + 5	-	-	-
Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge	65 + 4	57 + 5	124 + 8	13	29 + 1	12
Wildfowl Trust, Washington	-	-	-	-	-	-
Windar Safari Park	11	-	25 + 4	-	-	-
TOTAL 42 COLLECTIONS						
Caribbean	Adults - 241	Immatures - 33				
Old World	Adults - 133	Immatures - 6				
Chilean	Adults - 538	Immatures - 44				
Lesser			Adults - 64	Immatures - 0		
Andean			Adults - 39	Immatures - 1		
James'			Adults - 16	Immatures - 0		
Unidentified			- 6			

(Figures expressed as additions + refer to immature animals)

TABLE 2

Collections which exhibited captive bred Flamingos

Collection	Caribbean	Old World	Chilean	Andean
Flamingo Gdns.	6 (4 in '75/6) (2 in '77/8)			
London Zoo (ZSL)			6 (3 in '73 - Slimbridge) (2 in '76) (1 in '78)	
Rode Zoo Gdns.	2 (2 in '78)			
Twyross	3 ('76 & '77)		4 ('76 & '77)	
Whipsnade Park	27 (from '71-8 except '72)		23 (from '75-8)	
Wildfowl Trust Martin Mere			27 (Slimbridge)	
Wildfowl Trust Peakirk			5 (2 in '77) (3 in '78)	
Wildfowl Trust Slimbridge	21 ('68, '72, '75 & '77)	28 ('70-'77 exc. '73)	113 (('69-'77)	2 (('69, '72 '77)
TOTAL	59 Caribbean	28 Old World	178 Chilean	2 Andean

Figures show total captive bred birds in the collection. Those figures in brackets show numbers born per year or years of births and place.

Thus, of collections surveyed, of 34 which kept flamingos 8 collections exhibited captive-bred flamingos - i.e. 23%.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Obdulio Menghi, Technical Supervisor to CITES, recently visited Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia. He also visited Argentina with a view to accelerating the process of ratification in that country. Below is a summary of his visit.

Among the Parties visited, Brazil may be considered as the only one possessing the administrative infrastructure capable of meeting the requirements of the Convention. The major problem is illegal traffic, which is closely related to the lack of joint anti-smuggling action in neighbouring countries. The illegal traffic between Brazil-Bolivia; Brazil-Paraguay; and Bolivia-Paraguay is enormous, especially when taking into account that the armies of Bolivia and Paraguay collaborate with it, and keeping in mind also that according to information obtained in Bolivia, cocaine is hidden among smuggled skins.

Paraguay has a highly complex administrative system. The National Forest Service (Servicio Nacional Forestal, Edificio Patria, Tacuari 443 - 40. Piso, Asuncion) is the department within the Ministry of Agriculture which is in charge of the Convention, but until now a different department issued permits. On the other hand, the Ministries of Defence and of the Treasury also issued permits through the Ministry of Agriculture, and there was no control whatsoever to identify the species. During my meeting with the Minister of Agriculture I pointed out the administrative shortcomings as regards wildlife trade, and the paramount need to put the National Forest Service in charge of everything related to trade in endangered species, as a first step to prevent forgeries. The Minister agreed to take the necessary action to resolve this problem.

The issue was also raised with the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Treasury, where the Convention turned out to be totally unknown. In the last resort, an approach was made to the Minister of Foreign Affairs who promised to cooperate to issue export permits. Finally, the National Forest Service is very interested in obtaining assistance from a consultant for implementation of the Convention.

In Bolivia there is a notorious lack of infrastructure, as well as a lack of zoologists. All staff members of the Forestry Development Center (Centro de Desarrollo Forestal, Av. Camacho 1471, Castilla de correo No. 1862, La Paz) have a forestry background. Species are known only by their various common names, which renders any type of identification control extremely difficult. As a rule, it is the Center which issues export permits, but the Ministry of Industry and Commerce may also issue permits. In order to change this situation, legislative changes are needed, which they are ready to make.

During my meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, I had the opportunity to point out the need to ensure that only the Forestry Development Center issues permits. He was further informed of the role of the army in illegal traffic, and the Minister indicated that it will be highly important to prepare legislation specifying anti-smuggling action as one of the tasks of the army. He also welcomed all possible international pressure to cope with this situation, which adversely affects Bolivia's image.

