

Report of the Regional Representatives for Europe

1. Introduction

This report covers the period between the 49th (22. – 25. April 2003) and the 50th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee. At the writing of the report there are 41 Parties to the Convention in the European Region of which 15 Parties and the EU Commission have contributed to this report.

In general the European region at the moment have much emphasis on activities related to accommodating EU legislation into national legislation in the 10 new accession countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). These countries will become EU Member States on 1st May, 2004. Further a high level of activities is reported from many countries in particular in relation to public awareness and capacity building. Some countries have done much to produce technical material, relevant both on a regional and global level, on information and implementation of the CITES provisions.

2. CITES Standing-, Animals- & Plants Committees activities

It was agreed at SC49 that a working group should be set up to develop a procedure for considering technical implementation issues in future. The UK and Norway were selected to represent the European Region and a draft “clearing-house” procedure has been prepared and will be presented for consideration at SC50.

The UK and Norway also participated in a working group at SC49 to agree a draft MOU between CITES and FAO on fisheries matters. Unfortunately it was not possible for the group to resolve these differences and the SC eventually instructed the Chairman to liaise with the FAO in the light of the comments received and report back to SC50.

Switzerland, supported by the UK and Germany also raised at SC49 the proposed annotation to the Appendices to exclude certain types of specimens, including synthetically derived DNA samples and pharmaceutical products that do not contain any of the original genetic material, which had been withdrawn for technical reasons at COP12. The Secretariat agreed to look at this again and submit a revised proposal to SC50.

Norway, the Czech Republic and Germany with the technical and financial support of the European Commission had convened on 30. January 2004 in Brussels a European regional meeting. The meeting which focused mostly on issues of major importance to be discussed and decided at the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 13th Conference of the Parties.

The UK Scientific Authority (Fauna) and UK Scientific Authority (Flora) both continued to play important roles in assisting the UK Management Authority’s active participation in CITES. This *i.a.* included:

- Chairing the fossil coral working group inter-sessionally

- Participating in the Plants Committee Working Group on the review of the CITES Criteria and carrying out a review of seven plant taxa
- Undertaking reviews of *Probarbus julieni* and *Corallium rubrum* to inform the review of the criteria for amending Appendices I and II
- Carrying out a case study of peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) for the working group looking at the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation.
- Outlining UKs experience in processing applications for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes, in response to Notification 2003/071 (relating to Decision 12.78 which directs the Animals Committee to study and evaluate the process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes)
- Producing and distributing English language versions of the CD-ROM, *CITES and Plants: A User's Guide Version 3* and *CITES and Succulents* to all participants at the 13th Plants Committee and European Regional Plants meetings
- Producing and distributing English, French and Spanish versions of the CD-ROM, *CITES and Plants: A User's Guide Version 3* and *CITES and Succulents* to all participants at the 14th Plants Committee meeting

The Republic of Slovenia has according to Decision 12.27 and 12.28 on actions taken to implement Res. Conf. 10.8 (rev CoP12) on Conservation and trade in bears, prepared a comprehensive report on the conservation and trade in brown bear *Ursus arctos* in Slovenia for consideration at the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee.

Italy participated at the Plants Committee as one of the Representatives of the European Region. One of the most important issues has been the organization of the consultation process for the revision of the criteria to include species in the CITES Appendices following Decision 12.97. During the meetings of the specific Working Group, taxa to be revised were selected together with the relevant scientific revisers, and the forms for comments to be sought by Parties was prepared. Prof. Frenguelli will be in charge to disseminate the results of the taxonomic reviews, gather comments and produce a synthesis of them and to elaborate a draft of a proposal relevant to some criteria for Appendix I.

From the 6th to the 8th of November 2003, the CITES Management Authority of Italy (Direction for the Conservation of Nature of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection) organized a meeting in collaboration with the representatives of the Plants Committee of the European Region, Prof. Margarita Clemente Muñoz and Prof. Giuseppe Frenguelli. The meeting took place at the Perugia University and was attended by more than fifty people representing 13 Countries, plus the representatives of the CITES Secretariat and the European Commission. The meeting was an important opportunity to gather the representatives of the European CITES Scientific Authorities specialized in plants in order to strengthen the present collaboration, also in sight of the extension of the European Community.

The main topics of the meeting were:

- Organization of the CITES Scientific Authorities in charge of Flora
- Review of the criteria for the revision of CITES Appendices
- Cooperation between Scientific and Enforcement Authorities

- Survey of flora species of particular European interest
- Perspectives of the extension of the European Community

All the interventions will be transferred on CD with the purpose of making available all the presented material and the mainly discussed topics.

The Austrian observer at the Animals Committee has been appointed head of the international “Animal Transport Association”, and the the Austrian observer to the Plants Committee together with a member from the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew (UK) has prepared a bulb checklist for *Bulbophyllum* species, which was presented at the 13th Plants Committee meeting.

