

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Carlos Ibero, Dr Thomas Althaus and Dr Katalin Rodics in their capacity as Regional Representatives (Alternate for the first one) for Europe.

**General information**

2. AC Members: Dr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) and Dr Katalin Rodics (Hungary); Alternates: Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Dr Alexander G. Sorokin (Russian Federation).
3. Number of Parties in the region: 44

**Communication with Parties in the region since AC20 (Johannesburg, March-April 2004)**

4. European Representatives, Dr Thomas Althaus and Dr Katalin Rodics, addressed Parties in the region to inform them about the agenda of AC21 and requested information to elaborate the present report. Nine Parties answered: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
5. Katalin Rodics as European regional representative participated at the European Union Scientific Review Group meetings and informed them about the works and decisions of the Animals Committee.

**CITES activities in the region in respect to selected items of the Animals Committee**

Concerning Review of Significant Trade

Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and falconry

6. The European regional representatives supported the proposal of the United Arab Emirates at AC19 to include the saker falcon, *Falco cherrug*, in phase VI of the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species as an exceptional case where new information indicated an urgent concern.
7. Katalin Rodics not only as European representative but as a representative of Hungary (the only range State where a growing population of saker falcon exists) participated at the Consultative Meeting on the Trade in Falcons for Falconry in Abu Dhabi 16-19 May 2004. At this meeting she

proposed, supported by the Czech Republic, which also participated at the meeting, that it would be very important to establish a European Action Plan for the conservation of *Falco cherrug*.

8. Also the Russian Federation expressed great concern about the existing illicit trade in falcons and suggested that it be a regional priority. In compliance with the recommendations of the Abu Dhabi Meeting, the Management and Scientific Authorities of the Russian Federation worked out a system of marking of species under the provisions of CITES and listed in the Red Book. When all the procedures and formalities are completed, the System of marking will enter into force. It is foreseen to do it during 2005.
9. Hungary has started the process and organized an international meeting for the representatives of the European saker falcon range States from 11-14 February 2005, Csákvár, in Hungary. At this meeting the participants worked out the structure and the most important points of the European Action Plan. The draft will be ready this year.
10. The Russian Federation, equally, considers it to be essential for the country to convene a meeting on trade in falcons for falconry (similar to Abu Dhabi, 2004) for countries of CIS (Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan, Ukraine). Rosprirodnadzor is looking for possibilities to convene such a meeting.

#### **Registration of operations breeding App. I animal species for commercial purposes and registration of other institutions under CITES**

11. The Management and Scientific Authorities of the Russian Federation started preparatory work for developing and confirming a Registration System for operations breeding Appendix I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, which will be completed by the end of 2005.
12. The Scientific Authority of the Russian Federation is also creating a database for keeping, breeding and turnover of animals listed in all CITES Appendices. At the first stage it will be a bird database. A general concept for this database and its primary loading will be completed in 2005.
13. Although not registered in the CITES Secretariat, Serbia and Montenegro is developing a strong and growing activity to register under national legislation operations that breed CITES species for commercial purposes. Four institutions are currently registered, breeding basically App. II species, such as parrots and other birds. One institution is authorized for aquaculture of sturgeon species, especially *Huso huso*.

#### **Regional priorities and activities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES**

##### Research projects

14. At the end of 2001 a research project on the *Development of Morphological and DNA-based Standard Methods for Identifying Individuals and Tissues from Different Urial Subspecies* started, carried out by the University of Grenoble on behalf of the German Government. The results of this project have been presented to the German SA in the end of 2004 and will be placed on the homepage of the IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group as soon as possible.
15. Switzerland supported the following research projects in the framework of CITES financially:
  - Review of Crocodile Ranching Programs Conducted for CITES” by Crocodile Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC”. (CHF 10,000);
  - “Implementation of Recommendations Emerging From CITES Reviews of Significant Trade – Results and Success Factors” (CHF 10,000);
  - “Measuring for Management of the International Trade in Seahorses, *Hippocampus* spp.” (CHF 10,000);
  - “Status and Protection of the Hainan Gibbon (*Nomascus* sp. Cf. *nasutus hainanus*)” (CHF 10,000);

- “Data Collection and Awareness Campaign for the Reduction of the Unsustainable Use of Parrots as Pets (Region Barranquilla (Columbia))” (CHF 10,000).
16. The following studies were done by the interns of the Switzerland Management Authority office: “The contribution to species conservation by the scientifically administered zoological gardens of Switzerland” and “Trade in CITES specimens in Switzerland – an analysis of trade data over the last 30 years”.
  17. A four year project, commissioned by the United Kingdom CITES Management Authority (DEFRA), examining (by satellite telemetry) the movements and behaviour of basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* in the north-east Atlantic (focusing on the British Isles), has recently been completed. The work, undertaken by Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science and the Marine Biological Association, will be published shortly but details of the project are available at <http://www.cefas.co.uk/sharks/>. Although satellite telemetry work is now largely concluded, additional complementary work has been commissioned by DEFRA into *C. maximus* using molecular genetic techniques (e.g. microsatellite markers and mtDNA sequences) to investigate evidence for stock separation and population dynamics of basking sharks throughout the NE Atlantic and further afield.
  18. Austria reports a financial contribution by the Austrian Ministry of the Environment to the MIKE Programme (African Elephants) for 2005 (see Notification 2005/015).