Smuggling from Brazil is very significant. The Forestry Development Center informed me that a tannery is operating in the forest area near the Brazilian border, owned by a high military official, which processes skins and hides coming from Brazil, which subsequently go to Europe via Paraguay. Documentary evidence was also obtained proving that the Paraguayan consul

in Santa Cruz, Bolivia collaborates with the illegal traffic, and the Secretariat was requested to intervene at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay.

The Forestry Development Center, together with the ASICUSA reptile leather industry (tannery and marketing), would like to embark on captive breeding of crocodiles and request assistance from Parties as regards the selection of sites, staff training and relevant technical know-how. Funding is available. According to existing Bolivian legislation, there is an annual hunting quota for 120,000 crocodiles, but illegal traffic leaving the country is estimated at 350,000 hides, thus illustrating the risk of extinction for the species concerned.

In Uruguay the problem is much less serious. Trade is well under control, and in the case of *Arctocephalus australis* is entirely in the hands of the Government. There are two authorities issuing permits: the Institute for Environmental Conservation (Instituto para la Preservacion del Medio Ambiente, INPMA, At. Dr. Luis Tahier, Luis Cavia 3046, Montevideo) which is the official Management Authority for the Convention; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through its Interministerial Coordination Agency for the Repression of Illegal Acts Against Wildlife and its Habitat (Coordenadora Interministerial de Represion de Illicitos contra la Fauna y su Habitat, Avda. Garibaldi 2678, Montevideo). These two bodies contest each other's right to issue permits; however, in view of the fact that INPMA is the designated Management Authority for the Convention, Parties should reject permits issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which is competent only to issue animal health certificates.

In Argentina I had several meetings with organizations dealing with wildlife matters, in particular with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Economics, who assured me that Argentina will ratify soon.

GENERAL REMARKS

In all countries visited, including Argentina, it was considered desirable that 'importing' CITES Parties establish closer contacts with the authorities of these countries, which would enhance the benefits of the Convention.

Furthermore, in view of existing evidence of illegal trade organized by German traders, the Federal Republic of Germany should mind its image as an importing country, as it is considered in these countries as the major stimulator of illegal traffic in the region.

It was also suggested that CITES should hold regional meetings prior to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, so that the countries of the region can establish their viewpoints in order to present a common position at the meeting of the Conference.

Another important topic to be given priority at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties is the problem of confiscated skins and hides. E.g. Brazil and Bolivia will no longer burn confiscated specimens, for in their view they cannot afford the luxury of losing so much revenue, considering in particular that these countries have very small budget allocations for wildlife administration.

It is unlikely that the method of exchanges between Parties can absorb the quantity of confiscated skins available. Brazil and Bolivia have recently confiscated important shipments of *Pteronura brasiliensis*, *Panthera onca*, *Lutra spp.* and *Felis pardalis* worth thousands of dollars. Bolivia would like to use the revenue obtained from confiscated skins in order to create incentives for informers in the field of illegal traffic.

The situation of the wild animal trade in Paraguay is dramatic. No control is exercised by the Ministry, and the Department that issues permits is not the official Management Authority for the Convention. The Ministry of Agriculture promised to change this situation and on my return the CITES Secretariat sent him several letters urging that the Ministry of Agriculture become the department responsible for issuing permits.

It was very difficult to obtain statistics of wildlife trade. However, at the Central Bank of Paraguay I was able to consult the 'Boletín Estadístico' No. 250 of March 1979 which contained a table on 'Export of skins and hides of wild animals' from 1960 to March 1979.

