

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

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Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

1. The attached report has been submitted on behalf of Germany, the Czech Republic and Iceland.
2. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only (the language in which it was submitted).

Report of the Regional Representatives for Europe to the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CITES  
Standing Committee (SC)

Geneva (Switzerland), 27. June – 1. July 2005

## 1. Introduction

This report outlines the activities of Parties within the European Region in the period between the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (15 – 19 March 2004) and the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (27 June – 1 July 2005). Currently there are 43 Parties to the Convention in the European Region of which **21 Parties** (Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom) and the **European Commission** have contributed to this report.

## 2. CITES Standing-, Animals- & Plants Committee Activities

- **Austria** participated as an observer at the 14th PC meeting in Windhoek (Namibia) in February 2004 and actively contributed among others through Dr. Kiehn's participation in the respective working group on 'Significant trade in plants -Selection of new species'.

Furthermore the Austrian PC delegate presented his progress report on the development of a "CITES checklist for the orchid genus *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae)"

Dr. Kiehn's participation at other relevant venues included the CBD-CITES Synergy Workshop (Vilm, April 2004) and efforts to deal with CITES-related targets of the CBD-Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Austria's CITES Animals Committee (AC) representative, Dr. Linhart, participated as an observer at the 20th AC meeting in Johannesburg (Republic of South Africa) in February 2004 and actively contributed to the success of the meeting as chairman of the AC Working Group dealing with the transport of life animals. Other activities of Austria's AC delegate included the organization and hosting of the AATA (Animal Transport Association) Annual Meeting (Vienna, Austria, April 2004) and chairing the EAZA-TWG at the EAZA-Annual Meeting (Kolmarden, Sweden, September 2004).

- The **Czech Republic** attended during the reporting period besides meetings of the CITES Standing and the CITES Animals Committee the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CITES and following international meetings:

- TRAFFIC Meeting of CITES Management Authorities of the Central European Region, 5 March 2004, Budapest, Hungary,
- CITES Meeting on birds of prey and falconry, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, 16 – 19 May 2004;
- International Expert Workshop on the Enforcement of Wildlife Trade Controls in Phare Countries, 3 - 4 June 2004, Budapest;
- IFAW seminar on trade in wild animals in Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest, 9 – 11 July 2004; and
- 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IWC, Sorrento, Italy, 19 – 22 July 2004.

**Hungary** reported that the Head of its CITES Management Authority, Dr. Katalin Rodics continued to serve during the reporting period as one of the regional representatives of the CITES Animals Committee. She participated and represented the Central and Eastern European countries during the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee and did prepare in close collaboration with the Chair of the AC the AC-European regional report in 2004. Furthermore a representative of Hungary's CITES Management Authority participated at the European regional meeting of the Plants Committee held in 2004 in Warsaw, Poland.

- **Norway** was one of three countries representing between CITES CoP 11 and CoP 13 the European region. After two periods in the CITES Standing Committee (SC) Norway was replaced by Iceland after CoP 13. Currently Norway is chairing the SC working group on developing guidelines for compliance issues. A report is expected to be submitted and discussed at the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.

- In April 2004 the CITES Management of **Poland** had invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> European Regional meeting of the CITES Plants Committee to Warsaw. The well attended meeting which had been supported by the National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management, the Polish Ministry of the Environment, the Warsaw University, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands had been organised by the Botanic Garden of Warsaw University.

- The Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the **Republic of Serbia** reported that due to lack of resources of not having attended since 2003 any meetings of the CITES Standing Committee or meetings of other CITES permanent committees.

- **Switzerland** continued to support the activity of Dr. Thomas Althaus in his function as acting chair of CITES Animals Committee (AC) and European AC Representative. Dr. Althaus attended on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005 a meeting with interesting exchanges of ideas with the newly elected Co-Chair 'Fauna' of the CITES Nomenclature Committee (Dr. Ute Grimm). Furthermore he 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 extern - costs and benefits" (17.-19. February 2005).

