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Traffic Bulletin

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Burundi in CITES

Burundi acceded to CITES on 8 August 1988 (effective 6 November 1988) and becomes the 96th Party to the Convention.

USA Bans Burundi Ivory . . .

On 29 April 1988 the USA introduced a ban on the import of ivory from Burundi that had not been registered with the CITES Secretariat by 1 December 1986. In addition, the USA banned imports of ivory from any country that allowed raw or worked ivory from Burundi to be imported or to pass through in transit.

This measure by the USA has been seen by some as putting pressure on Hong Kong to stop imports of worked ivory from the United Arab Emirates. One of the recognised routes of illegal ivory out of Africa, since the introduction of the CITES ivory quota system, has been through the UAE, where it has been carved and shipped, legally, to Hong Kong. However Hong Kong has recently taken steps to control such imports (see below).

The US ban was designed to prohibit trade in the ivory stocks currently held in Burundi (estimated to be in excess of 89 tonnes). Apparently, the US Government is willing to modify its order, if the CITES Standing Committee adopts an acceptable plan for disposing of this ivory.

. . . and Adopts Elephant Protection Bill

The USA will take new steps to help African nations halt the rapid decline of the African Elephant Loxodonta africana, under a bill signed into law by President Reagan on 12 October 1988.

The legislation imposes sanctions against any country dealing in illegal ivory and prohibits ivory imports into the USA from nations that do not adhere to CITES.

The African Elephant Conservation Act authorises US$25 million over five years to help African countries develop effective elephant conservation programmes, including tough anti-poaching measures. It requires the US Government to impose a moratorium on ivory imports from any African country that does not have such a programme by 1 January 1990. The moratorium may be lifted when an effective programme is in place.

The Act also prevents carved ivory from other countries from being sold in the US market if the carvers obtain ivory illegally or the countries import ivory from nations subject to a US moratorium.

Sources: *WWF-US News Release, 26 September 1988; TRAFFIC(USA*

Editorial

Owing to financial restrictions, Vol. 10 of Traffic Bulletin will comprise two double issues. This will have the effect of reducing our costs and of allowing future volumes to be completed on a calendar-year basis. We do apologise for the unavoidable lateness of this edition and hope that you will find it was worth waiting for.

Hong Kong Brings Worked Ivory Under Control . . .

Hong Kong, one of the world's major centres of ivory carving, has adopted new legislation to close a loophole that was allowing the import of illegal ivory into the territory.

The move is devised to support conservation of the African Elephant. It is also aimed at preventing a wholesale US ban on ivory imports from Hong Kong.

The territory has also banned all trade in rhinoceros horn and rhinoceros products and has added several new endangered animals to the list of prohibited imports.

The new ivory control was brought about through the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance (Replacement of Schedules) Order 1988, which took effect on 5 August 1988. It will for the first time introduce controls on the import of worked ivory into the territory. Announcing the move, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Frank Lau, said that while existing laws controlled the import and export of raw ivory, they allowed the import of worked ivory.

He added, "There have been indications since 1987 that unscrupulous ivory traders in the Middle East are exploiting this loophole by importing into Hong Kong worked or semi-worked ivory items of dubious origin and disguising them as locally-carved ivory for re-export. This laundering has caused concern both locally a internationally. The US Government declared that would ban the import of all ivory in whatever form from countries importing such items.

"The new control will meet Hong Kong's international obligations and save the local ivory trade from a total ban on exports to the US, Hong Kong's largest export market, which would lead to considerable job losses."

Mr Lau pointed out that the value of worked ivory imports into Hong Kong had increased from US$7 million in 1986 to US$7.8 million in 1987.

On the basis of current import levels, the new controls will mean that government inspectors will have to examine about 1200 worked ivory shipments each year.

Possession of illegal ivory could mean gaol sentences of up to six months under the new legislation.

Welcoming the Government move, WWF conservation officer in Hong Kong, David Melville, said, "This is a very important step towards the conservation status of the African Elephant. Hong Kong is one of the world's major centres of ivory carving and has been responsible for driving the demand which has led to the extensive poaching of elephants in Africa.

"Strict enforcement action by the Hong Kor Government should now ensure that only legally obtain ivory enters Hong Kong."

Hong Kong has also banned the internal sale of rhinoceros horn and hides from 31 July 1988. Lau said the import of rhino products had been banned in 1979 when traders were warned to dispose of their existing stocks as soon as possible. This ban will be further strengthened later this year by prohibiting the import or sale of all medicinal products claiming to contain rhino ingredients.

. . . and Introduces Appendix II Import Permits

The import to Hong Kong of any specimens of species included in CITES Appendix I or II (live, dead or parts) will now require the prior issuance of an import permit by the CITES Management Authority of that territory. In a recent Notification to Parties, the Secretariat urges all Parties to take this into consideration and to inform applicants for export permits or re-export certificates for shipments to Hong Kong.

Sources: *Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office News Release, 29 July 1988; David Melville, WWF-Hong Kong; CITES Secretariat, Notification to Parties No. 496*

Tanzania Imposes Stiff Penalties for Illegal Ivory Possession

A Member of Parliament in Tanzania has been gaoled for nine years in that country for the unlawful possession of 105 elephant tusks. A resident of Songea town has also been given the same gaol sentence.

The MP, Alli Yusufu Abdurabi, and Yusufu Mohamed, were found with elephant tusks loaded in the MP's official Landrover. In his defence, Abdurabi claimed that they had been travelling to Ligunga Village to intercept government trophies and arrest illegal-trophy dealers. Three others travelling in the vehicle were acquitted.

* * * *

The Tanzania Court of Appeal set aside a one-day gaol sentence given to a Roman Catholic priest convicted of the illegal possession of 224 elephant tusks, and gaoled him for five years.

Father Fidelis Erio had been looking after the tusks for a businessman who had since dispappeared.

Source: Daily News (Dar es Salaam), 22 April/28 June 1988

Bird Dealers Caught by Genes

For the first time, the new scientific technique of genetic fingerprinting has been successfully applied to parrots, to verify claims of captive-breeding, and used as evidence in the successful prosecution of two Dutch bird dealers.

A Dutch firm, licensed to keep six Hyacinth Macaws Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus (Appendix I), applied for a possession licence for three additional young birds which they claimed had been captive-bred from the older birds. Investigations by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, dealing with the issuance of the licence, indicated that two of the older birds had tattoos with numbers which did not correspond with those on the original licence. Genetic fingerprinting tests were carried out on the birds by Cellmark Diagnostics (UK), and showed that the three young birds were not related to the adult birds.

On 14 October 1988, at Alkmaar district court, 'The Breeding Centre Interbird' was convicted on charges under the Dutch Endangered Species Act of failing to register the juvenile birds and of having an invalid licence for two of the adult birds. The firm was fined dfl 50 000 (US$23 500), of which half was to be paid immediately and the remainder suspended. In addition, the two owners, Mr J.M. van der Gulik and Mr P. Kooy, were each fined dfl 5000 for each bird (a total of dfl 25 000), of which payment of half was also suspended. The three juvenile birds and the two older birds were confiscated.

Genetic fingerprinting is the scientific analysis of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the main constituent of the chromosomes of all organisms. The examination of DNA found in a particular group of genes can demonstrate the relationship between individual species within a group.

Forensic scientists have hailed genetic fingerprinting as the greatest advance in their field since the discovery, at the turn of the century, that the examination of fingerprints left at the scene of a crime could identify criminals. Genetic fingerprinting has already been successfully used to convict rapists and murderers and also to clear those falsely charged with such crimes.

Source: TRAFFIC(Netherlands); Netherlands CITES Management Authority

Caiman Smuggling Uncovered

Over the last eight months, tens of thousands of South American crocodilian skins have been brought into Japan in a series of transactions involving stolen, forged, or otherwise illegal documents in violation of CITES.

TRAFFIC(Japan) carried out an investigation into this trade when Japanese Customs data showed a sudden and inexplicable increase in crocodilian skin imports from Thailand. At least 46 tonnes of skins, representing well over 120 000 animals, have entered Japan between January and July 1988, from Thailand. This figure represents a twenty-fold increase in the normal annual crocodilian skin trade between the two countries, and is greater than the total of all Japan's imports from Thailand over the last 25 years.

TRAFFIC(Japan) believes the skins to be part of a larger illegal consignment secretly loaded onto Asia-bound ships off the coast of Uruguay at the end of 1987. TRAFFIC informers have traced the consignment - or parts of it - through at least seven countries (Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand) before it reached its destination in Japan, with Thailand serving as the major "laundering" point.

Thai re-export documents, some stolen and others apparently legally issued but based on false information, bogus country-of-origin export permits, and other suspect forms of documentation involving a number of South American and Asian countries, were repeatedly used to move the skins to Japan.

Large quantities of the skins were also re-exported from Thailand to Taiwan. TRAFFIC fears that Japan may be the ultimate destination of these skins and has urged the Japanese Government not to allow any import of crocodilian skins or finished crocodilian products from Taiwan until the issue can be clarified.

TRAFFIC(Japan)

Protected Parrots Seized in Spain

On 22 September 1988, a shipment of 39 parrots, listed in CITES Appendix I, which had been carried on a Lineas Aeréas flight from Asunción, Paraguay, en route to Lisbon, Portugal, were seized whilst in transit at Madrid airport, Spain. The consignment consisted of four species: Military Macaws Ara militaris, Red-fronted Macaws Ara rubrogenys, Red-capped Parrots Pionopsitta pileata and Vinaceous-breasted Parrots Amazona vinacea.

Alerted by TRAFFIC(South America) about the shipment, the CITES Secretariat informed Spain's CITES Management Authority which arranged for the shipment to be seized. Whilst enquiries were pending, the birds were kept overnight in an airport cargo shed.

During the night, the birds were collected by someone described as an Iberia Airways employee and sent on an Iberia Airways flight to Lisbon. There, they were to be collected by the West German accomplice of the Dutch animal dealer who had exported the birds from South America.

When the birds were discovered missing in Madrid, Spanish police immediately contacted the Iberia Airways office in Lisbon to order the return of the birds to Madrid. The shipment was immediately seized in Lisbon and the German arrested for questioning. The Portuguese citizen to whom the parrots were consigned has denied knowledge of the shipment.

The birds were returned to Madrid but five were found to be dead and another died soon afterwards. The surviving birds were in a pitiful condition; their beaks had been taped up and their bodies constrained by wire cylinders inside three leather carrying bags. Madrid Zoo is taking care of the birds, valued at US$200 000, whilst they recover.

Source: CITES Secretariat; Greenpeace UK

Liechtenstein and Switzerland Withdraw Bullfrog Reservations

Liechtenstein and Switzerland have withdrawn their reservations with regard to Rana hexadactyla and Rana tigerina, listed in CITES Appendix II. The withdrawal became effective on 1 June 1988 from which time these countries became party to CITES with respect to trade in these species.

* * * *

CITES Secretariat Calls for Trade Ban with Equatorial Guinea

The CITES Secretariat has been informed of several cases of trade in Appendix I species from Equatorial Guinea, which is not a Party to CITES. The Secretariat also has knowledge of activities in that country of an animal dealer who was convicted of illegal trade in gorillas in a neighbouring country. They have written to the competent authority of Equatorial Guinea, but have not received any response.

Therefore, the Secretariat urges all Parties either to ban all trade in CITES species from Equatorial Guinea or, at least, not to accept any imports from that country without checking carefully their legitimacy.

Source: CITES Secretariat, Notification to Parties Nos. 485; 494

Papua New Guinea Reaffirms Export Ban and Bans Clam Harvesting

No permits will be issued for export of live fauna, including pets, according to a Public Notice issued in Papua New Guinea by the Conservator of Fauna & Flora, and published in the Post-Courier on 11 April 1988. Tourists and others were advised to consider this export ban when animals were offered for sale. Since June 1987, the PNG Department of Environment & Conservation has not been issuing any permits for export of live vertebrate fauna (excluding fish), even to scientific and zoological organisations (see Traffic Bulletin 9(2/3):31).

* * * *

Papua New Guinea's Minister for Environment & Conservation, Hon. Parry Zeipi, has placed a total ban on the commercial harvesting of giant clams Tridacnidae.

In a press release dated 10 May 1988, Mr Zeipi said, "What used to be a subsistence activity has now become a lucrative operation for a handful of well-off people."

The Minister was responding to a call from two divers who had witnessed operations and seen the damage caused by indiscriminate harvesting of giant clams in East Cape, Nuakata, Basilaki, and villages at the mouth of Milne Bay. The Department of Environment & Conservation would "instruct the Milne Bay Fishing Authority to immediately stop buying clam meat from the people and exporting the meat overseas".

Source: TRAFFIC(Oceania)

Latin American Trade Bans

Bolivia:

Bolivia has announced a new decree, No. 21774, which indefinitely bans the capture, harassment, manufacture, trade in and export of live wild animals and products. The decree, which took effect on 26 November 1987 and which replaces Decreto Supremo No. 21312 of 27 June 1986, exempts: a) animals for scientific exchange; b) manufactured products from wild animals not included in CITES Appendix I; and c) exports, not exceeding 100 000 skins annually, of tanned leather from subsistence hunting of the White-lipped Peccary Tayassu pecari. It would seem that b) above refers mainly to caiman leather products the export of which, in future, will be allowed through a Ministerial Resolution, primarily for manufacturers registered at the Centro de Desarrollo Forestal.

In addition, and on a temporary basis, authorization has been given for the export of 100 000 skins of Spectacled Caiman Caiman crocodilus. This export falls within the agreement between the CITES Secretariat and the Bolivian Government which was discussed and accepted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, in 1987.