The Netherlands as a member of the ‘Standing Committee reporting working group’ has contributed towards guidelines on biennial reports, development of simple software tools for permit issuance and reporting, and a technical meeting has been held in the Netherlands with the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC. A Dutch funded initiative on ‘evaluation of tree species using the CITES listing criteria’ has been discussed and developed as requested by CoP12.

The Romanian CITES Management and Scientific Authorities organized in Tulcea the second ‘Regional Meeting on Conservation and Sustainable of Sturgeons in the NW Black Sea and Lower Danube River’ 25-26. November 2003. The 22 participants from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine were representing the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities as well as fisheries authorities of these countries. The meeting discussed and adopted a regional strategy, in addition to an agreement concerning the implementation of the strategy.

3. Capacity building activities

A general need for capacity building is highlighted by several East-European countries. Issues mentioned includes *inter alia* insufficient staffing, weak national coordination and the need to establish rescue centres.

With the technical support of TRAFFIC Eastern Europe and the EU-Commission the CITES Management Authority of Germany convened from 19.-23. May 2003 at the International Nature Conservation Academy of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (FANC) a training seminar for the 10 EU accession countries from Central and Eastern Europe. The main objective of the seminar was to explain the differences of the provisions of CITES versus the regulations implementing and transposing the Convention into uniform applicable legislation in all EU-Member States. This was the last of a series of CITES training seminars of the FANC for the EU accession countries which also bears witness to the political importance attached by Germany to its immediate eastern neighbouring countries in this field.

Germany’s CITES Mangement Authority initiated in early 2003 an EU/CITES capacity building twinning project as a partner of the Czech Republic EU-‘Twinning’ Project (*Implementation of the Acquis at Regional Level*). In the scope of this EU funded project regional CITES authorities in the Czech Republic shall be trained in the implementation and enforcement of EU nature conservation and environmental legislation. The project has been scheduled to last for 18 months. Representatives from Germany’s CITES Management Authority has visited, as part of the initial phase of the project, from 17-22. July and from 18.-21. November 2003 the Czech Republic in order to evaluate on site the actual training needs. During a workshop held on 19. November 2003 in Prague the precise contents and dimensions of several training packages were decided as well as which part of the seminars can be covered by own resources of the Czech Wildlife Conservation administration and which parts would have to be handled by the twinning partner country.

From 10 -12. June 2003 the CITES Management Authority of Slovenia organized with technical support from the CITES Management Authority of Germany a CITES training seminar for enforcement officials from customs authorities, police and representatives of the Management and Scientific Authorities. The seminar which was held in Ljubljana focused mainly on the enforcement of EU CITES Wildlife Trade Regulations in practice and the identification of the specimens covered by these regulations.

Both Germany's CITES Scientific Authority for Botany together with the Management Authority convened from 16 – 17. October 2003 a training seminar on Medical and Aromatic Plants (MAP's) and CITES. The seminar was primarily intended to increase awareness on legal and conservation problems among major German importing and manufacturing companies dealing with MAPs or their commodities. Furthermore during the meeting current enforcement problems were identified and where a furthering of the understanding of the level and kind of the medical plant trade at the local CITES Authorities and German customs level could improve enforcement and implementation. During the seminar strong emphasis was put on those MAP's listed either in the Appendices of CITES or the Annexes of the EU Council Regulation which implements CITES within the EU.

Both, Germany's Scientific and Management Authorities are using a scientific information system for international species conservation which has been developed by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (FANC) as an important reference system for dealing with scientific and management related aspects of species conservation. The system which is accessible in both German and in English contains comprehensive information on the protected plant and animal species such as on taxonomy, protection status and distribution. The system provides at present 85 000 data sets for protected animal and plant species. Since 2001 the internet database WISIA-online was made available to a broad public for the first time as a service database of the FANC. Under www.wisia.de answers to questions about conservation of animals and plants and the regulation they are subject to. In addition to information on the scientific or local names, the user is given a synoptic overview of the various species conservation regulations that provide for special or strict protection of a species. Users of this database include not only competent government authorities but also nature conservation organisations, companies trading in plants or animals, breeders, nurseries, universities and museums, tour operators, journalists, teachers and interested members of the general public. The actual version of WISIA-online which had been entirely and more user friendly revised was presented in early August 2003 to the public just before the beginning of the main holiday season.

The UK Government provided financial support for many CITES-related conservation, capacity building and training projects during the period covered by this report. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) contributed to the following programmes and projects in support of CITES and related conservation initiatives:

- £100,000 to the Flagships Species Fund which aims to provide practical support to the conservation of endangered species and their associated ecosystems in developing countries. This is a partnership between Defra and the UK-based charity Fauna and Flora International, with support from global companies including BP and Rio Tinto. The fund focuses on a number of key taxonomic groups and the 'flagship' species within them, many of which are CITES species.
- £61,000 to IUCN: £36,000 for the Shark Specialist Group and £25,000 for the African Elephant Specialist Group. This money is used, *inter alia*, to fund the work of Programme

Officers in arranging capacity building workshops and improving communication and awareness, on both shark and elephant conservation.