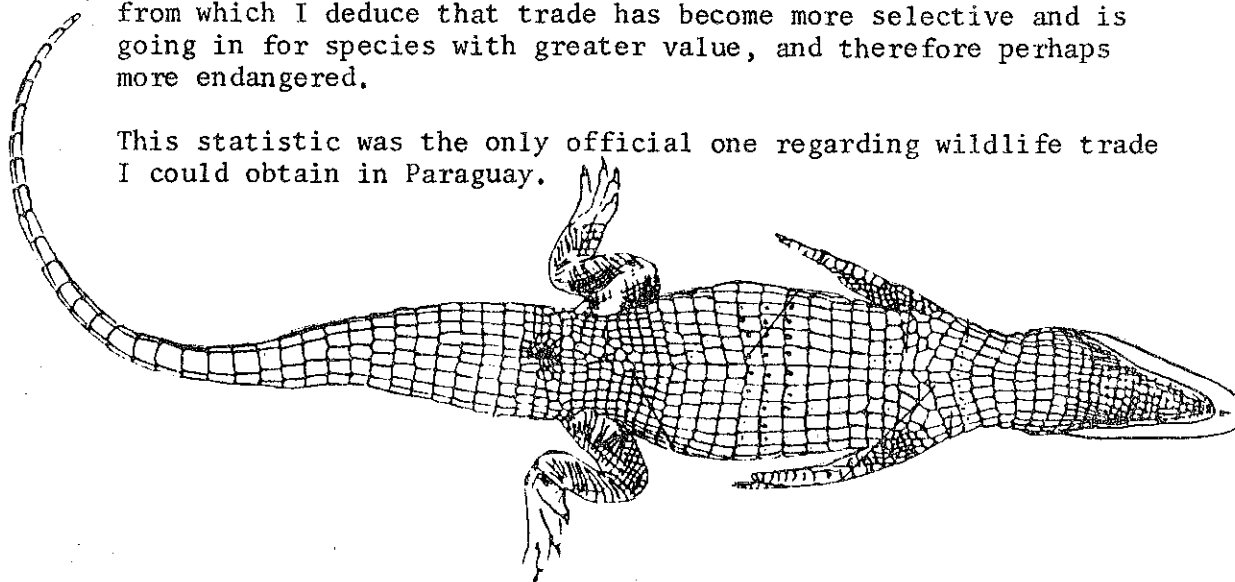
TABLE
Export of Skins and Hides of Wild Animals from 1960 to March 1979

Year	Tons	US Dollars (thousand)	Cuaranías millions
1960	182	114	13,9
61	244	158	14,2
62	190	161	19,9
63	201	134	16,5
64	246	247	30,8
65	292	437	54,1
66	128	459	59,5
67	147	535	66,2
68	177	742	91,7
69	131	814	100,7
70	114	516	63,8
71	82	214	26,5
72	97	226	27,6
73	117	259	31,9
74	198	794	98,2
75	156	1 063	131,5
76	71	382	47,3
77	69	923	114,3
78	95	1 573	184,2
79 (March)	15	283	35,0

Decree
(Forbids
hunting)

This table shows that since 1975 (when hunting was forbidden) the number of tons has been decreasing but not the total value in US \$, from which I deduce that trade has become more selective and is going in for species with greater value, and therefore perhaps more endangered.

This statistic was the only official one regarding wildlife trade I could obtain in Paraguay.



In the second paragraph of the GENERAL REMARKS section of Obdulio Menghi's report you will note that there is evidence of illegal trade organized by German traders. Below we give a review of a section of the German trade statistics for 1978, in which it is shown that there are large discrepancies in the figures relating to trade with South America.

DISCREPANCIES IN THE CITES TRADE STATISTICS BETWEEN FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY & URUGUAY

Recently TRAFFIC has started to review the CITES reports for 1978 produced by Party members. All countries which were party to the Convention through 1978 should have produced a report for that year, but to date many have not done so, and therefore detailed comparisons cannot be made in all cases.

These reports should record all the trade in species listed in the Appendices which the country concerned has allowed during that year. However, even from the relatively small number of reports which have so far been analysed it is obvious from the enormous number of discrepancies that much of the trade in wildlife is not being recorded by one or other of the countries involved in each transaction.

Table 1 records some of the major discrepancies between the Federal Republic of Germany's report and those relating to Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay. Because reports for most of these countries are not available it is not possible to check that direct imports from them as declared by FRG have been recorded as exports from the country of origin. Therefore, except for Uruguay, it is only possible to look at re-export data from intermediate countries which have produced CITES Reports and which declare these South American countries as countries of origin for certain items. This information can then be compared with FRG's import figures. None of these transactions were recorded by FRG as direct imports from the country of origin during 1978.

Uruguay is the only one of the South American countries listed to have produced a report for CITES for 1978. According to this report, and the one produced by FRG, there was not a great deal of direct trade in wildlife between these two countries in 1978. However, three items stand out: *Felis tigrina*, *Felis lynx canadensis* and *Canis lupus* (Table 1). None of these species occurs naturally in Uruguay, and only *F. tigrina* in South America. These items are recorded on the FRG report and Uruguay is stated as the country of origin. Uruguay does not record the export of these species.

Brazil has a ban on export of wildlife but it has been openly recorded as the country of origin for various wildlife products by the FRG and Italy.

Table 2 shows examples of a different sort of discrepancy. The countries of export in these cases cannot in fact be the countries of origin as all the species only occur in the New World. The countries declared as countries of export are unlikely to have imported these products for re-export. Alternatively the products have been mislabelled and the declared country of origin is correct.