- **Slovenia** informed that Dr. Nika Debeljak from the Scientific Authority had been nominated as an alternate member of the CITES Plants Committee at COP 13.

- The **United Kingdom** (UK) played a prominent role at CITES COP 13 and, in particular, the Head of the UK CITES Management Authority had the honour of being elected to chair the discussions in Committee II.

At COP 13 the UK's Management Authority supported with £15,000 funding the African Elephant Dialogue meeting. In addition as part of the UK's continuing commitment to support ongoing work to monitor the control of the trade in ivory the UK had provided to the CITES Secretariat £15,000 to fund verification missions to China and Japan in 2005 to confirm that the legislative and regulatory measures in place are being implemented effectively. In addition, at CITES COP 13 the UK also responded to pressing concerns of the Parties by providing additional funding for CITES Secretariat led projects aimed at preventing illegal trade in great apes (£20,000) and preventing illegal trade in Asian big cats (£15,000).

In other international fora the UK was re-appointed to the Executive Committee of the Global Tiger Forum and asked to chair its biennial assembly for the concluding session on the future strategic direction of the Forum. The UK MA also participated in, and provided funding for, the CITES

consultative meeting on trade in falcons for falconry Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), 16-19 May 2004.

The United Kingdom's (UK) Scientific Authorities for Fauna and Flora both continued to play important roles in assisting the UK Management Authority's active participation in CITES which included:

- Assisting in the organisation and participating in the workshop on 'Management and Enforcement of the CITES Timber Trade in the European Region' – Perugia, Italy, 11-13 April 2005.
  - Participation in the Animals Committee's Working Group on the 'Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix-II Species' (Resolution Conf. 12.8 and Decision 12.75).
  - Participation in the Animals Committee's Working Group on reviewing the process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes (Resolution Conf. 12.10 and Decision 12.78).
  - Participation in the Animals Committee's Working Group on trade in hard corals (Resolution Conf. 11.10 - Rev. CoP12- and Decision 12.62).
  - Participating in the drafting group on the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II.
  - Participation in the Animals Committee's Working Group on the selection of new species for inclusion in the 'Significant Trade Review'.
  - Participation in the Plants Committee's drafting group on the review of the criteria.
  - Chairing the Plants Committee's Working Group on the 'Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix-II Species' (Resolution Conf. 12.8 and Decision 12.75).
  - Producing and distributing, - *CITES and Plants - A Users Guide Version 3.0* and *CITES and Succulents* which was launched in book form at the 13th Conference of the Parties of CITES in October 2004.
  - Producing and distributing, - *CITES and Slipper Orchids - the genera Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium and Cypripedium* which is scheduled to be launched as a CD-ROM at the 15th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee Meeting in 2005.
  - Production of CD-ROM's about Ramin, Afrosia and Brazilian mahogany to allow better implementation and enforcement of the CITES timber trade. The CD-ROM's which are accompanied by a manual and a series of posters also contain information directly related to the UK's customs procedures for timber shipments.
  - Finally the CITES image database was further updated and it now includes more than 17.000 images.
- Concerning CITES Standing- Animals-& Plants Committee activities **Sweden** reported of having been represented only at the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee. However Peter Örn from the Swedish Scientific Authority participated at the Workshop on Management and Enforcement of the CITES Timber trade in the European Union at Perugia, Italy in April 2005.
- **Germany, Turkey and Russia** continued to contribute as selected members to the work assigned under specific terms of reference to the Standing Committee's Export Quota Working Group. The document prepared by Germany had been one of the basic documents which were submitted for discussion to all participants of the meeting of the Export Quota Working Group which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2004 during the 13<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties.

- Regarding the attendance of the various international bodies of CITES the **European Commission** reported that it had attended as an observer the 13th Conference of the Parties in Bangkok, the 50<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> CITES Standing Committee as well as the CITES Animals and Plants Committees, where it had actively participated in a number of working groups.