Argentina:

On 29 February 1988 Argentina announced a ban on the export, inter-provincial transport and trade of products and sub-products derived from the following species (CITES Appendix listing in parentheses):

Dusicyon gymnocercus	Pampas Fox (II)
Dusicyon (Cerdocyon) thous	Forest Fox
Speothos venaticus	Bush Dog
Conepatus castaneus	
Conepatus chinga	Argentine Hog-nosed Skunk
Conepatus humboldtii	Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk (II)
Conepatus rex	
Tayassu (Dicotyles) tajacu	Collared Peccary (II)
Tayassu pecari (albirostris)	White-lipped Peccary (II)
Catagonus wagneri	Chacoan Peccary (I)
Caiman crocodilus yacari	Yacare (II)
Caiman latirostris	Broad-nosed Caiman (I)

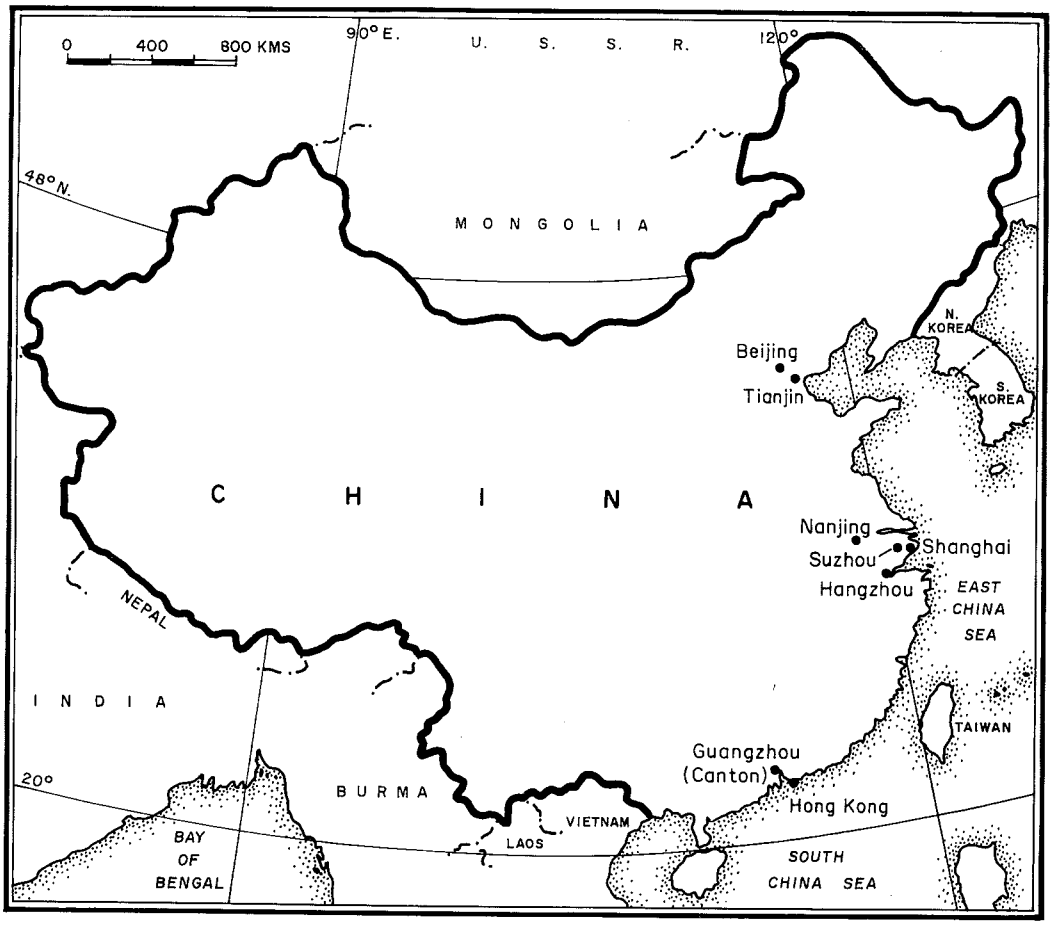
Only products or sub-products (except for species which are included in Appendix I), registered at the Dirección Nacional de Fauna Silvestre or at the Direcciones Provinciales de Fauna previous to 29 February 1988, may be allowed.

Honduras:

The Government of Honduras has once again implemented a ban, for a period of one year, from 16 March 1988, on the hunting and national and international trade in live specimens, skins and products or derivatives of Brown Spectacled Caiman Caiman crocodilus fuscus (CITES Appendix II).

Source: CITES Secretariat, Notification to Parties Nos. 479; 478; 480

Main Ivory Carving Centres in China



China's Ivory Carving Industry

by Esmond Bradley Martin

Introduction

The Chinese ivory carving industry is the third largest in the world, in terms of the quantity of raw ivory consumed and number of craftsmen. However, until quite recently, it was extremely difficult for a foreigner to try to obtain permission to travel around China to collect information, particularly during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Even today, the authorities in Beijing are largely unfamiliar with the workings of the industry and are unable to supply statistics on it.

The ivory carving factories are widely scattered in eastern China and they work independently of one another, producing their own specialities which are still greatly influenced by the tastes of the markets to which they catered a century ago. Perhaps surprisingly, since the factories are state-owned, their managers do not buy ivory from a single source; they deal with various import/export firms and sometimes receive their supplies from dealers in Hong Kong.

Methodology

In late 1985, the author visited ten cities in China and interviewed managers and craftsmen at ivory factories in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou and Hangzhou in order to learn as much as possible about the industry. Additionally, various aspects were discussed with some of the major importers of Chinese ivory products in Hong Kong and with raw ivory suppliers to Hong Kong to corroborate data and to gain a wider perspective of the trade. Although this article may serve as only a preliminary survey of China's present-day ivory industry, it is hoped that it will shed some light on the questions that have arisen about China's consumption of ivory in recent years.

Overview

Beijing has two ivory factories which, between them, employ around 630 ivory craftsmen who are among the best in the country. Many are descendants of carvers who worked for the Imperial Court, and the skills of their grandfathers have been passed down to them. A number of the factories in China now employ a high proportion of female carvers (for example 60% of the carvers at Beijing Ivory Carving Factory are women), which is unusual for an Asian country. The Beijing craftsmen continue to specialize in making statues of people, flowers, birds and other animals, and also landscapes which are often extremely large and expensive. The highest-priced modern ivory sculpture seen during the study was a 1.8-metre long and 1.5-metre tall landscape of trees and shrubs with a dragon surrounded by a hundred human figures, which had been carved in Beijing in 1955. Its retail price in Shanghai's Friendship Store was 800 000 yuan (US$253 000).

Beijing Ivory Carving Factory is the largest in the country and has 550 ivory craftsmen. It was founded in 1958 from a merger of various ivory businesses. At the end of the Cultural Revolution it was consuming 15 tonnes (t) of raw ivory a year, but this amount has steadily

decreased during the past 15 years, which is typical of all the larger ivory factories in China. Because of the sharp increase in the price of raw ivory after 1973, Chinese Government import and export companies are reluctant to import large quantities for which convertible currency must be used. However, this does not make sense economically since over 98% of all the manufactured ivory pieces are exported, earning the country at least triple the original amount of hard currency paid out for the raw ivory.

While most of Beijing's ivory carvings are directly exported, at wholesale prices, some are sold in tourist hotel shops in the capital and in other main cities. Beijing produces the largest number of ivory carvings in the country, and it is these carvings which are in greatest demand by foreigners who visit the country. Japanese visitors buy more than any other nationality. Very few local Chinese are able to afford ivory pieces, although they greatly admire them and take considerable interest in viewing them and discussing their artistic merits.

There were 58 ivory factories in Guangzhou (Canton) until the Revolution in 1949, but many of the workers subsequently left the country and went to nearby Hong Kong where they helped make this Crown Colony the world's greatest ivory centre in the 1960s. Consequently, there is only one large factory remaining today in Guangzhou, the Da Shing Ivory Factory and, although China recently liberalized its policies towards private enterprise, new independent ivory businesses have not started up because it is still extremely difficult for an individual to obtain imported ivory.

The Da Shing Ivory factory employs 560 workers of whom 300 are craftsmen. They sit on benches in huge, bleak rooms, using electric drills to make various items. Until 1957, only hand tools were used but, three years later, practically all the ivory processing in Guangzhou was being carried out by electrically powered machinery. The carvers receive an average salary of US$27 a month plus a bonus of US$14. Practically everyone working in a factory receives a monthly bonus; the idea is that a bonus payment will increase productivity, even though it makes little difference whether one worker does in fact produce more than another. The monthly take-home pay is more than that earned by a high school teacher and slightly above that of other skilled workers. An ivory carver works a six-day week and must serve a four-year apprenticeship under a master, but during that period no longer receives just two meals a day and "shoe money" (the equivalent of US$3 to US$4 a year) in return, which was the lot of a would-be ivory carver in Canton before World War I (Kunz, 1916).

Guangzhou's ivory craftsmen are the only people in China now making the "puzzle" or "magic" balls. These are carved from a solid piece of ivory and consist of up to 45 hollow balls, one inside the next, each completely detached and moveable and intricately carved with a different design. It may take an entire year for an expert to complete a puzzle ball. Using a drill to make a series of circular holes, which become progressively smaller with each layer, once the centre of the piece of ivory is reached, the carver works from the inside out making the balls. The innermost ball is no bigger than a pea, but the outermost may have a diameter of 25 cm. For these, a very large elephant tusk is required, preferably one weighing 30 kg or more, although today smaller puzzle balls are made from 10 kg tusks, but these rarely contain more than 18 concentric balls. The most elaborate puzzle ball seen by the author had 42 layers of balls and was perched on the branch of a carved ivory tree. This masterpiece was for sale in Shanghai for US$82 275 retail. Less intricate balls are much cheaper; for example, one with 16 balls retailed for US$570.

Guangzhou craftsmen also produce ivory sculptures, including elaborately carved boats, lanterns, decorative incense burners, pagodas and baskets of flowers. In the 1960s, when ivory was cheap, the Da Shing Factory consumed as much as 15 t a year, but now only uses about two tonnes annually and has reduced wastage by more carefully choosing appropriately sized ivory pieces for specific statues. Also, the craftsmen spend more time on making the finer sculptures and have cut back on producing cheaper items such as chopsticks and jewellery; the manager claimed that through these measures the company had been able to retain its profitability.

This factory has also taken advantage of the demand from medicine shops for ivory chips and powder, which sell for US$1.27 a kg. The traditional medicine practitioners recommend a pork stew with powdered ivory to treat liver problems in children, and occasionally this is also used to cure bleeding. In Nanjing and Suzhou, as well as Guangzhou, medicine shops provide their customers with ivory powder for between 2c and 32c per ten-gram dosage.

The Da Shing Factory buys its raw ivory from a government-run import/export firm in Guangzhou. In 1985, the ivory was priced according to tusk weight: a 30 kg tusk was US$85 a kg; a 15-29 kg tusk was US$70 a kg; and tusks under 14 kg were US$63 a kg.

In Shanghai, ivory carving is carried out in one very large factory which is primarily noted for work in stone. This is the Shanghai Jade Carving Factory which has 900 employees, but only 120 of them carve ivory. They consume between five and six tonnes of ivory a year, producing goods worth US$450 000 wholesale. The Shanghai ivory craftsmen specialize in mountain and river scenes, Buddhas, animals, pendants and ornaments. Although the quality of workmanship is about the same as that in Hong Kong, and identical electrical tools are used, Hong Kong craftsmen each process ten times as much ivory in a year. This is because they are paid for what they produce, not given a fixed salary, and they have much more incentive to work harder.

A typical Chinese ivory carving factory © E.B. Martin

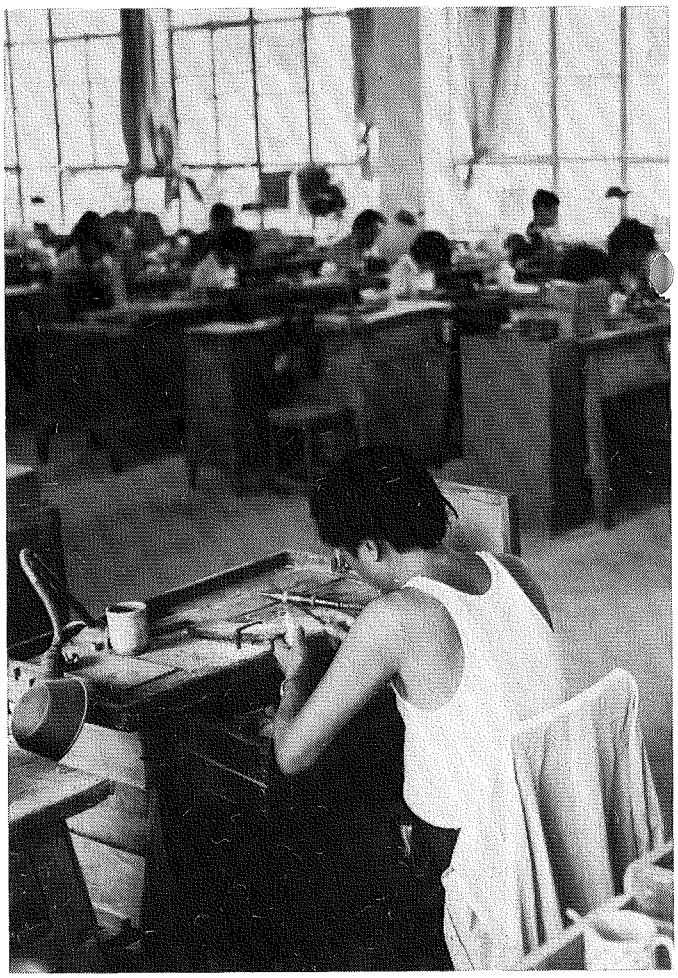


TABLE 1
Ivory Factories in the Major Cities of China

Factories	No. of craftsmen full time in ivory	Ivory (t) consumed in 1985
BEIJING:		
Beijing Ivory Carving Factory	550	10
Arts and Crafts Factory	80	?
GUANGZHOU:		
Da Shing Ivory Factory	300	2
SHANGHAI:		
Shanghai Jade Carving Factory	120	5.5
TIANJIN:		
Tianjin Arts and Crafts Factory	58	1.2
NANJING:		
Nanjing Crafts Carving Factory	50	1.5
Nanjing Jade Carving Factory	10	?
SUZHOU:		
Suzhou Sandalwood Fan Factory	10	.03
HANGZHOU:		
Wang Xing Ji Fan Factory	5	.03

Source: Survey taken by the author

The other ivory carving factories in China are considerably smaller than those in Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai. One of the most interesting is the Nanjing Crafts Carving Factory which employs 50 ivory craftsmen and consumes a tonne-and-a-half of ivory a year. They create replicas of antique carvings depicting characters from fairy tales, birds, horses with riders, dragons and fabulous pleasure barges. They stain their sculptures a light brown to give them an antique appearance and sometimes add other colours to highlight details. Carvers only use hand tools and their expertise is very precise. Classic elegance is the motto of this factory and it has won many national awards, including the "Superior Prize of the Ministry of Light Industry".

The ancient cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou, which are noted for their gardens and adherence to traditional values, also have factories which make fans of ivory and other materials. The Suzhou factory employs two men and eight women who carve ivory, using only hand tools. They sometimes take a whole month to complete just one rib of a fan, which may have as many as 32 ribs. Usually, only five or six large ivory fans are produced in a year. In allowing the carvers to spend as much time as they need to execute their skills, the highest standards are maintained. The factory manager awards their work by apparently paying greater bonuses than any other ivory carvers receive - up to US$32 a month above their basic US$21 salary. On display at this factory was an ornamental ivory fan made in 1984, which was over a metre wide, with very elaborate carving on both sides. Although it was offered for sale at US$31 650, it was made mainly for display purposes.

In Hangzhou, the Wang Xing Ji Fan Factory, established in 1875, has a workforce of 409, but only five of these people carve ivory fans. These sell for an average of US$316 each (with ribs 30 cm long), compared to US$3 for a fan carved from water buffalo bone. This factory derives most of its income from the silk, sandalwood, feather and black paper fans it makes; the twenty ivory fans produced here in a year epitomize the prestige of the factory, and they are as fine as those in Suzhou. The carving on the fan is the finest ivory workmanship in China today.

While the ivory factories are all state-owned and they employ the vast majority of the ivory carvers, there are a few private individuals who, since the early 1980s, engrave ivory seals. Seals (or chops) continue to be used in China for official signatures (the western practice of signing one's name is rare). Very few seals are made of ivory, due to its scarcity and high cost. The retail price for a 9-cm-high stone seal with a carved animal on top is US$2.85, but a similar one made from ivory costs US$12.00, which is even more expensive than a jade seal (US$7.20).

Today, the most commonly used materials for seals are talc, blood stone, water buffalo horn, glass, wood and bronze; of the millions of seals made in a year, well under one per cent are ivory, and these are mainly sold to Japanese tourists. The Chinese Government discourages its citizens from buying ivory since it is an imported commodity and, as mentioned above, convertible foreign exchange is needed to purchase it from abroad.

Those who privately carve hallmarks on seals have found this a very profitable business. One engraver interviewed in Hangzhou explained that, in 1984, he had resigned from his factory job, where he had made stone statues, to start his own engraving business. In his first year he made US$3160, over six times as much as he had been paid for working in the factory. Like most other private engravers, this man works with a variety of materials but when using ivory he charges 50% to 100% more than when working with other materials because ivory is harder to carve, and it takes more time to incise an ivory seal. The private engravers sometimes have clients recommended to them by the factories which produce the seals.