In conclusion it is clear that considerable improvements could be made to ensure effective implementation of the Convention by Parties, particularly those importing. In particular it appears that export documents need careful scrutiny to ensure that they comply with CITES. The discrepancies recorded suggest that this was not always the case. It is worth remembering that under the terms of the Convention import licences are required for Appendix I species, whereas for Appendix II species only production of an export licence is required. However many countries, including the United Kingdom, require import licences for Appendix II, and also many non-CITES species.

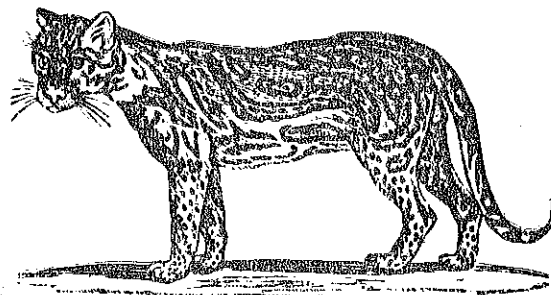
TABLE 1 - COMPARISON OF FRG CITES REPORT WITH BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY - 1978 (* = RE-EXPORT)

APP EX DIX	SPECIES	RECORDED IMPORT TO FRG	RECORDED EXPORT & RE-EXPORT* FROM FRG	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	COUNTRY OF EXPORT/ RE-EXPORT*	EXPORTS RECORDED IN COUNTRY OF EX- PORT/RE-EXPORT	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF RE-EXPORT
II	Boa Constrictor constrictor	NIL			Italy*	8 cases	Brazil
II	Caiman C. Crocodilus	NIL			USA*	686 pieces of hide	Bolivia & Paraguay
		NIL			France*	1 023 belts	Bolivia
		NIL			France*	1 265 belts	Paraguay
		NIL			Italy*	1 175 belts	Bolivia
		NIL			Italy*	1 083 belts	Paraguay
		NIL			Italy*	173 cases	Paraguay
		NIL			Italy*	60 cases	Bolivia
II	Caiman crocodilus yacare	NIL			France*	1 265 belts	Paraguay
II	Felis pardalis		53 skins*	Spain		Protected in Brazil - all trade banned	Brazil
			266 skins*	Hong Kong		-ditto-	Brazil
			16 garments*	Japan		-ditto-	Brazil
II	Felis tigrina	10 171 skins			Uruguay	NIL	
II	Felis lynx canadensis	21 gar- ments			Uruguay	NIL	
II	Canis lupus	20 skins			Uruguay	NIL	

TABLE 2 - COMPARISON OF FRG CITES REPORT WITH COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INCORRECT -- 1978

APP EX DIX	SPECIES	RECORDED IMPORT TO FRG	COUNTRY OF EXPORT/ RE-EXPORT*	EXPORTS RECORDED IN COUNTRY OF EX- PORT/RE-EXPORT	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF RE-EXPORT
II	Caiman c. crocodilus	673 skins	Botswana		?
	-ditto-	NIL	Papua N. Guinea	5 376 skins	?
	-ditto-	6 000 skins	Indonesia		?
II	Iguana spp.	1 142 skins	Indonesia		?
II	Felis pardalis	1 010 skins	Pakistan		?

(* = RE-EXPORT)

*Felis pardalis*

INTERESTING COMPARISONS FOR VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE GERMAN FUR INDUSTRY

Imports (including furskins sent abroad for manufacture)

	1978 (1,000's) DM	1979 (1,000's) DM	CHANGE
Raw skins	722.3	893.3	
Dressed skins & semi-manufactured	407.7	467.9	Up 15%
Garments and hats	762.6	923.8	Up 21%
1979 was up 21% from DM 1.89b to DM 2.29b. 1978 24.1m skins were imported compared with 23.8m in 1979, but the value was increased by 24%.			
Exports (including furskins sent abroad for manufacture)			
Raw skins	59.7	69.0	
Dressed skins & semi-manufactured	502.2	667.7	
Garments and hats	135.7	185.6	Up 37%
Exports rose from DM 697.6m to DM 922.3m up 32%, but only a third was pure export. The majority was made up of processed pelts sent abroad for production.			

(Source: Fur Review June 1980)

KANGAROO SLAUGHTER FEAR AS USA LIFTS BAN

Late last year the Australian government allowed a seven-year prohibition on the export of kangaroo meat to run out. Now the USA has lifted its ban on imports (see *Bulletin Vol.II No.2*) and may allow fur and hide imports. Australians are concerned about the slaughter of the national emblem. The high rate of killing in the 1950s and 1960s caused the Australian Government to impose the kangaroo meat export ban in 1972.

