

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Carlos Ibero Solana and Colmán Ó Críodáin in their capacity as representative and alternate representative of Europe.

General information

2. AC members: Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) and Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain); Alternates: Colmán Ó Críodáin (Ireland) and Radu Suciu (Romania).
3. Number of Parties in the region: 45

Communication with Parties in the region since AC22 (Lima, July 2006)

4. Carlos Ibero Solana and Colmán Ó Críodáin addressed Parties in the region to inform them about the agenda of AC23 and requested information to elaborate the present report. 16 Parties answered: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.
5. Carlos Ibero and Colmán Ó Críodáin participated in the European Union Scientific Review Group meetings and informed them about the works and decisions of the Animals Committee.

Follow up on selected agenda items of previous Animals Committee meetings

6. *Point 10 of AC 23. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings:* **Spain** is contributing with the participation of two people in the Steering Committee: Mercedes Lasso, from the Management Authority, and Margarita Clemente as Chairman of the Plants Committee. Other contributors from the region for Animal issues are: Switzerland with Thomas Althaus, as Chair of the Animals Committee; and Henk Eggink, from the European Commission.
7. *Point 15 of AC 23. Conservation and management of sharks:* the European Commission, on behalf of the 27 countries of the European Union, sent a common answer to Notification 2007/033. **Spain** also sent additional information to the Secretariat on this issue.

CITES activities in the region:

8. Review of Significant Trade

Moldova: The Institute of Zoology (Scientific Authority) provided status and monitoring data of *Falco cherrug* (Șoim dunărean) in the Republic of Moldova to the CITES Secretariat in 2007.

9. Review of the Appendices

Spain undertook the review of *Rhea americana* and *Tupinambis merianae* (formerly *teguixin*), which have been submitted to the consideration of 23rd AC meeting.

10. CITES projects

- a) **Germany:** The German Scientific Authority is financing and coordinating several research projects on the dispersal of wolves (*Canis lupus*) from the small population in Germany, development of measures suitable for a permanent re-establishment of lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Germany, and development of a management concept for the return of large carnivores, such as bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf and lynx to Germany.
- b) **Hungary:** Most of the populations of animal species listed on CITES appendices and native to Hungary have been monitored by nature conservation authorities and NGOs. These include, *inter alia*, Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Great White Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*), Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Red-footed Falon (*Falco vespertinus*), Common Crane (*Grus grus*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*), Meadow Viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) and Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*).
- c) **Ireland:** Research into leatherback turtles in Irish waters has taken great strides in recent years and the Irish Scientific Authority were very pleased to have been able to provide funding towards the satellite tracking work being carried out by University College Cork. Two animals were tagged of Dingle, in Co. Kerry, a female in 2005 and a male in 2006. The subsequent migration, diving and feeding behaviour of these animals was then followed for several months. More details on the [leatherback turtle project](#) are available on the link provided. Ireland is currently undertaking collaborative work with Gabon in relation to the conservation of this species.
- d) **Italy:** Funding of an action plan on *Vicugna vicugna* in cooperation with TRAFFIC Europe - Italia and the Governments of Argentina and Bolivia. Funding of a project for the conservation of *Ara rubrogenys*, in cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- e) **United Kingdom:** Studies commissioned by the UK Management Authority and Scientific Authority (Fauna), and undertaken by Fauna & Flora International, were completed into the "*Distribution and relative abundance of raptors in Guinea subject to international trade*". The first report from this work is, at the time of writing, in the final stages of preparation and will be available, in English and in French, by the 23rd Animals Committee. Other reports will follow and should provide important baseline information with which to manage any trade in raptors from Guinea. The work should also contribute to the improved understanding of the avifauna of the region.

The UK Scientific Authority (Fauna) has commissioned a study by the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, to produce an annotated checklist of the corals occurring in Fiji, with reference to Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, to assist in the understanding of the status and occurrence of CITES listed corals there and in the management of any trade.

- f) **Switzerland** has supported a research project concerning the sustainable use of Anaconda in Argentina

11. Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

- a) **Czech Republic:** Scientific Authority of the Czech Republic gave in 2007 positive advice for registration of the following captive-breeding operation: owner Michal Hortai, Mochtin 85, 33901 Klatovy. Species breed: *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, hybrids *Falco cherrug* x *Falco peregrinus* and *Falco cherrug* x *Falco rusticolus*.
- b) **United Kingdom:** The Scientific Authority (fauna) undertook assessments to ensure that the operation described below fully met Res. Conf. 10.16 with respect to the species concerned; the operation was subsequently included in the CITES register of operations that breed Appendix I animals for commercial purposes: Gulfstream Falcons (Ref A-GB-504). Species bred: *Falco peregrinus pealei*; *Falco rusticolus*; hybrids *F. rusticolus* x *F. cherrug*; hybrids *F. rusticolus* x *F. peregrinus*