On the whole, the quality of ivory craftsmanship has gone down since the Cultural Revolution when many of the finest artists were expelled from the factories and sent to the countryside to farm or perform menial tasks. The older and more skilled craftsmen have not returned to the ivory factories; consequently, the younger workers cannot learn from watching them; moreover,factories now employ people with no tradition of carving in their families. Nevertheless, Chinese ivory carving can still be ranked among the best in Asia, second only to that of Japan and certainly on a par with that found today in Hong Kong.

TABLE 2
Retail Prices for Ivory Products sold in China in 1985

Product	Size	Price (US$)
Simple ring	finger	5
Carved dog pendant	5 cm	7
Plain seal	9 cm	8
Camel ornament	5 cm	9
Plain bangle	wrist	13
Cigarette holder	10 cm	17
Chopsticks (pair)	20 cm	21
Spoon	25 cm	32
Bookmark	20 cm	38
Buddha	9 cm	57
"Antique" man on horse	18 cm	164
Flower basket	15 cm	184
Fan (all ribs carved)	18 cm	222
Lantern	60 cm	2850
Elaborately carved boat	1 m	6170

Source: Survey taken by the author

Da Shing Ivory Factory, Guangzhou © E.B. Martin

In 1985, China had at least 1200 and maybe as many as 1600 craftsmen carving or manufacturing ivory jewellery, statues and other artefacts. In addition, there were many thousands of people involved in the ivory trade, such as accountants, factory managers, clerks, salesmen, etc. Hong Kong then had 1200 ivory craftsmen; in 1979 India had an estimated 7200 (Martin, 1980) and Japan 2800 (Martin, 1985).

According to traders in Hong Kong and officials in the Forest Department in Beijing, most of China's raw ivory is imported from Hong Kong. The Chinese prefer dealing with the Hong Kong traders because they trust them and are allowed to select individual pieces of ivory rather than purchase ivory sold in lots, as is the common practice elsewhere. Also, of course, transport from Hong Kong is cheap. The Chinese like to purchase tusks over 10 kg, but they also import a lot of smaller cut pieces and even chips of ivory.

According to Hong Kong Customs figures, an annual average of 25.3 t of raw ivory (cut pieces as well as whole tusks) were re-exported to China from 1980 to 1984. Smaller quantities were imported to China from other countries, some of it, allegedly, without CITES documents. More recently, the CITES Secretariat reported, in April 1986, that 50 tusks from Tanzania, weighing 506 kg, were imported via Macao to China illegally. The following month a much larger shipment of 4344 tusks from Sudan, weighing 18 521 kg, went to China illicitly via Singapore. The Chinese Government has stated that both these shipments were confiscated by the Customs Department; they were subsequently released for use by carvers in China. How much smuggled ivory reaches the Chinese ivory factories is unknown, but from source countries it is possible to make some estimates, and it would seem that at least 30 t of raw ivory in total, legal and illegal, ends up in Chinese ivory carving factories each year, making China the world's third largest processor of ivory.

Most of China's ivory wholesale exports are sent to Hong Kong. According to Hong Kong Customs statistics, in 1983 imports of worked ivory from China amounted to 19 961 kg, declared at a value of US$2 461 572; in 1984 it imported 13 874 kg, valued at US$2 804 482 and, in 1985, 25 596 kg valued at US$3 460 435. In 1986 Hong Kong stopped recording the weight of imported worked ivory but, from January to July 1986, the value of worked ivory imports from China was declared as US$1 996 512.

Discussion

The short-term future of China's ivory carving industry is dependent upon rules and regulations established by CITES, and on China's enforcement of these, as well as on regulations in the main consuming countries. At present, the CITES Parties are not hindering legal trade in ivory nor attempting to reduce the demand for it. With the increase of foreign tourists to China, especially Japanese, Western Europeans and North Americans who are the major buyers of finished ivory pieces, the demand will probably increase. China has an advantage over other ivory carving nations in that its labour is cheap while the quality of its workmanship remains high.

In the long term, however, prospects for the Chinese ivory carving factories are not so bright. The number of elephants dying in Africa, mostly due to illegal hunting, is not sustainable, and probably has not been since the early 1980s. Almost all the ivory carved in China comes from African savanna elephants which produce the softer variety which is more easily worked. There has been about a 36% decline in the number of elephants in Africa since 1980 (AERSG, 1987). A very large percentage of this ivory is of illegal origin - there is one estimate putting it as high as 88% in 1986 (AERSG, 1987). Thus, Africa's elephants will soon be unable to meet the demand of the world markets, and it is likely that there will be an international scramble for the reduced supply. China will have problems competing for it since it relies so much on the goodwill of the Hong Kong traders who will probably want whatever they can obtain for their own use. In order to buy ivory, the Chinese will therefore need to establish their own contacts with government trading authorities and private ivory merchants in the African source countries. The African sources, however, may decide to keep far more ivory than they do now in order to supply their own ivory factories, having recently discovered that they can earn much more foreign exchange from worked than raw ivory and at the same time provide jobs for their own people.

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Seizures and Prosecutions

Heaviest UK fine imposed for reptile import

On 23 March 1988, at Horsham magistrates court, UK, a reptile dealer received the heaviest fine ever given in this country for reptile importation offences. Mr Paul Sullivan of Torquay, Devon, pleaded guilty to two offences, under section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act, relating to misdeclaration of reptiles at British airports. The first offence concerned 480 snakes and lizards including Spiny-tailed Lizards Uromastyx spp. (CITES Appendix II). For this offence, Sullivan was fined £1500 (US$2550).

The second offence concerned a CITES Appendix I species, a Desert Monitor Varanus griseus, and resulted in a fine of £1000. Crown prosecution were awarded costs, and the reptiles, with a sale value of over £8000, were confiscated.

Sources: *Fauna & Flora Preservation Society; H.M. Customs & Excise, UK*

Five years for economic sabotage

A Ghanaian, Christian Mills, has been sentenced to gaol for five years with hard labour for his leading role in the attempted illegal export of approximately 2000 Grey Parrots Psittacus erithacus (CITES Appendix II) from Ghana on 6 June. The birds, which were packed in 33 containers, were impounded at Kotoka International Airport in Accra, as they were about to be exported to London, en route to Los Angeles, USA. Five others, including an American, also received gaol sentences.

Mills purchased the birds for Darrel Alexander, a US citizen, and forged CITES export permits and health certificates, without Alexander's knowledge. In addition to the gaol sentence, Mills has been ordered to refund the US$75 000 he received from Alexander to export the parrots, and has been fined ₵5 million (US$20 000) For his involvement, Alexander was gaoled for nine months with hard labour and was served with a deportation order, effective on completion of his sentence. The tribunal also ordered that US$2650 and ₵15 000 found on Alexander during his arrest should be confiscated.

Nicholas Gyimah, a Customs officer, who allowed the shipment of parrots to pass through Customs unrecorded, for a fee of ₵495 000 and US$1000, was sentenced to three years with hard labour, plus ordered to pay a fine of ₵300 000. Wabi Bello, a wildlife dealer who purchased some of the birds for Alexander and Mills, was sentenced to two years imprisonment and fined ₵200 000. Abraham Sackar, an airline official, who conveyed the birds to the aircraft on a tractor, was gaoled for two years and fined ₵200 000. John Sorboh was sentenced to six months for accompanying the tractor on which the birds were being carried.

Mr Francis Torgbuigah of the Export Promotion Council was awarded ₵150 000 for discovering the illegal shipment and preventing its export, thus saving the country from the probable loss of more than US$40 000.

Many of the birds died as a result of poor quarantine conditions and careless handling by trappers and dealers; only around 700 bird remain alive. The money confiscated from Mills and Alexander will pay for the upkeep of the birds, which are still too young to be released in the wild.

The export of all parrots from Ghana for commercial purposes has been banned by administrative directive since June 1986.

Sources: *Castle Information Bureau, Accra, Ghana; International Council for Bird Preservation; People's Daily Graphic (Ghana), 16 June/ 14 October 1988*

Parrots returned to Mexico

In December 1987, a shipment of 184 amazon parrots was confiscated by the inspection service of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. The shipment consisted of 100 Red-crowned Parrots Amazona viridigenalis, 40 Yellow-headed Parrots Amazona (ochrocephala) oratrix and 44 Lilac-crowned Parrots Amazona finschi, all endemic to Mexico and listed in CITES Appendix II.

The birds had been shipped to the Netherlands from Mexico through Nicaragua, Cuba, and Belgium. On the Nicaraguan CITES permits which accompanied the shipment, the birds had been declared as Mealy Parrots Amazona farinosa and Yellow-naped Parrots Amazona (ochrocephala) auropalliata.

On 13 July 1988 the birds were returned to Mexico.

Source: *Kees Schouten, Institute of Taxonomic Zoology, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Rhea and Coypu skins in Argentina

On 8 September 1988, following a tip-off, TRAFFIC(South America) assisted Argentinian authorities in the seizure of a shipment of skins of Greater Rhea Rhea americana and Coypu Myocastor coypus at Ezeiza airport, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The shipment, which consisted of 12 boxes, weighed a total of almost two tonnes, and was estimated to be worth several thousand dollars. The skins are now in the custody of the police and the case is being investigated.

The export from Argentina of the Greater Rhea has been prohibited since 1986, and special documents are required to export Coypu.

Source: *TRAFFIC(South America)*

Primates, parrots and reptiles in Spain

A large shipment of animals from Equatorial Guinea and bound for Honduras, were accidentally flown to Puerto Rico whilst in transit at Barajas Airport, Madrid, Spain. The shipment contained 5 Chimpanzees Pan troglodytes, 15 crocodilians, 20 Talapoins Cercopithecus talapoin, 8 Mandrills Papio sphinx, 20 lizards, 25 turtles and 31 Grey Parrots Psittacus erithacus. The shipment was refused entry in Puerto Rico and returned to Madrid; by this time the smell emanating from the crate was so bad that it had to be hosed down. It was then sent to Madrid Zoo, where not surprisingly, the animals were found to be in an appalling condition: a number of Talapoins and Mandrills had died and two Chimps died three days later, despite great efforts to save them.

The Director of TRAFFIC(South America), whilst on a visit to Spain, informed the CITES Secretariat of the situation, and also the Spanish CITES Management Authority which had been unaware of the case. As the documents accompanying the shipment had been falsified and the quantities on the documents did not tally with the numbers in the shipment, the consignment was seized. In the interests of the animals' welfare, however, it was decided that they should remain at the Zoo.

During this period, a shipment of 2000 juvenile caimans which arrived at Baraja airport accompanied by forged documents, was also seized. Only 50 animals remained alive. The shipment had travelled from Colombia, via Panama, en route to Taiwan.

Source: *TRAFFIC(South America)*

Seizures ctd.

BELGIUM:

Reptiles from Madagascar

On 26 July 1988, with the assistance of TRAFFIC staff and an inspector from the Belgian CITES Management Authority, Customs officers at Brussels National Airport confiscated six live Madagascar Boas Acrantophis madagascariensis (CITES Appendix I) and two live Gold-dust Day Geckoes Phelsuma laticaudata (Appendix II). The reptiles had been smuggled without the appropriate documentation and were bound for an animal trading and broker company named Squamata, in Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

The Madagascar Boa is a rare and little-known species which is confined to the last remaining tropical forest of Northern Madagascar. The species is highly endangered by habitat destruction, local hunting and hunting for the pet trade. These snakes can allegedly fetch US$3000 each in Europe.

All Phelsuma spp. are listed in CITES Appendix II. Only four specimens were identified in the shipment, two of which were dead. Several boxes in the shipment were found to be empty and it is assumed that other Phelsuma specimens had escaped as the species is renowned for its ability to pass through the narrowest crack.

Also included in the shipment were eight live False Hognose Snakes Lioheterodon modestus and two boxes containing several hundred Scorpions Pandinus imperator, a large number of which were found crawling outside the crate, possibly placed there to deter any further investigation from Customs officers.

All the live CITES-listed specimens were immediately taken to Antwerp Zoo. The Belgian CITES Management Authority will look into the possibilities of transferring the Madagascar Boas to breeding centres.

Under CITES and Belgian Customs legislation the head of the company importing the animals, Mr Jansen, faces severe penalties.

* * * *

Ivory from Zaire

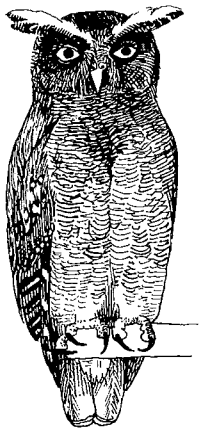
A Zairian citizen, Sikouto E. has been prosecuted by Belgian authorities for attempting to import worked ivory into Belgium from Zaire using forged export permits.

In June 1988, Sikouto E. arrived at Brussels National Airport with a suitcase containing worked ivory. The shipment was blocked by Customs because it was not covered by a Belgian import permit (required under EEC Regulations on CITES). The export permit was investigated by the Belgian CITES Management Authority and found to have been issued in 1987 for 8 kg worked ivory and altered to read 38 kg.

On 23 June Sikouto came to the Management Authority's office to obtain the Belgian import permit which was required for having the ivory released. He was immediately arrested and taken into custody. The shipment, which consisted of 80 statuettes and three small tusks, was confiscated. It had allegedly been purchased in Kinshasa for US$8000.

Sikouto previously imported a shipment of worked ivory in 1987. The Belgian authorities have now discovered that the Zairian documents which had been accepted with the shipment, had been falsified as well.

The Belgian Management Authority intercepted two other falsified Zairian permits for worked ivory in the first two weeks of June; the Zairian dealers involved were arrested but vanished before they could be prosecuted.



Owls from Honduras

On 12 June 1988, nine live owls were confiscated at Brussels National Airport. They consisted of four species: Crested Owl Lophostrix cristata, Spectacled Owl Pulsatrix perspicillata, Mottled Owl Ciccaba virgata and an unidentified Otus sp. The shipment had come from Honduras with Honduran CITES export permits, but was without Belgian import permits.

The Spectacled Owl is a protected species in Honduras and its export from that country has been prohibited since July 1986. In addition, all species of owl are listed in Annex C1 of EEC Regulation 3626/82, which means they are treated as CITES Appendix I species in the European Community.

* * * *

Lanner Falcon from Nigeria

One live Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus, listed in CITES Appendix II and Annex C1 of EEC Regulation 3626/82, was seized on 5 April 1988 by Customs officers at Brussels National Airport. The bird, part of a shipment of 13 live birds arriving from Nigeria, was not accompanied by a CITES export permit.

* * * *

Turtleshell from the Maldives

114 shells of Green Turtle Chelonia mydas and Hawksbill Turtle Eretmochelys imbricata which were on sale in a second-hand shop in Brussels in May 1988, were seized by the Belgian Management Authority on the basis of information provided by TRAFFIC(Belgium). The shop owner had imported some 150 shells from the Maldives in 1979 but had failed to declare this stock at the time CITES came into force in Belgium on 1 January 1984. inventories of Appendix I specimens had to be submitted to the Management Authority no later than 90 days after the date of entry into force.

F.R. GERMANY:

Turtle scales from the Cayman Islands

In Remscheid, F.R. Germany, 18 tonnes of sea turtle scales have been confiscated by the regional CITES Management Authority and police, with the assistance of TRAFFIC(Germany). The scales are from at least 30 000 Green Turtles Chelonia mydas and Hawksbills Eretmochelys imbricata (Appendix I). Although the scales are allegedly pre-CITES, since 1 January 1988, Germany has prohibited not only the trade in pre-Convention Appendix I specimens, but also their storage for commercial purposes.