- £30,000 to CITES: £20,000 allocated towards to the costs of the third dialogue meeting of the wider Caribbean region on the Hawksbill turtle. It is the UK Government's hope that the meeting will facilitate regional collaboration, planning and information exchange and will also provide for collaboration with others working on the conservation of this species in the Caribbean. £10,000 for the CITES Bushmeat Working Group.
- £30,000 to the Zoological Society of London as follows: £25,000 for 21st Century Tiger to allocate to tiger projects as appropriate; and £5,000 for the Global Tiger Projects Database.

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided:

- £100,000 between March 2003 and March 2004 as part of an on-going commitment to fund UNEPs Great Ape Survival Project, (GrASP). This was used for activities supporting National Great Ape Survival Plan workshops and ape conservation projects as identified by GrASP.
- £27,667 between March 2003 and March 2004 to fund a workshop in the Caribbean and for the production of training materials. The workshop involved 24 participants from the 5 Caribbean Overseas Territories (OTs) and focused on strengthening CITES enforcement capacity. The total FCO allocation for this CITES training project in the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean is £67,667.
- £41,738 in 2003/2004 for a project to examine harvesting and trade in the commercial timber species Ramin *Gonostylus* spp. The project aims to assess the effectiveness of current CITES Appendix III implementation measures for Ramin *Gonostylus* spp.
- £31,948 in 2003/2004 on sustainable forestry and implementation of CITES Appendix II listing for Big Leaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* K.) in Peru. A further £18,785 has been allocated for the financial year 2004/2005. The project's objective is to reduce unsustainable and illegal harvesting and trade in Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* in Peru. This will be achieved through monitoring and strengthening local capacity to implement CITES controls as well as measures to promote the sustainable management of the species nationally.
- £11,500 for the UK Overseas Territories CITES Network. The project aims to aid the UK's OTs in their implementation of CITES, by setting up an interactive website to enhance communication and enable access to information/expertise between CITES officials in the OTs and CITES officials in the UK.
- £35,000 for CITES Capacity Building in Melanesia. The total FCO commitment for this project is £120,000. TRAFFIC Oceania was contracted by the CITES Secretariat to organise a Regional Workshop on CITES for Small Islands Developing States in the Oceania Region in April/May 2002. Following this workshop the FCO has supported a TRAFFIC Oceania staff position based in Fiji to co-ordinate the implementation of key recommendations from the workshop focusing specifically on capacity building in Fiji and Vanuatu.
- £8,195 for a "community approach to gorilla conservation and rainforest protection in eastern Cameroon". A further £6,850 will be provided in 2004/2005. The project focuses on

wildlife preservation, poverty reduction and the sustainable development of Cameroon's rainforest through establishing Community Forests, devising simple Management Plans and an income generating eco-tourism scheme that can serve as a model to other communities in the Congo Basin.

- £15,211 as part of the greater UK sponsored TCOT (Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories). In total the FCO has committed £62,659 to 'Training and Capacity Building to facilitate the successful assessment of the status and exploitation of marine turtles in the Caribbean'.

In addition to funding, the UK Government has offered practical assistance in a number of ways including:

- Defra participation in CITES training workshop in Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Contributing to the 4th CITES MSc course organized by the International University of Andalucia, Baeza, Spain in 2003.
- Producing and distributing an implementation guide/CD-ROM to all UK ports of entry to coincide with the listing of *Swietenia macrophylla* on CITES Appendix II.
- Producing revised versions of the checklists of CITES-listed fauna now available on UK CITES website (www.ukcites.gov.uk).
- Continued co-operation (and financial support) of Turkish Scientific and UK Scientific Authorities field surveys of Turkish geophytes in trade. This included donation of a digital camera to support field survey work.

In the framework of the Project 'Support for the Acceptance and Implementation of MEAs in Southeastern Europe', as part of REReP (Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for Southeastern Europe), in the period from 20- 22.10.2003, in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, a national workshop was organized on 'Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the Republic of Macedonia'. The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Country Office - Skopje. The goal of the Workshop was to train staff of governmental and scientific institutions, business sector which performs trade in endangered wild plants, fungi and animals, NGOs and other stakeholders for the purpose of CITES implementation in the Republic of Macedonia. With regard to the Workshop, the presence of Mr. Ger Van Vliet, representative of the Secretariat of CITES in Geneva should be pointed out as valuable. This has been the first training at national level of this type, and further trainings should take place. In the framework of the Workshop, presentations were also made by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. Sasko Jordanov, M.Sci. as a responsible expert concerning the implementation of CITES, who presented data on the activities of the mentioned Ministry related to the ratification and implementation of the CITES in the Republic of Macedonia. With regard to the implementation of the CITES at national level, Robertina Brajanoska, M.Sci, presented data on the quantities of exported plants and snails in 2002/2003. In addition to this, there was an indication of the studies on the assessment of quantities of oak lichen and bear's ear and the monitoring of buying out stations for snails in the Republic of Macedonia, as relevant activities in the domain of determination of bioresources of wild species of economic significance. This activity is substantial, as it is related to setting up of quotas for trade in wild endangered species, which is an obligation deriving from our membership in the CITES. With

