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COTTONTAILS IN EUROPE

Attempts are being made to introduce North American cottontail rabbits *Sylvilagus spp.* into Europe. Some have recently been released in the Po Valley, Italy and in Southern France. They could possibly spread explosively in the way the European rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* has done in the past and cause immense damage to young trees and other vegetation.

ZOO OWNER CHARGED UNDER PROTECTION OF BIRDS ACT

Source: *Guardian*, January 6 & 7, 1981

Christopher Marler, owner of the Flamingo Zoological Gardens at Weston Underwood, Buckinghamshire, England, was found guilty in a court case involving two snowy owls, *Nyctea scandiaca*. They are on Appendix II of the CITES.

He was given a conditional discharge for selling the owls without rings on their legs to prove they were born in captivity. Under UK law it is an offence to take protected birds (such as snowy owls and peregrine falcons) from the wild; an offence to sell many British birds unless they have a leg ring put on at birth showing they were bred in captivity; but not an offence to possess an unringed bird.

Apparently the night before a sale of birds at Weston Underwood one of the owls was sent to Christopher Marler by Bristol Zoo; he had owned the other owl for ten years. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds investigators who attended the sale contacted the police who charged him under a section of the Protection of Birds Act.

Mr Marler claimed he was unaware he was breaking the law, and had sold the owls for £600 because he wanted to get rid of surplus zoo stock. He argued that there must be many technical infringements of the law, saying that most zoos do not fit rings to their owls.

Mr Peter Robinson, an RSPB investigation officer, accepts the argument that there are many anomalies in the law, but said that prosecution must be seen against the larger background of the RSPB's campaign to protect wildlife.

IVORY COAST POACHING RING

Source: *Animal Kingdom*, Feb/March 1980)

The Director of the Tai National Park, which is near the Ivory Coast's western border with Liberia, is alleged to have run a major poaching ring, together with the country's Minister of Water and Forests.

The park is the home of 800 to 1200 elephants whose population throughout the Ivory Coast had suffered a 50% decline; in 1974 the Government declared a 10 year moratorium, allowing herds to recover before harvesting resumed.

An American Peace Corps volunteer, biologist David Gibson, who went to the Tai National Park in 1977 found what he described as "the deepest hotbed of governmental corruption left in the Ivory Coast."

Apparently the Director allowed poachers the run of the place, even loaning them park vehicles. Gibson claimed the Director was responsible for the killing of more than 45 trophy bull elephants, the ivory obtained from them stocking a shop which was owned jointly by the Director and the Minister of Water and Forests.

The Director was identified as organizer of the poaching ring when some apprehended poachers were fined and he refused to pay the penalties for them. The case went to the country's justice department and, according to Gibson, was not heard of again.

Gibson and other reliable sources say that a considerable amount of the poached ivory gets into the hands of the local ivory-smiths. Carvers are supposed to keep records of their supplies of raw ivory but the rules are not well enforced.

DISCREPANCIES IN CITES TRADE STATISTICS 1978 - PART 4: AUSTRALIA by Caroline Boydell

Australia ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 29th July 1976 and since then has earned a reputation for being one of the Parties most strictly enforcing the provisions of the Convention, although this fact might well be disputed by Australia's voluntary conservation bodies. Considering this fact it is interesting to examine Australia's 1978 trade statistics with the other Parties trade data, and see what conclusions can be drawn with regard to this aspect of Australia's enforcement of CITES.

Looking at Australia's import statistics as compared with the other Parties statistics (see Table 1), it appears that the record of live imports is much more complete than that of products imported. Of the 42 incidents of live imports reported by all the Parties who have produced CITES Reports for 1978, 29 of these were recorded by Australia herself. This is 69% of the total number of live imports. However, of the 63 reported incidents of product imports to Australia, only 22 of these (34.9%) were actually recorded by Australia.

Table 1 shows examples of the type of discrepancies to be found on comparing Australia's CITES Report (Imports) for 1978 with those of the other Parties. It is particularly disturbing that records of Appendix I species have not been recorded by one Party in the transaction in a large number of instances. Australia, for example, has not recorded importing either the 125.6 kg of raw tortoiseshell of *Eretmochelys imbricata* from the Seychelles, or the 24 cases made from *Chelonia mydas* from Italy.

