

# TRAFFIC BULLETIN

OF THE  
WILDLIFE TRADE  
MONITORING UNIT



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*Editors: Clare McCormack  
and WTMU*

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**VOL III Nos 3/4**

**May - August 1981**

First, we must apologize for the delay in the production of this Bulletin. This was due to problems about our funding which we hope will soon be resolved. We have produced a bumper issue to compensate for this delay which combines two numbers in one and the format has been changed enabling us to give more information per page and so reducing our printing and postage costs - always a very important consideration.

Another setback has been the departure of our two editors from WTMU. Shirley Bennett, who has contributed much to getting the Bulletin established, is no longer able to help us because of her college commitments. She will be missed by the Bulletin and the WTMU staff. John Burton has also resigned his consultancy at WTMU. He was the initiator of the Bulletin and indeed the driving force behind the original TRAFFIC office. He will be much missed by WTMU both in his personal and professional capacities, and we fully endorse Peter Sand's tribute to him.

The main articles in this issue concern two of the world's major wildlife importing countries - Germany and Japan. We have devoted a fair proportion of the Bulletin to them to emphasize their importance as importers and consumers and also to celebrate the fact that TRAFFIC offices are to be established in both countries. TRAFFIC Germany is to be set up in the WWF offices in Frankfurt and as from 1 August 1981 will be under the very able directorship of Dr Arnd Wunjbihmazn. Credit and thanks must be given to Ruth Turner without whose tireless pioneering work on detailing the extent of the German fur trade TRAFFIC Germany might never have come about. IUCN has now given its backing to the creation of TRAFFIC Japan and its establishment has only to wait for the funding to come through. Tom Milliken, who will be the executive officer, has contributed his survey on the wildlife products on sale in Tokyo. We hope to include a TRAFFIC Japan page, or pages, in each issue in the future.

Space has also been given to articles on Belgium and Austria as these countries also play a large part in international trade. They are not important consumer countries but as they are not parties to CITES they can confer legitimacy on exports that left their countries of origin illegally and re-export them to CITES members. Belgium is on the point of ratifying CITES and it is likely that soon all the BENELUX will become parties. Colombia appears again in our pages as an exporting country, this time in an article on massive illegal exports of caimans and other reptiles. A different aspect of trade is seen in the report on hunting in Mongolia - TRAFFIC (USA) plans to produce a report on hunting trophies which should prove interesting.

Finally, a plea to all our readers and consultants to send in reports, news cuttings, information on aspects of the international trade in wildlife trade - and our thanks to regular contributors. Your letters on articles in the Bulletin are also appreciated.

## TRIBUTE TO JOHN BURTON

The news that John Burton has resigned from his consultant position with the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit will be noted with sadness by readers of this Bulletin - which owes its very existence to him. No single person is more closely identifiable with the concept, and the cause, of the former IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group in London, and with the present unit in Cambridge. Studies and reports initiated by John Burton and his team have been crucial for the work of the CITES Secretariat in the surveillance of legal, illegal and para-legal wildlife trade; and while his data and methods sometimes caused official irritation, they usually turned out to be correct. As he leaves the job, some of the excitement and enthusiasm of the pioneering years of CITES will inevitably go too; and no computer can replace that part of the operation. It is good to know that John Burton continues to work in the Fauna & Flora Preservation Society, which will undoubtedly give him future opportunities to test the standards he has set at TRAFFIC.

Peter H Sand  
Acting Secretary General, CITES

## THE TRADE IN TREE FERNS

by Sara Oldfield, Threatened Plants Committee, Kew

Tree ferns, families Cyatheaceae and Dicksoniaceae, are all included in Appendix II of CITES. They are known to be in trade but as yet little information on them has been recorded in CITES annual reports. In the UK's 1976 and 1977 annual reports, applications for imports are recorded from France, Germany and New Zealand but no more recent data have been published.

Whole live tree ferns are available commercially as garden plants but it is mainly the products derived from the stems which enter into trade. In fact, tree fern stems are the only plant products recognised in Schedule 3 of the UK Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act 1976.

In certain species of tree fern the relatively narrow stem is covered by a mantle of adventitious fibrous root which makes up the tree-like girth. Portions of this 'stem' material are sold either as blocks, poles, carved containers or in a shredded fibrous form, often mixed with other vegetative or non-vegetative matter.

The fibrous material forms a sterile growth medium used in horticulture. It is particularly favoured by orchid growers, offering a relatively new alternative in temperate countries to the traditional *Osmunda* fibre which is now increasingly expensive and difficult to obtain.

In Mexico, tree fern fibre has always been the favoured growth medium for orchids. In that country the material known locally as 'macuque' is carved into various roughly sculptured forms for sale to the public. The main species used are *Nephelea mexicana*, *Cyathea fulva* and *Sphaeropteris horrida*. Most of the tree fern fibre used in horticulture in the USA comes from Mexico as well as from Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Material offered for sale in Europe includes products known as Mexifern and Xamim. These fibrous potting media are offered alone or in various combinations such as Mexifern x redwood or Dicksonia x Mexifern. Species of *Dicksonia* have the most extensive root mantles of all tree ferns and are therefore the most widely utilized species in S. America.

In Hawaii, concern has been expressed about the widespread use of local *Cibotium* spp. The main area of harvesting is on Hawaii Island where large scale destruction of forest ecosystems is occurring.

Selective removal of tree ferns frequently exacerbates existing losses caused by forest clearance. Some areas can, however, still withstand removal, as in New Zealand. At least one firm exporting from that country claims that its tree fern products are 'from areas authorized to be cleared for pasture or re-forestation'. Products from New Zealand include 'Punga' plant stakes and 'Austra fern tree garden products'.

*Dicksonia antarctica*, a tree fern from New Zealand, is one of the species most commonly found in cultivation. Other species include *Cyathea cooperi* from Australia, *Cibotium glaucum* from Hawaii together with *Dicksonia fibrosa* and *D. squarrosa* also from New Zealand. All tree ferns grow naturally in tropical or sub-tropical regions and are not sufficiently hardy to be grown outdoors in N. Europe or the northern states of the USA.

The use of tree ferns, both for landscaping and fibrous potting material, seems likely to increase as they still have a considerable novelty value in consumer markets. The use of the stem material is particularly wasteful as there are readily available artificial products with similar properties. More effective monitoring under CITES would usefully show the volume of trade in tree fern products, allowing international utilization to proceed only at sustainable levels. □

## APOLOGY

It appears that an article which we published in Vol. II, Nos. 9/10, on the flora of South Africa is inaccurate. We published the article in good faith but have subsequently been unable to verify the facts and therefore feel obliged to retract it. At the same time we would like to apologize to any organizations or persons who might have been embarrassed by the implications of the article.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### US Kangaroo Import Ban Lifted

A 6 year ban on US commercial trade in kangaroos has been lifted by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. After a one year review the Service felt satisfied that the three largest kangaroo species (the red *Macropus rufus*, eastern gray *M. giganteus* and western gray *M. fuliginosus*) had reached healthy numbers and were being properly managed. Carefully monitored trade could therefore be permitted although the three species will still be classed as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act. After two years the Interior agency will reevaluate the situation, including the status of the animals. (Source: Dept. of Interior press release 28.4.81)

This decision will disappoint several conservation groups who had been campaigning for the import ban to remain, arguing that the review undertaken was inadequate and no acceptable scientific justification had been given for the rescinding of the ban. The opening of commercial trade in a threatened species after a complete ban on its importation is unprecedented in US regulatory history.



Red Kangaroo, *Macropus rufus*.

### Zimbabwe & Cameroon Join CITES

Zimbabwe and Cameroon have acceded to CITES on 19 May 1981 and 5 June 1981 respectively. They will become the 70th and 71st Parties to the Convention on 17 August 1981 and 3 September 1981.

Zimbabwe has taken a reservation on *Crocodylus niloticus* as she has four farming/rearing projects in operation which appear to be quite successful. A total of 2253 animals were culled for hides between 1978-80. In 1979, 87 captive females at two farms produced 1906 eggs and a third farm has set aside 30 captive females for breeding. The farmers operate on a system that requires them to return a small percentage of live animals back to the wild (Tony Pooley, 'Oryx' May 81).

We have been informed that Zimbabwe has put a temporary ban on all commercial bird exports until their wildlife legislation has been revised.

We have also received a news cutting telling how poaching in the West Nicholson, Gwanda, Balla Balla and Beitbridge areas of Zimbabwe last year accounted for about 1 million Zimbabwean dollars in lost revenue. The areas were some of the worst affected in the country and an anti-poaching unit had been specially set up because of the seriousness of the problem. However, it had enjoyed only a 10 per cent success rate in catching poachers because of a shortage of staff and the use of motor vehicles by poachers.

### New Wildlife Trade Legislation in Ecuador

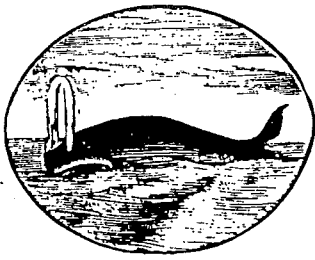
Under "Decreto Ejecutivo No. 487", published in the "Registro Oficial" dated 18 August 1980, the government of Ecuador does not permit the commercial export of any species of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate, except certain listed species which are subject to quota. 10,000 birds of 38 species or genera may be exported annually by registered dealers under licence from the Director General de Desarrollo Forestal del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia. 3000 skins each of the white-lipped peccary, *Tayassu pecari* and the collared peccary, *T. tajacu*, are the only mammals permitted for commercial export. No reptiles, amphibians, or invertebrates may be exported. The list of permitted birds consists of the following parrots: *Aratinga wagleri*, *A. weddellii*, *Brotogeris* spp., *Forpus coelestis*, *Pionus chalcopterus*, *P. menstruus*, *P. sordidus*, *Pyrrhura melanura*; blue ground dove *Claravis pretiosa*; aracarids: *Pteroglossus* spp, (except *P. inscriptus* and *P. pluricinctus*); toucanets *Aulacorhynchus* spp.; blue-crowned motmot *Momotus momota*; tanagers: *Anisognathus flavinuchus*, *A. igniventris*, *Euphonia lanirostris*, *E. mesochrysa*, *E. minuta*, *E. saturata*, *E. xanthogaster*, *Piranga flava*, *Ramphocelus carbo*, *R. icteronotus*, *R. nigrogularis*, *Tangara* spp, (except *T. icterocephala*, *T. mexicana*, *T. nigrocincta*, *T. velia*, *T. xanthocephala*), *Thraupis cyanocephala*, *T. episcopus*, *T. palmarum*; coerebids: *Chlorophanes spiza*, *Coereba flaveola*, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*, *Dacnis cayana*, *D. lineata*; emberizids: *Pheucticus chrysopheplus*, *Rhodospingus cruentus*; icterids: *Icterus mesomelas*, *Sturnella* (= *Leistes*) *militaris*; violaceous jay *Cyanocorax violaceus*.



Motmot.

### Cheetah Skins on Sale

WWF-Kenya reports that skins of cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* are being sold openly on street corners in curio shops in Johannesburg. Farmers in the Transvaal still regard cheetah and wild dog *Lycaon pictus* as vermin. Cheetah trophies were recently advertised in a farming publication at US\$480 and wild dog at US\$40. Cheetah are also regarded as vermin in West Africa but elsewhere in Africa its numbers are steadily decreasing.