12. Others

- a) **Croatia:** The most important case of confiscation in 2007 included 10 specimens of Radiated Tortoises (*Geochelone radiata*), 35 specimens of Flat-casqued Chameleon (*Calumna globifera*) and 140 specimens of Parson's Giant Chameleon (*Calumna parsoni*) in April 2007. Animals were smuggled by Croatian citizen in his suitcase from Bangkok, Thailand. This case was finished in May 2007 when all 10 healthy specimens of *Geochelone radiata*, and 77 cameleons were returned to country of origin Madagascar. The rest of cameleons died after confiscation. Several confiscations of Date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) involved more than 18600 specimens.
- b) **Spain:** The Scientific Authority has elaborated the document *Making CITES non-detriment findings for sharks: a guidelines proposal*. This document will be published in the first semester of 2008 and presented to the Non-Detriment Findings workshop to be held in México at the end of 2008.

The Scientific Authority of **Spain** supports the activity of Carlos Ibero Solana as regional representative providing all needs to develop the duties involved in the position.

- c) **Switzerland:** The Swiss government continued to support the European representative and acting Chair of the Animals Committee Thomas Althaus in order to allow him to perform his duties.

Promotion of CITES in the region

13. Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

- a) **Austria** celebrated in 2007 the 25th anniversary of its accession to CITES. Main elements of that campaign included a study on the current state of play of the implementation of CITES in Austria with recommendations to enhance its efficiency. This study was contracted by the Austrian Management authority (federal ministry of the environment) to the late Peter Linhart who finished it in early spring 2007 shortly before his death. Additionally outreach material was printed and distributed by the Management Authority and CITES was well represented at various events on nature, pets and related issues, supplemented by press releases and events for the media. A one-day conference was held at Vienna zoo in May 2007 to give an overview on the current situation of CITES in Austria. On that basis, the Management Authority drafted a national action plan for the future implementation of CITES in Austria.
- b) **Croatia:** In November 2006 Ministry of Culture together with Ministry of Finance, Customs Directorate and Ministry of Interior Affairs, Border Police organised international CITES seminar for education of custom officers, border police and nature protection inspectors.

Project "Implementation of Environmental Acquis related to the protection of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein". Project is financed by the Government of the Netherlands within the PPA-Environmental Facility (PPA/V), one of the Netherlands Pre-accession Programmes. Project scheduled from January 2007-January 2009. The project aims to contribute to the accession of Croatia to the European Union and in particular, the project aims to assist Croatia with the implementation of its tasks with regard to the trade in endangered species of wild flora and

fauna. Beneficiaries of the project are: Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate; Ministry of Finance, Customs Directorate; Ministry of Interior, Police Directorate.

- c) **Czech Republic:** A workshop aimed to the identification of selected species of vertebrates (particularly parrots, reptiles and primates) listed in CITES appendices for regional CITES offices organized by the Scientific Authority was held in October 2007. Numerous lectures on CITES have been given for the public during the year 2007 by Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities. Awareness and educational materials were published by the Scientific Authority with the finance support of the MA.
- d) **Germany:** Dr. Ute Grimm, member of the Scientific Authority, took part in the "Workshop in CITES implementation", held in Chisinau, Moldova, in October 2007, organized by the Authorities of Moldova and the European Commission.
- e) **Greece:** Organization of training courses to the 13 regional Management Authorities as well as providing them with electronic equipment (microchip reading devices and others). Information to the public about the Convention by issuing leaflets and posters distributed to the regional authorities and customs offices as well as launching an Internet site to inform about CITES.
- f) **Hungary:** Several capacity building seminars to CITES inspectorate officers.
 - i) In May 2007, the Hungarian CITES Management Authority contributed in a 2-days training seminar held in Romania for enforcement authorities (customs, police, inspectorates and veterinary officials). The course has been organized by TRAFFIC and funded by DEFRA and Rufford Foundation.
 - ii) In May 2007 the Management Authority hold a one-day training seminar on CITES matters to the National Investigation Office.
 - iii) In October 2007 a 2-days training seminar was held in Bratislava, Slovakia on the role of the state veterinary services in CITES enforcement. The workshop was facilitated by the RSPCA and officers of the state veterinary services, customs, police and Management Authorities of the 4 Visegrád countries participated.
- g) **Ireland** undertook a study of CITES implementation trade similar to that undertaken by Austria. The work was carried out by UNEP-WCMC and the findings presented to Scientific and Management Authority staff in 2007.

Contribution with a lecturer to the Sixth Master's degree and Ph Degree courses in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework", held in Baeza (Spain) in 2007.
- h) **Moldova:** The European Commission, TAIEX, organized in co-operation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova: "Seminar on CITES Convention Implementation", on 10-11 October 2007 in Chisinau, Moldova. The seminar dealt with: implementation of CITES at National level, CITES customs and enforcement, and overview of the functioning and role of the CITES Scientific Authorities.
 - i) The National Ecological Fund supported 2 projects in 2006-2007: "The measures for the implementation of CITES Convention in the Republic of Moldova". Through these, illustrative materials were printed; placates, bulletins and other activities with the theme: "SAVE Endangered Animals and Plants Species CITES".
 - ii) Experts from Management Authority participated in 4 training seminars for Customs specialists, which were organized in the Custom's Training Centre, with the participation of 120 specialists.
- i) **Portugal:** Participation of the Scientific Authority in capacity building activities directed to enforcement agents and state agencies related with CITES enforcement, as well as in public awareness actions associated with the coverage of COP14 by the Portuguese media.