TABLE 1 - AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS FOR 1978

| APPENDIX | SPECIES | (COUNTRY OF EXPORT ORIGIN) | IMPORTS REPORTED | EXPORTS/RE-EXPORTS BY OTHER PARTY CONCERNED |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| I | <i>Hylobates muelleri</i> | Hong Kong | 1 live | NIL NIL |
| I | <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> | United Kingdom | NIL | 2 2 live |
| I | <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i> | Fed. Rep. of Germany | 2 live | NIL |
| II | <i>Callithrix jacchus</i> | United Kingdom | NIL | 30 live |
| II | <i>Saimiri sciureus</i> | United Kingdom | 15 live | NIL |
| I | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | Seychelles | NIL | 125.6 Kg raw tortoiseshell |
| I | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | Italy | NIL | 24 cases |
| II | <i>Caiman crocodilus crocodilus</i> | Canada | NIL | 4782 watchstraps |
| II | <i>Iguana iguana</i> | Canada | 1 719 watchstraps | 869 watchstraps |
| II | <i>Tupinambis teguixin</i> | Italy | NIL | 1 089 shoes |
| II | <i>Varanus niloticus</i> | United Kingdom | NIL | 595 skins |

Even when countries have agreed on the item imported, the numbers recorded are often different. For example Canada records exporting 869 watchstraps of *Iguana iguana*, however Australia claims to have imported 1 719 watchstraps of this species from Canada.

Just over one third of Australia's exports during 1978 were plants. Of a total of 41 recorded instances of live exports of plants and animals in 1978, 35 of these were reported by Australia. Australia reported 15 of the 17 instances of recorded exports of products. This means that Australia recorded 85.4% of the live exports and 88.2% of the product exports.

Table 2 shows examples of the discrepancies found between Australia's 1978 CITES Report (Exports) when compared with the statistics produced by the other Parties. Of the 8 countries which produced CITES Reports for 1978 to which Australia claims to have exported plants, the USA and the UK are the only ones to have any import records of plants from Australia, although the numbers and species involved do not agree in all cases.

TABLE 2 - AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS/RE-EXPORTS FOR 1978

| APP EN DIX | SPECIES | DESTINATION | EXPORTS/RE- EXPORTS REPORTED | IMPORTS REPORTED BY OTHER PARTY CONCERNED |
|------------------|---|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| I | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | USA | 1 live | NIL |
| I | <i>Psephotus chrysop- terygius dissimilis</i> | Hong Kong | 4 live | NIL |
| II | <i>Neoceratodus forsteri</i> | India | 2 live | NIL |
| II | Cycadaceae | Italy | 29 plants | NIL |
| II | Cycadaceae | USA | 36 plants | NIL |
| II | Orchidaceae | UK | 40 plants | 140 plants |
| III | Orchidaceae | USA | 1 033 plants, 30 tubers | 42 live, 1 carton |
| II | <i>Dendrobium sp.</i> | USA | NIL | 64 live |
| II | Zamiaceae | Italy | 131 plants | NIL |
| I | <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> | USA | 1 skull & skin | NIL |
| I | <i>Rhinoplax vigil</i> | USA | 1 preserved | NIL |
| II | <i>Macropus parma</i> | Denmark | NIL | 4 skins |
| II | <i>Dugong dugon</i> | USA | 100 teeth | NIL |
| II | <i>Buceros hydrocorax</i> | USA | 2 preserved | NIL |
| II | <i>Varanus tristis</i> | UK | 4 preserved | NIL |

Thus the conclusions that can be drawn from this analysis are that Australia has kept a better export than import record overall during 1978. However, along with the other countries which have produced CITES Reports, Australia has produced a far from satisfactory analysis. It can only be hoped that in future she will keep better records of her trade along with all the other countries which are party to the Convention.



SOUTH AFRICA - AN ENTIRE PLANT KINGDOM THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

91

A reliable source in South Africa sent this report to John Burton recently, asking that it be conveyed to environmentalists in Western Europe.

The Cape Floristic Kingdom, or *Fynbos*, is gravely threatened by commercial exploitation for personal and political gain. The primary issue in this exploitation concerns the export of thousands of tonnes of cut-flowers, primarily to West Germany and the Netherlands. Having exhausted all means of trying to get better control of the industry at this end of the line, it seems that only agitation from European environmentalists to discourage people from buying these flowers could have any effect.