## MAC and the IWC

Marine Action Centre (MAC) is afloat again and based at the Bath House, Gwydir Street, Cambridge, Tel: (0223) 13819. It has produced a MAC newsletter for which the subscription rates are: £8.00 for individuals, £20.00 for organizations, and £1.00 for individual newsletters.

June's issue includes comments on Agenda Items for the IWC meeting to be held in Brighton on 20-25 July. The commercial whaling moratorium is back on the agenda. Proposals are:

- Indefinite ban/moratorium on all commercial whaling;
- Indefinite ban on commercial whaling in the North Atlantic;

- Commercial moratorium for the pelagic catch of minke whales after the 1983/84 season;
- Commercial catching of sperm whales:

1. Conditional prohibition/indefinite ban/moratorium
2. Moratorium for 5 years.

## Indonesian & Malaysian Export Bans

There has been some confusion as to whether (as some reports have indicated) there is a ban on primate exports from Indonesia. We have now heard from Ken Proud, the WWF Assistant Representative there, that there was a temporary suspension in the issuing of licences after some of a consignment of monkeys had died and it had been discovered that animal dealers were trying to evade the annual quota of 25,000 monkeys by understating the number in their shipments.

Ken Proud also sent us some information on the legal position in Malaysia. Due to their past colonial histories there are three independent sets of wildlife ordinances in West Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah. When Malaysia acceded to CITES in 1977, the regulations only applied to West Malaysia - not to Sarawak and Sabah. The Legal Department in Sarawak said they would need official notification from the Federal legal authorities in West Malaysia that Malaysia had acceded to CITES before amending the Wildlife Protection Ordinance to comply with the provisions of CITES. Eighteen months later, WWF Malaysia was able to get the Ministry of Science and Technology to send some very bad photocopies of the relevant documents which were not really acceptable to the Sarawak Legal Department.

So when Malaysia placed a ban on the export of primates at the end of 1979/beginning of 1980, this did not apply to Sabah and Sarawak who had different laws and were not asked to impose such a ban. As a result a number of applications for primate exports were received - including one from the UK Department of Health & Social Security. No permits were in fact issued.

Ken Proud ends by wondering whether this situation might permit Malaysia to export Appendix I species for commercial reasons: "Is there not potential for Malaysia, with its three different wildlife laws and localised distribution of species, to manipulate the provisions of CITES to export Appendix I species for commercial purposes? The provision that specimens were not obtained in contravention of the laws of State could technically be applied to the region where a particular animal is not protected, e.g. orang utans sent from Sarawak to West

## Bahrain Regulates Live Bird Exports

A WTMU correspondent in Bahrain has informed us that, following discussions with the Director of Agriculture, no export of live birds will be permitted from Bahrain without ministerial approval. This new policy is to take effect from 12 July 1981 and has resulted from information supplied to the WTMU concerning re-exports from Bahrain of Australian parrots. The Director is also introducing measures to control imports of birds, applicable from August. Particular attention will be paid to rare and endangered species. Trading companies in Bahrain have been made aware that they must seek approval for bird imports and exports from the Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce & Agriculture in future.

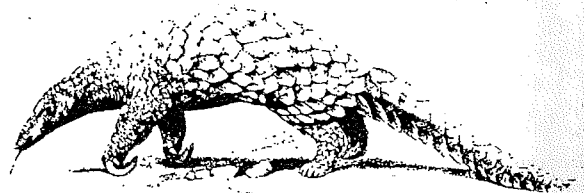
## Pangolin Trade Increasing

TRAFFIC (USA) recently issued a pangolin 'alert' as it appears that US imports of pangolin skins have increased considerably over the last few years. The skins are used mainly to make cowboy boots. It is probably only the three southeast Asian species, *Manis crassicaudata*, *M. javanica* and *M. pentadactyla*, which are involved; all three species are listed on CITES Appendix II.

The Chinese have long believed the scales to have a medicinal value. According to Lekagul & McNeely (1977, Mammals of Thailand, Bangkok), the scales of *M. pentadactyla* are used both internally and externally for the treatment of skin diseases and are "said to be particularly efficacious for the treatment of venereal diseases". Martin Brendell, a WTMU correspondent, reported seeing pangolins on sale in China for meat (TRAFFIC International Bulletin, Vol.II, No.8) and John Harrison (1966, An Introduction to the Mammals of Singapore and Malaya) states that pangolins are said to be excellent eating.

Pangolins are apparently totally protected in Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand (although *M. javanica* may be exported under quota in Thailand) and in Malaysia (that is, West Malaysia - See 'Malaysian Primate Ban' for an account of the rather confusing different sets of legislation in Malaysia). However, there is little doubt that the majority of skins in international trade originate from these countries.

Readers with any knowledge of pangolin usage and trade are asked to send comments to TRAFFIC (USA), 1601 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, USA, with a copy to WTMU.



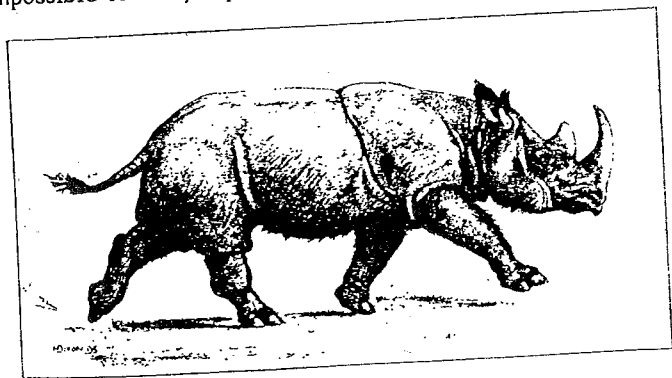
## Sumatran Rhino Found Killed in Sabah

A correspondent in Singapore has sent us news of the killing of a rare Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), which has a total population of under 300. At one time it was thought that this rhino was extinct in Borneo but several sightings were reported and recently the tracks of five were found. The carcass of a young Sumatran rhino was found in March at the side of a logging road in the Silabukan Forest Reserve near Lahad Datu on Sabah's east coast. It is thought that the rhino was trapped with a nylon rope and then dragged several miles to the logging road to be hacked apart. Its head and feet were

A group of 5 loggers was suspected and it was hoped that a conviction would result to discourage further poaching. As the rhino is protected in Malaysia, the penalty could have been a fine of \$5000 or a 5 year jail sentence. However, because no part of the rhino was found in the suspects' possession, the loggers could not be convicted of the killing but were fined \$300 each for failing to report the discovery of the rhino. Meanwhile the game department is trying to mobilise its staff of 23 rangers to police the area where the rhinos are said to be roaming, but only 3 rangers are being stationed in the Silabukan areas to keep checks on poaching by loggers.

Rhinos were once common in the jungles of Borneo but numbers have been declining since Chinese traders began coming to the island to look for rhino horn over a thousand years ago. Rhino horn has been prized for its medicinal properties as an antidote for poison and as a fever-reducing agent. Other rhino products are also used for medicinal purposes, in particular the skin though all parts are utilized, the rhino being one of the most versatile of beasts as far as Asian remedies are concerned. This, combined with its ornamental qualities and the demand for its meat, has led to the disastrous over-hunting of the animal in Borneo as elsewhere. Vast sums are now to be made in the rhino trade - for example, in Singapore, Sumatran rhino horn sells for well over US\$500 an ounce, a pound of rhino skin for \$150, and a pound of rhino toes for \$180.

Now the rhino is in double jeopardy as the area is scheduled to be cleared for timber over the next 5 years. Deforestation particularly affects the Sumatran rhino as, for intrinsic behavioural reasons, it has the lowest population density of any rhino - one per 4000 hectares. The Sabah Foundation, owner of the timber rights, has been asked to provide an area for the animals to live in and it has reportedly agreed to give about 165 sq mls (out of its total holding of 3500 sq mls) in the Danum Valley. However this is about 100 miles away and it may be impossible to find, capture and transport the animals there.



Our correspondent also informs us that the Malayan Nature Society in Singapore is to petition the government to sign CITES. Singapore has long been an important 'laundering' port, offering a market for much illegal trade, and her accession to CITES would be a very welcome step. Along with these cuttings we were sent a couple of advertisements from a Singapore paper, one from West Germany offering 5 pieces of rhinoceros horn and the other "rare rhinoceros horns. Very, very expensive." □

## THE AUSTRIAN CONNECTION

EDDIE BREWER, DIRECTOR of the Wildlife Conservation Department in the Gambia, has sent us an account, "Freddie's Story", of the fate of one chimpanzee in the hands of an unscrupulous Austrian animal dealer. Freddie's capture was typical of many cases where the mother is

killed so that the young chimp may be obtained for sale on the black market. Fortunately, when he was smuggled into the Gambia for this purpose, the Wildlife Conservation Department heard of it and he was seized under the 1977 Wildlife Conservation Act. He was taken to the Abuko Nature Reserve where his health gradually improved and it was planned that he should join a chimpanzee rehabilitation project.

At this time an Austrian, Horst Blaich, owner of a pet shop and 'private zoo', visited the Reserve and enquired whether he could buy and export chimps and other primates but he was informed that trading in wildlife was prohibited by Gambian law. Having taken some photographs of Freddie, he left the Reserve and returned to Vienna. Three months later in February of this year, Freddie was stolen.

No trace of him was found after 2 weeks of searching and investigations and it was concluded that he must have been smuggled out of the country immediately after the theft. Then Mr Brewer was shown an Austrian newspaper article detailing how a passenger on a package holiday to the Gambia had been seen by two stewardesses abandoning a 3 month old puppy on a beach. The stewardesses rescued the pup but on the return flight, the same day that Freddie had been stolen, they recognized the man with the same large basket at his feet that had contained the puppy. Suspicions were aroused and when the captain demanded to examine the contents of the basket he found a drugged infant chimpanzee.

After reading the article, Mr Brewer contacted the Viennese police and WWF Austria and with the help of Interpol the net began to close around Blaich. Freddie was identified and the Austrian WWF together with Austria's largest newspaper said they would cover the cost of Freddie's return to the Gambia.

Eddie Brewer flew to Austria where he was invited to comment on previous wildlife importations by Blaich. Among his recent imports were a 'Java monkey' (probably a pig-tailed macaque *Macaca nemestrina*) of about 5 weeks old which has since died, a gibbon *Hylobates* sp., and an assortment of vervets *Cercopithecus aethiops*, colobus monkeys *Colobus* sp, bush babies *Galago* sp., and Sykes monkeys *Cercopithecus mitis* from Tanzania. He was asked to put a market value on the animals which he priced as high as he could - Blaich had declared Freddie's value as 400 schilling (approx. £12.50) and had a customer arranged for him for 35,000 schilling (approx. £1070).

On the morning of his appeal for bail, a representative of Blaich was apprehended at Vienna Airport in possession of 36 boas from Madagascar. These boas (*Sanzinia madagascariensis*, an Appendix I species) were returned to the dealer as soon as he had paid the customs dues - in Austria it is not a question of violating conservation laws but evading tax. Blaich's appeal for bail was refused and in April he was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment for his involvement in the affair and a further 8 months or another count - probably his attempts to defraud the Austrian customs.

Freddie, who had been looked after in Vienna by the Schönbrunn Zoo, was flown back to the Gambia in May and has now arrived safely in the Abuko Nature Reserve.

Mr Brewer believes Blaich's shop is to be closed for the sale of exotic animals and that he is now a bankrupt and may well go out of business completely. However, while in Vienna, he saw several pet shops offering rare animals including one that had a gibbon shut up in a cage 2' square and 4' high. This is all quite legal in Austria as it has not acceded to CITES and like Belgium handles a large number of endangered animals including re-exports to other European countries, North America and Japan. Now that Belgium looks ready to ratify CITES is it not time for Austria to follow suit and close the Austrian connection?