(Source: *Evening Standard*, 19.6.80)

KENYAN SHELL TRADE UPDATE

Prior to the SSC meeting in April 1980, John Burton visited the south coast of Kenya and made a few enquiries about the shell trade. The Diani Beach development, which is one of the newest, is along the Leopard Reef. Only one stall selling shells was found and notices were prominently displayed in at least one of the hotels informing visitors that it was illegal to collect shells. The single shell dealer was very helpful and two shells were purchased for the TRAFFIC collection: a helmet at 5 K-shillings and a murex at 20 K-shillings. The dealer furnished receipts and explained that it was important to retain them to show to Customs. He also showed various licences. Furthermore he confirmed Sue Wells's report concerning varying prices being charged to local and foreign tourists (see *Bulletin Vol.I No.1 and Report on Kenyan Shell Trade, Wells, S. 1979*). John Burton was also able to examine his receipt books and confirm that German tourists were charged considerably more than most others.

It certainly appears that the shell trade on the Kenyan coast is now well under control and that measures currently in force are adequate for protecting any species which become threatened. However relatively little is known about the status of many species, and it is for this reason that the Fauna Preservation Society and TRAFFIC are continuing to make small grants available to researchers working in this area. The pressing need now is for ecological studies.

STATUS OF CROCODYLIANS IN COLOMBIA

The following extracts are taken from a report on the status of crocodilians in Colombia, with notes on Venezuela and Peru by Federico Medem. The report will be published in the next issue of ORYX.

Smuggling in Colombia continues. In February 1979 1,500 hides were confiscated by DAS (a police department responsible for security), the great majority of which were 30 to 60 cm. long, and very few in the 1.15 to 1.20 metre range. This supports the contention that adult specimens are virtually wiped out in large areas of the Orinoco plains. Due to the high price paid (\$6.25 for a skin of 1.20 metres at Puerto Lopez in the plains) settlers are eager to hunt as much as they can in the dry season and the majority of these skins pass undetected to Bogota.

Along the coast between Cienaga Grande and the Magdalena river illegal hunting is common, and here also most of the hides belong to hatchlings and juveniles (15 to 25 cents are paid in Barranquilla for a skin 20-25cm in length).

Moreover there exists a noticeable habitat destruction that has included the mangroves in Salamanca Island National Park, which is officially protected by INDERENA. However, the caimans find protection within the floating vegetation of abundant lagoons along the lower and middle Magdalena valley which have become more extensive due to the lack of manatees. These areas are partially inaccessible and seem to form an efficient refuge.

Habitat destruction in the entire country proceeds at an alarming rate through burning, lumbering and pollution. Almost daily there are articles in the press about these problems, but very little is done by the relevant authorities.

VENEZUELA

According to information supplied by Don Tomas Blohm, on November 22 1978 and January 24 1979, hides of caiman, crocodile and ocelot were confiscated by the National Guard at the Maiquetia airport in Caracas. The quantity was not given. The shipment was officially declared as 'personal belongings' of a Chinese merchant, Hanfun Chan Chin, with the destination to ETC Trading Co. Limited, Tokyo, Japan. A second shipment of caiman hides consisted of 15 sacks, each weighing 100 kilos, making a total of 1.5 tons. It was declared as spare parts for cars and the destination was Singapore.