The Earth's flora is divided by botanists into six distinct Floristic Kingdoms. The largest - the Boreal - covers 42% of the Earth's land surface, including most of North America, Europe, and Asia. The Cape Kingdom is the smallest, covering 0,04% of the earth and stretching in a narrow band about 100km wide and 600 km long the southern coast of Africa. It is the only Floristic Kingdom to fall entirely within the borders of a single country - South Africa.

Over the past 300 years its area has shrunk by over 61%, owing to the 'progress' of civilization.

It is the richest Floristic Kingdom, in terms of species-density, by a factor of 3, over 8000 species being found in its present extent of about 18000 km². 75% of these species are endemic to the Cape Kingdom, which is primarily a sclerophyllus winter-rainfall scrub. Over 600 species of the genus *Erica*, 500 species of the family *Proteaceae* and 450 species of the family *Restionaceae* are present - these being the dominant elements. According to available data, over 100 species are already known to be extinct and a further incredible 1500 are in danger of extinction.

The extent of this Kingdom is now confined to high-mountain ranges which are unsuitable for agriculture, township or industrial expansion. These surviving remnants of the habitat are nevertheless under severe pressure from two sources - the invasion of the area by exotic plant introductions from other continents, and the wild flower export industry.

The local wild flower industry had its beginnings in the 1950's with the cultivation for export of showy *Proteaceae* species. Many species in danger of extinction in the wild were successfully brought into cultivation and thus the industry played a positive role in the conservation of the Kingdom. By 1975 the industry had a modest export value of about £500 000. However, in that year a market became established, especially in West Germany and the Netherlands, for what are known as 'greens' by the industry. 'Greens' are wild-growing species which do not respond to cultivation, and include a very large range of *Ericaceae*, *Restionaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Proteaceae*, and an endemic family, the *Bruniaceae*. Many species utilised are critically rare in the wild. For example, in 1978 over 8 metric tonnes of the beautiful and showy red *Erica pillansii* were exported to Europe. This plant's habitat covers an area equal to about five football fields, and is now in imminent danger of extinction as it does not respond to cultivation or relocation.

The exploitation of 'greens' caused an exponential explosion in the size of the industry, so that in 1979/80 the export value had accelerated in five years from £200 000 to £3 million, involving some 10,000 metric tonnes of flowers per annum. 80% of all production is now picked in the wild.

Official Governmental control of the industry is extremely lax. From a political point of view the industry provides this country with much needed foreign exchange, and there is evidence that the industry - both legal and illegal - is receiving protection because of the involvement of senior government officials. I live in an area which is the centre of the industry, yet it is served by one Conservation Law Enforcement Officer who has an area of 10,000 km² to patrol. The maximum fine for offences in the industry is £100. Consequently large-scale theft of flowers from the very few areas (about 3% of the Kingdom) enjoying so-called 'Nature Reserve' status has become endemic; thousands of pounds worth of flowers being stolen and often uprooted in the process.

Local conservationists, many of them eminent and internationally-known scientists, have been powerless to improve matters in the face of total lack of interest or concern from Governmental agencies, including the Cape Provincial Department of Nature Conservation. Although this agency does employ some extremely sincere conservationists, the Government have seen fit to provide it with pathetically limited funds - about £2 million per year - to apply conservation in the entire Cape Province, an area larger than France. Conservation needs in the Province include many rare and threatened animal species and over sixty distinct vegetation types, apart from an entire Floristic Kingdom.

It is impossible to escape from the impression that the Kingdom is being over-exploited for the financial and political benefit of the ruling regime. The rural Coloured population of the Cape are sent out into the mountains to gather the flowers in return for subsistence wages. Almost invariably, in cases where arrests for illegal thieving are made, it is the illiterate Coloured pickers who are taken to Court, while their White bosses remain free on the plea that the thieving was done without their authority.

The present massive destruction for personal or official profit of the Cape Floristic Kingdom is a cause for international concern, as an extremely valuable part of the Earth's floral heritage is threatened with destruction.

People in Western Europe may not be aware of the place of origin of some of the flowers that they buy. We are dealing here with large-scale exploitation of flowers, many of them critically rare, from the wild state; i.e. not from cultivation.

A massive campaign is needed, particularly in West Germany and the Netherlands, to discourage the purchase of South African wild flowers.



THE DECLINE OF CROCODILES IN AFRICA by A.C. Pooley.