## WILDLIFE TRADE INTO BELGIUM

(This is based on the text of a WWF Belgium press conference given as part of the campaign for Belgium to ratify CITES)

BELGIAN ANIMAL traffickers have set up an intricate system of importation based on contacts with the licensed suppliers resident in the exporting country. At the beginning of the chain, the poacher receives, for example, a sum of up to 2500 BF for a chimpanzee. The shipper often knows people in the customs and the veterinary service who can let the consignment through although the accompanying documentation is often incomplete or uncertified.

The animals generally pass through the customs without any problem and are loaded onto the plane either as accompanied luggage or as freight. At Zaventem, the Belgian national airport, the animals going through the customs as accompanied luggage are considered as pets and are not taxed. A network of African 'students' has been built up to take hundreds of parrots and monkeys through in this way. Outside the airport the students are met by the agent of the Belgian dealer; the student receives 10,000 BF for a chimpanzee which will be resold at 65,000 BF, and about 2500 for a parrot, resold at 6500 BF. Because of the extent of this traffic the Belgian customs have limited the allowance for accompanied animals, as from 1 October 1980, to one cat, one dog or two parrots per person.

If the animals go by freight the airline companies which are members of IATA are supposed to follow the conditions of transport outlined in the IATA manual 'Live Animals Regulations'. But the cages in which the animals are transported rarely conform to the regulations and mortality during transit is often considerable. The suppliers recognize this, and so frequently - particularly with fish, tortoises and birds - dispatch a higher number than that for which they were authorized. Several species are mixed in the same box and the declaration is 'live monkeys' or 'live birds' even though the IATA regulations demand that the species and the number of individuals be declared. When they arrive at Zaventem the animals' state of health is often very poor as a consequence of the conditions of capture and transport.

The profits that the airline companies take from this freight are enormous. To send one chimpanzee to Kinshasa by Sabena in a cage conforming to the specifications of IATA would cost 40,719 BF. However, one dealer who wanted to freight 2 chimps, 2 tigers and a cheetah from Brussels to Mexico had only to pay 35,210 BF for this consignment, sent in cages not complying with the regulations.

The countries of origin are many but trade is principally channelled through: Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok (Thailand) in Asia, and Kinshasa (in spite of the fact that Zaire has ratified CITES), Bujumbura (Burundi) and Kigali (Rwanda) in Africa.

The kind of animals imported varies according to the country of origin, but fish, tortoises and birds are common currency and pass in their hundreds through the animal-house every week. Amongst the mammals it is the rarer ones that make up the most intensive business (chimpanzees, tigers, leopards, cheetahs) but lions and monkeys play their part too. The majority are re-exported and the price list of the largest Belgian dealer is drawn up in German and English....

All this results in Belgium, which is one of the last nations where the traffic in wild animals is perfectly legal, importing thousands of animals each year many of which do not survive the journey. The official statistics of the Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur illustrate the volume of the trade in wild animals.

The fact that countries like Rwanda and Burundi do not appear in the list of official exporters underlines the fact that the figures should be taken carefully and be considered as a minimum, since the declared value is

minimised by the dealer for tax reasons and a significant proportion of the animals leave the territory illegally. Finally, to show the extent and value of the trade, in 1979 Belgium officially imported 89 million BF worth of ivory, tortoiseshell, horns and whalebone. However, the majority of ivory coming into Belgium is stockpiled in transit for further re-export so these quantities are not included in the statistics. Most of that ivory is probably poached and smuggled out of CITES parties Zaire, Kenya or Tanzania with 'export permits' from Burundi (which is not a CITES party - and has no elephants) and then re-exported with Belgian documents. According to WWF's information - from residents in Zaire, Sabena air crews etc. - between 2-3 tonnes are shipped to Belgium every week. For example, one dealer in Burundi, Jaffer Habib, shipped 1930 kg to Brussels in November and 1143 kg in February.

### OFFICIAL STATISTICS from L'Office Belge du Commerce Extérieur

(There are approx. 76 BF to £1)

#### 1. 0106.990: Live wild animals (excluding fish)

1979 IMPORTS	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
EEC	2 779	53 673
France	323	7 491
Netherlands	784	27 693
West Germany	149	4 018
UK	1 487	12 867
Hungary	103	2 318
Senegal	38	7 157
Togo	8	2 742
Zaire	24	7 071
USA	64	4 119
Brazil	7	2 292
Argentina	17	3 505
Malaysia	29	4 819
Singapore	10	3 315
Japan	16	2 047
Hong Kong	10	3 118
TOTAL 1979	3 456	118 874
TOTAL 1978	2 696 (+)	93 928
TOTAL 1980	3 923	138 380

1979 EXPORTS	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
EEC	852	58 165
France	530	42 262
Netherlands	100	4 562
Italy	28	6 511
Greece	13	5 822
South Africa	2	1 440
USA	20	11 987
Canada	13	6 912
Venezuela	9	5 512
TOTAL 1979	941	106 623
TOTAL 1978	854 (+)	96 967
TOTAL 1980(Jan-Sep)	834	94 861

#### 2. Code 0204.920: Whalemeat, seal meat, frogs legs

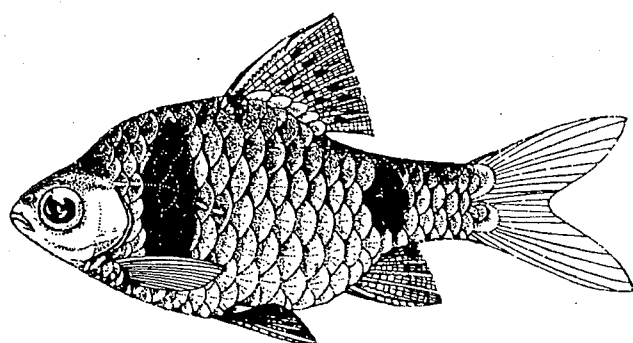
1979 IMPORTS	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
EEC	2 978	35 155
Netherlands	2 029	24 740
India	1 034	11 927
Indonesia	4 745	54 191
TOTAL 1979	9 256	106 304
TOTAL 1980	7 505	88 835
1979 EXPORTS	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
EEC (F-NL-D)	2 061	24 562
TOTAL 1979	2 216	26 548
TOTAL 1980	765	9 068



3. Code 0301.152: Aquarium fish

1979 IMPORTS	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
EEC	187	15 968
Netherlands	68	11 506
USA	8	2 393
Thailand	19	2 991
Singapore	512	33 082
Japan	8	1 979
Hong Kong	19	2 968
TOTAL 1979	868	71 027
TOTAL 1980	1 140	83 425

EXPORT 1979 - Solely to the EEC.

*Puntius cumingi* (Günther)4. Code 0509.00: Ivory, tortoiseshell, horns, antlers, turtle shells, whalebone.

IMPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1975	471	3 127
1976	2 555	5 266
1977	355	4 810
1978	3 830	6 797
1979	4 939	89 010
1980	7 635	23 257

EXPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1975	9 712	7 070
1976	9 221	4 677
1977	519	1 818
1978	503	1 277
1979	2 675	85 456
1980	6 079	22 081

5. Code 05.12.000: Coral and shells

IMPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1979	98 266	31 279
1980	66 230	28 795

6. Code 15.15.010: Spermaceti: crude and refined

IMPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1979	214	3 027
1980	287	3 473

7. Codes 41.01.660 - 41.05.200 - 41.05.930: Reptile and fish skins

IMPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1979	99	54 741
1980	69	47 397

8. Code 41.01.680: Skins of other animals

IMPORT	x 100 kg	x 1000 BF
1979	677	10 937
1980	652	3 289

9. Code 43.01.230: Skins of hair and fur seals - raw

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1979	120	116
1980	0	0

10. Code 43.02.230: Skins of hair and fur seals - tanned

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1979	181	529
1980	152	521

11. Code 43.01.270: Skins of sea otters, nutria - raw

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1980	8 020	8 765

12. Code 43.02.270: Skins of sea otters, nutria - tanned

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1979	16 322	17 684
1980	5 858	10 438

13. Code 43.01.350: Skins of wild cats - raw

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1980	56 414	150 870

EXPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1980 (Jan-Sep)	1 857	6 228

14. Code 43.02.350: Skins of wild cats - tanned

IMPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1980	9 179	13 330

EXPORT	No. of skins	x 1000 BF
1980 (Jan-Sep)	31 534	122 282

TOTAL SKINS IMPORTED (Codes 41 and 43)  
1980 - 234.610.000 BF

BELGIUM'S RATIFICATION of CITES is a vital step in the controlling of wildlife trade and CITES cannot be truly effective until this major European inlet for CITES species is closed. The text of the law on CITES was agreed in the Senate on 30 April by a vote of 125 to 0 with 5 abstentions. Two senators expressed concern that the ratification would considerably modify the activities of some 'important' economic sectors such as the ivory and fur trade but it was pointed out that it would guarantee that only the honest dealers would be maintained in these sectors.

CITES has now to be approved by the House of Parliament which should be done before the end of June. Both the Netherlands and Luxembourg endorsed CITES in principle several years ago but have been unable to formally ratify CITES until Belgium does, under the terms of the Benelux Convention. We hope to bring you news of any further developments of Belgium's ratification of CITES in our next Bulletin. □

COMMENTS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES (WASHINGTONER ARTENSCHUTZ=UEBEREINKOMMEN, JAHRESSTATISTIK 1979), published by Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten.

by John A Burton

## 1. GENERAL REMARKS: WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE?

IN THE Federal Republic of Germany, the Convention is implemented by two "Management Authorities" (which issue trade licences) and a "Scientific Authority" (which provides scientific advice to the Management Authorities). While in other CITES member states the "Scientific Authority" is a separate entity composed of scientific experts expressing their view independently from the views of the Management Authority, the Scientific Authority of the Federal Republic of Germany appears to be identical with one of its Management Authorities (the Bundesamt für Ernährung und Fortwirtschaft; the name of the same government official is given in the annual report for both institutions. Presumably, he first reaches an independent scientific judgement and then advises himself).

The members of the honorary "Beirat" appointed by the combined Management/Scientific Authority include "representatives of science" (zoos, museums and botanical gardens) and "representatives of industry". Surprisingly, and unlike similar institutions elsewhere, the Beirat does not include any representatives of nature conservation bodies or associations (even though there certainly are some internationally respected experts available in these bodies, in relevant fields such as ornithology, marine zoology, etc.) The four representatives of industry are the following:

Herr Walter Langenberger (Deputy Chairman of the Beirat), Executive Director of the German Fur Trade Association (Verband der deutschen Rauchwaren- und Pelzwirtschaft) and of the Frankfurt Fur Trade Fair (Rauchwaren-Messe);

Herr Helmut Fehns, Manager of the fur and leather trade firm of P.Fehns GmbH in Hamburg, one of the major German importers of furs from Paraguay;

Herr Karl Heinz Fuchs, Gerberei-Ingenieur at the Frankfurt chemical plant of Hoechst AG, one of the leading firms for industrial tanning of reptile hides;

Herr Odo Willscher, Manager of Safari-Willscher KG in Hamburg, one of the largest German big-game hunting agencies.

The Ministry's Report mentions the affiliations of all scientific members of the Beirat; why not those of the industrial lobbyists, too?