The company storing the products claimed that the scales had been there for years and had originated from captive-bred turtles in the Cayman Islands.

Source: TRAFFIC(Germany)

Seizures in Belgium compiled by TRAFFIC(Belgium)

Conviction of Indonesian Poachers on Ashmore Reef

by Debbie Callister, TRAFFIC(Oceania)

On 9 June 1988, the captain and five of the six crew of the sail-powered Indonesian fishing vessel the Karya Sama were convicted in Darwin Magistrates Court, Northern Territory, Australia, of offences relating to a poaching incident at Ashmore Reef, 840 km west of Darwin. They were charged with interfering with wildlife, injuring wildlife, and destroying wildlife, under Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Regulations of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975. All pleaded guilty and were placed on good behaviour bonds for two years and ordered to stay out of Australian territorial waters for the period of their bonds. The vessel was also forfeited to the Crown (Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service (ANPWS), pers. comm.). The captain and six crew were deported back to Indonesia on 15 June 1988 (Australian Federal Police, pers. comm.).

The boat was detected at Ashmore Reef on 20 May with 3000 to 4000 seabird eggs and 120 seabirds on board, all illegally taken (Hansard, 23 May 1988, p. 2763). Fifty of the birds were still healthy and were released. The rest were either dead or injured. The species of birds collected were Sooty Terns Sterna fuscata, Bridled Terns Sterna anaethetus, Crested Terns Sterna bergii and Common Noddies Anous stolidus (ANPWS, pers. comm.). The last three species are protected under 'The Agreement between Australia and Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment' (JAMBA). Some Trochus spp. were also found on board (ANPWS, pers. comm.), however these were not taken illegally.

Traditional Indonesian fishermen are allowed to take certain marine species, including Trochus spp. and beche de mer, from the Ashmore and Cartier Reef areas under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Australian and Indonesian governments (see "Indonesian Poaching on Ashmore Reef", Traffic Bulletin, 7(3/4):61). However taking of seabirds and eggs is clearly in breach of the MOU terms. This is the first instance of a conviction for illegal actions in violation of the MOU. The decision to apprehend and convict the crew of the Karya Sama indicates the new tougher stance adopted by the Australian Government to breaches of the Ashmore Reef MOU. The announcement of these stricter measures by Australia, to apply from 1 March 1988, was published in Jakarta, Indonesia on 25 February 1988 (Anon., 1988). The Australian Government listed eight developments since the implementation of the MOU in 1974 which have combined to prompt the changes:

- The change in administration of the Ashmore and Cartier Islands from part of the Northern Territory to a separate Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia;
- The extension of the Australian Fishing Zone from 12 to 200 nautical miles;
- The increased number of visits by Indonesian fishermen. For example, in 1987 the number of motorised vessels visiting the reefs increased by 300% over the previous year;
- International obligations to protect wildlife - specifically, obligations under JAMBA and CITES;
- The declaration of the Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve in 1983;
- The drying up and contamination of wells on Middle and East Islands, Ashmore Reef, where Indonesian fishermen were allowed to land to obtain water supplies;
- Destruction of flora and especially fauna;
- The increase in non-traditional fishing, with fishermen using motorised vessels and powered fishing gear.

The Government listed the arrangements for administering the MOU to apply from 1 March 1988, which included the following:

- Fishing in the areas designated in the MOU will be restricted to only traditional Indonesian fishermen in paddle or wind-powered boats using nets and lines;
- Fish and sedentary species can be taken within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the islands and reefs covered by the MOU i.e. Ashmore Reef (outside the Reserve), Cartier Island, Scott Reef, Seringapatam Reef and Browse Reef;
- Any person taking swimming fish species outside the areas mentioned above will be liable to conviction under the Fisheries Act 1952;
- Any person using a boat to search for or take sedentary organisms from the Australian Continental Shelf outside the 12-nautical-mile limit will be liable to conviction under the Continental Shelf (Living Natural Resoures) Act 1968;
- No fishing of any kind may take place within the Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve. In the Reserve it is an offence to interfere with, damage, injure, destroy or remove wildlife and nests; to use any firearm, trap, net, speargun or hunting bow; and to take fish. Offenders will be liable to conviction under the National Parks & Wildlife Conservation Act 1975.
- Any person taking migratory birds from Cartier Island, such as the Brown Booby Sula leucogaster, Lesser Frigatebird Fregata ariel or Common Noddy, is liable to conviction under the Migratory Birds Ordinance 1980 of the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands.
- Any person taking giant clams (Tridacnidae) from Australia without permit is liable to conviction under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982. This includes clams taken from the Australian Continental Shelf.
- It is an offence under the National Parks & Wildlife Conservation Act 1975 to kill or interfere with all sea snakes, birds and seals beyond the limits of Western Australia and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

Many of the points above relating to liability for conviction were also applicable under previous MOU arrangements. Their specification by the Australian Government indicates a new willingness to apprehend and convict fishermen found illegally taking wildlife from the Ashmore and Cartier Reef areas. It is to be hoped that this stricter enforcement and implementation will eventually lead to a decrease in the number of Indonesian fishermen exploiting wildlife in the region, allowing it to recover from past disturbances and overcollection.

Reference

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Wildlife Prosecutions in Australia

compiled by TRAFFIC(Oceania)

Federal:

Maximum penalty for psittacine smuggling

On 4 October 1988, an Austrian citizen, Hans Klein, became the first person to receive the maximum penalty under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982 (WPA) when he was sentenced to five years imprisonment by the Sydney District Court.

Klein was found guilty on charges under the WPA and the Quarantine Act 1901 of smuggling seven juvenile exotic parrots into Australia from Singapore on 26 August 1988. Four Blossom-headed Parakeets Psittacula roseata and three Moustached Parakeets Psittacula alexandri, which had been stuffed into stockings and hidden in an overnight bag, were found by Customs officers at Sydney airport. The bag, which was identified as belonging to Klein, had been abandoned by him when he apparently panicked upon arrival in Australia. Klein was arrested a few days later, on 1 September 1988, when he tried to board a flight for Singapore.

In court, the judge said that he was satisfied that Klein was involved in an international bird smuggling racket and sentenced him to five years on the wildlife charge and two years, to be served concurrently, on the quarantine charge. The judge recommended that Klein should serve a minimum of three-and-a-half-years.

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On 19 August 1988, a Canadian citizen, Randall McBride, was sentenced in the Sydney District Court to 12 months imprisonment for illegal importation of birds and to two-years imprisonment for attempted illegal export of birds; the sentences to be served concurrently.

McBride had been charged under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982 and had pleaded guilty to importing 3 Blue-and-yellow Macaws Ara ararauna and 8 Moustached Parakeets Psittacula alexandri, and attempting to export 23 Major Mitchell's Cockatoos Cacatua leadbeateri, 10 Gang-Gang Cockatoos Callocephalon fimbriatum and 4 Musk Lorikeets Glossopsitta concinna. The total market value of the birds was estimated to be in excess of A$300 000 (US$240 000).

McBride had flown into Sydney from Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 July 1988 with the macaws and parakeets, encased in plastic tubing, concealed in a suitcase. When stopped in a routine Customs check, McBride said he had picked up the wrong bag. He returned it to the carousel and lodged a missing baggage claim, before leaving the airport. The original suitcase was later opened and found to contain the birds. When, two days later, on 18 July 1988, McBride tried to depart on a flight to Auckland, he was arrested. His two bags were off-loaded from the aircraft and found to contain the 37 Australian native birds.

In court, McBride claimed that he was to be paid A$6000 by the people he met in Thailand. The judge accepted that he was a courier, rather than a principal, but concluded that McBride, despite guilty pleas, had not been helpful to police in identifying the "Australian connection" or in accounting for his movements within Australia. The judge felt that a stiff sentence would deter others.

New Zealand Quarantine Officer with Long-billed Corellas in mesh cylinders, smuggled in from Australia.

Courtesy of Australian Customs Service

Federal ctd.

On 21 June 1988, in Sydney's District Court, an Australian citizen, Sydney Dickinson, was convicted under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982 of illegally exporting 32 Long-billed Corellas Cacatua tenuirostris to New Zealand. Dickinson had taken the Corellas in two suitcases on a flight to New Zealand in February 1987. Each of the birds was encased in either a wire mesh tube or a plastic tube, and packed tightly into the cases. An electric fan was fitted in the bottom of each case to provide ventilation for the birds.

In New Zealand, Dickinson had been charged, under the Animals Act, with illegal importation and making a false declaration. He had been released on bail of NZ$2000 (US$1250) and his passport was retained by the police, however, he failed to appear in court. It was not until 17 April 1988 that he was located back in Australia, and arrested.

In convicting him, the judge considered the fact that Dickinson had already spent two months in custody, and released him on a recognizance in the sum of A$500 (US$350) to be of good behaviour for 12 months.

Enquiries by TRAFFIC(Oceania) indicate that Long-billed Corellas would sell for approximately NZ$800 each on the New Zealand market.

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Two Australian citizens, David Holmes and Peter Phippen, appeared in Sydney District Court on 11 February 1988, charged with importing animals (live birds) in contravention of the Quarantine Act 1908. The two men had been apprehended on 15 September 1986 with Red-crested Finches Coryphospingus cucullatus, Paradise Whydahs Vidua paradisaea and Pintail Whydahs V. macroura at Sydney airport (see Traffic Bulletin 8(3):53 for details). Both men pleaded guilty but they were discharged, under Section 19B of the Crimes Act 1914, without a conviction being recorded. Mr Holmes and Mr Phippen were each obliged to enter into a recognizance, in the sum of A$1000 (US$800) and A$2000 respectively, to be of good behaviour for two years. The Crown is appealing. ▷

Wildlife Prosecutions in Australia ctd.

State:

Queensland

On 26 May 1988, at Mareeba Magistrates Court, Peter Krauss of Queensland, was convicted under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985, of keeping protected fauna (snakes), contrary to Section 54(1)(a) of the Act, and of failing to maintain a Register, contrary to Section 17. He was fined a total of A$350 (US$278) on the two charges, plus A$76.50 court costs, and was ordered to pay A$540 in royalties. The following species were seized from Krauss' premises: 1 Diamond Python Morelia spilota, 1 unidentified monitor lizard Varanus sp., 1 Lace Monitor V. varius, 3 Merten's Monitors V. mertensi, 12 Eastern Brown Snakes Pseudonaja textilis, 8 Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard Tiliqua scincoides and 1 Western Blue-tongued Lizard T. occipitalis. All the animals were released back into the wild, except for the Diamond Python which was donated to a zoo.

Krauss has been previously convicted in Western Australia of illegal possession of reptiles (see Traffic Bulletin 8(1):11).

New South Wales

On 23 February 1988, at Inverell Magistrates Court, Lance Faulkner of Queensland, was prosecuted for possession of protected fauna contrary to Section 101 of the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 and for related offences under the New South Wales Fisheries & Oyster Farms Act 1935. Faulkner, who had allegedly been found in possession of six Platypus Ornithorhynchus anatinus skins near Ashford, New South Wales, was found guilty of the offences and convicted. Sentence was not handed down until 11 March 1988 when Faulkner was fined a total of A$650 (US$520) for possession of gill nets and non-prescribed nets and sentenced to two-months imprisonment for each of the Platypus skins, to be served concurrently. The prosecution was taken by New South Wales State Police.

New Legislation in Victoria, Australia

by Debbie Callister, TRAFFIC(Oceania)

On 5 May 1988, a new piece of legislation - the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, was passed by the Victorian State Government, Australia. The Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG), as it is commonly known, has been hailed as a landmark in conservation legislation. It has broad conservation objectives particularly aimed at protecting and managing flora and fauna threatened with extinction. Individual taxa, communities and potentially threatening processes are all covered by the FFG. In addition, keeping, taking and trading in all protected plants and FFG-listed fish will now be regulated through the FFG Act. (Plant trade was previously regulated under the Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act 1958 (WFNPP Act). The regulation of activities affecting protected fauna continues under the Wildlife Act 1975.)

Threatened taxa of fauna and flora and communities, and potentially threatening processes will be listed in the Schedules of the FFG Act following recommendations by a Scientific Advisory Committee. Following listing, further conservation planning, action and management measures will be implemented. These could include Public Authority Management Agreements, Land Management Co-operative Agreements, incentives and compensation. Opportunities for public scrutiny and comment are also provided for most actions taken under the Act.

An important enforcement provision of the FFG is the power to place an Interim Conservation Order (ICO) on the "critical habitat" either of listed taxa (if on private land) or of taxa and communities (if on public land). An ICO allows for short-term (two years and 90 days maximum) legally enforceable protection of the specified areas. This immediate protection will provide breathing space, during which time long-term management options can be negotiated and implemented. If there is a need for further regulation beyond this period, this is available under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

In addition to protecting threatened species, the FFG will also regulate the taking, trading, keeping, moving and processing of protected flora. The powers previously existing under the WFNPP Act have been incorporated into the new Act, and important new powers added, including:

- FFG provisions may also apply to flora not indigenous to Victoria. This is intended to allow co-operation in conservation efforts with overseas and interstate authorities. Species which are covered by other States' legislation or conventions such as CITES can be declared "protected" under the FFG, although only those species carried over from the WFNPP Act are covered at present.

- Landholders will need authorisation to take flora from their land if it has been determined to be critical habitat for that flora.

- Rather than blanket controls over taking, keeping, trading, etc., the FFG allows for an appropriate mix of controls to be developed for each species. This means there may be instances where, for example, artificially propagated specimens of protected plants can be kept and traded without permit. Under the FFG, a permit, licence or authorisation will not be needed to take the progeny of plants which have been lawfully obtained and kept. This appears to provide a loophole, whereby unscrupulous plant traders could supplement their supply of artificially propagated plants with wild-collected specimens, claiming them to be artificially propagated. The Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands (the enforcing body for the Act) claims that controls are flexible enough to overcome such enforcement problems (FFG Unit, pers. comm.), for example by prohibiting the keeping of such plants regardless of their origin. Whether in practice such controls will be effective, or practical, remains to be seen.

To date only a few sections of the Act are in operation. These are the sections which allow the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the preparation of regulations relating to its activities. The remainder of the Act will come into operation once administrative procedures have been put in place, on a date to be proclaimed. This is not expected to be before the end of 1988.

TRAFFIC(Oceania) would like to acknowledge the help of the Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands, Flora & Fauna Guarantee Unit in the preparation of this article.

Australian Senate Committee Reports on Kangaroos

The Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare tabled its report (Anon., 1988) on kangaroos in the Australian Federal Parliament on 1 June 1988. This Committee was originally appointed in November 1983 to inquire into, and report on, animal welfare issues. The Committee concluded "... that a balance must be struck between the need to preserve kangaroos in abundant numbers and the need to use Australia's resources for the well being of all". This would involve "... the development of a strictly controlled management programme". One member of the Committee dissented from this view and presented a minority report which recommended the closure of the industry. The Committee's full report made 27 recommendations. The major ones are summarised below. Other recommendations were broadly related to improved research into, and administration of, the kangaroo kill.

- A system for the national management of kangaroos should be worked out between the Commonwealth of Australia and the States.
- Whilst kangaroos should remain protected, commercial shooting should be allowed where there is a need to decrease populations because of kangaroo damage. However any killing (commercial or non-commercial) should only be permitted where non-lethal methods of damage control are infeasible.
- Commercial shooting for skins only should cease except where the relevant fauna authority allows such killing because of the impracticability of a carcass trade.
- There should be increased numbers of regular surveys of all species of kangaroo subject to killing, and more research into survey methods - aerial and otherwise.
- Quotas should include both the commercial and non-commercial kill and should be incorporated into the management programme.
- There should be increased controls over trade in kangaroo skins, particularly those destined for export, including: tattooing of skins; licensing of works which treat skins for export; and compulsory sealing and random inspection of containers of skins intended for export.