A.C. Pooley works with the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board in Natal, South Africa, and is a member of the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.

INTRODUCTION

The IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group was formed late in 1969, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hugh Cott. One of the first tasks was to conduct a questionnaire survey of the current status of the African species. The results were published in 'Crocodiles' IUCN Publications New Series, Suppl. Paper no. 33: 1 - 98, 1972.

An attempt was made in 1980 to gather new data. A report was presented at the 5th CSG meeting held at the Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Florida, USA in August 1980.

It was apparent from replies received from hundreds of questionnaires mailed to conservation, fisheries, customs and excise and forestry departments, universities and field biologists that in many countries there was a reluctance to divulge information on numbers of hides exported annually. Quite obviously a number of government departments earn considerable revenue from export and licence fees. Some are embarrassed at having to admit that there has been a dramatic decline in crocodile populations and that little or no attempts have been made to curb this over-exploitation.

Unfortunately, from the statistics available, we have no idea as to which crocodile species are being or have been exploited for the hide trade. Reports indicate that the Nile crocodile *C. niloticus* has suffered a tremendous decline over much of its range. Also that hunters and tanners are now turning to exploitation of the Long snouted crocodile *C. cataphractus*, the West African Dwarf crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis* and the Congo Dwarf crocodile *Osteolaemus osborni*. The latter three species are nowhere really abundant, very little is known of their biology or ecology and we only have limited data on their distribution. We would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who has field experience with these species - and any data on export figures would be welcome.

In Table I are listed the figures we have available on numbers of hides exported. From some countries we have figures or weights of skins or their value in various currencies but it is not possible to convert these figures to numbers of animals involved.

Hides have been exported from the following countries, where no records are available: Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, The Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Malagasy Republic, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Upper Volta.

There has been extensive over-exploitation of crocodiles from the majority of these countries. Taking an educated guess based on weights of skins, their monetary value and available figures, plus the opinions of over a hundred biologists and conservationists, it is likely that over the period 1950 - 1980, at least 3 million crocodiles have been slaughtered for their skins in Africa. The figure may be very much higher.

In reply to the question "What is the current status of crocodile populations in your country," the majority of replies were as follows: endangered, very rare, scarce, seriously depleted, seldom seen, and uncommon. Very few countries could report: safe, satisfactory or out of danger. Most correspondents are in agreement, whether specifically stated or implied, that populations can only be restored by stringent conservation measures.

In addition to killing for belly hides, the survey revealed other causes for the decline in crocodile populations (not necessarily in order of importance):

- a) killed by fishermen due to the increasing and widespread use of gill nets;
- b) hunted for the flesh and the eggs, eaten by certain tribal peoples. Hunted also for supposed medicinal properties, organs such as the heart, liver, brain and fat;
- c) trapped by tribal peoples because crocodiles may constitute a threat to humans and livestock, cause damage to fishnets and are thought to cause a decline in fish populations;
- d) small numbers exported from some countries for zoological parks and animal dealers;
- e) in some countries crocodiles are classed as dangerous predators, or vermin, and a reward may be payable for each one killed. In other countries these animals are not afforded protection. In some, the demand for skins and the price offered is so high that it is hard to deter men from defying the regulations;
- f) other reasons for population decline include habitat loss due to reclamation of swamps for sugar and rice crops; expansion of forestry practices; destruction of riverine forest for subsistence crops; burning of reed-beds and nest trampling by cattle. The general availability of arms and ammunition due to wars and the collapse of controls has in some countries speeded up the extermination of wildlife, including crocodiles.

CROCODILE FARMING

There have been several claims that a number of crocodile farms in Africa are now supplying sufficient quantities of hides to meet the requirements of the leather industry. Only Zimbabwe has made any real progress in farming/rearing techniques and from the four operational projects, a total of 2 253 animals were culled for hides over the period 1978 - 1980.

Great strides have been made in this country in captive breeding. In 1979, 87 captive females at two farms produced 1 906 eggs and a third farm has set aside 30 captive females for breeding.

In a number of other countries there are individuals considering establishing crocodile farms for commercial production. These include the Ivory Coast, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa. These are likely to produce only a fraction of the hides needed annually by the large tanneries.