## 2. VOLUME OF GERMAN IMPORTS: CONTINUOUSLY HIGH

The CITES statistics are considerably lower than the official German customs statistics in many categories, and they also confirm the well-known fact that the Federal Republic continues to be the world's leading importer of furskins. Total imports of spotted cat furs for 1979 are 160,000, compared to 60,000 in 1977 and 310,000 in 1978. Current trends indicate a probable increase in 1980.

Ivory imports have remained at about the same level as in previous years: 69 tonnes in 1978, 66 tonnes in 1979. It is estimated that more than half of this represents "speculative ivory" imported as investment (the price of ivory having developed along the lines of the gold price, as elephant populations are constantly decreasing); about 25-30 tonnes annually are consumed by the German ivory carving industries. With the average weight of raw ivory in trade now having gone down to about 6 kg per tusk\*, the German ivory imports over the three-years period 1977-1979 represent at least 16,000 elephants.

Imports of crocodilian hides show a significant

upward trend: from 260,000 in 1977, to 350,000 in 1978; 365,000 in 1979. Only France and Italy import more.

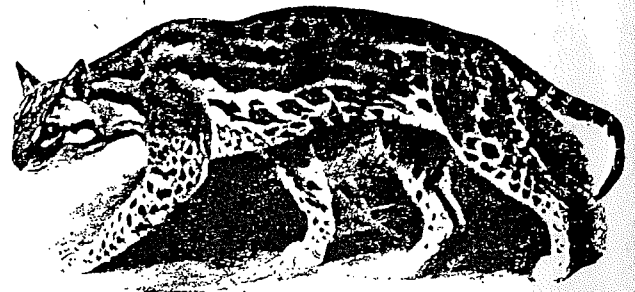
Over-all imports recorded in the 1979 German CIT report may be estimated to represent an over-all decline in value of at least 80 million DM (roughly estimating million each for the furskin and reptile hide trade, million for the ivory trade, and 10 million for live animals which is a rather conservative figure). Considering that the average Customs rate applicable to most of the categories concerned is 13%, the annual Customs revenue from these foreign wildlife species to the Federal Ministry of Finance is at least 10 million DM.

## 3. LEGALITY OF IMPORTS: FORGERIES AND FALSE DESCRIPTIONS

As explained by the Ministry of Agriculture in its introduction to the report, these statistics are supposed to represent legal trade only; i.e. imports and exports accompanied by the required documents from the country of origin, and recognized as authentic by German Customs authorities.

Recent discoveries of wide-spread forgeries among German importers have cast serious doubts on this assumption. As confirmed by the Ministry in a press release in November 1980, one of the major importers in Frankfurt is being accused of having used forged documents and false descriptions since 1977 to import thousands of furskins and crocodile hides from Paraguay estimated value about 20 million DM. The 1979 statistics also include these imports.

Significantly, more than half of the spotted cat skins and more than 80% of the South American otter skins recorded in the 1979 import statistics of the Federal Republic of Germany came from Paraguay. What is most alarming, however, is the fact that apparently all the otter skins (20,416) and ocelot skins (9081) imported from Paraguay were in reality prohibited species: there simply are no "Peru otters" or "Brazilian river otters" in Paraguay as recorded on page 40 of the report (on the basis of the import declarations); instead, the only species of ocelot and otters existing there are those listed on Appendix I of the Convention (*Felis pardalis mitis* and *Lutra platensis*) excluded from trade. Alternatively, assuming that the skins were as described but originated in other countries they probably were smuggled from them (Brazil has a complete ban on export of all wildlife and wildlife products). As recently as June 1981, one of the large department store chains (Karstadt) openly advertised what it described as 'genuine Brazilian furs of wild ocelot'.



Since only legal trade is listed in the CITES statistics, the 1979 German CITES report shows no imports of wildlife or wildlife products from Brazil, except for some orchids (duly authorized, on page 27). Curiously enough, however, the official foreign trade statistics of the Federal Republic of Germany for 1979 (published by Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden) list more than 50,000 "raw wild cat skins" as imported from Brazil - without CITES permits. As all wild cats are subject to the Convention, this cannot be explained away by discrepancies in classification. Something is wrong here, and the legality of West German fur imports from Latin America is anything but clear.



On the other hand, the 1979 statistics clearly show that a large portion of these imports do not remain in Germany but are officially re-exported to many other countries, with German re-export certificates describing them as "Peru-otters from Paraguay" (page 49) and similar exotic labels.

#### 4. ORIGIN OF IMPORTS: THE "LAUNDERING" SYSTEM

Contrary to the practice of other CITES member states, the statistics of the Federal Republic of Germany refer to the statistical category "country of origin" as "Versendungsland" (country of shipment) instead of "Ursprungsland" (term used on Swiss documents). As a result, the report is full of "chimpanzees from Austria", "bobcat skins from Greece", etc., which renders much of the statistical information meaningless.

In some cases, however, these transactions reveal attempts by traders to circumvent the rules of CITES by a technique known as "laundering". In order to legalize shipments of dubious origin, they are first sent to a country which is not a CITES member state and which has a "liberal" approach to documents of origin. With an official re-export document from that country, the shipment is then presented in West Germany, either for legal import or for further re-export, with a "laundered" re-export certificate now provided by the authorities of a CITES member state.

The 1979 report offers numerous illustrations of this practice:

- **Ivory:** The 6.7 tonnes of ivory "from Belgium" (page 44) were almost certainly illegal imports from Zaire (where exports are prohibited) or from Burundi (which has no elephants at all, but serves as the "laundering" station for smuggled ivory from Zaire and Tanzania). By not recording the true origin, the German report actually helps to cover up the operation. A similar situation existed until very recently in Namibia (South West Africa), which is not covered by the CITES Convention and liberally exported ivory probably originating from Angola or other neighbouring countries. Namibia's own elephant population outside national parks was estimated to be no more than 1700 in 1979. Consequently, if West Germany alone imported 16 tonnes of Namibian ivory that year (page 44), the local elephant population would have been wiped out!

- **Reptile hides:** Of the 360,000 crocodilian hides imported by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1979, more than 150,000 are recorded (on pages 45/46) as originating from Austria and Italy - where at that time CITES rules were not applicable. Another famous "laundering" operation is nicely illustrated on page 57 of the report, where leather goods are recorded as "Podocnemis expansa from Mexico" and "Chelonia depressa from Mexico". It is now known (also to the German authorities) that these shipments really contained prohibited marine turtle leather (Chelonia mydas and Lepidochelys olivacea, CITES Appendix I) from Mexico, which had been fraudulently mislabelled in order to obtain "laundered" documents, first in Italy and then in Germany. The fraud was discovered when the German importer tried to re-export the goods to Switzerland with German re-export certificates, and the Swiss authorities rejected them: neither Podocnemis expansa nor Chelonia depressa exist in Mexico (the latter species only occurs in Australia!). Why is there not even a footnote in the German report to correct this blatant mistake, long after its discovery?

- **Furskins:** The "pampas cats" (Lynchailurus pajeros), 2728 skins of which are recorded on page 54 as originating from Paraguay, only exist in southern Argentina. Nevertheless, they were re-exported with official German documents to the United Kingdom and to Spain, Frankfurt thus becoming the "laundering" station for the transaction.

- **Exotic birds:** A more sophisticated "double laundering" is recorded on page 20: the 17 palm cockatoos ("Ara-Kakadu", Probosciger aterrimus) allegedly originating in Thailand (not a CITES member) do not occur there and were probably smuggled out of Australia, Indonesia or Papua New Guinea, where they are fully protected. With documents from Thailand, however, they also obtained "laundered" CITES documents in Germany apparently for prompt re-exportation to the United States (some under Appendix II (page 29), some under Appendix I (page 35)).

#### 5. TRADE IN SPECIMENS "BRED IN CAPTIVITY" LOOPHOLES

Another method to circumvent the Convention is to claim that an important specimen was "zoo-bred" or "farmed" with a view to exempting it from trade prohibitions.

- **Otters:** The 19 European otters recorded on page 8 of the report as "bred in captivity in Bulgaria", and imported by way of another "laundering" operation (this time involving a "transit" stop in England organized jointly by an animal dealer in Frankfurt and a so-called zoo in the United Kingdom), illustrate the ease with which the Convention is by-passed for purely commercial import under pseudo-scientific pretexts: the otters were sold for DM 5000 apiece.

- **Crocodiles:** It will be equally difficult to substantiate the claim (page 38) that 1156 hides of Nile crocodiles from Botswana, 3 from Zambia, and leather goods from Italy were all derived from animals bred in captivity. There are no known crocodile farming operations at this stage in any of these countries.

- **Marine turtles:** The Federal Republic of Germany continues to import products said to be derived from captive-bred green turtles (Chelonia mydas) at the German-owned "Cayman Turtle Farm" in the Caribbean. According to the 1979 report, 34 tonnes of turtle meat imports, with 21 tonnes of meat and 31 kg of tortoise-shell re-exported (pages 38/39). Curiously enough, however, there is no reference in the report to the considerable amounts of tortoise-shell from fully protected turtles which a number of exporting countries show in their statistics as going to West Germany (see the report of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, Washington 26-30 November 1979, which also questions the Cayman Island "captive-breeding" operation).

#### 6. OMISSIONS: WHERE ARE ALL THE WHALE PRODUCTS?

The report leaves many questions unanswered. Judging from the quantities of endangered species currently offered for sale in West Germany, it is unlikely that statistics concerning imports of exotic birds, live reptiles and a number of other species on the Convention lists anywhere near the real trade figures. Only looking at advertisements in professional journals, the total of butterflies (re-exported to Switzerland, page 60) or of cacti (page 27) merely goes to show that the Convention is still not being enforced for the conservation of endangered insects and plants.

By far the most serious omission in the 1979 report is whale products. As of 28 June 1979, CITES member states were under an obligation to control imports of cetaceans and their parts and derivatives, including particular whale oil and spermaceti (walrus), of which the German industry has long been the world's third largest importer after Japan and the Soviet Union. By comparison with official trade statistics, the annual imports for probably were about 6000 tonnes of whale oil, and about 1000 tonnes of whale meat (see the report by Charles Meade, "International Trade in Whale Products: A Review", RSPCA 1980). Did these imports continue during the second half of 1979 without CITES controls?

n Douglas-Hamilton in 1977 calculated a mean weight 81 per tusk. This was based on a large sample of tusks in the Dar es Salaam Ivory Room. In his final report 1979 he concluded that the average weight could be between 5 - 10 kilos. However, Ian Parker has conducted a detailed survey into the weight of tusks by examining the age weights of the tusks held in the world's major ivory centres - Hong Kong and Japan. This ranges from 9.65 kg in Hong Kong to 16 kg in Japan. His report 'How many tusks', to be published in the next issue of Oryx, includes that a conservative estimate of the mean weight of a tusk would be the Hong Kong weight of 9.65 kg.

but see 'More wildlife exports from Colombia' in this issue, for a report of a disastrous attempt at crocodile trading in Italy. □

## Legal Exports of Ghanaian Reptiles to the UK

by B S Antram

At the end of March 1981 a consignment of live reptiles arrived at East Midlands airport from Ghana and was seized by H.M. Customs and Excise. WTMU was requested by Customs to assist in finding an expert who would be prepared to go to the airport and identify the animals. On 2nd April, John A Burton of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society (and, at that time, also a WTMU consultant) travelled to the airport and identified a consignment of 45 royal pythons, *Python regius*. The only export documentation accompanying the reptiles was a primary certificate covering not only 45 royal pythons, but also 40 geckoes, Gekkonidae, and 50 chameleons, *Chamaeleo* sp. The geckoes and chameleons were not included in the shipment and it was assumed that these might arrive on one of the next flights from Accra. WTMU ascertained from KLM (the carriers) the times and routing of subsequent flights from Accra and alerted contacts at Schiphol airport, Amsterdam. Meanwhile, the CITES management authority (Department of the Environment) was prepared to instruct Customs to release the pythons if the importer was willing to sign an undertaking to apply for import licence. However the shipment was seized because the importer was unable to provide an export licence from Ghana (required by CITES under Article 2). Subsequently WTMU received confirmation from Ghana's Dept. of Game and Wildlife that the pythons had been exported illegally.