### 3. Capacity building activities

- **Austria** provided information of having commissioned through its 'Ministry of the Environment and WWF Austria/TRAFFIC Programme' projects for building capacity for CITES implementation and enforcement both in candidate and new EU member countries. A current project is expected to be completed by December 2005.

Furthermore Austria provided delegate sponsorship for CoP13 totalling € 15.000 and the Austrian Ministry of the Environment had committed €15.000 to the MIKE programme in Africa in the form of urgent bridging funds for 2005 (see Notification No. 2005/015).

- With the assistance and participation of TRAFFIC Europe and the CITES Secretariat the **Belgian** CITES Management and Scientific Authorities had organized a four days CITES training workshop in November 2004 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo – DRC). Among 24 nationals selected to participate in the workshop were government officers, scientists and local wildlife stakeholders which represented the CITES Management and CITES Scientific Authorities of the DRC, the Congolese Office of Control and a veterinary in charge of quarantine at Kinshasa's international airport.

Major sponsor of the project had been the Ministry of Environment of the Brussels-Capital Region which included computer hardware and the CITES Identification Manual for African species recently finalized by the CITES Secretariat with financial support from Belgium. Trainees were given detailed description of the CITES process as well as explanations on the legal basis and mechanisms for implementation of stricter domestic measures applied by the European Union. The workshop served also to discuss specific issues of direct concern to DRC such as the Action Plan adopted at CITES CoP 13 to control domestic ivory markets in Africa. National media promoted the event by publishing articles on wildlife and the use of biodiversity in the DRC.

- **Croatia** informed that primarily due to the lack of resources the process of implementation of all provisions of the Convention is proceeding with difficulties. Hence a CITES office has still not been established under the responsible Ministry of Culture. However in December 2003 the Nature Protection Directorate became part of the Croatian Ministry of Culture.

Under the Croatian Ministry of Culture in late 2003 a CITES Implementation Committee was established. Objectives of the committee are to establish better co-operation and coordination between all stakeholders from government authorities such as representatives from the Ministry, the Nature Protection Inspection, veterinary services, phyto-sanitary inspection and representatives from the Scientific Authority, the police and customs authorities. Furthermore the committee does also organize training courses. Until April 2005 the committee had met four times.

In order to facilitate the long-term keeping of CITES protected confiscated or injured animals the Nature Protection Directorate concluded during the reporting period agreements with both physical and legal entities, i.e. on the island of Cres (mostly birds of prey), in Sibenik (birds of prey), one private run facility in Zagreb (mammals, bird, reptiles, amphibians) and one facility near Dakovo (mammal, birds, reptiles, amphibians) which all can to a certain extend provide accommodation for confiscated CITES protected animals.

- With respect to the accession of the **Czech Republic** into the EU and the adoption of the European Community legislation on CITES implementation, the Czech Republic re-structured and strengthened its competent authorities.

The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is the Primary Management Authority competent to communicate with international bodies and foreign countries. It issues permits and certificates for trade with the third countries outside the EU, and allows movement of EC-Annex-A live animals within the EU.

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (ANCLP) has been appointed as the CITES Scientific Authority. Furthermore the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) has been given the responsibility for enforcing the CITES legislation.

Other newly appointed authorities are the State Phytosanitary Service which as another Management Authority has been granted competence to issue phytosanitary certificates as CITES export documents for artificially propagated plants and the regional state authorities and Administrations of National Parks and Protected Landscape Areas which have been empowered to issue certificates for trade with CITES specimens within the EU.

The Czech Ministry of Environment (MoE) organized for CITES regional authorities three one-week training seminars on EC CITES-related legislation.

Within the Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), a special section on species conservation and CITES (CITES Section) was established since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 with four full-time inspectors who are also regularly training other wildlife inspectors within the CEI. In 2004 four seminars were organized for CEI inspectors, three for Customs and one for the Police.

CITES is also part of the compulsory curriculum for customs officers. During the reporting period special training in CITES was given to 124 customs officers of Groups of Mobile Supervision (GMS). The GMS's carry out checks on the whole territory of the Czech Republic in connection with searching for goods which had passed unnoticed customs controls.