regard to the legal aspects of the CITES implementation in the national legislation, as well as the manner of treatment of its implementation in the new Law on Nature Conservation, Ms. Daniela Stefkova made a presentation.

In November 2003 the project 'Implementation of CITES and related EU legislation' with support of Danish government was finished in Slovakia (started 1. January 2001). The project targeted CITES MA and SA Authorities, The Slovak Environmental Inspection, customs, police, NGO's, Veterinary Services, Plant Protection Service, the botanical gardens, the zoos, breeders (keepers), traders, hunters, public etc. The project included high level meetings at the Customs Directorate and the Presidium of Police Corps, legal workshop (discussions on the draft of CITES Act, verification of correct transposition of EU Regulations with Danish team, study tour to Denmark, marking and registration workshop, in total seven different workshops in the period October 2001 to April 2003). The project made use of technical equipment such as microchip readers, identification programme (the Green Parrot ID programme), and the identification manuals issued by the CITES Secretariat has been translated into Slovak language.

A regional conference on capacity building for 67 participants from 7 countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia) as the end project meeting was arranged in Slovakia. The conference included visit to new rescue centre for confiscated CITES specimens and a press conference. One of the subjects was also legal and practical problems in connection with the accession countries to EU.

The Hungarian CITES Management Authority, in co-operation with Danish experts, organized a 3-day training course for 40 border customs officers. Two representatives from the Croatian CITES Management Authority, one from Croatian customs headquarters and two representatives from Romania also participated. The main subjects of the meeting were the EC legislation, the new domestic CITES regulation in Hungary, the role of customs in the enforcement and using the Green Parrot ID software in practice.

The Hungarian CITES Management Authority held a 5-day seminar for CITES co-ordinators of the ten National Park Directorates. According to the new CITES decree the co-ordinators are responsible for inspections. The main subjects of the seminar were CITES in general, EC CITES regulations, the new domestic regulation of Hungary, identification of species and the use of Green Parrot.

The Polish CITES Management Authority, the Scientific Authority and customs met with representatives of TRAFFIC Europa in June 2003 in Warsaw. A training seminar by the Ministry of the Environment organized a 3-day seminar for 40 officers of customs, police, veterinary and phytosanitary border control November 2003. The Polish CITES Management Authority has produced an information manual and a CD on CITES. In Poland WWF has started a campaign '*Do not buy from smugglers*'.

The Republic Slovenia sent a representative from the Scientific Authority on a one week training course in the Netherlands and established a national network of external experts. In addition the CITES Management Authority participated twice in meetings with Interpol and the Customs intelligence. The regional TRAFFIC office in Budapest visited the Management Authority.

In Slovenia a three day seminar for 35 customs officers with focus on the effective control of the future EU border was arranged by the Management Authority. Invited guest lecturers came from Germany and the UK.

Officers of the Management Authority of Italy in charge of Enforcement (State's Forest Corps) participated as trainers in training courses for customs officers on CITES control in the frame of the routine training organized by the Custom Agency of Italy. In particular a course on Customs procedures on EU Regulations implementing CITES, together with identification techniques, (particularly on wood, hunting trophies, TMC, Cactaceae), was held in Sabaudia, near Rome, at the State's Forest Corps School, in September. It was attended by more 55 unit of personnel of State's Forest Corps – CITES Operative Units, and besides the theoretical and legislative parts, practical exercise of identification of fauna and flora specimens were provided. An important section was reserved to timber identification, with the distribution to the participants of the Environment Canada Guide on CITES-listed timber identification, a kit with a professional cutter and a magnification lens (20 x) and reference samples of the main CITES (*Pericopsis elata*, *Swetenia macrophylla*, *Gonystylus spp*, etc) and Non-CITES listed timber species in trade.

On September 9 and 10, in Rome, Italy training meetings on Traditional Chinese Medicine were held by a Dutch expert of the Agriculture, Nature and Food Ministry, aimed to improve control activities.

Italy gave its contribution to a training course for trainers, organised by the LUSAKA Agreement and held at Naivasha National Park in Kenya from 24 to 28 of November. 26 wildlife officials coming from Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Personnel of the Italian State's Forest Corps took training interventions on wildlife crime, with particular attention to CITES and anti-poaching, especially in the National Parks.