A few days later, on 16th April, a second consignment of reptiles from Ghana arrived at Heathrow airport, London without an export licence and was seized by Customs. The animals involved were ten royal pythons, 60 chameleons, five monitor lizards *Varanus* sp., and 100 snakes Agamidae. John Burton went to the Animal Quarantine Station at Heathrow on 23rd April to identify the reptiles specifically and attend a press conference. Customs were keen that every effort should be made to return the reptiles to Ghana for release into the wild. The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals agreed to raise funds to do this. WTMU continued to assist by trying to contact officials in Ghana and establish whether arrangements could be made for the receipt of the rehabilitated reptiles. Communications with Ghana proved very difficult and when telegrams got through misunderstandings occurred. When no satisfactory reply had been received by the first week of May, a decision was made to sell the remaining reptiles (some, mainly the

chameleons, had already died in spite of expert care) to a pet dealer. This method of disposal was opposed by some of the voluntary conservation bodies and was taken up by the media, notably in "The Guardian" and "New Scientist". The following quote is taken from New Scientist (14/5/81), page 397:-

"It was only when NCC officials saw a story in last Sunday's 'Observer' saying that Ghana was on the brink of collapse and that its telephone system had broken down that they decided to give up attempts to contact officials there and instead ordered the sale of the animals.

"John Burton of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society is extremely unhappy about the decision to sell these animals and about the government's conduct in the matter, although he is quick to praise the behaviour of Customs officials throughout the affair. Burton is disappointed that the government ignored conservationists' advice to contact the Ghanaian authorities through diplomatic channels in view of Ghana's disorganised communications."



About a week later, WTMU received a telegram from Ghana to the effect that the government was very concerned and would be sending Dr. Emmanuel Asibey (Chief Administrator of the Ghana Forestry Commission, which has responsibility for the Dept. of Game and Wildlife) over to the U.K. on 15th June to discuss the methods of disposal of seized live animals. A meeting in London on 18th June was attended by Dr. Asibey, three representatives from the Ghana High Commission including the High Commissioner and representatives from H.M. Customs and Excise, the Dept. of the Environment, the Nature Conservancy Council, FFPS and WTMU. The meeting proved very fruitful and, among other things, "...revealed that export permits presented for consignments of animals from Ghana to this country have carried forged authorising signatures." This statement is taken from a letter circulated by the Dept. of the Environment on 25th June to importers who were known to have imported animals from Ghana in the past and to the pet trade journals. The letter goes on to say that in future, applications to import any animals from Ghana will not be considered unless a properly authorised permit from the Dept. of Game and Wildlife can be presented. "Any animals arriving in this country from Ghana without a valid export permit will be seized by Customs and Excise." □

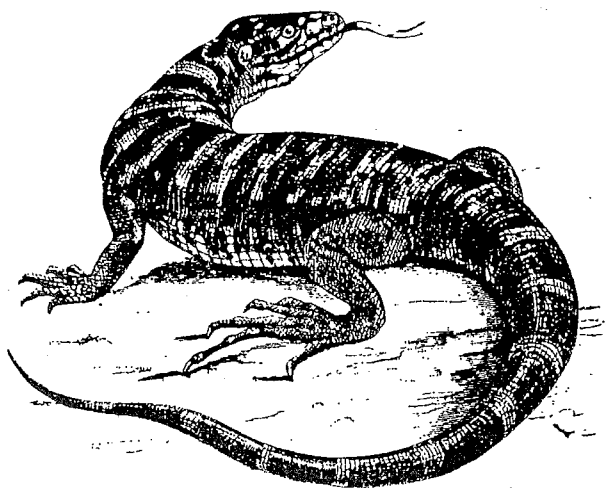
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## MORE WILDLIFE EXPORTS FROM COLOMBIA

THE COLOMBIAN PAPER, 'El Tiempo' has again exposed a Colombian smuggling racket, involving firms in the USA and Italy. This one concerns the illegal export of thousands of caimans and a disastrous attempt to set up a crocodile farm in Italy.

The Investigations Unit of 'El Tiempo' reports that almost 12,000 live animals were exported from Barranquilla between November 1980 and March 1981. The exports were fully supported by forged documents from Inderena (the Institute for the Development of Renewable Natural Resources), ICA (Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario, which issues certificates of health), and Incomex (Instituto Colombiano de Comercio Exterior, the foreign trade agency). Information obtained for El Tiempo concerns four cargo loads, though there were probably many more consignments sent.

The species involved - babillas (spectacled caimans *Caiman crocodilus*), snakes and lizards - are all protected and their export is strictly forbidden (see last issue of TRAFFIC Bulletin, pp. 19-21). Three cargoes were sent to Miami, the first of which contained 5550 live caimans, 87 boas and 16 vipers. This was sent to Tropical Animal Distributors Inc., a firm that for many years has dealt in wildlife and whom Alberto Donadio had named in his 'Wildlife Trade in Colombia in 1974' as a US importer from Colombia. The cargo was supported by a permit from Inderena which has since been found to be forged as Inderena has no record of such a permit being issued on 7 November 1980. The Colombian exporting firm, Reptiles Tropicales, named on the forms, does not exist, nor does the tax identification number of the firm. The health certificate and the Incomex permit accompanying the cargo were also forged.



*Tupinambis nigropunctatus*.

The other two shipments sent in March of this year to Miami had similar false documents - in fact the Incomex permits for all three shipments had the same document number, 5815. The first of these cargoes contained 250 caimans, 891 boas, 24 rainbow boas *Epicrates cenchria* and 326 lizards; the second, 1213 boas, 85 tegus *Tupinambis teguixin nigropunctatus*, 330 caimans and 10 rainbow boas. Since the export firm does not exist it is impossible to say who is responsible for sending these consignments.

### CAIMANS TO ITALY

However, the dealer who exported 3000 caimans to Italy is very well known. He is Simon Daza who has been deeply involved in international wildlife trade for 30 years.

In December 1980, caimans were flown from Barranquilla to Rome airport, arriving in mid winter, and transported from there by lorry to Présicce, a village on the very tip of Italy. The animals had been acquired for the Compagnia Internazionale Allevamento Animali Esotici which plans to establish a captive-breeding farm in Présicce.

The first count revealed that 1500 had died in transit. Between December and the middle of February another 1094 had died, probably from salmonella and fungus disease. By March there were only 406 left. An expert who visited Présicce found that the animals were living in overcrowded ponds of stagnant water, were suffering from malnutrition and mouth fungus, and were not getting adequate heating. He predicted that 100-150 would die within the month.

The Italian company had made an additional order for 1500 caimans that were due to arrive on 20 February but 'El Tiempo' was unable to establish if Simon Daza had sent the second consignment. The paper knew of a telephone call that Daza had had with the Italian importing firm though Daza denied any knowledge of the firm or the consignments, adding that he had stopped exporting animals six or seven years ago.

### PROBLEMS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Colombia, although the only S. American country not to have ratified CITES, has extensive legislation protecting its wildlife. However it seems that it is virtually impossible to enforce these laws.

Inderena had not recorded any of the consignments nor had Incomex registered them. Officials from Inderena knew that these illegal exports had been going on for some time but said they were powerless to stop them. According to one official, customs officers at Soledad airport in Barranquilla do not allow Inderena officials on to the runway. For example, at the beginning of 1980, customs did not permit Inderena to confiscate some skins - by the time they were turned over to the inspectors they had been turned into shoes! The same official said that when the inspectors went to the warehouses the traffickers simply hid their goods and waited till the next day. It had become so difficult for the officials to carry out their jobs that sometimes it was necessary to bring in unknown inspectors from Bogota.

The regional chief of Inderena at Barranquilla said that since 1978 he had not signed a single document authorizing the export of any species of animal. An internal investigation was being set up to see if there had been any involvement in the affair by Inderena officials, and there was going to be a major clampdown on such operations in the whole region and the local airport.

WTMU consultant, Professor Medem, told the paper that these exports showed that controls were inadequate and the laws of the last years were not being enforced. He commented that it was madness to try to breed caimans in the Mediterranean - it was like breeding penguins in Barranquilla. Medem thought the exports were scandalous as caimans were now in danger of extinction (see his report in TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol II, Nos.9/10). In 1956 it was easy to see 200 adult caimans sunning themselves on the river Ariari, two hours from Villavicencio and it was the same on the Atlantic coast. Now however they had practically disappeared - Medem and an assistant had spent two weeks by the river Tomo and had not seen a single caiman. □

## TING IN MONGOLIA

RDING TO AN article by Rod Nordland of the News Service, the Mongolian Government now is the snow leopard (Panthera uncia) in its hunting name. The snow leopard is a rare and endangered and is on Appendix I of CITES (to which Mongolia is party).

is difficult to ascertain what its numbers are in lia though the 1978 sheet in the Red Data Book ted them to be less than 300. Now for US\$50,000 est German and two US firms are offering the me hunter the chance to bring back a prestigious eopard trophy. Members of the hunting party fly to pital Ulan Bator from Moscow where they are met by ernment interpreter and are then flown to Jirgalant : extreme west of the country. From there they into the High Altai, the home of the elusive snow d, to bag their game. There are no figures available ie number of snow leopards that hunters are being ed to take although for the smaller game on offer, the (the big-horn sheep) and ibex, government officials said 300 of each are being shot a year.

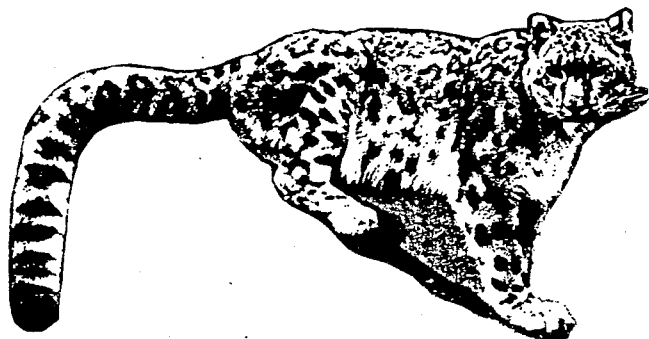
or US\$16,000 you can hunt the Altai argali Ovis n ammon which are found in the entire Altai ain range in western Mongolia, spilling over into and up into Kazakhstan SSR. They are an attractive for hunters as the average length of the great curled , according to one hunting report (Safari Club ational), is 57 inches with broomed tips and massive ch bases. In the lower part of the Altai range there lso argali but here the sizes are noticeably smaller. unt these smaller argali and the argali of the Gobi t O. a. 'darwini' = ?hodgsoni, which average 42.5 s in horn length with 16 inch bases, you pay only 100 and a mere \$6000 for a Siberian ibex Capra ca. Again it is difficult to ascertain the status of the I but all argali are on Appendix II of CITES (with O. a. soni on Appendix I).