Zimbabwe farmers operate on a system whereby they are required to return a small percentage of live animals back to the wild. Here in Natal we have restocked local waterways with over 1000 live young - some of these animals for Swaziland and Mozambique. However these numbers are but a drop in the ocean. The future of the African Crocodiles is not bright. They are rapidly disappearing as an observable part of the fauna in some 36 countries.

TABLE I : EXPORT OF CROCODILE HIDES FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Botswana | 1958 - 1980 | 41 004 |
| Chad | 1951 - 1954 | ± 100 000 |
| Congo Republic | 1974 - 1979 | 85 967 |
| Ethiopia | 1965 - 1971 | 82 000 |
| Gabon | 1960 - 1971 | ± 100 0000 |
| Kenya | 1976 | 3 000 |
| Liberia | 1973 - 1974 | 138 |
| Malawi | 1949 - 1978 | 19 976 |
| Namibia | 1979 | 50 |
| Senegal | 1961 - 1969 | 153 667 |
| Sudan | 1967 - 1977 | 5 343 |
| Swaziland | 1971 | 88 |
| Tanzania | 1954 - 1970 | 95 000 |
| Uganda | 1950 - 1965 | 108 000 |
| Zaire | 1950 - 1980 | 60 000 |
| Zambia | 1980 | 308 |
| Zimbabwe | 1978 - 1980 (farm reared) | 2 253 |
| | | \$56 794 |

SANCTIONED EXPORTATION OF CAIMAN HIDES FROM COLOMBIA

By Federico Medem

The data to be presented in this report may be considered in the following perspective: the original paper was prepared for the SSC meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, in March 1979. For various reasons, the paper was not presented but it was subsequently published in ORYX (Vol. XV No. 4 pp 390-391). Excerpts also appeared in the TRAFFIC Bulletin (Vol. II Nos. 5-6, p 55). The original data is compared with unpublished information for 1979/1980.

From 1951 to 1976 over 10 million hides of *Caiman crocodilus* were exported from Colombia. This figure, as well as those for later years, represents complete caiman hides of various lengths. In 1976, the total number was 484,673.

From 1976 to the present, all of the data were copied from the official registers of exportation issued by the Instituto Colombiano de Comercio Exterior (INCOMEX).

In 1977, some 512,324 complete hides were exported from Colombia with official government sanction: this is an increase of 27,651 hides over the 1976 figure.

The data for 1978 is incomplete, comprising only the period from January to June of that year. There were 183,156 entire hides exported from Bogota and Barranquilla during that period.

If we total only the number of complete hides, without considering specified parts (e.g. flanks, tails, breastplates or clippings), it is found that in the two and one-half years from January 1976 to June 1978 a total of 1,180,153 caiman hides were exported from Colombia under official government sanction. By this is meant that the exportation was technically illegal according to Resolution 530, hunting of the Black, Smooth-fronted and Dwarf Caiman has been prohibited since 1970. Further, according April 7th hunting or capturing of live specimens of the spectacled caiman less than 1.5m in length has been prohibited since 1973. Thus one can hardly state, correctly, that the hides were exported legally, but rather that they were exported with official knowledge and sanction. Furthermore, these figures represent the absolute minimum, without consideration of illegal, unsanctioned trade nor of the various discrepancies in the official files. It is safe to assume that an additional one to two hides exist for every one officially counted. We are, therefore, discussing a total which could exceed two millions, within a two and one-half year period.

We recently received a copy of a letter from Mr Peter Sand (General Secretary of CITES) to the main office of the Colombian agency responsible for national conservation laws (INDERENA) in which he requested clarification of some 7b exportation permits signed by INDERENA officials authorizing the export of 330,000 hides and pieces of hides to West Germany during 1978 and 1979. These hides are not included in the data in Appendix I. It is believed that they may have comprised the bulk of the thus far unexplained 400,000 hides smuggled from Manaus to Leticia in 1978, ultimately destined for West Germany.

For 1979, copies of INCOMEX registers were available to us only for eight of the months between February 1979 to February 1980. During that period at least 66,826 entire hides were exported. Appendix I is a table of all available data concerning caiman hide exportation for those eight months. A careful study of the INCOMEX registers reveals discrepancies almost too numerous to mention.

In contrast with former years, the latest figures for 1979 show a significant decrease which one must assume indicates that fewer animals were available to the hide hunters. It is well known that even hatchlings are killed for the hide trade, as well as juveniles and adults, but this does not satisfactorily explain the ever present enigma of where these vast numbers of animals come from. Undoubtedly, other bordering countries are involved to extents which are difficult to determine exactly.