Austria continues to finance the regional TRAFFIC office in Budapest, Hungary, and has completed a CITES twinning programme with Bulgaria (2001-2003).

In Finland a training seminar for 60 customs officers was completed in January 2004.

In Norway two training seminars for the Coast Guard on CITES and related issues have been completed in the period.

In Sweden the CITES Authorities participated in a twice a year meeting with relevant organisations and sectors on flora-fauna enforcement cooperation. The group consists of participants from TRAFFIC Europe Sweden, the customs, the police, the Coast Guard, the office of the public prosecutor, the Ministry of Environment and scientists from the Natural History Museum.

The Netherlands Phytosanitary Service has been trained by the Scientific Authority.

4. Legislative activities (on the national and the EU-level)

On 30th August 2003 Commission Regulation (EC) No 149/2003 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein entered into force. This regulation replaces now Regulation (EC) No 2476/2001 of 18 December 2001. The new regulation provides among others for the uniform implementation within all EU Member States of the amendments to the Appendices to the Convention adopted at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (3-15 November 2002). The English version of the new annexes to Council Regulation 338/97 is available in all working languages of the Convention as well as all official languages of the EU on the homepages of the European Commission (http://europa.eu.it/comm/environment/cites/legislation_en.htm)

In 2004 the EU Commission intends to implement the CoP12 Resolutions to be included in a new Regulation replacing Commission regulation (EC) No 1808/2001 of 30 August 2001 laying down rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. The EU committee on trade in species of wild flora and fauna had four meetings in 2003, while the Scientific Review Group consisting of the Member States' Scientific Authorities had three meetings on scientific questions relating to the application of the Regulations. The Enforcement Group consisting of representatives from the Member States' authorities met once in 2003.

The UNEP-WCMC has been contracted by the EU Commission to provide trade data which the Member States and the Commission need to implement Community legislation. They are also responsible for the synthesis of Member States' annual and biennial reports.

The UK Management Authority continued its review of the UK Statutory Instrument 1997 No.1372: The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 (COTES). These Regulations specify the offences, penalties and police powers for breaches of the EU Regulations implementing CITES, insofar as they relate to trade in the UK.

One of the UK Government's proposals was that the maximum prison sentence for certain offences under the COTES Regulations should be increased from two to five years. In view of the overwhelming support for this proposal, the UK Government introduced a provision in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to enable offences created in new COTES Regulations to attract a five-year prison sentence. Powers of arrest for police officers are also strengthened.

The Republic of Macedonia passed a new Law on Nature Conservation, which is expected to be adopted in the first half of 2004 by the Parliament. This Law incorporates provisions referring to the implementation of CITES, i.e. regulation of international trade in wild species. As an obligation deriving from the Law on Nature Conservation, development and adoption of secondary legislation for regulation of international trade in endangered wild species and designation of border crossings through which export, import and transit of species will be allowed is envisaged in the course of 2004. Included is a secondary act concerning definition of forms of applications for issuance of import, export and transit permits for the species. In addition, under the National Programme for approximation of the Macedonian legislation in the area of nature protection, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has set as a priority for transposition of the national legislation in 2004 the Regulation of the Council of EC No. 338/97 on the protection of wild flora and fauna species through regulation of their trade.

In the framework of the national legislation for the CITES implementation, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Decision for distribution of goods in export and import forms ("Official Gazette of RM" No.20/2003). MoEPP in cooperation with scientific institutions developed lists of endangered wild plants, fungi and animals which constitute an integral part of the Decision. The Decision covers certain endangered wild species (56 plants, 19 fungi and 86 animals), that are not included in the Annexes I, II and III of CITES, and originate from the wild nature of the Republic of Macedonia and are subject to international trade. The indicated wild endangered species have been transferred from liberal regime to the regime of D₄ export permit, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. Under the regime D₄ export and import permit, only the ivory, powder and remains thereof have been included. We believe that in this way the trade in some of the endangered species from the Republic of Macedonia will be regulated, which at present are not included in the Annexes of the CITES, thus achieving the required level of protection of endangered wild flora, fungi and fauna and providing for the maintenance and renewal of populations.

Poland reports activity on implementation of the Gaborone Amendments

The Republic of Slovenia adopted a Decree on the management and protection methods in trade in animal and plant species (OJ of RS no 104/03). By this regulation Slovenia has transposed the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations into national legal system. Some stricter provisions have been added to the EU regulations (eg registration of breeders, disposal of seized and confiscated specimens – cf Res. Conf. 10.7, sanctions etc). Particular attention was given to competence of authorities. With this regulation Slovenia has begun to use the same permit/certificate forms as EU. The regulation will be sent to the CITES Secretariat as soon as the translation will be available.