PERU

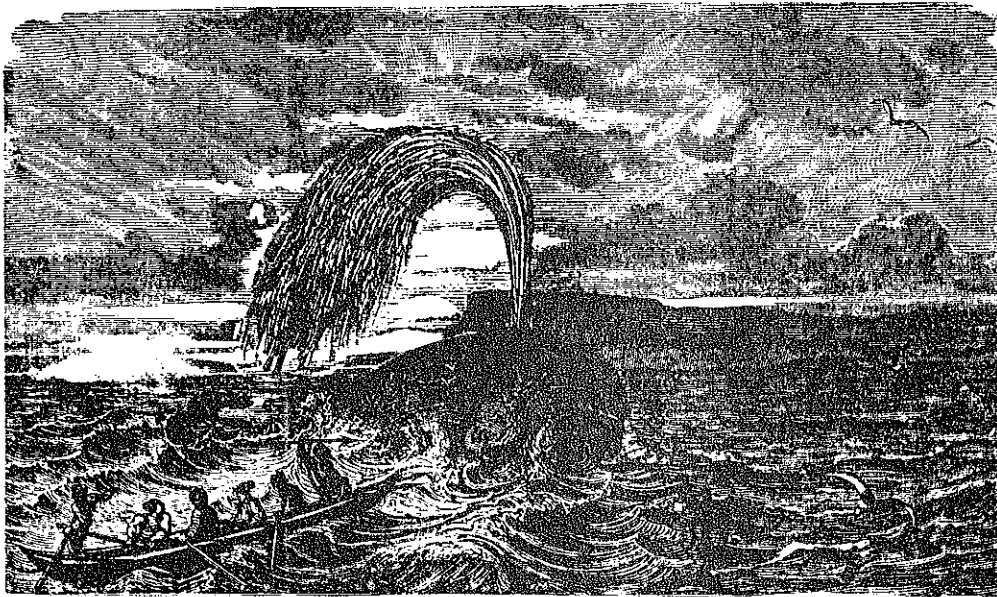
According to Dr. Brack-Egg, sub-Director of Conservation of Fauna, Ministry of Agriculture in Lima, *Crocodylus acutus* from the area near the town of Tumbes on the north Pacific coast are diminishing rapidly due to habitat destruction and killing by local settlers. Most of the mangroves (the refuge for the crocodiles) were cut down, therefore isolated groups exist only at the northern border of the Parque Nacional Cerros de Amotape.

EXPORT OF HIDES OF CAIMAN CROCODYLIUS SPP. AND CAIMAN CROCODYLIUS FUSCUS		
YEAR	NO. OF HIDES	PORTS OF EXPORT
1951 - 1952	850 000	Magdalena; Sinu
1953 - 1954	890 000	-ditto-
1955 - 1956	470 000	-ditto-
1958 - 1961	365 000	-ditto-
1966 - 1970	1 842 000	Arauca
1967 - 1968	30 000	Lower Caqueta; Miriti-Parana
1969	70 300	Cravo Norte
1969 - 1970	1 461 870	Total for Colombia
1970	998 950	Total for Colombia
1970 - 1973	1 047 718	January to March 1973 only
1972	388 098	Bogota January 1 to August 23 Call January 1 to July 17
1972	57 379	Leticia
1973	524 402	Barranquilla
1974	556 422	Total for Colombia
1974	61 899	Leticia June only
1974	114 150	Barranquilla January to July
1975	26 323	Leticia January to August
1975	666 908	Total for Colombia
1976	484 673	Total for Colombia
1976	39 936	Leticia March 24 to April 20

EEC TO BAN WHALE TRADE

On 30 June the EEC Council of Ministers agreed on a proposal to ban the imports of whale products to the EEC. If the European Parliament now approves of the proposal (which is likely), it will come into force in January 1982. Most primary whale products will be banned but not sperm whale teeth or ambergris.

Of secondary products, leather treated with sperm oil is included but cosmetics are not. As the EEC imports account for about 17 per cent of world sperm oil production and around 14 per cent of world baleen oil production, the ban will have a significant effect on the whaling industry.



Whaling in Baffin's Bay, circa 1885

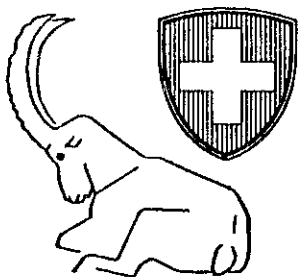
PERUVIAN FISHSKINS

Hides have been obtained from the skin of 'la lisa y tolo lo gran' by scientists at the University Agraria using similar techniques as those used for mammals. They can be used to make articles in the same way as leather. According to Julian Arakaqui, Director of the **Fishing and Technology Department**, the process has been carried out using the principle of the insolubility of a protein, which is a main organic constituent of the skin.

According to Jose Moreyra Apari the final product is of a chamois type and does not need greasing owing to the skin's own natural grease.

Studies carried out indicate that the process would be much cheaper than tanning cattle hides due to (1) a shorter time needed to tan the skins and (2) the wide availability of this marine species.

(Source: El Comercio, Diario de la Manana 1979)



News from Switzerland

FEDERAL VETERINARY OFFICE

Some data from the Swiss CITES Annual Report 1979 (actually in print):

- The Border Veterinary Service controlled
 - 1003 shipments of live animals (216 containing protected specimens)
 - 4558 shipments of animal products (1651 containing protected specimens).