In any event, the future of crocodylians in Latin America can only be viewed as bleak. Moreover, our monitoring system is lacking in interested and qualified personnel actually in the field, making it extremely difficult to obtain relevant data. If this large-scale slaughter is to be halted in time, immediate positive efforts must be made by the appropriate government agencies. A definite step in the right direction would be ratification of the CITES Convention by Colombia.

APPENDIX I

| SANCTIONED EXPORTATION OF TANNED HIDES OF CAIMAN SCLEROPS - FEBRUARY 1979 - FEBRUARY 1980 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| MONTH | TANNED HIDES OF SPECIMENS MORE THAN 150 Cm | TANNED HIDES OF SPECIMENS LESS THAN 150 Cm | TANNED HIDES OF UNKNOWN LENGTH | TANNED TAIL PIECES | TANNED BREAST- PLATES | US VALUE (in \$) |
| February | 3 680 | 14 320 | | 18 024 | 18 030 | 383 487 00 |
| March | 2 415 | 9 585 | 3 499 | | | 111 417 40 |
| July | 1 610 | 6 390 | | 12 016 | 12 020 | 222 428 00 |
| August | 805 | 3 195 | 4 077 | 8 004 | 8 480 | 292 926 55 |
| September | | | | 1 638 | | 41 701 60 |
| October | 2 415 | 9 585 | | | | 133 869 90 |
| December | | | 1 250 | 21 300 ¹ | | 121 535 40 |
| February | 805 | 3 195 | | 7 300 ¹ | | 63 345 00 |
| TOTALS | 11 730 | 46 270 | 8 826 | 68 282 | 38 530 | 1 370 710 80 |

(1) represents a combined total of tails and breastplates for these INCOMEX registers.



UK IMPORTS 1979

Below is a summary of the UK Import statistics for wild animals and products, based on the data produced by HM Customs and Excise.

Note that the products covered under the tariff headings used in the UK are rarely identical to those used elsewhere, except possibly within the EEC.

o/t = other than, nfp = not further processed, nes = not elsewhere specified.

| COMMODITY | TARIFF HEADING | NO. | WT (kg) | VALUE (£ sterling) |
|---|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. Whale & seal meat, frogs' legs: fresh, chilled or frozen | 02049200 | | 42 349 | 75 008 |
| 2. Unworked ivory, tortoiseshell, horns, whalebone etc. | 05090000 | | 4 993 150 | 1 816 195 |
| 3. Unworked coral and shells etc. | 05120000 | | 4 581 249 | 927 336 |
| 4. Raw natural sponges | 05131000 | | 1 907 | 66 642 |
| 5. Processed natural sponges | 05139000 | | 8 196 | 131 502 |
| 6. Whale oil o/t sperm oil | 15045199 | | nil | nil |
| 7. Herring oil | 15045510 | | 2 157 417 | 448 805 |
| 8. Hydrogenated whale oil & sperm oil | 15129200 | | nil | nil |
| 9. Fish or marine mammal solubles | 23071000 | | 554 849 | 127 353 |
| 10. Raw hides of reptiles or fish | 41016600 | | 15 682 | 534 243 |
| 11. Reptile leather, nfp vegetable tanned | 41052000 | | 12 054 | 593 236 |
| 12. Dressed leather of reptiles or fish | 41059300 | | 3 076 | 110 316 |
| 13. Raw furskins of sealions, fur seals or other seals | 43012300 | 19 781 | 46 789 | 191 591 |
| 14. Raw furskins of sea otters, nutria and beaver | 43012700 | 486 281 | 106 727 | 66 033 073 |
| 15. Raw furskins of muskrats & marmots | 43013100 | 3 373 664 | 334 839 | 11 357 766 |
| 16. Raw furskins - leopard | 43013510 | nil | | |
| 17. Raw furskins - ocelot | 43013520 | 1 355 | 526 | 98 667 |
| 18. Raw furskins - cheetah & jaguar | 43013530 | nil | | |
| 19. Raw furskins - other wild felines | 43013599 | 50 317 | 11 852 | 843 482 |
| 20. Raw furskins of other animals | 43015000 | | 842 644 | 48 959 455 |
| 21. Processed furskins of seals etc. | 43022300 | 25 235 | 12 615 | 432 080 |
| 22. Processed furskins of sea otter, nutria & beaver | 43022700 | 89 765 | 19 443 | 1 124 133 |
| 23. Processed furskins of muskrats & marmots | 43023100 | 289 383 | 40 064 | 1 219 398 |
| 24. Processed furskins of wild felines | 43023500 | 11 008 | 1 771 | 235 342 |
| 25. Worked coral | 95051900 | | 8 914 | 94 739 |
| 26. Worked ivory o/t plates, sheets, rods etc. | 95058100 | | 22 760 | 381 931 |

NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING TURTLES

Notice in the *NATION (Seychelles)* on 9 October 1980.

The Department of Agriculture wishes to remind the public of the procedure for declaration of 'caret'. (Probably *Caretta caretta*. Ed.)

All 'caret' captured around Mahe, Praslin and La Digue must be reported to the nearest Police station where a declaration certificate will be issued. Shell from 'caret' taken around other islands should also be declared to the nearest police station, if shipped to Mahe.

The catching of 'caret' is illegal up to 1000m from the following islands:

Curieuse, Cousin, Cousine, Aride, South East, the islands of the Ste. Anne Marine National Park, Aldabra - including the lagoon.

Some 'caret' may bear tags on the front flippers. These tags may be metal or red plastic and a reward of R. 20/ is given for their return with information on where and when the animal bearing the tag was obtained. On Mahe the tags should be handed in at the Department of Agriculture H.Q., alternatively they may be posted to the Warden, Cousin Island, via Grand'Anse Praslin, accompanied by the finder's name and address plus date and locality of capture.

ROOTING OUT THE CACTUS RUSTLERS

Source: *Newsweek*, October 6 1980.

For several years the American Southwest has grappled with a prickly problem: cactus rustling. Taking advantage of a booming worldwide market in rare cactus species, entrepreneurs drive into the desert at night, uproot the plants and sell them to unscrupulous nursery owners or individual collectors at prices ranging from \$25 to \$1,000. Richard Countryman, head of Arizona's seven-member force of "cactus cops" admits that "trying to cover 90,000 square miles, there's no way we've got a handle on it." Last year rustlers stole and estimated \$600,000 worth of rare plants in the state, but authorities have begun to make headway against them in the legislatures and the courts.

For many rustlers, cactus swiping is a sideline to smuggling drugs or illegal aliens across the Mexican border. "It's a rough bunch of guys we're playing with," says Countryman. One man was shot to death before he was to testify in a case against alleged rustlers. Amateur diggers have also gone into the business. Vacationers sometimes turn a desert picnic into a cactus-gathering expedition to pay for their holiday.

The Federal government recently placed seventeen varieties of cactus on the endangered-species list, including three kinds of the tiny pedio cactus. The disappearance of the giant saguaro, which can grow as high as 50 feet, is also troubling: many are uprooted at a young age, and the plants don't produce seeds for at least 50 years. Now local authorities are pushing for tougher Federal legislation.

One bill before Congress would make it a Federal offence to transport across state lines a plant seized illegally under any state law - even if it's not on the endangered-species list.

(Source: Tanzanian Daily News. Sent in by Jim Laird, Kenya)

It has been reported that police in central Tanzania have seized a Government truck carrying 928 poached elephant tusks. Apparently the tusks, weighing a total of 4,423 kg. were seized near the town of Tabora.

They were discovered in a truck belonging to the state-owned Board of Internal Trade. The driver and three others in the truck are helping the police in their investigations.

SURINAME AND ZAMBIA ACCEDE TO CITES

Suriname and Zambia acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 7th and 24th November 1980 respectively.