- j) **Slovakia** undertook several training course for customs staff in 2006 and 2007.
- k) **Spain:** The Scientific Authority of Spain organised two training courses (one week -30 hours- each) on CITES for Seprona, the Environmental Police in Spain in December 2006 and April 2007. Both Management and Scientific Authorities contributed as lecturers as well as other experts.
 - i) Sixth Master's degree and Ph Degree courses in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework" with the International University of Andalucia from 8th January to 23rd March, 2007. This Master's degree course provided participants with the tools for understanding how CITES work. 28 participants from 19 Parties (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela and Vietnam) attended the courses directed by Prof. Dr. Margarita Clemente Muñoz.
 - ii) Organization of the Seventh Master's degree course in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework" with the International University of Andalucia from 7th April to 20th June, 2008.
 - iii) The Scientific Authority participated in the "Workshop in CITES implementation", held in Chisinau, Moldova, in October 2007, organized by the Authorities of Moldova and the European Commission.
 - iv) The Scientific Authority participated in the "National workshop on CITES", held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in November 2007, organized by the Authorities of Bolivia with support of the CITES Secretariat.
- l) **Switzerland:** Several courses for customs officials concerning recognition of furs as well as timber. In summer 2007 an awareness campaign concerning souvenirs and CITES was launched in collaboration with WWF Switzerland. Over one million leaflets were distributed all over Switzerland.
- m) **United Kingdom:** The UK CITES Scientific Authority (fauna) contributed to a strategic assessment of current and emerging threats to wildlife from illegal activities, and together with representatives from all the key UK enforcement agencies, government departments, statutory nature conservation agencies and devolved administrations with a responsibility for wildlife crime in the UK, agreed a small number of priority species for targeted enforcement activities and awareness campaigns, namely: caviar, ivory, tortoises, ramin and traditional medicines.

The UK CITES Scientific Authority (fauna) contributed with a lecturer to the Sixth Master's degree and Ph Degree courses in "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International Framework", held in Baeza (Spain) in 2007.

The scientific community in the region and CITES

- 14. **Hungary:** CITES MA and Scientific Authority regularly give lectures at different universities on the scientific aspects of CITES and EU regulations.
- 15. **Montenegro:** as a new Party in the Convention, Montenegro is establishing cooperation with neighbouring countries. Just recently Montenegrin CITES Authorities seized two Siberian Tigers in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 16. **The 27 countries of the European Union:** The Scientific Review Group of the European Union with the CITES Scientific Authorities of the 27 Member States meets regularly (usually 4 times a year) in order to discuss scientific aspects of the CITES implementation in the region. This group has formed a Working Group on the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in order to elaborate Non Detriment Findings for exports of this species once the CITES listing gets into force on 13 March 2009.

Collaboration with other MEAs

17. **Hungary:** There is an active and regular communication and cooperation among the colleagues who are responsible for the different agreements, particularly with regard to issues of common interest.

Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

18. **Croatia:** In 2007 State Institute for Nature Protection with the help from the Ministry of Culture implemented the project "Protecting species through biodiversity communication - campaign regarding taking animals from nature and keeping wild animals in captivity".
19. **Hungary:** The development of the new www.cites.hu webpage is on the way. The new webpage will start soon with a service port for applicants, where they can search for data on species and can find all information on what they need to do in case of different intra-community activities, import and (re-) export.

Hungarian CITES Management Authority cooperates with WWF Hungary and TRAFFIC's Central and Eastern European Programme as well as other national NGO's in relation to public awareness activities.

20. **Moldova:** The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Management Authority) established by Order the Working Group on CITES Implementation. The Working Group includes representatives from Scientific Authority, Custom, Police, Ecological Inspectorate, Veterinary, Phytosanitary Inspection, NGOs and others. Meetings are held when needed but not rare once every 3 months. Private meetings with some representatives of the working group are held monthly or in case of necessity.
21. **Switzerland:** The Swiss and the European watch industry as well as the transport association of Switzerland was informed on several occasions concerning CITES and the new electronic permitting system in place in Switzerland.

Emerging issues

22. **Switzerland:** In enforcement, Internet trade has emerged as a serious problem, and several cases and enforcement actions with considerable success were undertaken in this respect.

Others

23. **Moldova:** drafting of "Law for ratification of the Gaborone amendment to CITES by Republic of Moldova". The draft will be presented to Parliament in the first semester of 2008.