Building of national institutional capacity in CITES implementation in the Czech Republic has been identified by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MEPP) as a priority activity. In the past three years, because of rather limited budget the MEPP had not been able to fully respond to the challenges concerning the implementation of the Convention.

The Republic of Macedonia became a Party to CITES in 2000. Since then, MEPP representatives have not attended either meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, the Plants Committee nor the Animals Committee. Because of these constraints the activities of MEPP focused in the period March 2004 - April 2005 on the issuance of CITES permits to regulate international trade in wild species under the Convention and continuous processing of circular notifications submitted by the Secretariat of CITES.

In the framework of national capacity building, the need to organize training courses for MEPP staff has been recognized in particular concerning the use of CITES Annexes and procedures for permits issuance, handling and distribution. Activities aimed at capacity building for customs officers concerning recognition of endangered wild species of flora and fauna listed in the CITES Appendices, as well as capacity building for detecting illegal trade, are also required. Furthermore the need to strengthen the role of national scientific institutions involved in the implementation of the Convention has been recognized of being of particular relevance.

- In 2004 the CITES Management Authority of **Denmark** provided for training and educational purposes various confiscated objects of CITES species as a permanent loan to the Lithuanian Customs Department. These objects are now predominantly used in the Educational Center of Customs Department.

- The Ministry of Environment of **Estonia** reported on a CITES seminar for enforcement officers held in June 2004 in Tallinn at which 40 officials from customs and from the Estonian Environmental Inspectorate participated. Besides local lecturers and also experts from the United Kingdom (Charles Mackay and Alison Littlewood) were involved as trainers. The **Estonian Ministry of Environment** informed on several legislative changes during the reporting period:

On 10. May the new Nature Conservation Law entered into force. The new law provides regulations on which species are protected. It designates the responsible CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, allows for enacting in case of necessity measures stricter than those under the

respective European Community's CITES wildlife regulations and provides to customs offices the legal power for carrying out the custom procedure for export and import of specimens of the species listed in the annexes of the EC Reg. No 338/97.

On 28. May 2004 Regulation of the Minister of the Environment No 57 on "Designation of the Scientific Authority" was issued which establishes the Estonian Scientific Committee of CITES.

On 10.06.2004 the Estonian government passed regulation No 213 on the designation of custom offices for import and export of specimens of endangered species of fauna and flora. On 8. April 2005 regulation No 69 entered into force which provides the legal framework for sanctioning environmental infractions caused by destroying or damaging of protected natural objects or protected species. In the case of infringement of rules established under EC Reg. No. 338/97 for transactions and operations with specimens of species listed in Annexes A-D of this regulation, compensation for environmental damages will be between 200 – 1.000.000 EEK (12-65 000 EUR), depending on the conservation status and the market value of the specimen concerned.

- Within the scope of an EU-Commission funded Twinnig-project with a CITES implementation component both officials from **Germany's** CITES Management and its Scientific Authority contributed as lecturers to a CITES training seminar for national customs officers, enforcement officials, national NGO's and representatives from the CITES Management and Scientific Authority from 21.-30. November 2004 in Antalya, Turkey.

From 20.-24. April 2004 Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation had invited to its Nature Conservation Academy on the Island of Vilm participants from 23 countries around the world for an international workshop to discuss possibilities and limits for closer collaboration between the two most important multilateral environmental agreements, CITES and the CBD. During the workshop participants identified several potential and rather specific field of actions which if implemented could strengthen and intensify already existing cooperations and synergy between the two conventions. The proceedings of the workshop (*Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy* - BfN Skripten 116; Bonn-Germany 2004) had been published and additionally also made available in an electronic form as an information document (CoP 13 Inf.16) for all attendants of the 13. Conference of the Parties.