### SERVATION RECORD

until about the middle of the present century the al and plant world of Mongolia, had only been slightly cted by man's activities and because of this some of rarest animals of the world had been preserved there - walski's horse Equus przewalskii, Bactrian camel elus bactrianus, Gobi bear Ursus arctos pruinosus, golian wild ass Equus hemionus hemionus and saiga lope Saiga tatarica (now no longer considered atened). Mongolia's conservation record up to now has i very good and from its earliest years the Republic has ht to protect the rare endemic animals. By a decree 929 the hunting of the Przewalski's horse and the wild was prohibited and further laws were passed to protect r species including the camel and the Gobi bear. ies have been monitored and research and studies ied out. At the beginning of 1975 the Government ided to create the Mongolian Society for Protection of ure and Environment of which all organizations and itutions whose activities were connected with natural ources became members. By the end of the year the ber of individual members reached 175,000 and the ber of institution members was as high as 1500. In 6 a Nature Protection Department was set up by the ernment.

The Government showed its willingness to follow ough conservation policies by establishing by official ree in 1976 the Great Gobi National Park. The vast k comprises the Transaltai Gobi National Park of 00,000 ha and the Djungarian Gobi wildlife Reserve of 1,000 ha - two enormous areas of both arid and semi-arid gely undisturbed desert. Here there are thriving ulations of all the indigenous large mammals (with the

exception of Equus przewalskii) and tracks of the snow leopard have also been found. In 1979 the Khuhtsyhr Reserve was created, where evidence of the presence of several different snow leopards have been found, and a second Reserve north east of Bulgan, representing a typical region of taiga, should be set up between 1981 and 1983.



### TROPHY HUNTING TRADE

With the exception of India, Asia had been virtually unhunted by outsiders until 1967. Then the Klineburger/Milton hunting expedition paved the way for wealthy Western sportsmen to hunt in innermost Asia. The Asian countries that were opened up to foreign hunters were the Soviet Union, Iran, Afghanistan and Mongolia - except for Iran, the other three countries have government-operated outfitting. In Mongolia there are three areas open for the hunting season - the High Altai, the South Gobi and the Forest area. Wapiti, roe deer and wolf are hunted in the Forest, argali (O. a. 'darwini'), ibex, gazelle in the south Gobi and argali (O. a. ammon), ibex and now the snow leopard in the High Altai. With the closure of Iran and Afghanistan, Mongolia has become even more popular and attractive to the trophy-conscious big-game hunter with this unprecedented offer of the snow leopard, legally protected in other areas and indeed protected in Mongolia since 1970.

One government official attributed this departure from its proclaimed conservation policies to the country's need for hard currency and foreign exchange. Nearly all of Mongolia's trade is with the USSR and so it has little means of earning hard currency. A common solution to this problem is tourism and Mongolia has been trying to develop a tourist industry but this is made difficult by lack of hotels and tourist facilities. Hunting, on the other hand, does not require the infrastructure of regular tourism as the hunters stay for a short period to bag their game, need only camping facilities and yet still bring in large amounts of currency.

Most of the animals involved in these hunts, though perhaps vulnerable, are common game animals and are either on CITES Appendix II or not on the Appendices at all. However the snow leopard is an Appendix I species and as such requires both an export licence from the country of origin and an import licence from the country of importation. Applications for US import permits are only accepted on a case-by-case basis, and cannot be approved unless scientific findings show that the activity or its purpose will not be detrimental to the survival of the animal in the wild, and the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes. The one exception is if the importer is not a US citizen he can bring in an Appendix I specimen without a permit and can either keep it or give it away, but he cannot sell it. However two American hunters encountered in Mongolia did not seem to expect any trouble at all in bringing back their trophies and felt that their \$50,000 would not be wasted.

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In 1979, the Safari Club International filed an application with the Department of the Interior to import 'sport hunter trophies' of 1125 endangered animals annually. Out of the 45 taxa applied for, only one was not found either in the CITES appendices or in the Red Data Book. Included in this shopping list of the world's rarest species were 10 snow leopards. After a public outcry the Safari Club withdrew its application.

In the Winter 1980 Klineburger World Adventure Club Hunting Report, amongst accounts of hunting programs around the world, the "Gamemasters of the World" report on a "a very positive plan" to develop a hunting program in the Kashmir, Ladakh and Jammu regions in India. These areas all come under Kashmir's state government jurisdiction and so have different legislation from that of India's central government. The report talks of the great potential of this region and goes on: "The list of animals of Kashmir is long and, hopefully, all of them will be available for hunting in the foreseeable future. Included in the wildlife program are Shapoo, Tibetan Antelope, Kashmir Stag, Musk Deer, Goral, Serow, Argali, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Wolf, Tibetan Gazelle, Tahr, Markhor, Bharal, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Ibex, Sambar, Chital and Boar. As can be seen, we can look forward to a great future in hunting." Note that the first 12 in the list are CITES Appendix I and the next three are in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. This act is in force in virtually all Indian states except Jammu and Kashmir. Alongside this section is a photograph of two of the organizers on an exploratory trip to Kashmir, posing by the skin of a Himalayan brown bear *Ursus arctos isabellinus* "to show off the size and beautiful fur".

The Hunting Report reproduces a plaque from one of its member's trophy room: "It is with the greatest respect for our Creator that I have taken the life of these noble animals and shared the flesh with my fellowman and at considerable expense mounted the heads so that others may praise their beauty. The man that has not eaten the flesh of God's animals may be the first to cast the stone." !! □

## ...AND IN CHINA

Meanwhile in China zoologists have warned that half of the country's 130 endangered species are on the verge of extinction because of reckless killing and exports, according to the official New China News Agency.

The zoologists declared at a recent conference that some forestry workers and rangers act as if natural reserves were their "private hunting grounds". They also said that zookeepers and researchers hunt the species or pay premium prices for them giving an incentive to suppliers. No particular species was referred to but the scientists said they wanted state laws to protect the endangered animals. China's most famous animal, the giant panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca*, is now protected and last year a peasant convicted of shooting one was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

Several hundred thousand Chinese hunt annually and their activities are reported as an integral part of the nation's agricultural productivity. Hunting for commercial purposes is well established in many of the less populated autonomous regions. Income from hunting is frequently higher than from an equivalent amount of farm labour and central government leaders praise the communes which increase their revenue from hunting wild animals.

In addition to meat and hides, many animals are hunted to supply important medicinal and industrial products. Official Chinese management policy included elimination of canids and felids regarded as harmful to

desirable wild animals, livestock, or humans' safety, and whose pelts are economically useful. With China's accession to CITES in January this year it is hoped that some restrictions will be put on the hunting of particular species for trade - for example, the clouded leopard, 220 skins of which were seized by Hong Kong customs in 1979.

At the conference the scientists claimed that in their quest for foreign currency some foreign trade corporations freely export China's rare birds and animals with no regard to their preservation. The conference agreed that it was essential for the government to set up an educational programme and research into the preservation and rational utilization of animal resources. □

## LAMMERGEIERS & TAXIDERMISTRY

The March Editorial of the 'Vulture News' is concerned with the vulnerability of some species of vulture in the taxidermy trade. It reports that in 1979 the frozen bodies of 200 Lammergeiers *Gypaetus barbatus* were imported into Germany from China. The birds had been caught alive and then killed by driving a nail into the back of their heads. This form of slaughter enables the bodies to be sent in prime condition to the work-tables of German taxidermists who paid DM 600 per bird. Once prepared and mounted, the same specimens fetch ten times this amount and apparently there are plenty of people willing to spend these sums for a stuffed Lammergeier. The species is only on Appendix II of CITES and so the trade between Germany and China is quite legal.

The Chinese population seems quite healthy and widespread but the vulnerability of the small southern African and European populations is increased greatly by their value in the taxidermy trade. The Editorial suggests that further protection is needed for the Lammergeier particularly for these small populations.

It adds that 300 bodies of Black Vultures *Aegypius monachus* were also imported into Germany from China under exactly the same circumstances as the Lammergeiers. There appears to be a growing demand for vultures in this trade. □



Lammergeier, *Gypaetus barbatus*.

# International Trade in Harp and Hooded Seals - UPDATE

Prices at Leningrad Fur Auctions -  
July 79 to January 81

	Jan. 80		July 79	
	Low	High	Low	High
	\$		\$	
3 242 dyed Whitecoat, sold 100%	20	49	20	30
5 071 Norwegian dyed Whitecoats, sold 71%	13	54		
1 920 dressed Nerpa, sold 69.3%	60	68	60	70
	Jan. 81			
	Low	High		
	\$			
9 432 dyed Whitecoat, sold 98%. Strong competition advancing 10% compared with Leningrad July 80	23,50	66		
272 dressed Serka Beaters, sold 50%	36	43		
560 dressed Nerpa, sold 32%. Where sold, firm. Top price:		74		



Total Norwegian Sealskin Exports,  
1977-1980 (Value in 1000 Nkr)

	1977	1978	1979	1980
	No. Val.	No. Val.	No. Val.	No. Val.
Raw Sealskins	26 546 2 946	20 161 2 866	21 848 1 924	22 945 2 607
	Tonnes Val.	Tonnes Val.	Tonnes Val.	Tonnes Val.
Processed Sealskins	120 33 292	140 39 224	152 44 350	166 50 386
Total Value	36 238	42 090	46 274	52 993

Source: Statistisk Sentralbyrå, Oslo

Source: Fur Review, March 1980; Fur Review, March 1981

Norwegian Raw Sealskin Exports, 1977-1980 (Value in 1000 Nkr - Countries with a value less than 50,000 Nkr are not specified)

	WHITECOAT				BLUEBACK				OTHERS			
	1977 No. Val.	1978 No. Val.	1979 No. Val.	1980 No. Val.	1977 No. Val.	1978 No. Val.	1979 No. Val.	1980 No. Val.	1977 No. Val.	1978 No. Val.	1979 No. Val.	1980 No. Val.
Denmark					235 78				2 000 525	6 125 1 058		350 46
Finland			500 60	8 112 776								
Sweden									1 100 324	2 719 629	5 666 953	2 021 308
France	7 343 527	1 300 101	3 800 306	5 395 485					2 070 164	1 000 55		982 128
Italy									260 57			
Spain				1 271 213								
UK	5 850 401		6 500 147	1 290 96					6 514 518	5 500 419	3 000 247	1 132 90
East Germany		1 237 159		300 21	964 323	560 177			210 29	620 81	451 58	1 974 431
Japan										400 144		
TOTAL No.	13 193	3 237	11 350	16 378	1 199	560	150	10	12 154	16 364	10 348	6 557
Val.	928	303	547	1 595	401	177	47	3	1 617	2 386	1 330	1 008
Average Unit Val.	70,34	93,60	48,19	97,45	334,44	316,07	313,33	300	133,04	145,81	128,53	155,73

Source: Statistisk Sentralbyrå, Oslo

Jon Barzdo's report is available from the Fauna & Flora Preservation Society, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY. **Price £1.20**



# WILDLIFE SHOPPING IN TOKYO - 1981

by Tom Milliken

THROUGHOUT THE 1970s Japan reigned as the world's largest uncontrolled market of wildlife and wildlife products. On 4 November 1980, Japan became the 60th nation to ratify CITES. Japan took nine reservations on Appendix I species. They are:

Fin whale Balaenoptera physalus  
Himalayan musk deer Moschus moschiferus  
Green turtle Chelonia mydas  
Hawksbill turtle Eretmochelys imbricata  
Olive ridley turtle Lepidochelys olivacea  
Yellow monitor Varanus flavescens  
Bengal monitor Varanus bengalensis  
Desert monitor Varanus griseus  
Saltwater crocodile Crocodylus porosus

With its paramount record for wildlife trafficking, Japan's signature is potentially the most significant event since the inception of CITES in 1973. However, the law means nothing unless it is properly enforced.