The Committee's recommendations appear essentially to maintain the status quo in the management of kangaroos. In the present Australian political and economic climate it seems unlikely that some of the more far-reaching recommendations will be implemented, in particular, recommendations to replace individual State management programmes by one national programme, and to increase numbers of population surveys.

Reference

Anon., (1988): Kangaroos. Report by the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Source: TRAFFIC(Oceania)

Kangaroo Harvest Quotas for 1988

Species	New South Wales	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia	Totals
Red Kangaroo Macropus rufus	354000	320000	230000	146600	1050600
Western Grey Kangaroo Macropus fuliginosus	105000	-	45000	31700	181700
Eastern Grey Kangaroo Macropus giganteus	271000	1300000	-	-	1571000
Euro or Wallaroo Macropus robustus	-	70000	10000	16500	96500
Whiptail Wallaby Macropus parryi	-	50000	-	-	50000
TOTALS	730000	1740000	285000	194800	2949800

Source: Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service
National Kangaroo Management Unit (6 June 1988)

The Trade in Parrots from Guyana

by Kees Schouten, Institute of Taxonomic Zoology
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Summary

During recent years, Guyana has become one of the major suppliers of psittacines, especially macaws, for the pet market. There is a great lack of information on status and distribution of psittacines in Guyana, and there has been concern among conservationists that the psittacine populations were being overexploited. Exports of all wildlife were banned for several months during 1987.

In May 1987, the author visited Guyana to look into the bird trade in this country. Some trapping areas were visited and talks were held with animal/bird dealers and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The main conclusion is that there are still many psittacines present in Guyana. With new national legislation on wildlife in force and a quota system established, the trade in psittacines from Guyana is now permitted again. However, at the moment the quotas are not based on scientific information; surveys to collect data on status, ecology and behaviour of psittacines in Guyana should, therefore, be started as soon as possible.

Introduction

In November 1986, the Commission of the European Communities banned all imports of psittacines from Guyana. This decision was taken at the request of the Commission's Scientific Working Group on CITES, who had information that populations of several species were possibly overexploited (e.g. macaw and amazon species). Since there was also a lack of information on the status and distribution of psittacines in Guyana, it was believed that several species could become threatened unless trade was quickly brought under control by the Guyanese authorities.

From 6 May to 3 June 1987 the author visited Guyana, where discussions on Guyana's bird trade took place with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and several animal/bird dealers. Some of the localities where the birds are trapped were also visited. However, due to the start of the rainy season and a lack of time, it was not possible to visit the most important trapping areas.

The country

Guyana has an area of 214 970 square kilometres, and about 92% of the land is still forested. The population numbers around 900 000, of whom 90% live in the coastal strip, which is 430 km long. Nearly all the cultivated land is situated along the coast. The main crops are rice, sugar cane and some maize.

About ten per cent of the country is occupied by the upland savanna of the Rupununi and Kanuku mountains, in the remote hinterland of the south-west. A huge tract of thick, hilly jungle and forest slopes down from this plateau towards the sea.

The country is divided by three major rivers: the Essequibo River, the Demerara River and the Berbice River. Small rivers and numerous creeks are present throughout the country. Therefore it is not surprising that in the Amerindian language "Guyana" means "land of many waters".

The infrastructure of Guyana is still poorly developed. There is one main road from Georgetown along the east coast and one main road from Georgetown to Linden, the bauxite mining area. The only way to enter the interior is by aeroplane, and even then entry to the South-East District is extremely difficult owing to a lack of airstrips.

The trade in psittacines

In Guyana, the capture and possession of psittacines, of which 28 species have been recorded in the country, have never been controlled by national legislation. The trade in parrots, and also in monkeys, for the international pet market, has been going on for many years. During the last decade the export of psittacines has developed strongly and the animal trade became an important source of foreign exchange for Guyana, especially since the imposition of an export ban in Bolivia in 1984. During the last seven years, an average of 28 131 psittacine birds, mainly amazons (20 266) and macaws (4369) were exported annually (Table 1). However, in December 1986, at the request of the CITES Secretariat, Guyana established a total ban on wildlife exports, effective from 28 February 1987. Export permits were not issued after 15 December 1986 and those issued up to this time were valid only until 28 February 1987. The temporary ban allowed Guyana to develop a quota system for all animals and products exported from that country. The ban was lifted on 1 October 1987 and the issuance of export permits began in mid-October (Anon., 1987). The 1987/88 quotas for psittacines are listed in Table 2.

In 1987 there were 19 registered animal/bird dealers in Guyana, of which five can be considered as large. The dealers' premises are all situated around Georgetown, or along the road to Timehri, the international airport.

In 1977 Guyana became a Party to CITES and, in accordance with the Convention, the trade in psittacines is regulated by issuance of CITES export permits. Most psittacines are exported to the USA (60%) and to the EEC (30%). The numbers of psittacines recorded as exported in the period 1981-1986 are given in Table 1. Three species of amazon parrots and two species of macaws, in particular, are exported in large numbers. For most species the numbers exported have fluctuated from year to year, but without showing a general increase in the most recent years. However, there are six species for which the peak export was in 1986, notably the Blue-and-yellow Macaw Ara ararauna, the Red-and-green Macaw Ara chloroptera and the Yellow-crowned Parrot Amazona ochrocephala. The export of several species has shown a sharp decline in recent years, especially the Orange-winged Parrot Amazona amazonica; it is not known whether this is due to overexploitation but the alternative explanation - lack of overseas demand - seems unlikely to be the reason.

Observations of psittacines in the wild

During the author's stay in Guyana, the following areas were visited: the Rupununi District (Lethem, Karanambo, Mountain Point); the Eastbank of the Demerara River; the Upper Demerara River (Wainibisi); the mouth of the Essequibo River; the MMA project along the east coast and the Pomeroon River (Charity, Kabakaburg mission).

Owing to the start of the rainy season, and some problems with transportation, the North-West District, which is the main centre for the psittacine trade, was not visited. Many Blue-and-yellow Macaws, Red-and-green Macaws, Yellow-crowned Parrots, and Orange-winged Parrots are trapped in this area.

Return flights were made from the Georgetown airfield, Ogle, to Charity and from the international airfield, Timehri, to Lethem. Flying over the interior of Guyana, the first thing that attracts the attention is the lack of disturbance to the large forested areas. Small settlements of Amerindians are present only along the rivers.

Once inside the forest it is very difficult to find or see psittacines because of the thick foliage. The best way to locate them is by their calls and when they are crossing open terrain or rivers, flying to and from their feeding areas at sunrise and sunset.

TABLE 1
Exports of psittacines from Guyana 1981-1986

Species	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	mean
Amazona amazonica	16745	16555	15555	21076	10545	12946	15570
Amazona dufresniana	2	2	112	64	133	103	69
Amazona farinosa	2598	1832	2308	4171	1164	1537	2268
Amazona festiva*	-	-	17	2	13	555	98
Amazona ochrocephala	1763	1867	1935	2819	1769	3433	2264
Ara ararauna	1312	706	1441	979	2555	3317	1718
Ara chloroptera	1385	1146	992	1401	1335	2177	1406
Ara macao	2	1	8	53	132	-	33
Ara manilata	507	242	1043	962	350	824	655
Ara nobilis	506	254	754	727	540	554	556
Ara severa	-	-	-	-	8	-	1
Aratinga leucophthalmus	2	25	22	-	-	-	8
Aratinga pertinax	1865	1785	1348	1627	491	422	1256
Aratinga solstitialis	1362	694	342	39	39	22	416
Brotogeris chrysopterus	-	80	30	-	130	83	54
Deroptyus accipitrinus	105	373	299	380	212	619	331
Forpus passerinus	3	9	10	10	433	25	82
Pionites melanocephala	25	261	322	805	458	658	422
Pionus fuscus	5	8	58	277	96	250	116
Pionus menstruus	1102	498	1044	997	198	507	724
Pyrrhura egregia	-	-	-	-	-	50	8
Pyrrhura picta	249	92	55	28	10	15	75
Annual total	29538	26430	27695	36417	20611	28097	28131

Source: Guyanese CITES Annual Reports

Species accounts:

Nomenclature follows Altman and Swift (1986).

Orange-winged Parrot Amazona amazonica. This was by far the commonest amazon parrot seen. It was present at all localities visited, except for the Rupununi District (savanna area). At the Pomeroon River many groups of between 2 and 12 birds were seen flying across the river during sunrise and sunset. A total of 540 were seen on 17 May crossing the river east of Charity in a one-hour period. Two groups of between 80 and 100 were seen on the same day along the river at sunset.

Along the road from Georgetown to Linden, small groups (2-6) were seen on several days. At Linden a group of 120 were seen on 13 May. During the flight to Charity, several groups of amazon parrots, probably Orange-winged, were seen flying above the canopy.

Blue-cheeked Parrot Amazona dufresniana was only seen along the upper Demerara River and only two pairs were observed. According to the trappers this species is not very social, it does not mix with other parrots and it normally flies much higher above the canopy. The trappers considered it to be locally common in the Mazaruni area.

Mealy Parrot Amazona farinosa was seen at Linden and along the Pomeroon River. This bird was always seen flying in pairs and numbers were low. The largest number (20) was seen at Linden with Orange-winged Parrots.

Yellow-crowned Parrot Amazona ochrocephala was seen along the Pomeroon and Demerara Rivers, at Linden and at Karanambo and Manari (Rupununi District). The birds were seen flying in pairs and they were also present in small numbers in groups of Orange-winged Parrots.

Red-and-green Macaw Ara chloroptera was seen on two occasions; one pair was seen along the upper Demerara River and one pair was seen from the plane to Charity, flying over the canopy.

Red-bellied Macaw Ara manilata was seen in small numbers at all visited localities. The largest groups (up to 10 birds) were seen along the Demerara River and at Linden.

Red-shouldered Macaw Ara nobilis was seen in small groups (up to 12 birds) along the Demerara River and at Linden.

White-eyed Parakeet Aratinga leucophthalmus. One group of 14 birds was seen at Lethem (Rupununi District).

Brown-throated Parakeet Aratinga pertinax was seen in small groups of between 2 and 10 birds at all localities visited.

Golden-winged Parakeet Brotogeris chrysopterus. One group of 16 birds was seen flying over the upper Demerara River.

Red-fan Parrot Deroptyus accipitrinus was heard on several occasions along the Pomeroon and Demerara Rivers. This species is very difficult to observe due to its secretive nature.

Black-headed Parrot Pionites melanocephala was heard once along the Pomeroon river.

Blue-headed Parrot Pionus menstruus was present along the Demerara River and at Linden. Groups of 2-4 were seen on several occasions.

* Bird dealers claimed that A.f. bodini occurs in the North-West District but there are no recent published records. Ridgely (1981) doubted the old records of the species in the country summarised in Chubb (1916). Its status urgently needs clarification to stem rumours that the birds exported from Guyana have been smuggled out of Brazil and Venezuela. (Ed.)

The following species have been recorded in Guyana but were not seen during the survey.

Festive Parrot	Amazona festiva*
Blue-and-yellow Macaw	Ara ararauna
Scarlet Macaw	Ara macao
Chestnut-fronted Macaw	Ara severa
Sun Parakeet	Aratinga solstitialis
Green-rumped Parrotlet	Forpus passerinus
Dusky-billed Parrotlet	Forpus sclateri
Tepui Parrotlet	Nannopsittaca panychlora
Caica Parrot	Pionopsitta caica
Dusky Parrot	Pionus fuscus
Fiery-shouldered Parakeet	Pyrrhura egregia
Painted Parakeet	Pyrrhura picta
Lilac-tailed Parrotlet	Touit batavica
Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet	Touit huetii
Sapphire-rumped Parrotlet	Touit purpurata

The trapping of psittacines

Until 1987, Guyana had a closed season for the trapping of wildlife from 1 January to 30 April. From 1 January 1987, this was extended by one month.

Each dealer or exporter deals with several middlemen, who maintain contact with the bird trappers. These trappers are mainly Amerindians. The dealer places his order with the middleman and pays him in advance to cover the costs for the trappers (fuel, food etc.). The trappers first locate the movements of the wanted species between their feeding areas and their roosts. These movements change along with the availability of food in the area. When a trapper has determined the best location, a hide (hiding place) is built in the top of a tree. The nearby branches are stripped and covered with a natural glue. Near these branches a "calling bird" is situated. Birds flying over are attracted by this "calling bird", land on the glued branches, and are taken by the man in the hide.

The method works very well with all species of macaws, Pionus and amazon parrots, except for the Blue-cheeked Parrot whose chicks are taken from the nests (normally without cutting the tree down).

The Red-fan Parrot is also trapped from a hide, but the success rate is lower than with the amazons, because it disappears into the forest after being disturbed, while the amazons will fly over the canopy, where they can be attracted by other "calling birds" again. The smaller parakeets are caught with nets and cages.

Each week the birds are brought from the bush to the middleman, who transports them by boat, truck or plane to the dealer. The main trapping area is situated in the North-West and this is estimated by the dealers to constitute less than 5% of the suitable habitat occupied by psittacines!

In recent years, three species previously traded only in small numbers, have fully entered trade, namely the Blue-cheeked Parrot, the Festive Parrot* and the Fiery-shouldered Parakeet. As a result of the demand for these more exclusive species, one dealer now specialises in these birds. The fact that these species were not exported in numbers until very recently does not necessarily mean that they are rare; it may mean that they are not present in the areas where trapping previously took place, or that they are difficult to trap because of their behaviour and/or their distribution.

Captive Breeding

At the moment no captive-breeding of psittacines takes place in Guyana. Dealers' plans to start captive-breeding stations for Scarlet Macaw, Festive Parrot and Blue-cheeked Parrot, have not yet been realised.

Conclusion

The quotas now established for psittacines have not been based on scientific reports on status and distribution, as this information is not available. Some of the quotas may be too high, especially those for the Blue-and-yellow Macaw, the Red-and-green Macaw, and some of the amazon parrots. It is therefore of the utmost importance to collect information on the status, distribution, population dynamics and habitat requirements of all exported psittacines.

TABLE 2
Export quotas for psittacines from Guyana 1987/88

Amazona amazonica	17500
Amazona dufresniana	240
Amazona farinosa	2300
Amazona festiva bodini*	300
Amazona ochrocephala	2300
Ara ararauna	2400
Ara chloroptera	1800
Ara manilata**	1500
Ara nobilis	1000
Aratinga leucopthalmicus	300
Aratinga pertinax	3000
Aratinga solstitialis	600
Brotogeris chrysopterus	180
Deroptyus accipitrinus	480
Forpus passerinus	600
Pionites melanocephalus	600
Pionus fuscus	300
Pionus menstruus	900
Pyrrhura egregia	120
Pyrrhura picta	300
TOTAL	36720

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** Niles (1981) stated that this species was 'not plentiful' and reported not to thrive in captivity. Despite this exports rose from one in 1978/79 to 1043 in 1983 and the quota for 1987/88 is even higher. (Ed.)

France's Frog Consumption

by Gwénola le Serrec, TRAFFIC(France)

Along with the USA and the Netherlands, France is one of the main importers of frogs in the world. Imports of frozen frogs' legs into France peaked in 1983, at 4500 tonnes (t); imports to the USA and the Netherlands were 2430 t and 1010 t respectively - a total of 7940 t for the three countries.