In Italy during the period covered by this report activities were started regarding the update of the operative manual for controls of trade in CITES specimens. Moreover a special section on the timber trade is in progress. This new manual will deal with all the procedures regarding the import-export and identification issues on timber trade and as the other manual will be distributed to all the officers of State's Forest Corps and of the Customs Agency in the existing specialized ports of entry for timber in Italy.

Moreover a new regulation on the controls in Custom Area for trade in specimens included in CITES and in EU regulation has been finalized and its publication in Official Journal (Gazzetta Ufficiale) is expected very soon. This regulation will substitute the Ministerial Decree of 4th September 1992 and will be an integral part the operative manual.

The Swedish and the Danish CITES Management Authority met in June 2003 in Copenhagen to study the Danish CITES administration policies and to discuss mutual problems. As a result Sweden now applies marking of certain animal species as it is done in Denmark.

In Turkey a new act on hunting has entered into force, cf. Land Hunting Law no 4915 of 11. July 2003. Related regulations are under preparation.

5. Law enforcement activities

In relation to UN-troops serving in different parts of the world, focus has been set on illegal trade in furs etc. by soldiers belonging to the UN peace-keeping troops. Close cooperation with national armed forces authorities on information to the troops seem to have a good preventing effect, cf also message from the CITES Secretariat on the issue.

After not having met during the last three years Germany's Customs Criminal Investigation Agency had convened for its investigation service from 10 – 11. November 2003 a meeting which was also attended by representatives from the CITES Management Authority of Germany. Participants discussed new provisions in the respective EU CITES regulations, their implementation and recent trends in the illegal traffic in endangered wild species. Regular meetings of this kind have in the past proven to be extremely helpful to ameliorate the cooperation between the different enforcement bodies in Germany such as the investigation agencies of the customs service and the CITES Management Authority of the FANC.

From 11 – 20. November 2003 the Police School of the Bundesland Hessen held a training seminar at which officials from the CITES Management Authority trained policemen in new developments in the respective EU CITES legislation and recent trends in the illegal traffic of endangered wild species.

The UK's National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit (NWCUI), launched in April 2002, has become well established. It has made excellent progress in gathering intelligence, particularly on the illegal trade in caviar, reptiles, birds and traditional medicines. The Unit is developing a strategic document describing wildlife criminality affecting the UK, which will drive and underpin future UK law enforcement effort.

The Head of the NWCUI:

- provided CITES training for the Interpol Environmental Criminal Intelligence training course in Romania in September 2003;
- represented the UK at the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting in New Zealand in October 2003;
- will be representing the UK at the CITES Expert Group meeting on Enforcement in February 2004 in the USA.

In December 2003, the UK Management Authority and the CITES Secretariat signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the exchange of information between the Secretariat and UK Police and Customs officers.

The UK Government continues to jointly fund with WWF, a TRAFFIC enforcement officer.

In Italy notable seizures are *i.a.* as far as the investigations related to the use of the *postal channel* for the illegal traffic of animals and protected plants, live reptiles (*Python spp.*, *Iguana iguana*, etc), dead butterflies as demonstrated by a recent seizure of 70 *Ornithoptera spp.* and *Troides spp.*, coming from Indonesia. Seizures of game birds to Italian hunters coming back from Eastern European countries continued, especially during the summer holidays. An interesting seizure (440 kilos) of *Heliopora heliopora* coming from Indonesia without the CITES permit took place at Roma Fiumicino airport; these corals were concealed in a shipment of *Scleractinia spp.* escorted by a CITES permit. Seizures of Ramin (*Gonystylus spp*) took place at the ports of Ancona, Genoa and Livorno, as well as on the national territory. A seizure of 13 birds of prey coming from Congo Brazzaville, has been made by personnel of the Customs and of Corpo Forestale dello Stato - CITES Operative Units at Rome Fiumicino International Airport. The animals were escorted by a CITES certificate issued by the Congo Brazzaville Management Authority, but for other species than the ones that were found during controls. Moreover apart for CITES and EU Regulation violations the case has been forwarded to the judicial authority for violations to the IATA Regulation.

The CD ROMs containing the Italian translation of the CITES Identification Manual were distributed to all the 46 offices of State' Forest Corps - CITES Service, providing an important contribution to enforcement activities.

I November 2003 a special CITES enforcement day was held with all the enforcement agencies in the Netherlands. About 100 participants took part and special focus was made on caviar, plant issues and national flora and fauna regulations.

In Turkey a scientific group met in spring 2003 to determine the national export quota of bulb species (*Cyclamen*, *Galanthus*, *Sternbergia* and Orchidaceae).

6. Public awareness activities

The EU Commission has undertaken a number of contracts to assist in CITES scientific and implementation matters. In the framework of the Wildlife Trade Publicity Campaign, TRAFFIC Europe was mandated to set up a website for wildlife traders in the EU (www.eu-wildlifetrade.org). It has also prepared briefings for enforcement staff, an implementation manual CITES timbers and other practical implementation aids for use by the Member States.