Beyond the government published import/export statistics very little data has actually been obtained concerning the specific nature of the consumer orientated trade in wildlife products in Japan. To fill that void, and to make an assessment of the present situation 2 months after CITES has officially become law, a survey of wildlife products featured at Tokyo department stores and businesses was planned and carried out during the weekend of 17 and 18 January 1981. It was sponsored by Chikyū no Gomo (FOE, Tokyo) and Hirake Goma (Open Sesame). The WWF-Japan contributed data previously collected on the fur trade and a team from the Panda Club continued their work for this survey.

The stated purpose of the survey was to:

1. ascertain the full range of wildlife products currently and readily available to Japanese consumers; to collect pertinent and recent data on prices, trade volume and manufacturers.

2. locate and identify products derived from Appendix I species that could represent potential areas of illegal trade; to locate and identify products derived from reservation species.

3. note areas of commercial activity that could possibly endanger animals not presently covered by CITES protection.

4. establish a data base for appropriate media use, and from which department store and government policy could be influenced; to establish a data base for future comparative studies.

The survey was primarily focused upon four major commercial centres in Tokyo: Shinjuku, Shibuya, Ginza and Kichijoji. Because department stores carry the widest range of goods, they were the main targets of the surveyors. Beyond general categories, species identification was usually impossible as most of the volunteers had no previous experience. The labels attached to the product usually served identification purposes. Occasionally clerks were questioned and often the information was incomplete. Because of the lack of time, the survey was not expanded to include pet shops which deal in a wide range of live mammals, birds and reptiles or the speciality stores that feature ivory. Also, the Chinese medicine establishments which supply potions made from rhinoceros horns, deer antlers, dried snakes and even tiger penises were not surveyed.

## FINDINGS:

### SPECIES SUBJECT TO CITES APPENDIX I RESERVATIONS

#### ● Fin Whales

Although all department stores feature extensive food markets generally covering the entire basement, floor, none of the stores surveyed featured whale meat either canned or in other forms. This underlines the salient fact that whale meat plays an insignificant role in the Japanese diet.

#### ● Himalayan Musk Deer

With a well-developed cosmetics industry (Shiseido, I believe, is the world's largest manufacturer) the Japanese use of musk is substantial. Musk in a pure form is rarely, if ever, available, but it is an important ingredient for many perfumes and scents manufactured in Japan. Jovan Japan Inc has an entire line 'Musk Oil for Men' featuring colognes, hair tonics, moisturizing creams and soaps. The products are mixtures and the labels fail to indicate the percentage of musk used. Import data indicates that most musk comes from Nepal which would clearly represent the Himalayan population. The dramatic increase in importation rates could well represent a stockpiling effort given the uncertainty for future trade prospects.

Year	Nepalese	Total imports
1980(Jan-May)	112 kg	239 kg
1979	196 kg	334 kg
1978		256 kg

#### ● Turtles

1979 represents a peak year for all areas of turtle imports whether it be bekko (Tortoiseshell), turtle skins or turtle leather (according to official Japanese statistics which show many discrepancies with the export figures of the countries of origin).

Bekko imports from Singapore and the Philippines doubled and those from Indonesia and the Netherlands almost tripled. The yen value of the imports doubled over 1978.

Year	Total imports
1979	63,555 kg
1978	40,544 kg

#### Turtle skins imports:

1979	169,568 kg
1978	94,445 kg

(Imports from Ecuador account for almost 3/4 of the trade)

#### Turtle leather imports:

1979	24,744 kg
1978	11,806 kg

(Mexico represented all but 1100 kg of the 1979 total)

The turtle trade is substantial and extremely lucrative. While species identification was impossible, one thing is for certain; there is an abundance of turtle products available to the Japanese consumer.

#### Bekko

Bekko represents a domestic industry with a long tradition. Top of the line spectacle frames are so expensive that they are generally only available upon special order. The Siebu department store in Shibuya topped the list with a pair for \$4140. In the Ginza a pair of blond frames of Mexican derivation was priced at \$3300. Half frames can be had for \$500, but are generally in the \$800-1500 bracket. Full frames range upwards from \$1600 a pair. All of the manufacturers were Japanese: Vinca, Seizo, Japan, Matshushima Optical. The shell came from South America, Mexico, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Bekko accessories are readily available starting at a modest \$12.50 and ranging upwards to \$150. These items included hair clips, hair combs, small rings and bracelets and brooches. A small Bekko handbag was \$215 and Bekko watch-straps were as high as \$140.

## Leather

While the manufacturers of bekko products were exclusively Japanese, there were Italian imports of turtle leather products. Turtle leather is a fairly recent commercial endeavour for the Japanese unlike bekko. Doma Elisa, Italy, offered turtle handbags for \$140 and Berbano of Italy shoes were \$750. Turtle leather bags by Accent (a Japanese Co.) were priced at \$340. Turtle leather zoovis, a traditional Japanese slipper worn with kimono, ranged from \$90-125 a pair. For men, belts were in the \$50 range and wallets between \$60-75.

## Lacquered turtles

The turtle, like the crane, is a symbol of longevity for the Japanese. As a result homes often feature a lacquered whole turtle as a room decoration. Japanese tourists from Southeast Asian countries often purchase these turtles as souvenirs. Stuffed turtles representing two species were available at the Tokyo Department Store for \$400. Another was sale-priced at \$150.

## Soup

Turtle soup imports from West Germany (Jensen's Fine Foods) and France (Continental Purchasing) were found, but turtle as a food source is for the most part negligible. Nothing on these labels indicated that the turtles were commercially farmed.

An indigenous freshwater turtle is apparently commercially farmed in Japan and used in a traditional cuisine, Suppon Ryori. As far as I know, the trade does not constitute a threat to the species' survival.

The domestic trade in turtle products is increasing. Public perceptions of the turtle as an endangered species are virtually non-existent. The reservation status sanctions this growing trade.

## Lizards

Again, species identification was impossible to ascertain, but the trade is substantial. Every store that featured ladies handbags had products of lizard origin. French and Italian companies took a large portion of the market with designer items by Yves St Laurent, Guido Borelli and Ted Lapidus being especially prominent. Many department stores had their own brands.

A wallet by Ajoka d'Argent, a Japanese company, costing \$60 was identified as Indonesian in origin. Japanese handbags ranged from a low sale-priced store at \$75 upwards to \$440. Italian imports by Guido Borelli - leather with lizard trim - were priced between \$475 and \$650. Shoes by Bernano ranged from \$1140-1750 a pair.

The importation of lizard skins increased nearly 60 per cent between 1977 and 1979 and the importation of lizard leather more than doubled. The yen value of the trade doubled for lizard skins and quadrupled for lizard leather during those years. The primary suppliers are Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh and Pakistan followed by Paraguay and Thailand.

## Crocodile

Of all the reptilian products, crocodilian derived merchandise is the costliest. Italian and French imports take a substantial share of the market and are the most expensive. Japanese companies are successful competitors, and even some products manufactured in West Germany were found. When a single handbag by Collin of Paris can bring \$6250 in Tokyo, it is no wonder that both the French and the Japanese continue to trade in these endangered species. Crocodilian products are unquestionably status symbols. Men's belts range from \$100 to \$225 - one belt was priced as high as \$500. Women's handbags range from a modest \$260 for a tiny handbag to over \$6000. The average price is in the \$1500 to \$2000 neighbourhood. An Italian made credit-card holder costs \$400 and a key holder \$125.

With such incredible profits to be made, the Japanese will not voluntarily remove the reservation as long as Europeans like the French and Italians continue to trade in the commodity. Between 1976 and 1979 alligator and crocodile skin imports increased six-fold from 27,206 kg to 162,737 kg. Imports of alligator and crocodile leather in 1979 reached an all time high of 21,078 kg. Production levels are not remaining stable but expanding in a large way.

## OTHER SPECIES

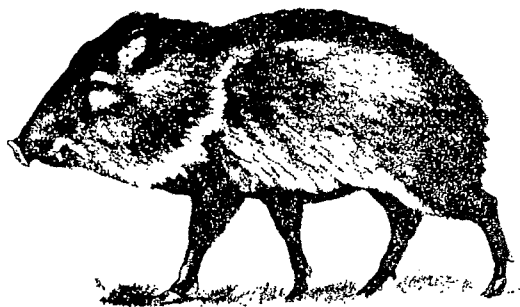
### Snakes

Italian, West Germany and Japanese companies are all involved in the snakeskin trade. While species identification was rarely obtainable, snakes were used for belts and handbags. Bags by Medell Londer of West Germany ranged from \$340-390. Generally prices were lower, in the \$100-300 range for Japanese-made products. Givenchy belts were \$39 and Gian France Loffi belts were slightly less at \$37.50. Snake skin items occurred much less frequently than the other reptile species. It is a less desirable leather. The 1979 trade was consistent with mid-1970 levels of over 20,000 kg of skins. Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore accounted for all the 1979 trade.

### Peccary

Peccary leather was widely available as shoes, wallets, gloves and belts. Japanese companies as well as French, Italian, and West German concerns were involved in the trade. Peccary gloves are highly prized by Japanese equestrians. Gloves of West German origin were priced from \$100-140 a pair. Italian peccary shoes priced at \$345 a pair identified the leather as coming from Lederfabrik Lorschbach, West Germany. Top of the market shoes sold for \$365 a pair, while the French company Vigns offered shoes for as little as \$175. A peccary belt by Reodor of Italy sold for \$150. Wallets by the Japanese firms of Ajoka d'Argent and Plaster were priced in the \$55-85 range.

Peccary leather seems to be popular and becoming increasingly so all the time.



Peccary.

### Ostrich

Ostrich leather products are expensive and abundant. Italian imports dominate the market and fetch the highest prices. A handbag by Guido Borelli will sell for as much as \$2450, an Italian made wallet for \$300, a pair of shoes for \$450, and a tiny watchstrap for \$140. Japanese manufactured products generally are about 40 per cent cheaper than the Italian imports, but even so a handbag will cost up to \$1200. Some of the products identified the leather as South African derivation.

Ostrich leather imports have hovered around the 20,000 kg mark for the last 5 years with South Africa accounting for most of the trade. (South Africa has several successful ostrich farms which have been established for many years - Ed)

**Shark:** Handbags made from shark leather were found at the Matuya Department Store in Ginza under a store brand name selling for around \$125.

**Antelope:** Antelope wallets were put out by Pister as part of their 'Game Skin' collection and sold for \$30-50. Species identification was not obtained.

**Sealion:** Sealion was also featured in Pister's 'Game Skin' line. Wallets were priced \$40-65. Species identification was not obtained.

**Elephant:** The Tokyo Department Store in Kichijoji had 3 elephant leather belts clearly marked as "Southeast Asian" selling for \$50 each. This trade is presumably derived from *Elephas maximus* (CITES Appendix I).

**Vicuna:** The Siebu Department Store had a 'Siebu Original' line of vicuna scarves ranging from \$75-250. This trade apparently operates in defiance to the Appendix I listing for the vicuna.

**Birds:** As pet stores were not surveyed data pertaining to the live bird trade is not available. Stuffed birds are still popular however. Pheasants in glass cases can be priced as high as \$475. Cheaper sale priced items were found for \$190-240. A stuffed falcon was selling for \$225 at an animal products bazaar at the Tokyo Department Store.

Spectacle cases made from flamingo were also found at the same bazaar, priced at \$36.30.