#### CITES ID-Manual and checklists

19. The Scientific Authority of Spain translated into Spanish 360 sheets of animal species of the Identification Manual (plus 35 of plant species). June-November 2004.
20. Switzerland supported the making of 22 sheets for the Identification Manual on freshwater turtles (species which were newly listed at CoP12 in Santiago).
21. The United Kingdom Scientific Authority (Fauna) have commissioned UNEP-WCMC to revise JNCC CITES checklists (current editions of the checklists at [www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites\\_species.htm](http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites_species.htm)) incorporating additions and amendments to the CITES Appendices (and EC Annexes) up to and including the changes resulting from the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2004.

#### Legislation

22. In Serbia and Montenegro, the Legislation act “Rules for the trade with wild plant and animal species” has to be finished soon. It will contain information on procedures for issuing permits and a new CITES list of species, Appendices I, II, and III and national list of wild flora and fauna under CITES permit regime.
23. Austria reports that tightening of reporting, marking and housing of wild, CITES-listed species in the new national Animal Protection Act and the new national Animal Housing Regulation has been completed and a revision of Austria's national regulation dealing with marking and identification of live Annex A specimens is in progress.

#### Sturgeon Action Plan

24. Serbia and Montenegro signed the agreement “Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sturgeon Populations of the N-W Black Sea and Lower Danube River” in accordance with CITES as agreed in November 2003 during the Meeting in Tulcea, Romania. This country is preparing the National Management Plan for sturgeon species. Serbia and Montenegro, as a sturgeon range country, and is also a party to the Black Sea Sturgeon Management Action Group (BSSMAG).

### Others

25. CITES Authorities in Serbia and Montenegro accredited Zoo "Palić", near the boundary with Hungary, as a rescue centre, and gave financial support for opening and reconditioning. Possibilities to open a rescue centre for birds in Belgrade for emergencies are being assessed.
26. Switzerland supported the activities of Thomas Althaus in his function as acting chair of AC and European AC Representative. Dr Althaus had a meeting and a very interesting exchange of ideas with the newly elected Co-Chair Fauna of the CITES Nomenclature Committee (Dr Ute Grimm on February 19 2005) and participated at the "Rigi Symposium" of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria and the Association of the scientifically administered Zoos of Switzerland, where he gave a presentation on "Conservation activities of Zoos viewed from an external – costs and benefits" (17-19 February 2005).
27. Switzerland supported the production of the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices (CoP13). July 2004 with CHF 30,000.
28. Spain supports the activity of Carlos Ibero as alternate regional representative providing all needs to develop the duties involved in the post. Carlos Ibero (together with Margarita Clemente) elaborated the draft of the Manual for Regional Representatives to be discussed at the PC-AC joint meeting to be held in Geneva (Switzerland) in May 2005, as well as the present report.
29. The Scientific Authority of Spain translated into Spanish the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices (CoP13). July 2004.

### **Promotion of CITES in the region and activities to strengthen basis of the implementation of CITES**

#### Capacity building activities and awareness campaigns

30. Capacity building activities and awareness campaigns for CITES officers (Customs, police, MAs etc.) and the public such as training seminars, radio and TV broadcasts, poster and leaflet publications as well as exhibits have been reported specifically by the United Kingdom, Spain, Serbia and Montenegro, the Czech Republic and Germany. The latter two in particular in relation to the EU Twinning Project (in 2004 the German MA and SA took part in CITES seminars in Turkey carried out within a EU Twinning Project).
31. Representatives from the United Kingdom CITES Scientific Authority (Fauna) and CITES Team, HM Customs & Excise contributed to a CITES training course for officials in the new EC Member State of Estonia (1-4 June 2004). The course was organized by the Estonian CITES Management Authority and covered topics such as: CITES implementation within the EU, familiarisation with the animal species listed on the EC Annexes, identification tools and techniques and intelligence gathering.
32. The Austrian Ministry of the Environment sponsored WWF Austria-TRAFFIC Hungary projects for CITES implementation and enforcement capacity in candidate and new EU member countries.
33. In Austria, a process to establish a National Enforcement Focal Point, incorporating representatives from all CITES relevant organizations (Customs, CITES MA, CITES Scientific, AC/PC representatives, etc.) has been initiated to streamline information exchange to better deal with changes in trade patterns in CITES-listed taxa associated with EU-enlargement.
34. The Management Authority of Hungary helped to organize, participated and gave a lecture in a workshop *Protection of Wildlife against Commercial trade in Central and Eastern Europe*, organized by IFAW at 9-11 July 2004, Budapest, Hungary. The workshop focused on the consequences of the European Union enlargement. The participants accepted the so-called "Normafa statement".
35. In the framework of a public awareness campaign that had been going on for the last 4 years in Hungary, in 2004 trains at the most frequent part of Budapest were painted with CITES species and with a statement, "Everything for your look and nothing for your hand!" UNEP is currently working to publish a Communication Guide aiming to help and inspire governments all around the world to conduct actions and campaigns on sustainable development issues. A major part of this guide will be

a selection of about 15 case studies that give best practice examples of innovative and successful communication campaigns worldwide. They are very keen to include in case studies the campaign on CITES conducted by Hungary in 2003 and 2004.