Frogs destined for international trade are either exported live from their countries of origin, or are killed and their legs prepared and frozen for export. Frogs' legs are used in cooking and live frogs are used both for cooking and for research in laboratories and for science teaching. In 1986 about 3400 t of frozen frogs' legs and an estimated 500 t of live frogs were imported into France. During this year 1344 t of frozen frogs were re-exported to Belgium, UK, F.R. Germany and Switzerland.

From 1973 to 1987 inclusive, France imported a total of 46 579 t of frozen frogs' legs. If the average weight of a pair of frogs' legs is taken to be between 20 and 50 grams, it can be estimated that imports into France during this 15-year period accounted for one to two thousand million frogs.

Frog species indigenous to France and which have traditionally been used for cooking are the Edible Frog Rana esculenta and the Common frog R. temporaria. However, since 1979 the hunting of these species in France has been prohibited, except for household use (Arrêté du 24 avril 1979). Due to the decline in populations of frogs in France, and to the hunting ban, frogs used for cooking are now imported.

Importation of frozen frogs

Frogs' legs are generally imported directly from the countries of origin but sometimes through other countries of the European Economic Community (EEC). In the past, the principal source countries were India and Indonesia, which accounted for 83% of the total number of frogs' legs imported into France. Imports from India have decreased over the last few years and were officially stopped from 5 March 1987 when India banned frog exports (although 8 t had already been imported by Belgium in 1986 and were transported to France in 1987).

The main source of frogs is now Indonesia, from which France imported 24 136 t of frogs' legs from 1973 to 1987, accounting for 52% of France's imports of frozen frogs. Other important sources include Turkey, Bangladesh and China, and there is a small trade from Italy, Taiwan, Japan, Cuba and various other countries. Some French companies have stated that they intend to import from the Soviet Union in the near future.

The species imported by France are: Rana macrodon, R. cancrivora and R. blythii from Indonesia; R. hexadactyla and R. tigerina from India (up to 5 March 1987) and Bangladesh; R. esculenta group and R. ridibunda from Turkey and Italy. However identification of species at ports of entry is extremely difficult for frozen specimens.

Recently Nigeria offered specimens of Xenopus tropicalis and X. muelleri for sale to some French firms, but it appears that the offer was not accepted.

About 25 firms specialising in frozen products are involved in the frogs' legs trade. They are located in regions which traditionally produce frogs in France, or near big ports of entry, including Marseille and Le Havre; transportation is mainly by boat.

Since August 1985, Rana hexadactyla and R. tigerina have been listed in CITES Appendix II.

Importation of live frogs

The five principal organisations importing live frogs are located in areas where frogs were traditionally collected before populations became endangered in France.

The animals are mainly imported from Egypt, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece; a small number also come from Italy, Poland, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Rumania.

The species imported are Rana esculenta group, R. ridibunda and, to a lesser extent, R. temporaria. Transportation is mainly by plane or by truck.

Importation of Frozen Frogs' Legs into France (1973-1987) (in tonnes)

Years	COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN						
	Indonesia	India	Turkey	Bangladesh	China	Other Countries	Total
1973	1509	628	103	-	-	38	2278
1974	830	440	36	-	-	41	1347
1975	1024	521	170	60	-	139	1914
1976	963	1502	171	30	-	109	2775
1977	1306	1369	190	172	-	114	3151
1978	1289	1451	212	153	-	52	3157
1979	1927	1756	141	151	70	68	4113
1980	1635	1761	126	259	218	47	4046
1981	1935	1760	256	207	226	132	4516
1982	902	1145	155	168	170	88	2628
1983	2111	1020	253	594	130	414	4522
1984	1638	723	147	152	40	43	2743
1985	2105	284	272	161	65	49	2936
1986	2659	208	297	72	29	157	3422
1987	2303	8	165	60	45	450	3031
TOTAL	24136	14576	2694	2239	993	1941	46579

Source: French Customs statistics

CITES Implementation in Sweden

A report evaluating the implementation of CITES in Sweden was published in February 1988 by WWF-Sweden and the Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening. Authored by M. Forslund, C. Andrén and G. Nilsson, the report (entitled Sveriges import och export av exotiska djur) deals mainly with trade in birds and reptiles. Some aspects of the report are summarised below.

The import and export of animals in Sweden is regulated by eight laws and decrees. The identification of birds being imported is not checked at the ports of entry but identification by vets in private quarantine premises is required. However, there is virtually no training in identification techniques of either vets or Customs officers and the CITES Identification Manuals and other materials are not available at any port of entry.

Birds

In the sixteen years 1971-1986, more than 300 000 parrots were imported, with a peak of 44 607 in 1978.

In the five years 1982-1986 a total of 50 670 was recorded, comprising 110 species (43 South East Asian, 22 African, 45 Latin American). Of these, more than 13 000, of 32 species, were claimed to be captive-bred, nearly all (97%) from the German Democratic Republic. The value of these imports was an estimated SKr119-132 million (about US$20-22 million) with cockatoos Cacatua (14%) macaws Ara (14%) and Grey Parrots Psittacus erithacus (20%) as the most important groups. During the same period Sweden re-exported 8566 parrots of 53 species, most of them (94%) to Canada. About 20% of those exported were apparently captive-bred.

Official figures for birds not covered by CITES have not been collected recently, but in the period 1971-1974 more than 370 000 were imported, classified only as 'finches'. The Environmental Investigation Agency analysed Swedish quarantine data for the period 1980 to 1986 and extracted details relating to 81 658 birds of 60 species. These came from 15 different countries, including Senegal (33 765), German Democratic Republic (22 341), Tanzania (12 694), Singapore (5977), India (1924), Czechoslovakia (1815) and Hong Kong (1180). In 1986 and 1987 there were, excluding parrots, about 85 bird species available for sale.

The mortality of birds in quarantine during the period 1981-86 amounted to 19% for parrots and 20% for other birds. A comparison between Swedish quarantine data and the import statistics derived from the annual reports submitted to CITES for the period 1982 to 1986, revealed substantial discrepancies. The corresponding details for 199 consignments were compared but, even allowing a 10% margin for minor errors, the figures were closely similar for only 62 of the transactions (31% of the total).

The numbers of parrots imported and re-exported during the period 1982 to 1985, as reported in the annual reports submitted to the CITES Secretariat, have been compared with the numbers reported as exports to Sweden by CITES Parties (from comparative tabulations provided by WTMU). The total recorded by Sweden is 37 171 compared with 29 555 reported by exporting CITES Parties. The difference is mainly due to imports from non-CITES countries, especially Singapore, and non-reporting CITES Parties, especially Senegal. There were, however, some substantial differences in reported figures, e.g. Sweden reported importing 1956 Psittacus erithacus from Ghana whereas Ghana reported the export to Sweden of only 120. Many of the birds reported by Sweden were exported by countries that are not range states for the species. The countries of origin are given only rarely and this may have led to the import of a number of species that are totally protected in all countries of origin, e.g. Cacatua galerita and Eclectus roratus.

Similarly, the exports of parrots from Sweden have been compared with imports reported by CITES Parties. The exports reported by Sweden for the period 1982 to 1985 amount to 5729 compared to a total of 7954 reported by importing countries i.e. 39% more than reported by Sweden. This is despite the fact that Sweden's figures are based on permits issued rather than actual exports.

Reptiles

The import of reptiles to Sweden was banned on 1 January 1970 because of the risk of introducing salmonellosis. This was rescinded, however, in the spring of 1987 for a trial period of six months. The import during this period amounted to 60 000 animals of between 80 and 100 species, of which about half entered Sweden through Landvetter Airport, near Gothenburg. Detailed statistics from this airport indicate that the majority were turtles (Testudinata) (67%) with smaller numbers of lizards (Sauria) (21%) and snakes (Serpentes) (10%). Rare or protected species included 100 Indotestudo (=Geochelone) forstenii from 'Asia' and 210 Malacochersus tornieri from 'Africa'. Permit applications included a further 900 Indotestudo forstenii (a little-known species from south-west India, and Halmahera and Sulawesi in Indonesia) and 300 Testudo spp. from Greece (where all tortoises are protected). A total of 30 000 CITES Appendix II reptiles was licensed but only 1500 were imported.

The market value of the 60 000 imported reptiles was estimated as SKr20-25 million (US$3.3-4.2 million).

Initially many of the animals arrived in poor condition with more than 50% mortality in some consignments, but official criticism led to some improvement in later consignments.

Amphibians

Importers are expected to declare the import of CITES-listed specimens and no other system of control is implemented. Some CITES Appendix I species have recently been available in the pet trade, for instance Chinese Giant Salamander Andrias davidianus. The total number of amphibians imported is unknown.

Fish

No statistics on the import of fish are available but the annual pet trade turnover is estimated to be worth SKr50 million (US$8 million), of which more than 95% relates to freshwater species.

Mammals

Few mammals are imported into Sweden but those which entered during the period 1982 to 1985 included seven species of monkeys for medical research and 50 monkeys of 17 species for zoos.

Animal Products

The most important species involved in the fur trade during the period 1982 to 1985 were Grey Wolf Canis lupus and Eurasian Lynx Felis lynx. The reptile skin trade was dominated by watchstraps made from Spectacled Caiman Caiman crocodilus and Green Iguana Iguana iguana, imported from Austria, Italy and Switzerland. The total value of these was SKr30 million (US$5 million).▷

▷ The following measures have been proposed by the Swedish Ornithological Society and WWF-Sweden to improve the implementation of CITES in Sweden:

1) The establishment of a central, governmental quarantine station to control the import and export of all (not only species listed by CITES) live birds, reptiles and amphibians including their products (except food articles). Exceptions to this routine should only be given to trade for scientific purposes.

2) To guarantee an effective control, both veterinarians and zoological experts should be employed.

3) All information on trade in animals included in the Appendices of CITES should be computerized according to the newly established system ("CORALS") already adopted by several CITES members.

4) Until the above arrangements have been established, a moratorium on all trade in live birds, reptiles and amphibians should be implemented.

The following suggestions were made to improve the control of trade in CITES species within Sweden:

A. Establish a national registration system of all species listed in Appendix I of CITES and provide powers for the authorities to confiscate unregistered specimens. Since 1982, all imported parrots included in Appendix II have been ringed in the Swedish quarantine stations. The Management Authority keeps a central record of these activities, but so far, without any obvious practical application. These ideas and routines should be extended.

B. Besides the above proposals, a general endeavour to limit the commercial trade in live exotic animals (birds, reptiles, amphibians) was also suggested by:

i) determining (with the aid of specialist advice) and publishing a positive list of species of birds, reptiles and amphibians, which are suitable to be kept in captivity and which are able to withstand the stresses of transport. This idea is supported by the Swedish CITES Scientific Authority.

ii) encouraging carefully controlled captive-breeding programmes for birds, to decrease the removal of popular species from the wild. This is in line with Resolution Conf. 1.6 adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Bern, 1976, and also agrees with point 2.5 ("Trade in wild birds") in ICBP's Action Plan for the period 1986-1990.

iii) being much more restrictive in allowing imports of Appendix I species with the asserted aim to include them in a captive-breeding programme. Such an activity must be supported by and planned in close connection with international organisations such as IUCN or WWF.

iv) prohibiting re-exports of wild-caught animals. Sweden should avoid working as a "transit" country and instead plead for more direct shipments. This would reduce the risk of laundering wildlife illegally exported from the countries of origin.

v) strengthening the Swedish legislation, to stop all imports of CITES-listed and non-listed species from countries which ban their export.

Tim Inskipp, WTMU

Cat Skins on Sale in Djibouti

Hundreds of Leopard Panthera pardus and Cheetah Acinonyx jubatus skins smuggled from Somalia and Ethiopia are being sold annually in curio shops in Djibouti city, Djibouti, according to a reliable source, reports Cat News (July 1988). Despite a ban on trade, peddlars in Djibouti offer baby Cheetahs, and sometimes baby Leopards, which have probably been smuggled in from neighbouring countries. They are bought by local people and tourists. Most of the cats suffer from poor nutrition and ill-treatment and soon die.

The report says that Cheetah have almost completely disappeared from Djibouti, where they were still common 10 years ago. They are shot on sight or poisoned by nomads who claim Cheetah eat their goats. Poachers are said to be using automatic weapons and are destroying an increasing number of cats.

Seized Skins Burnt in Brazil

Thousands of skins of Jaguar Panthera onca, Puma Felis concolor, Ocelot Felis pardalis and "alligators" (presumably Caiman crocodilus), illegally killed in the Pantanal, Brazil, were reportedly to be burnt by judicial order in July 1988, in order to prevent their sale.

The skins were seized from poachers by agents of the Forestry police.

Source: The Daily Telegraph (UK), 20 July 1988

UK Government Sets New Standards for Dolphinaria

Strict new standards for dolphinaria were announced on 31 August 1988 by the UK Environment Minister, Lord Caithness.

The new standards are the result of the Government Steering Group's review of the detailed recommendations made in A Review of Dolphinaria, prepared for the Department of the Environment by Dr Margaret Klinowska and Dr Sidney Brown.

The Department of the Environment is responsible for licensing the import and display of cetaceans in the UK, under EEC Regulations related to CITES. The Department has not granted any import permits since 1983 and, says the Minister, permits will not be granted in future unless applicants have demonstrated that the minimum standards for the keeping of Cetacea, as laid down in the Report of the Steering Group, have been met.

The report contains recommendations on: the biology and conservation of Cetacea; mortality rates; water treatment; legislation; welfare; education; research; breeding; and standards of accommodation. All dolphinaria in the UK must meet these standards of accommodation within five years if they are to continue to operate.

Copies of the Report of the Steering Group on Dolphinaria are available from the Department of the Environment, Publications Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex, UK. Price: UK£6.40.

Primates in the Netherlands

by Astrid van Senus, TRAFFIC(Netherlands)

A report just published by TRAFFIC(Netherlands) and the International Primate Protection League (NL) (see page 24), provides a survey of species and numbers of non-human primates in the Netherlands. Legislation concerning trade and possession of exotic animals, as well as legislation concerning use of primates for scientific purposes are reviewed briefly. Data on import, export and re-export, various collections, scientific experiments and commercial use are presented and evaluated. A summary of the report is presented below.

Legislation

Legal import and use of wild-caught primates rapidly decreased following the implementation of the Endangered Exotic Animal Species Act in 1977. In spite of the strict enforcement of legislation, there are still indications of illegal transactions involving considerable numbers of primates. Several cases of illegal, commercial importation of primates have occurred in the last few years. In addition, doubts arose in 1987 concerning the accuracy of claims that Chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) exported from Cuba had been bred in captivity there.

Import and Export and Re-export

A survey was conducted of import, export and re-export of primates in the years 1984-1986 and most of 1987. Transactions were dominated by the transit trade in wild-caught Vervet Monkeys Cercopithecus aethiops from Kenya. Most Vervets were re-exported to the USSR for research purposes.

Trade in protected (Appendix I) specimens concerns only a few animals, mostly captive-bred. Trade within the EEC is also dominated by captive-bred specimens.

Private Possession

Although primates are still kept by licensed, private owners, in future this will be increasingly restricted to serious breeders. Currently 19 private collections are registered, with 155 animals. Black-capped Capuchins Cebus apella and Common Squirrel Monkeys Saimiri sciureus are most popular.