- 195 monkeys were imported for research purposes, i.e. 13 less than the previous year. The import of mediterranean tortoises remained also stable (in brackets figures from 1978):

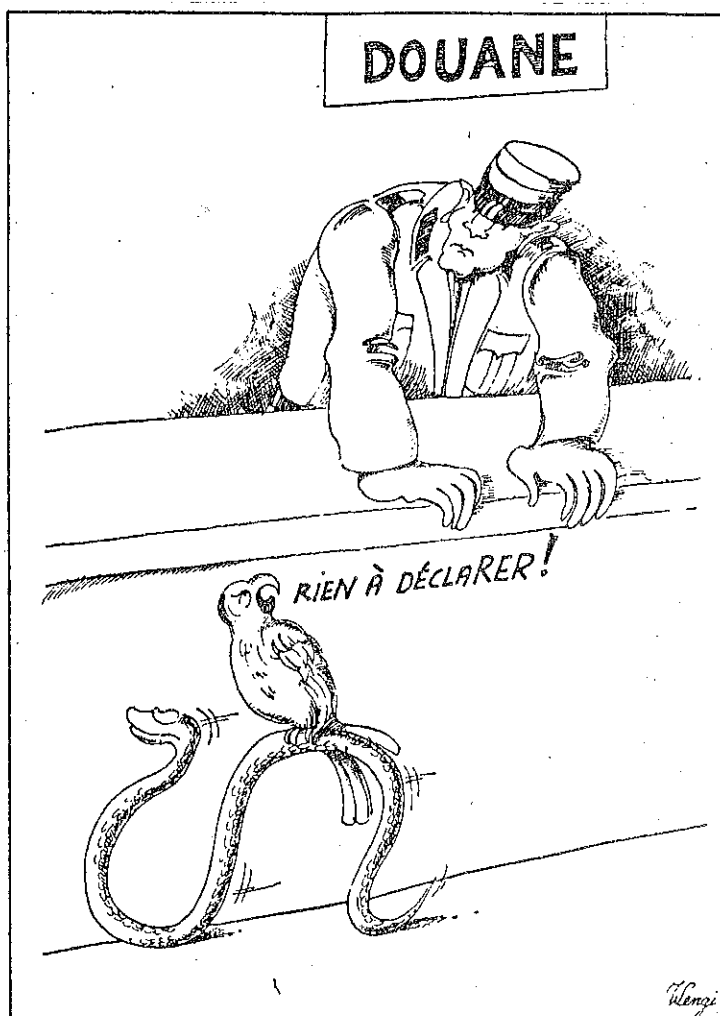
Testudo graeca	55	(132)
T.hermannii	4178	(4407)
T.horsfieldii	2110	(1820)
T.marginata	0	(10)
Total	6343	(6369)

- The import of live frogs for the production of meat increased considerably from 79.670 kgs to 146.146 kgs, i.e. to about 1.500.000 animals, while the import of live snails (*Helix*) dropped from 346 to 213 tons.

- For the first time the Pampas Cat (*Felis pajeros*) appears on the list of imported furs: 67 garments, corresponding to 1198 skins, 4 coat linings and 6 stolas were imported, mainly from Canada.

- Bobcat and Lynx are still the most important protected furbearers in our import statistics: 3029 skins and 627 garments from Bobcat and 325 skins and 202 garments from Lynx were imported.

- The import of 40 raw and of 22 carved or polished elephant tusks and of 1165.8 kgs ivory products was registered.



UGANDA - CHIEF GAME WARDEN'S INCRIMINATING LETTER

We have received reports that a letter offering gorillas, chimpanzees and patas monkeys for sale and signed by S.K.B. Kyeyune, Assistant Chief Game Warden for the Game Department of Uganda was in fact written by the Chief Game Warden, John Bushara. He allegedly used Mr Kyeyune's name simply so that his own did'nt appear on the letter.

Apparently destined for an American University, although no address appears on the letter, he refers to the subject of animals for research and pharmaceutical production, and continues:

"I am prepared to sell to you annually 500 patas monkeys at Shs. 200/= each, 100 chimpanzees at Shs. 4,000/= each, and 5 gorillas at Shs. 16,000/= each.

My office shall issue an export permit and you will arrange to get an import permit from your Government.

You will have to capture the animals yourself or contact the professional trapper from Nairobi whose address is given to you below for direct contact."

The professional trapper from Nairobi is a Mr Clive A. Critchley of P O Box 14044, Nairobi. A copy of the letter was sent to him and to The Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife, P O Box 4241, Kampala marked for the attention of a Mrs Kagumya.

TRAFFIC (International) have since learned that 40 patas monkeys have been ordered. We will keep you informed of further developments.