36. German Customs in collaboration with the MA in the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (FANC) launched in March 2005 at the International Fair of Tourism in Berlin a new website ([www.artenschutz-online.de](http://www.artenschutz-online.de)) for better information about CITES when travelling abroad. Persons can access this page and inform themselves about protected species which occur in special countries or regions and about specimen made from the respective species which were offered at local markets. This information tool has been created on the basis of seizures which took place at German borders over several years and which were collected as cases by the FANC. It therefore includes only those species for which seizures have been registered.
37. The Management Authority of Hungary helped to organize, gave a lecture and participated in the *Phare workshop for the judiciary sector to discuss wildlife trade crime in the new EU Member States*. On 3 and 4 June 2004, more than 50 public prosecutors, judges and representatives of wildlife trade regulatory agencies met in Budapest, Hungary at a workshop convened by TRAFFIC and supported by the EU Phare programme to develop recommendations for improving the control and prosecution of wildlife trade related crimes in the new EU Member States. Participants came from seven new EU Member States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as from Italy, the United Kingdom, two Candidate Countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the European Commission and the CITES Secretariat. The aim of the workshop was to identify differences in enforcement and prosecution of EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and devise improvements in all new EU Member States. The challenge for the EU is to ensure effective enforcement of wildlife trade regulations, and to use experiences and best practices of other countries. The workshop has shown that most countries represented have adopted legislation to sanction illegal wildlife trade, however penalties vary considerably among EU Member States, making the illegal trade of wildlife a calculable risk for potential offenders in many countries. The proceedings of the workshop was published and available in electronic format on the TRAFFIC website.
38. Representatives of the MA and SA of Spain participated in capacity building workshops in Bolivia and Peru, organized by the CITES Secretariat in conjunction with the Bolivian CITES Authorities, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in July 2004 and in conjunction with the Peruvian CITES Authorities, held in Lima in April 2005. Different meetings were also held with Bolivian CITES Authorities and the Biotrade National Office. Field visits were made to learn about mahogany, vicuña and "ranching" frogs, as well as to several "zoocriaderos" (captive breeding facilities).
39. Management and Scientific Authorities of Spain collaborate in the organization of the Fifth Master's degree course in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework" with the International University of Andalucía. This Master's degree course aims to provide participants with the tools for understanding how CITES work. A total of 50 credits will be given for the complete course (500 hours: 400 lecture hours and 100 hours counted as work on the thesis to be presented). The course is appropriate for those who are involved, or wish to become involved in the implementation of CITES. The Master's course is directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz and will start in October 2005.

#### CITES implementation

40. In September 2004 a new application and processing system for CITES permits was put into place by the German MA. Using [www.cites-online.de](http://www.cites-online.de) importers and exporters can apply and pay electronically for CITES documents. At present this opportunity is mainly used by re-exporters of leather goods.
41. Because Germany is a major importer of caviar the German CITES Management Authority considers the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) on Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish as an issue of highest priority. In the past year special consideration was given to the implementation of the labelling system for caviar primary containers. In order to meet the requirements after the Resolution has been implemented in the respective regulation of the European Union both re-packaging plants and also caviar processing plants in Germany were contacted and

informed about the marking necessities as laid down in the Resolution. Information material has been produced and sent to the respective plants. Since the beginning of 2005 the German MA has received several applications by importers and sturgeon farmers for registration as processing or repackaging plant. In this respect especially aquaculture plants were inspected by MA officials to obtain practical experience about the production procedures, to learn about the commercial contacts with other farmers and to check the book keeping systems used in such plants.

#### The scientific community in the region and CITES

42. Since January 2005 the Czech CITES SA has had two new specialists dealing with CITES matters.
43. In 2004 Serbia and Montenegro sent the following samples for analyses to colleagues from MA and SA in other countries: tissue of *Lutra lutra* to Italy, fin pieces of starlet to Italy, meat, small muscle tissue of *Huso huso* to Greece.

#### **Collaboration with other MEAs**

44. Dr Katalin Rodics, as European AC representative participated in an *Expert Workshop Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy*, on 20-24 April, 2004 in the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Island of Vilm, Germany, which identified areas and mechanism for enhancing cooperation between the two conventions.
45. CITES Authorities in the Russian Federation are collaborating with the Bonn Convention for Migratory Species. In the framework of the Bonn Convention, active measures to conserve and increase the population of Siberian crane are being taken. The ongoing work is based on the Action Plan of a Memorandum for conservation of the Siberian crane and in compliance with the UNEP/GEF Project for conservation of the Siberian Crane and other water birds in Asia.
46. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and the Bonn Convention, CITES Authorities continue the preparatory work for accession of the Russian Federation to a Memorandum for conservation of saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*).