Zoo Collections

A total of 1516 primates was recorded at eight large and nine small zoos. The large zoos held 1428 of these (95%) towards the end of 1987 and the family Cercopithecidae was represented by the largest number of species and specimens. Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys S. sciureus boliviensis and Hamadryas Baboons Papio hamadryas are kept in the largest numbers. Although the goal of modern zoos is to keep fewer species with greater numbers of each, this is not reflected by the data obtained. Numbers of species and specimens of primates appear to have been more or less constant over the years.

Research

In 1986, the total number of primates kept in the 12 different research institutes was about 2090 specimens. Rhesus Macaques Macaca mulatta and Crab-eating Macaques Macaca fascicularis were represented in the largest numbers. In 1986, a total of 553 experiments were conducted for mainly scientific purposes. More than 50% of these experiments involved the killing of the animal. The worldwide interest in AIDS research has caused an increase in the demand for Chimpanzees as research models; some research on chemical warfare is also still carried out on primates.

Due to legislative measures and improvement of research techniques, use of primates for research has decreased by 73% since 1977. This decrease is expected to continue because of the high costs of housing and breeding, the development of alternative research methods and the growing awareness that experiments can be performed on species other than primates.

At present, Dutch research institutes are self-supporting and all primates used are captive-bred. Exchanges take place between research institutes and sometimes with zoos.

Reception Centres

As a result of the restrictions on possession and use of primates, large numbers have been transferred to the two 'reception centres' in the Netherlands. Recently, more and more surplus laboratory primates are being placed in these centres, instead of animals from private owners. The centres transfer many primates, preferably in newly formed social groups, to bona fide zoos.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Although administrative systems proved to be adequate for compilation of a near-complete inventory of the primates in the Netherlands, and although the Dutch protection of primates is generally excellent, the following remarks can be made:

1. The various statistics collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on import, export, private possession, zoo and laboratory collections are not easily accessible. Data on private possession were not updated and collection of these data was very time-consuming.

2. After 1992, when the internal EEC trade barriers will be removed, it will be even more important to prevent illegal imports into the Netherlands. An increase in specialised personnel will be necessary to ensure that the external EC borders are secure. As the smuggling of endangered species is often very profitable, it is recommended that legal penalties should be based on the value of the smuggled goods.

3. There are problems relating to the breeding of primates in zoos, but it should be noted that better breeding results would result from improvement of housing conditions, exchange of animals, and introduction of genetically sound breeding programmes. In this respect the concentration of primates in specialised institutes is recommended. The exchange of animals between zoos and laboratories could be improved by the development of a computerized administrative system as soon as possible.

4. Experiments on primates should be reviewed at all institutes by a multi-disciplined ethical commission.

5. Scientific research on the impact of trade on wild populations of Vervet Monkeys is recommended. If the 'harvest' of this species proves not to be sustainable, the range states for the species should be approached with a view to restricting exports.

6. Improved education on the necessity for preservation of threatened species may cause a change in the habit of keeping them as pets.

Wild populations of many of the more than 200 different species of non-human primates are threatened. The low success rate of programmes to establish captive-bred and captured animals in the wild is an important factor that is not generally appreciated. It emphasises the necessity for strict controls to prevent illegal trade in wild-caught primates, and to keep the market for threatened species at an absolute minimum.

Giant Panda Loans Under Review

by Lynne Hardie, World Wildlife Fund-US

The Giant Panda Ailuropoda melanoleuca is one of the most critically endangered mammals in the world. Despite millions of dollars put into Panda conservation, the continued survival of the species remains uncertain. The Giant Panda is listed in CITES Appendix I and as "endangered" under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA).

A 1976 survey concluded that fewer than 1000 Pandas survived in a remote, mountainous region of China. These continue to be threatened by poachers and by loss of habitat to forestry and agriculture. An estimated 80 to 100 Pandas are in captivity in China and an additional 18 are in zoos outside the country. While many specimens are involved in captive-breeding programmes, in general, such efforts have yielded poor results.

Many conservationists believe that short-term, non-breeding loans of Pandas from China pose yet another threat to the species. To date, six US zoos have exhibited "borrowed" Pandas in exchange for large fees, and some 30 zoos and amusement parks in the USA have expressed interest in acquiring their own short-term pairs. The financial terms of the earlier short-term loans appeared sound, involving fees paid by host institutions to China, with the agreement that the money would be applied to Panda conservation projects.

However, conservation organisations had been watching the growing list of potential Panda recipients with apprehension. Many questions surrounding the circumstances of these loans remained unanswered. Were specimens being sent abroad viable for breeding? Were they from captive or wild populations? Why did Chinese agreements clearly state that breeding or research efforts were not permitted?

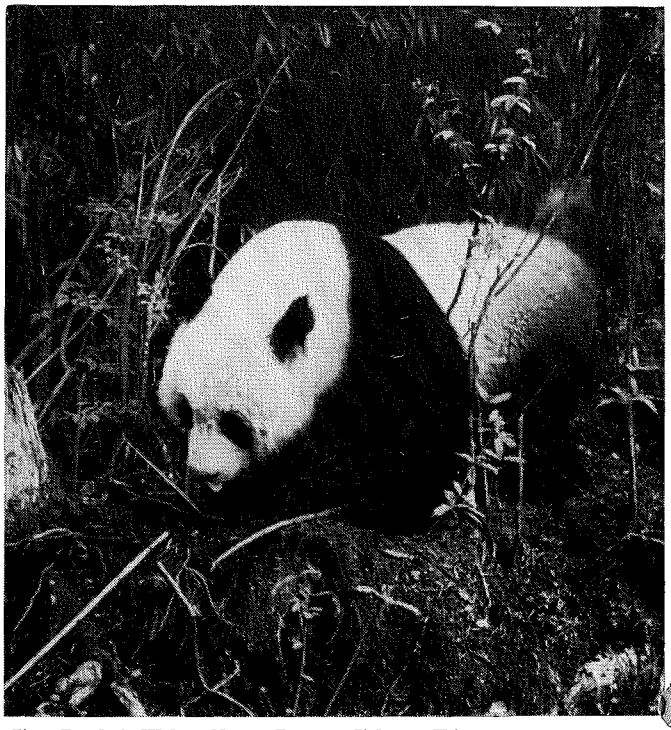
While earlier import permits were approved for the purposes of educational display under ESA, on the grounds that education of the public would enhance "survival of the species", critics argued that the primary incentive for zoos to obtain Pandas was commercial. In fact, zoos with borrowed Pandas have benefitted financially from increased public attendance, concession sales, and revenue generated by sales of Panda items in gift shops.

In February 1988, WWF announced its new policy opposing short-term loans and urged the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to allow imports only for breeding purposes. Other groups, including the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) and IUCN adopted similar policies. These factors placed the USFWS under increasing pressure to ensure that Panda exhibition loans are allowed only when they clearly enhance the survival of the species.

Despite strong opposition from the conservation community, the USFWS issued a permit, in May 1988, to the Toledo Zoo, to import two Pandas of breeding-age for short-term exhibition. WWF and AAZPA promptly filed law suits against the USFWS for violating the ESA and CITES. The plaintiffs charged that the import was for primarily commercial purposes - the zoo expected to bring in US$3.3 million from the exhibit - and was not for scientific purposes, nor to enhance the propagation or survival of the species as the law requires.

WWF and AAZPA sought an injunction to have the exhibit closed and the animals shipped back to China. The judge in the case, implicitly acknowledging the commercial intent of the exhibit, ordered the Toledo Zoo to stop charging the extra fee for visitors to view the Pandas, while allowing the animals to remain on display.

Three days later, the USFWS denied a request from the Department of Natural Resources, Michigan, to import two other Pandas for exhibition purposes. The Service then announced in the Federal Register (24 June 1988), that a moratorium would be imposed on Panda loan applications, until a new policy could be adopted. In the meantime the CITES Secretariat, on 23 May, issued a long statement in a notification to Parties which included the following:



Giant Panda in Wolong Nature Reserve, Sichuan, China.
©WWF/GEO/Timm Rautert

- support in principle of exhibition loans which can be beneficial in furthering the cause of conservation; emphasising that such loans must be subject to the most stringent conditions and procedures;

- a recommendation that, because of the special circumstances applying to Giant Panda exhibition loans, these should only be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Convention applying to Appendix I species; in other words no trade should take place under the exemptions from these provisions included in Article VII.

- a suggestion that the Government of China no longer permits any zoo to capture or take any wild panda and that it keep the number of exhibition loans to the bare minimum;

- an indication that, since the use of breeding-age adults for exhibition purposes may reduce captive-breeding potential, it would be appropriate to use for loans only animals too young, too old or otherwise unsuitable to breed.

On 13 September, the Chinese Government suspended all Panda loans to the USA. China has since requested the return of the Pandas at Toledo Zoo by 25 October 1988, a month earlier than originally planned.

China and the USA are now pursuing parallel policies on Panda loans. It appears that the joint moratorium will remain in effect until the two countries reach agreement on a common policy that will benefit Panda conservation.

Gorillas from Spain Stay in Japan

In May 1987, two Lowland Gorillas Gorilla gorilla gorilla were imported into Japan from Spain. TRAFFIC(Japan) was informed by Japan's CITES Management Authority (MITI) that the animals were allegedly 'captive-bred'. According to the veterinary certificate, the female Gorilla was born in June 1983 and the male in September 1984, at the Ringland Circus of Tortosa, Spain. However, the combined weight of the animals was only 25 kg, suggesting that the animals were much younger than indicated by these dates. Moreover, a reliable informant, who saw the Gorillas at the dealer's warehouse, stated that the animals were less than two years old. Unfortunately, Japan's Scientific Authority was not informed when the issue was under review.

The only institution in Spain which is known to have successfully bred Gorillas is the Barcelona zoo, but none of their captive-bred animals has ever been sold commercially.

The CITES Secretariat, WWF-Spain, the International Primate Protection League and other conservation organisations made enquiries to the Spanish CITES Management Authority concerning the Gorillas. On 21 January 1988 the Spanish Management Authority informed the CITES Secretariat that, since the animals imported to Japan were obviously different from the animals the export permit had been issued for, they intended to cancel the original export permit and inform the Japanese Management Authority of this development. However, in March 1988, Spain informed Japan through diplomatic channels that, because there were official veterinary certificates stating that the Gorillas were captive-bred, Spain regarded the export as legitimate.

At TRAFFIC(Japan)'s request, MITI conducted an examination of the Gorillas on 18 April. They found that, although the female was around the age stated on the veterinary certificate, the male was definitely much younger than alleged. The Japanese Government communicated its findings to the Spanish Management Authority and asked for its reconfirmation. Close examination of the veterinary certificates has revealed other discrepancies. The number on the document for the four-year-old animal is sequentially higher than the number on the certificate for the younger animal.

In the meantime, Barcelona Zoo has offered to accept the Gorillas and to pay for the cost of their return to Spain. However, MITI maintained that, unless Spain acknowledged that these animals were actually not 'captive-bred', as stated on the original export permit, MITI could not request the Japanese dealer holding the Gorillas to surrender them. In fact, it seems that the Spanish export permit was issued before the Japanese import permit; thus it appears that the export permit was issued in contravention of Article III.2.(d) of CITES.

At the end of September, Spain, through diplomatic channels communicated to Japan that the court of Tortos, Spain had ruled that the veterinary certificates were valid, and therefore the export had been completely legal under CITES. On 19 October, MITI publicly announced that they would allow the animals to be sold to a zoo in Japan. A pair of Gorillas has a value of 85 million Yen (US$630 000) in Japan.

Placement of the Gorillas in Japanese zoos does not appear to be the best solution if their past record is examined. While Japan holds approximately 10 per cent of the world's captive Gorillas, only six births (of which two died) have ever been reported and none of the animals was reared by their mothers. Gorilla facilities in Japan are notoriously inadequate; significantly, of the eight Gorillas that have been imported since Japan's ratification of CITES in 1980, two have died from kidney problems and ulcers, apparently related to stress.

Source: *TRAFFIC(Japan)*

Japanese Insurance Companies Highlight CITES

The Marine & Fire Insurance Association of Japan, which has 23 member companies, has adopted a new "Wild Fauna and Flora Clause", in its standard insurance policy, which became operational on 1 September 1988. The clause reads as follows:

> "It is understood and agreed that
>
> (1) no claim will be paid unless the trade of the goods covered hereunder are lawful in the light of any rules, regulations and/or laws enforced in compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in each country of origin, export, re-export or import;
> (2) the assured, if required by this company, shall submit certificates, permits, vouchers and/or other documents showing that the trade is not inconsistent with the above rules, regulations and/or laws; and
> (3) this company shall have the right to investigate facts and legality in respect of the trade in the case of claims being presented."

Even without introducing such a clause, the insurance companies are, theoretically, entitled to decline any claim that pertains to illegal trade. The English Marine Insurance Act 1906, upon which international marine insurance activities are based, states that, as far as possible, any consignment must be transported in a lawful manner. So, although the new clause is not indispensable, in order to clarify their firm stance against illegal wildlife trade, the companies have decided to include this clause in their policies. TRAFFIC(Japan) worked with the association in this endeavour. The need to draw CITES to the attention of insurance companies was highlighted by the case of the three gorillas illegally shipped from Cameroon to Taiwan in 1987; all of the animals were heavily insured (reportedly for $150 000 each) and only one survived (Traffic Bulletin 9(1):2).

TRAFFIC(Japan) believes the Wild Fauna and Flora Clause to be the first in the world to be adopted in an insurance policy and welcomes an arrangement which will make traders more aware of CITES and will thus help the Convention to be implemented more efficiently.

Source: *TRAFFIC(Japan)*

Skins Seized in India

On 9 April 1988, wildlife officials in New Delhi seized skins of Tiger Panthera tigris, Leopard Panthera pardus and "jackal" worth more than US$154 000.

Mohammed Yusuf Wani of Chandni Chowk was arrested whilst allegedly carrying the skins to an undisclosed destination. He has been charged under section 50 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which deals with the unlawful acquisition of scheduled items.

Source: *Indian Express, 11 April 1988*

Publications Available

Significant trade in wildlife: A review of selected species listed in CITES Appendix II

1988. Price: £10 per volume; complete set £26 (3 volumes).

Published by IUCN and CITES. Available from World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK, and the CITES Secretariat, 6 rue du Maupas, Case postale 78, 1000 Lausanne 9, Switzerland.

Recognising that a number of Parties exporting Appendix II wildlife were unable effectively to implement Article IV.3 of the Convention unilaterally, in 1983 the Conference of the Parties to CITES called on its Technical Committee to identify species traded at potentially significant levels and for which inadequate information was available. This resulted in the establishment of a project by the CITES Secretariat, in which the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre* carried out detailed studies of 145 commonly traded species. The results of this review, published in three volumes, provide not only an insight into the way in which CITES has protected various potentially threatened species of wildlife but also collect together, in many cases for the first time, a vast quantity of information on the species and the size and effects of the trade in them. For each species, the global distribution and population size is assessed, the levels of international and domestic trade are described, together with the legislation and other measures taken to protect it in each country throughout its range. An introduction to each volume, in English, French and Spanish, explains the background to the review and details what corrective measures have been recommended.

Volume 1: Mammals

Edited by Steven Broad, Richard Luxmoore and Martin Jenkins.

Saguinus labiatus, S. mystax, Saimiri sciureus, Cercopithecus petaurista, Colobus guereza, C. polykomos, Macaca fascicularis, Dusicyon culpaeus, D. griseus, Conepatus humboldtii, Lutra perspicillata, Felis colocolo, F. geoffroyi, F. lynx, F. manul, F. pardalis, F. tigrina, F. wiedii, Monodon monoceros, Equus zebra hartmannae, Lama guanicoe, Manis spp.