INDIA - MANEATING TIGERS

P. Kannan, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Regional Office in Bombay, sent TRAFFIC (International) a copy of an advertisement which appeared in the February 1980 issue of 'Big Game Newsletter' published from Cleveland, Ohio 44110, USA.

In highly emotive language Wm. Lee Birch of Professional Hunters Limited attacks the World Wildlife Fund and its 'Project Tiger' in the Sundarbans.

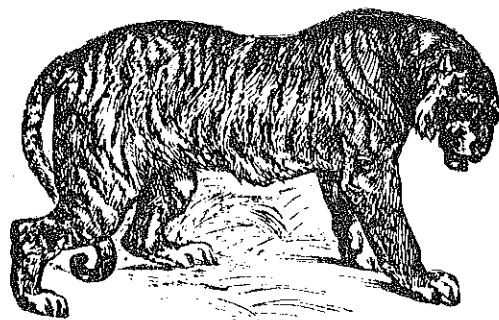
Under the heading 'OF MANEATING TIGERS AND THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND' he states that in the 400 sq. mile area of The Sundarbans there are approximately 250 tigers, and as there are very few wild animals and no cattle they are *all maneaters* (our italics).

Calling them 'perverted carnivores' and 'criminals' he asks: "How, then, can I take a hunter into this WWF sacred land to get the trophy? All it takes is a court action by one of the best lawyers of India before High Court to proclaim these maneaters not under the jurisdiction of the Forests Department but under civil action as the criminals that they are."

This is, of course, impossible. Section II(1) (a) of the Indian Wildlife Act of 1972 empowers ONLY the Chief Wildlife Warden of a state to declare a tiger as a 'maneater' and allows it to be hunted. A High Court judge has no power under the Act.

After going into the finances involved in the operation, he assures the reader that "When this action is completed in court you will have the right to export your hide and skull from India with the proper credentials". This is a blatant lie. Section 39(1) (b) of the Indian Wildlife Act provides that trophy or uncured trophy of animals hunted in self-defence or in defence of human property shall be the property of the Government. Under no circumstances should a Court permit legal export by a foreigner of what is obviously Government property.

India is a member of the CITES, and it is impossible for anyone to get an export permit for a tiger trophy under the circumstances outlined in the advertisement.



Regalis (Lat.royal), the Tiger

NEW PUBLICATIONS

AQUATIC TURTLES OF AMAZONIA: An Endangered Resource

by Nigel J.H. Smith of Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia

This is published in *Biological Conservation*, Vol 16(3) 1979, an international journal edited by Eric Duffey. It investigates the history of exploitation of the freshwater turtle belonging to the genus *Podocnemis*, describes and illustrates capturing methods, consumption and trade and habitat destruction.

Available from Applied Science Publishers Ltd., Ripple Rd., Barking, Essex, England.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WHALE PRODUCTS - A REVIEW. Price £2.50

An independent report by Charles Mearns B.Sc.(Hon), M.I.Biol. on behalf of the Marine Action Centre and commissioned by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This report outlines the situation regarding whale products in international trade, the importance and current uses of whale products and attempts to predict trade trends. The information was obtained from various sources over a period of seven months up to the beginning of 1980.

Available from RSPCA., Causeway, Horsham, Sussex PH12 1HG.

FACTS ABOUT FURS

by Greta Nilsson and others

An attractively produced book which gives a comprehensive history of the fur trade and the animals killed for the fur trade. There is a chapter on the legislation regulating the taking of furbearers and it has an appendix and index. Although the emphasis is on animal welfare, it is an excellent source book with a wealth of facts and figures.

Distributed in the United Kingdom by RSPCA, The Manor House, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG

Distributed in the rest of the world by The Animal Welfare Institute, PO Box 3650, Washington DC 20007, USA.

CORRECTION

Bulletin Vol. II No 3 entitled 'Special Report on Discrepancies in Published Data of Trade in Turtle Products' page 23.

Table 1, 2nd column regarding Swiss imports. The amount 10 037 kg calipee should read 1003.7 kg. The amount 4574 kg. frozen red meat should read 45.4 kg.

Apologies to Peter Dollinger of the Federal Veterinary Office, Switzerland who pointed out the error.

RHINO HORN ON SALE IN SINGAPORE

Michael Kavanagh of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, took this picture of African black rhino horn in April 1980. The asking price was \$8,000 (approx. £1,650.) Also there were five or six very small horn 'buds' in the same shop, which were offered at \$1,000 each. The shop assistant remarked that they were now harder to come by.



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