Just at the beginning of the travelling season Germany's Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Mr. Jürgen Trittin presented on 10. June 2003 the new brochure ('The Primer on Species Conservation') to the public during a press conference at the Frankfurt Airport. The brochure gives those tourists who are travelling overseas to exotic places a brief overview on CITES and its background. Furthermore it provides some guidance on how travellers can behave environment friendly if exotic species are offered in foreign countries as tourist souvenirs and how to avoid conflicts with enforcement officials during or after return from holidays.

On 19. September 2003 EURONATUR, a Germany based international nature conservation NGO, together with Lufthansa and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation presented at a press conference a new in-flight video together with a printed flyer which both among others address the problem of tourist souvenirs made from CITES protected species. The cooperation of the three organizations aimed towards generally raising awareness for the conservation of nature and its wildlife among tourists travelling with Lufthansa on intercontinental flights. The awareness campaign started from 30. October 2003. The 14 pages flyer will not only be available on board but also be presented to travellers having booked on Lufthansa in the respective airport lounges.

During the reporting period, the UK Management Authority continued to publicise CITES and its provisions through its Souvenir Alert campaign. The campaign, launched in 2000 together with WWF-UK, aims to alert tourists to the problem of bringing back illegal wildlife souvenirs from their travels. The Belgian Management Authority has expressed an interest in duplicating much of the UK's Souvenir Alert leaflet in order to publish a similar leaflet.

The UK has been promoting the campaign through attendance at a number of major regional and travel shows. For example, in 2003, the UK Management Authority publicised CITES at the Royal Show, a high profile show promoting British food and farming, and the Town and Country Festival, one of the country's largest regional shows. Souvenir Alert continues to be popular at travel shows with the UK Management Authority promoting it at the Holiday and Travel Show in Manchester and Destinations in London.

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Roadshow continued its programme of events throughout the UK, bringing attention to the controls protecting wildlife. The Roadshow reaches an audience of around one million people a year. In November 2003, PAW launched a five-minute wildlife crime video. It shows examples of the types of wildlife crime which can occur and aims to raise awareness of the extent and variety of wildlife crime and urges the public to report any suspicious activities to Crimestoppers.

Slovakia publicised posters, leaflets and brochures for the public, a video for training and a travel exhibition with 12 sections for use at the education centre in Zoo Bojnice and one for circulation among the customs offices. A training workshop for schoolteachers including education material has also been developed.

In Slovenia an exhibition on CITES was presented at the Ljubljana Tourist Fair and 12.000 leaflets were distributed.

The following shows were arranged in Italy:

5-9 May: National Forum of Public Administration, Rome

4 and 5 October: Meeting of the Police and Military Forces, Milan

4 and 5 December: Exhibition for student and young people, Vicenza

In all the above mentioned shows, a display of CITES confiscated parts and derivatives was set up, as a meeting point, with six thematic paths (live animals, plants, skins, ivory, corals and shells, foods and traditional Chinese medicine) each with information panels (text and photos) and a PC to go in details into each theme. Leaflets, posters and related information materials on CITES, the related EC Regulations and national legislation and the enforcement of them were available.

The Italian CITES Management Authority and others contributed and participated in radio and TV programmes, especially during the summer season, in order to provide advice on trade in fauna and flora souvenirs. Also the CITES and EU Regulation were provided to magazines and newspapers. A very complete and good product was a special report on CITES and its enforcement in Italy, broadcasted by Rai 1 Television (national TV).

A 3-month awareness campaign was organized by the CITES Management Authority, WWF, TRAFFIC and REX Foundation in Hungary in the main tourist season (from 3. June – 20. Aug). The aim of the campaign was to inform travellers about CITES regulations and to raise their attention to “dangerous” souvenirs. In the frame of the campaign, a permanent exhibition was established at Budapest international airport, giant posters, citylight-posters, Internet banners were set, and 150.000 leaflets were published. The campaign was opened by a press conference held by the Minister of environment.

In Austria together with WWF a tourist information campaign continued in 2003.

Norway re-launched an upgraded new version of the CITES homepages in September 2003, with information directed both at the public, but also with specific information directed towards relevant sectors.

In Finland some articles on CITES was published for the general public, in a magazine on orchids and gardens. The web pages of the European Commission on CITES issues was translated into Finnish.

The Swedish Management Authority helped to translate and put on its web site information on wildlife and EU regulations produced by TRAFFIC Europe and the European Commission. A great number of leaflets on this new web site have also been distributed.

In Turkey a meeting with pet shop owners on their relation to CITES regulations is being planned.