The government of the Republic of Zambia has entered a number of reservations which appear to have caused some confusion, as many of the species included are listed on Appendix II. It is assumed that the Zambian reservations on Appendix I species are as follows:

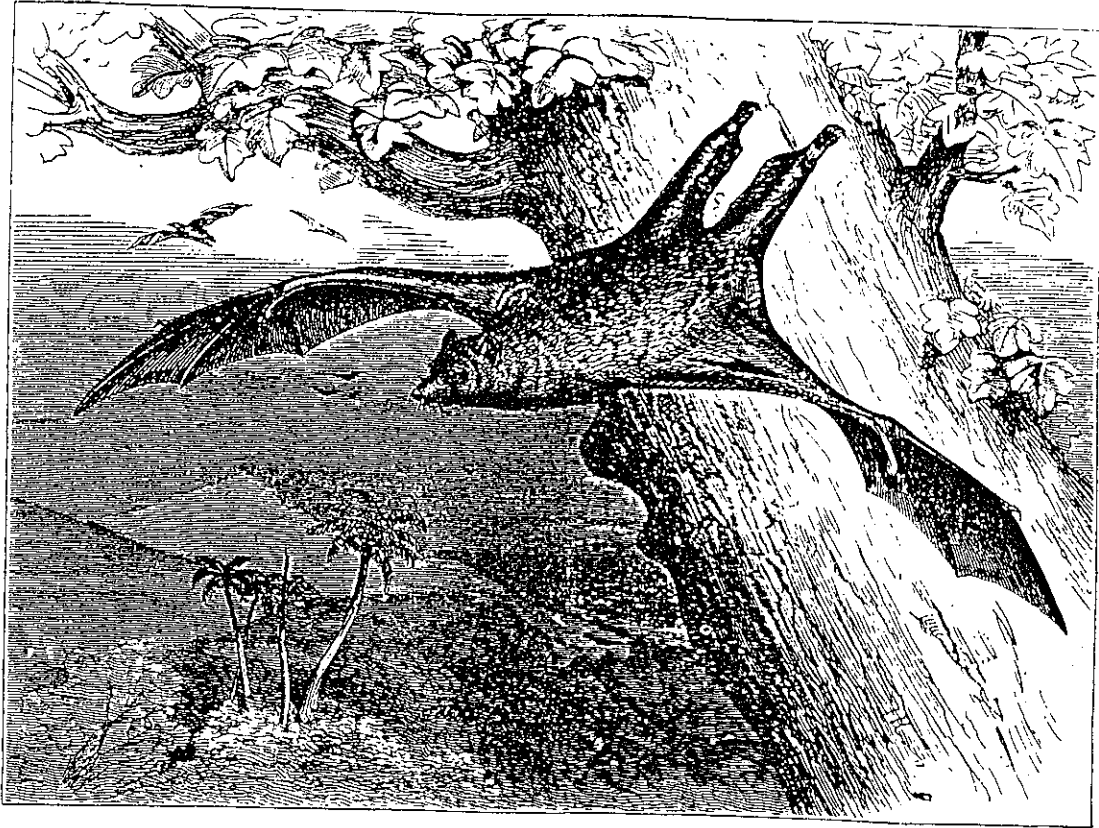
Crocodylus cataphractus, *Crocodylus niloticus*, *Manis temmincki*,
Panthera pardus, *Diceros bicornis* and *Falco peregrinus*.

There are now 64 parties to the Convention:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| *Australia | +Malaysia | +Venezuela |
| Bahamas | *Mauritius | *Zaire |
| Bolivia | Monaco | Zambia |
| *Botswana | +Morocco | |
| *Brazil | *Nepal | |
| *Canada | +Nicaragua | |
| Central African Republic | +Niger | |
| +Chile | +Nigeria | |
| *Costa Rica | *Norway | |
| +Cyprus | +Pakistan | |
| *Denmark | Panama | |
| +Ecuador | *Papua New Guinea | |
| Egypt | +Paraguay | |
| *Finland | *Peru | |
| *France | Rwanda | |
| *Gambia | *Senegal | |
| *German Democratic Republic | *Seychelles | |
| *Germany, Federal Republic of | *South Africa | |
| *Ghana | Sri Lanka | |
| Guatemala | Suriname | |
| +Guyana | *Sweden | |
| *India | *Switzerland | |
| Indonesia | Togo | |
| Iran | *Tunisia | |
| Israel | Tanzania | |
| *Italy | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics | |
| Japan | +United Arab Emirates | |
| Jordan | *United Kingdom | |
| Kenya | *United States of America | |
| Liechtenstein | *Uruguay | |
| *Madagascar | | |

A total of 45 countries have been party to the Convention since at least the beginning of 1978 and are therefore obliged to produce a 1978 annual report on their trade in CITES listed species (Article VIII, item 7). These reports should have been made available to the Secretariat by the end of October 1980, but to date 31 have been received (*) and 14 are still outstanding (+).

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