## FURS

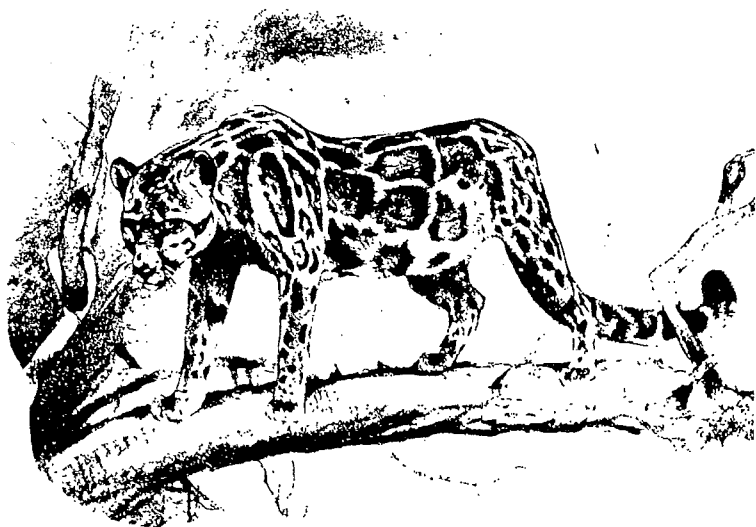
For the last few years a 'fur boom' has been sweeping Japan. According to a column by Tomiko Shirakigawa in the Japan Times on the miracle of the Japanese fur business "in fiscal 1979 the scale of the Japanese market for fur imports reached 65 billion yen - an increase of 20 times in 10 years". The fur industry has mushroomed into a multi-million dollar business beyond even the wildest expectations and more people are jumping on the bandwagon all the time. Hanae Mori will be offering furs for the first time at the American International Fur Fair this year. Other designers are getting involved. Purchasing on credit in pre-determined time installment paying plans has made fur fashion accessible to virtually everyone from the super rich to the college coed. Shirakigawa writes, "The number of well-to-do women, generally middle-aged, who own two fur coats has increased. Buying a fur has become the Japanese woman's pleasure equivalent to a man's buying a car". The range of animal furs available and the volume of the trade is perhaps unequalled anywhere in the world. Virtually all of the fur imports of endangered species fall in the trade category of 'other furs' making the figure more or less a useless gauge for the direct nature of the trade. A 'Fur Digest' by Nakamura Furs has a list of 108 fur-bearing animals, a description of their fur and its commercial uses. Besides the obvious Appendix I species listed (tiger, cheetah, clouded leopard etc.) the list even included 'Panda' fur coats and jackets and 'Giant Panda' for fur rugs. A look at the Tokyo fur trade indeed reveals that everything and anything is coming in.

### ● Spotted cats

The fashion industry is pushing spotted cats. Store window displays, showrooms for mannequins and exclusive ads in all the women's magazines routinely feature fashions created from spotted cat furs. According to pre-Christmas survey data collected by a team of girls from the World Wildlife Fund Japan's Panda club up to 30% of the total fur collection at the most exclusive furriers represented cat species. Generally speaking at least 20% of any fur collection be it a department store or a fur boutique, is composed of spotted cats. Recently, some stores, particularly department stores, have been offering "last chance" sales to clean out the cat stock in what seems to be a direct response to CITES. (Some establishments even

made specific mention of CITES, referred to as the Washington Jyoyaku in Japan). However, the more exclusive furriers continue to maintain a very low profile vis-a-vis CITES and some stores even went so far as to indicate that "there are ways" to circumvent the CITES restrictions. While there is a budding conservation consciousness in some quarters, in general all furs are promoted from a purely fashion standpoint and there is little if any, recognition of the larger issues at stake here. The Japanese consumer is affluent, sophisticated and status conscious but unfortunately environmentally unaware.

The rarest species are found at fantastic prices: clouded leopard \$25,750 to \$124,270, tiger \$94,750, snow leopard \$33,000, ocelot \$23,795 to \$32,400, leopard \$32,500 to \$50,000, lynx \$24,000 to \$75,000, African leopard \$72,000 and Bengal tiger \$72,000.



CLOUDED LEOPARD.

The trade in lesser cats is even more extensive than the ultra-expensive exotics, according to Shirakigawa "easy to wear, less formal short coats account for 80% of the fur coats sold in Japan today." The pelts of the smaller leopard cats, civets, and grey cats are routinely featured in these creations. Apparently, furriers are more readily able to procure large quantities of lesser cat skins at cheaper prices, making the finished product moderately priced and easily accessible to housewives, secretaries and even students. Species identification by the manufacturers label is usually deceptive. A wide range of different species are lumped and sold under the common, if not misleading labels of "leopard cat", "spotted cat", "tiger cat", "mountain cat", or "wildcat". A sampling of prices shows that in comparison with the rare large cats the cost of a half length jacket is considerably less. Leopard cats \$1,500, to \$2,950, mountain civet \$1,140, civet cat, \$1,740, grey cat \$2,000, wildcat \$2,900 Andes cat \$3,100, tiger cat (full length) \$3,750, yellow cat, \$1,990, and mountain cat, \$4,400.

### ● Wild furs

The bulk of the fur collections at the most exclusive Japanese firms like Ember, Julius and Grace are derived from wild animals. Surveyors found that as much as 60 to 70 per cent of the furs, in these expensive boutiques represented wild animals an extremely high figure (inclusive of cat species). Many Appendix I animals are involved in the trade which encompasses most of the regularly traded species.

Chinchilla (wild) was priced at \$48,950 at the Ember store in Yurakucho. A half length wolf by Freundlich of ▶

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CORALS - ABSTRACT

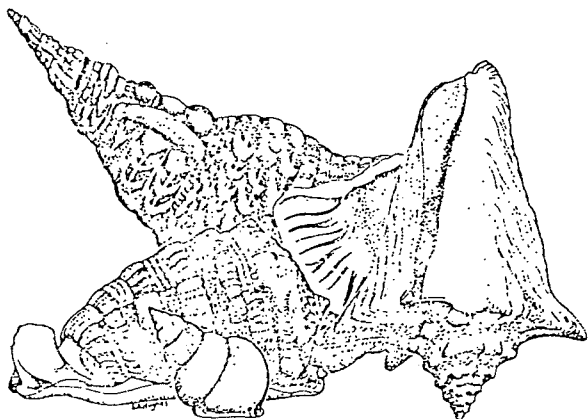
Analysis of foreign trade statistics reveals that there has recently been a considerable increase in the volume of coral involved in world trade. Stony corals for the curio trade are exported in large quantities from south east Asia, particularly the Philippines, to Europe and the US and imports into the latter increased dramatically during the 1970s. Taiwan and Japan are currently the centre of the precious coral industry, their boats ranging far into the Indo-Pacific since local coral beds have been successively depleted. Black or semi-precious coral has recently become popular for jewellery in the developed world and is being increasingly collected. Local depletions have been reported in the Caribbean. Exporting countries are beginning to attempt to control the coral trade but enforcement is difficult and consumer countries have made little attempt to curtail the retail end of the trade. A coral fishery management plan has been drawn up for the Western Pacific Region, based on research carried out on commercially valuable species in Hawaii. It is suggested that further research be initiated to determine optimum sustainable yields for commercially valuable species in other regions.



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## International Trade in Ornamental Shells

by Susan M. Wells



### IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre

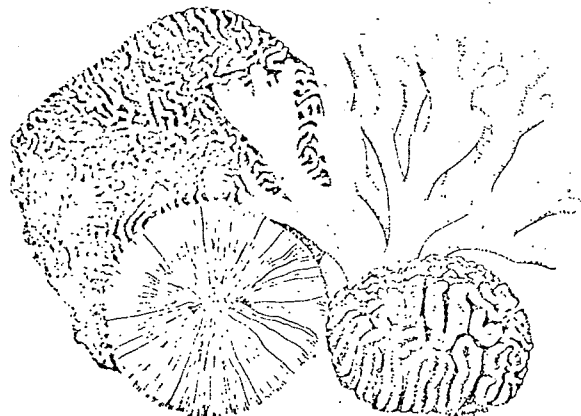
With the financial assistance of the United Nations Environmental Programme and the World Wildlife Fund.



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## International Trade in Corals

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ORNAMENTAL SHELLS - ABSTRACT

Considerable concern has been expressed recently over the scale of trade in ornamental shells. Foreign trade statistics have been analysed to give an indication of trends and to ascertain the main importing and exporting countries. The Philippines, Mexico, Haiti and a number of other Indo-Pacific countries were found to be the main suppliers, with the bulk of exports destined for the US and Europe. Exports from some countries have escalated over the last decade and there have been reports of depletions of commercially valuable species in some areas. Countries are increasingly introducing legislation to regulate or curtail the trade, but there is very little data available on which to base management plans. Although no mollusc species are likely to become extinct through commercial exploitation it is suggested that trade should be managed on a sustainable yield basis. Further research is urgently needed on the distribution and ecology of commercially valuable species.

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Paris at the Matsuzahaya department store in the Ginza was priced at \$12500. Wild Russian sable cost \$22,500 in the Ginza Koa Uchi Hiroki. Ember also featured a line of wild foxes at hefty prices. Grey fox for \$6,500, white fox for \$13,200, and red fox for \$5,100. "Wild" seems to mean better quality fur to the Japanese consumer, and the exclusive fur salons clearly cater to those tastes. Even department stores stock at least half of their collections with wild furs. West Germans, French, Canadians and Italians were all involved in the trade. At Mitsukoshi department store a full length raccoon by Canada Fur cost \$4,400 at the Parco department store in Kichijoji. Nutria half jackets by Revillon Fourrure, West Germany were priced at \$9,000 at the Oscar Salon in Shibuya. In the Ginza full length nutria by Freundlich of Paris was \$10,000.

Northern American raccoon can sell for as high at \$9,000 for a fully length coat (Rex furs) and beaver reaches \$8,400 for a half length jacket (Julius, Ginza) Canadian Muskrat was \$11,000 for a full length coat at Julius in Ginza. Marmot at the Ginza Koa Uchi Hiroki was priced at \$2,900 for a half length jacket.

The fur business seems to be expanding to include species that are rarely included in the fur trade. Coyote at the Grace Fur Salon in Shinjuku old for \$3,400 for a half length jacket. At the Jataksimaya in Yokohama a full length coyote coat was \$9,000. Siberia furs of Japan features a cape made from the black and white colobus in their '80-81' autumn/winter collection catalogue. It is priced at \$6,000.

Not all the fur trade involves imported species. Animals native to Japan are also exploited. Foxes, squirrels and the tanuki Nyctereutes procyonoides are all

persecuted. The tanuki in particular was commonly found and a half coat can be close to \$5000. The status of the tanuki should be determined as its range seems to be declining according to some reliable sources. Little if any data is currently available concerning Japanese animal populations. Outside of the national parks few if any protective measures are in force.

Unless fur imports are closely monitored, the trade in wild and exotic furs will continue unabated. The present official trade statistics employ categories that are far too general to control the flow of endangered species into Japan. The four specific categories of furs are mink, fox, rabbit and hare, and squirrel. Everything else falls into the "others" category.

Apparently customs authorities have a manual for identification purposes. However, the WWF Japan request to look at the manual was refused by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and to my knowledge no one from conservation circles has seen it. It seems that customs officials generally rely on the descriptions on the customs declaration forms. Deceptive labelling could easily facilitate a steady illegal flow of furs. Reform of customs procedures is essential to the proper implementation of CITES.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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