7. Activities related to CITES relevant research

The results of two research projects which has been conducted in Germany over the last few years was published in 2003 in English. Both publications, i.e. *Biochemical Investigations into the Ageing and Origin of the Caviar Sorts Beluga, Sevruga and Osietra* and *Transport Losses of CITES-Protected and Non Protected Animal Species* have been widely distributed by the German CITES Management Authority to other interested authorities, scientists and NGO's.

The UK Management Authority's research on the seasonal movement and behaviour of basking sharks is continuing to produce some unique and fascinating results. It was hoped that the 3-year research programme would be concluded in January 2004, but due to technical problems with the tags in the 2003 field season, the project has been extended until January 2005.

The UK Management Authority is currently considering tenders for a research project on the conservation genetics of basking sharks. The project aims to elucidate further elements of the life history of the basking shark in the NE Atlantic (especially within EU and UK territorial waters) and globally. In particular, the project will aim to determine the population structure of basking sharks by genetic analysis, in order to contribute towards the future recovery and sustainable management of basking shark populations.

Following a successful research project funded by the UK Management Authority an on-line identification guide for CITES-listed coral species was launched on 14 July. (www.arkive.org) The guide will give 24-hour access worldwide to users as diverse as school children, scientists, holidaymakers and customs officials, allowing them to use the simple online guide to recognise endangered corals and so help to reduce the illegal trade in these species. Trade in around 2000 coral species is regulated by Appendix II of CITES. This project is also seen as a pilot for the possible further development of a more extensive on-line identification guide for other (groups of) CITES-listed species.

The Final Report arising out of research commissioned by the UK Management Authority into the extent and impact of illegal hunting operations on musk deer (*moschus* spp) in the Russian Federation is expected to be published in Spring 2004. The research has focussed on providing an assessment of the extent of domestic consumption of musk in the far east of the Russian Federation and the identification of routes used for illegal trade to neighbouring countries (especially China, Mongolia and North Korea). The outcomes from the research project are expected to contribute to an assessment of the impact of exploitation, especially by poaching and illegal trade, on the conservation status of musk deer in the far east of the Russian Federation. Amongst other things the results will be used by the UK Management Authority to:

- a. inform future UK policy on conservation issues relating to musk deer;
- b. contribute to the CITES Animals Committee Significant Trade Review in respect of musk deer; and
- c. contribute to the debate on the conservation management of musk deer at the next Conference of Parties.

The UK Management Authority's research on Marine Turtles in UK Overseas Territories (commonly known as Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT) Project) continues to progress well and is on target to report at the end of 2004. The research team have so far catalysed the collection of a large number of samples in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. These are currently being analysed and analysis will be completed in time for final reporting deadline. Both UK and OT project partners will be able to collect samples up to and beyond the end of TCOT (Aug 2004). Further information can be found at www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/tcot.

At the end of 2004 the UK Management Authority expects the research project “Plant Substances as Alternatives for Animal Products used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)”. The aim of the research project is to identify plant substances that could be used as viable alternatives for the following four animals currently pre-eminently used in TCM:

- all species of tigers (*Panthera tigris*);
- the Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*);
- the Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*); and
- the White Rhinoceros (northern and southern) (*Ceratotherium simum (cottoni* and *simum*))

The specific objective is to identify the active chemical components derived from the four animal species of this study. Once known (or where active ingredients are already known), the aim is to find plant substitutes and produce identification of the best animal models for trials. The UK Management Authority expects the results to inform future policy on promoting substitutes for endangered animal species used in TCM, contribute to the conservation of endangered species, aid the implementation of CITES in respect of the animal species concerned, and contribute to progress in implementing the CITES Resolution (Res. Conf. 10.19).

In addition the UK Scientific Authority (flora) has:

- Completed Phase 1 of the CITES Significant Trade Survey of plants from Madagascar and participated in the Madagascar project workshop
- Completed the Defra-funded CITES User's Guides CD-ROMs *CITES and Plants: A User's Guide Version 3* and *CITES and Succulents*
- Commenced work on the Defra-funded CITES User's Guides *CITES and Slipper Orchids* and *CITES and Timber*.

In collaboration with other offices of its network, TRAFFIC Europe undertook to secure funding and implement a series of projects on wildlife trade issues related to European markets, among which

- the publication of a new issue (No. 3) of *Info TRAFFIC*, a newsletter in French focussing on wildlife trade in francophone Africa and other French-speaking Parties (sponsored by the Rufford Foundation)
- a report *Fading Footprints: the killing and trade of snow leopards* (funded by WWF-UK)
- the formulation of a draft on preliminary guidelines on the *Monitoring of and quota setting for trade in live corals in Indonesia and Fiji* (co-funded by the CITES Secretariat and the US National Fish and Wildlife Fund –NFWF)
- a *Review of the exploitation of Tridacnidae in the South Pacific, Indonesia and Vietnam* (partly funded by the European Commission)