Volume 2: Reptiles and Invertebrates

Edited by Richard Luxmoore, Brian Groombridge and Steven Broad.

Geochelone chilensis, G. pardalis, Malacochersus tornieri, Testudo graeca, T. hermanni, T. horsfieldii, Podocnemis expansa, Caiman crocodilus, Crocodylus n. novaeguineae, C. porosus, Phelsuma abbotti, P. astriata, P. cepediana, P. comorensis, P. dubia, P. laticauda, P. madagascariensis, P. v-nigra, Chamaeleo bitaeniatus, C. gracilis, C. hoehnelii, C. jacksonii, Iguana iguana, Dracaena guianensis, Tupinambis spp., Varanus exanthematicus, V. indicus, V. niloticus, V. salvator, Boa constrictor, Eunectes murinus, E. notaeus, Python curtus, P. molurus, P. reticulatus, P. sebae.
Ornithoptera caelestis, O. priamus, Papustyla pulcherrima, Cirrhipathes anguina.

Volume 3: Birds

Edited by Tim Inskipp, Steven Broad and Richard Luxmoore.

Rhea americana albescens, Agapornis fischeri, A. personata, Alisterus amboinensis, Alisterus chloropterus, Amazona aestiva, A. albifrons, A. amazonica, A. autumnalis, A. farinosa, A. finschi, A. ochrocephala, A. tucumana, A. viridigenalis, Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus, Aprosmictus erythropterus, Aprosmictus jonquillaceus, Ara ararauna, A. auricollis, A. chloroptera, A. manilata, A. militaris, A. nobilis, A. severa, Aratinga acuticaudata, A. aurea, A. auricapilla, A. canicularis, A. holochlora, A. mitrata, A. nana, A. solstitialis, A. wagleri, A. weddellii, Bolborhynchus aymara, B. orbygnesius, Brotogeris cyanoptera, B. tirica, B. versicolorus, Cacatua alba, C. galerita, C. goffini, C. moluccensis, C. sanguinea, C. sulphurea, Charmosyna pulchella, Cyanoliseus patagonus, Deroptyus accipitrinus, Eclectus roratus, E. bornea, E. reticulata, E. squamata, Forpus xanthops, Loriculus amabalis, L. galgulus, L. pusillus, Lorius garrulus, Nandayus nenday, Pionites leucogaster, Pionopsitta barrabandi, Pionus chalcopterus, P. maximiliani, P. sordidus, Poicephalus senegalus, Probosciger aterrimus, Pseudeos fuscata, Psittacula derbiana, P. longicauda, P. roseata, Psittacus erithacus, Pyrrhura frontalis, P. melanura, P. molinae, Tanygnathus heterurus, Trichoglossus euteles, T. flavoviridis, T. goldiei, T. haematodus, Glaucidium cuculoides.

Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations

1988. 63 pp. Price: £5 (US$10) incl. postage.

Published by and available from WTMU, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK.

The latest edition of this publication includes details of all amendments to the CITES Appendices and changes to the list of reservations held by CITES Parties, up to September 1988. This publication is in two parts. Part 1 contains lists of all taxa ever listed in CITES Appendices I, II and III and their English common names, with annotations to show when each taxon was listed, deleted or transferred from one Appendix to another. It includes seven pages of nomenclatural and explanatory notes. Part 2 contains a record of all the specific Reservations ever entered by Parties to CITES, with annotations to show when the reservations became effective, when they were withdrawn and in some cases why.

International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study

1988. 168 pp. Price: US$10 plus postage.

Available from Ashley Associates, Inc., PO Box 13679, Tallahassee, Florida 32317, USA.

A collection of papers on the international trade in crocodilian skins compiled under contract by WTMU and TRAFFIC(Japan). Articles cover the world trade in classic crocodilian skins since 1977, exports to Europe of Crocodylus niloticus skins from Sudan, and Japanese imports of crocodile and alligator skins from 1970 to July 1986.

Coral Reefs of the World

Volume 1: Atlantic and Eastern Pacific
Volume 2: Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Gulf
Volume 3: Central and Western Pacific

1988. Price: £25 (US$45) per volume; complete set £60 (US$100). Add 17½% to cover postage by sea.

Published by IUCN and available from IUCN Publications Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK.

Coral reefs are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. Teeming with life, they are also one of the world's most productive natural communities. They are also under increasing threat. Pollution, siltation, illegal trade, and development pressures are generating growing concern amongst conservationists and scientists about the future of coral reefs as a biological and economic resource.

For the first time, this new three volume reference work catalogues the significant coral reefs of the world, their geographical context and ecology, their current condition and status in legislation, and prescriptions for their conservation and sustainable use. Each volume contains detailed maps for each country covered.

The work was commissioned by UNEP's Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC), and compiled by the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Threatened Primates of Africa
The IUCN Red Data Book

By Phyllis Lee, Jane Thornback and Elizabeth Bennett

1988. 176 pp. Price: £12 (US$24) plus postage.

Published by IUCN and available from IUCN Publications Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK.

This new volume in the IUCN Red Data Book series provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive review available of the conservation status of African primates. Thirty species, comprising over 50% of the primate fauna of Africa, have been identified as threatened, ranging from the little-known Angwantibo to the Gorilla and Chimpanzee. For each of the species a detailed account is provided, with information on distribution, population status, habitat, ecology, threats to survival and conservation action, as well as a summary of captive-breeding efforts and a bibliography. Fourteen of the species are illustrated with black-and-white photographs. An introduction places this information in the broader context of African primate conservation and discusses such issues as the use of primates in biomedical research and the vital role they play as indicators of habitat loss.

Non-Human primates in the Netherlands, by Frans A. van der Helm and Ignaas Spruit, is available from TRAFFIC(Netherlands) (address back page) for £8 (US$5). Review of report on page 20.

The Animal Smugglers by John Nichol

1987. 198 pp. Price: £14.95. Published by Christopher Helm, London.

A very individualistic view of the trade in animals and animal products, and of the people involved in the trade, The Animal Smugglers is addressed to a general audience. Although it refers to many facets of the trade, using information from a wide variety of sources, it consists largely of stories about selected aspects, based on the author's own experience (including his experience as an animal catcher). These aspects of the trade include: the use of animals for products in Asian markets; bird markets; cruelty in the trade; the trapping of live animals; and so on. John Nichol's story-telling style and personalised approach make this a 'popular' book and a 'good read' although, curiously for such a book, it does not really explain how CITES works. It is not full of statistics about trade and does not attempt to be thorough, but the details and the variety of topics addressed make it of interest to anyone concerned with animal trade.

Wildlife management in sub-Saharan Africa. Sustainable economic benefits and contribution towards economic development

1988. 727 pp. Price: French Francs 250 or US$45.

Edited and published by the International Foundation for the Conservation of Game. Available from C.I.C., 15 Rue de Téhéran, F-75008, Paris, France.

This book presents the proceedings of the international symposium and conference on "Wildlife management in sub-Saharan Africa", which was organised by the International Foundation for the Conservation of Game (IGF) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), in collaboration with FAO and under the patronage of UNESCO, held in October 1987 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The papers presented during the symposium covered many aspects of wildlife utilisation including economic factors, practical techniques for wildlife management and discussion of the institutional influences within this area of interest.

The meeting was organised in recognition of the fact that the socio-economic values of wildlife are not or are only incompletely accounted for in most African economies. It was also recognised that exchange of information between African countries was essential, because the level of development of wildlife utilisation and mangagement programmes varied considerably from one country to another. It was hoped that even rough estimates of real wildlife values in different countries, if brought to the attention of government development planners and decision-makers, would have an influence on future land-use planning, and would contribute to increased self-sufficiency in food and greater well-being of African people. Furthermore, consideration of the export potential for wildlife products and wildlife-based industries could be a deciding factor in giving preference to wildlife utilisation against other land-use practices which often carry a higher risk of environmental depredation in the long term.

* On 1 July 1988, IUCN, UNEP and WWF agreed jointly to support the restructuring and development of the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, which has subsequently been reconstituted as the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

TRAFFIC Network Activities

A new feature in the Traffic Bulletin will be a short report on the current, most important work activities being carried out by the offices of the TRAFFIC Network.

There are currently ten offices in the Network, plus the co-ordinating office TRAFFIC(International), and in the near future it is intended that TRAFFIC offices will be established in the following regions: South East Asia; East/Southern Africa; West/Central Africa; and Central America.

A key focus for the Network currently, and in the coming year, is the ivory trade and we will be contributing to the development and implementation of a broader programme for African Elephant conservation, between IUCN and WWF, in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat and the EEC.

TRAFFIC(Austria)

TRAFFIC(Austria) has been working on a plan for training CITES identification experts. In future a network of experts will improve CITES implementation in Austria by intensifying controls and providing actual trade data.

Comments on a proposal to amend Austria's CITES implementation law are in preparation. Work is continuing to promote the establishment of a plan for the provisional disposal of confiscated live animals.

TRAFFIC(Belgium)

From 6-8 June 1988, TRAFFIC(Belgium) staff were invited to the headquarters of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) in Brussels to participate in drafting a basic course on CITES, which could be used by trainers within the Customs administrations of the 104 CCC-member states. The skeleton 'module', which was prepared at this workshop, should be ready for distribution by October 1988.

TRAFFIC(Belgium) has provided information to the Belgian authorities which has resulted in a number of seizures and prosecutions being carried out (see page 9).

A leaflet on wildlife souvenir trade "Nothing to declare? Nothing to regret?" has been produced for European tourists. The leaflet was sponsored by the European Community under the 'European Year of the Environment' programme and is available in eight European languages. 150 000 copies were distributed to EEC member states in June 1988.

Limited numbers of a brochure about CITES regulations for plants can be obtained free of charge from TRAFFIC(Belgium) (French and Dutch versions only).

TRAFFIC(France)

Training of officials is currently a high priority. A seminar on CITES was organised in May 1988 by TRAFFIC(France), in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, for the veterinarians working at the ports of entry. Similar seminars will be held for Customs officers in autumn 1988. In September 1988, TRAFFIC(France) participated in a conference, organised by a syndicate of veterinarians, for the purpose of educating the owners of wild animals about CITES.

A study of trade in marine turtle products has been carried out and a study on the international trade in frogs' legs is currently in progress (see this issue for a report on the import of frogs into France page 17).

TRAFFIC(Germany)

A study by TRAFFIC(Germany) on Germany's trade in psittacines, and the extent of captive-breeding operations for psittacines in Germany, has been completed.

A computerized database on wildlife trade data and wildlife trade regulations in various countries is being developed.

An analysis of the trade in Tillandsia spp., whose numbers have drastically declined in their natural habitat, has revealed that Germany is one of the major importing countries of these plants. Of the 137 tons exported from Guatemala, from January 1987 to March 1988, to Europe and North America, 54% (78 tons) went to Germany. An investigation carried out in Guatemala shows that 50%-70% of the plants exported from this area are collected in the wild.

A German wildlife trade education kit ("Artenschutzkoffer") aimed at school children, is in its final stages. The kit consists of a suitcase containing confiscated CITES specimens; data on trade, teaching instructions on how to introduce the subject into the school curriculum, and a slide show. The kits will be on loan to interested teachers.

TRAFFIC(Italy)

TRAFFIC(Italy) is currently engaged in a project concerning the collection, trade in and protection of Italian herpetofauna, the results of which will be published in 1989.

Discussions are underway with members of Parliament on the presentation of a bill to impose penalties for violations of CITES.

Meetings are being arranged with the Italian CITES Management Authority to review recent imports of reptile skins (in particular, crocodilians), and to study the possibility of an inventory of existing stocks.

TRAFFIC(Japan)

Three of TRAFFIC(Japan)'s major areas of activity are related in articles in this issue. Over the last eight months, TRAFFIC(Japan) has been investigating the illegal trade in caiman skins from Thailand to Japan (see page 2). In addition, the importation of two gorillas from Spain resulted in investigations which are still continuing (see page 22).

A number of insurance companies in Japan will soon place a clause in policies covering protected fauna and flora, initiated with the help of TRAFFIC(Japan) (see page 22).

TRAFFIC(Netherlands)

TRAFFIC(Netherlands) is currently analysing data on the trade in psittacines in the Netherlands. In addition, information is being gathered on the practice of sending live animals through the post. A report on the trade, ownership and utilisation of primates in the Netherlands has been published (for review, see page 20).

Leaflets for tourists on wildlife trade regulations have been distributed to travel agencies.

TRAFFIC(Netherlands) has also participated in formulating plans for the placement of confiscated animals, which is currently not well organised.

TRAFFIC(Oceania)

TRAFFIC(Oceania) has three major research projects underway at the moment. One is looking at the trade in Brush-tailed Possums Trichosurus vulpecula in Tasmania, where the species is considered to be a pest in agriculture and forestry. Around 250 000 were killed last year for their fur. Most of the skins are exported to countries like the UK, Korean Republic and New Zealand.

The second project also centres on Tasmania and is examining the Muttonbird industry. The Muttonbird, or Short-tailed Shearwater Puffinus tenuirostris is the only wild Australian bird to form the basis of a commerical industry. The chicks are taken for their feathers, oil and meat. There is also a non-commercial industry which has been the subject of considerable controversy because of past high levels of exploitation at some rookeries, and the methods used to kill the birds.

The third major project is seeking to establish contact with government agencies in the South Pacific islands, examine wildlife trade legislation and enforcement in those countries and identify problem areas. It is expected that this investigation will lead to more in depth investigations of trade in certain groups of species, in particular, trade in marine turtles and giant clams. It is also an objective of the project to encourage countries to accede to CITES. It is particularly important for marine turtle conservation that Fiji and the Solomon Islands should join CITES.

Back in Australia, TRAFFIC(Oceania) has been keeping abreast of a Government proposal to allow importation of live birds and eggs, and the continuing trade pressure on the government to allow exportation of cockatoos and sea snake skins. There is continued close liaison with national and international law enforcement agencies and provision of intelligence to support investigation into, and prosecutions of illegal traffickers in wildlife (see pages 11-12). TRAFFIC(Oceania) was present at the sixth International Coral Reef Symposium in Townsville, Australia, and organised a workshop on coral trade management on behalf of the TRAFFIC Network.

TRAFFIC(South America)

TRAFFIC(South America) is currently analysing the role that airline companies play in the trade in wildlife and related products.

The Director will shortly assist the Brazilian Government in preparation of a Breeding Management Plan for Spix's Macaw Cyanopsitta spixii (CITES Appendix I). In July he presented papers on trade in Neotropical psittacines and on zoos at the fifth Latin-American meeting on conservation and zoology of vertebrates.

TRAFFIC(South America) has also assisted in the seizures of several illegal wildlife shipments (see pages 2/8).

TRAFFIC(USA)

TRAFFIC(USA) has just launched a comprehensive review of how the USA is implementing CITES; this is being undertaken in full co-operation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The study aims to assess how the USA is meeting its obligations under the treaty, and was announced in July 1988 by TRAFFIC(USA) at a congressional oversight hearing on US CITES implementation. It will include recommendations on how the USA can improve its current CITES implementation system, and should complement similar efforts recently undertaken in the European Community, Japan, and Argentina.

The study will look at four distinct components of the trade: imports of live birds, live reptiles, reptile skins and plants, and the export of skins from native furbearing species. The reptile section will focus largely on South East Asian trade, while the bird section will include a complete review of the US bird import control system. In co-operation with WWF, TRAFFIC(USA) is hosting a series of meetings with representatives from industry, zoos, animal welfare organisations, aviculture organisations, and scientific institutions, to analyse the bird trade regulatory system in the USA and to develop recommendations for improvements.

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