Germany's Scientific Authority for Plants contracted and published in 2003 the 2nd edition of a checklist on succulent Euphorbias (Carter, S. & U. Egli (2003): *The CITES Checklist of Succulent Euphorbia Taxa (Euphorbiaceae)*, 2nd Edition. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany). A revision of this checklist had become overdue as many new species had been described since the publication of the 1st edition of the list. The new Euphorbia checklist which had been accepted at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Plants Committee had finally been adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of CITES (see conference document CoP 13 Doc. 9.3.1) in October 2004 in the scope of an amendment to CITES Resolution Conf. 12.11 on 'Standard Nomenclature'. The new checklist which contains information on more than 900 Euphorbia species shall in particular support CITES implementation agencies by providing a guideline when making reference to the names of species of succulent Euphorbias.

In order to stop illegal, virtually unhampered trade with Saiga antelope products a discussion document was prepared by Germany for the 13<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties which took place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004. On the basis of this document a comprehensive CITES Decision was adopted in Bangkok to protect the Saiga antelope.

- In the past few years CITES enforcement had been administratively decentralized in **Hungary** through the establishment of regional Management Authorities. Regional officers have been trained several times about CITES, EU and national provisions concerning animal and plant trade. According to the bilateral agreement between the Hungarian Customs & Finance Guard and the Ministry of Environment and Water several CITES training courses for customs officers were held during the reporting period. In order to facilitate CITES implementation and enforcement in Hungary the CITES Management Authority provided to customs offices both the Green Parrot Project and CITES identification manuals.

From 3 - 4 June 2004 an international expert workshop for lawyers, general attorneys or officials from courts had been organized by TRAFFIC Europe in Budapest to discuss wildlife crime in Phare Countries. The aim of the workshop was to enhance enforcement and the effectiveness of regulations, to strengthen inter-agency co-operation regarding control of the wildlife trade and to assist new EU Member States in training and capacity building activities. More than 50 public prosecutors, judges and representatives of wildlife trade regulatory agencies participated at that meeting.

From 9-11 July 2004 IFAW had organized an international workshop on "Protection of Wildlife against Commercial Trade in Central and Eastern Europe". The workshop which was held in Budapest concentrated mainly on CITES enforcement and implementation problems associated with the enlargement of European Union.

In April 2005 a national conference on wildlife crime had been organized to strengthen co-operation with the Police Service. The Hungarian CITES Management Authority assisted in the organisation and gave presentations at all the above mentioned meetings.

- From 11-13 April 2005 **Italy's** CITES Management Authority, Ministry of Environment and Territory and the Department of Plant Biology of the University of Perugia had organized an International Workshop on the Management and Enforcement of the CITES Timber Trade in the European Region. The objectives of the workshop were to share experiences and promoting initiatives on timber trade management and related issues. The workshop was organized in four sessions on 'Patterns of Trade', 'Case Studies on how CITES Regulations are Implemented for Timber', 'Science and Decision Making' and on 'Enforcement'.

The Workshop had been coordinated by the European regions Plants Committee members, Professor Giuseppe Frenguelli and Professor Margarita Clemente and the member of the CITES Nomenclature Committee, Mr Noel McGough,.

The successful workshop was well attended by government representatives from Albania, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as representatives from the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Plants Committee, the European Commission, TRAFFIC Europe, ATIBT and experts on timber related issues.

The recommendations adopted by the workshop are in detail included in the report of the European region for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Plants Committee. However with regard to the recommendations directed to the Parties of the European region and the CITES Standing Committee it is worth mentioning those again as follows:

*Directed to CITES Parties within the European Region (ER):*

- Parties in the ER should work with their timber trade organisations and involve industry;
- Nominate a timber contact person in their Management Authority, Scientific Authority and Enforcement Agency to link with other countries;
- Share information on ports of entry and trade patterns in the region;
- Share training materials and manuals;
- Co-ordinate on training workshops;
- Prepare a training workshop programme and manual that can be used as a core training material across the region;
- Run an annual European CITES and timber training workshop for national trainers to attend;
- Make additional efforts to identify the major companies involved in trading CITES listed timber and wood products, including efforts to identify and inform traders in Ramin processed products who are often not connected to the standard timber trade associations through which information on CITES controls are normally disseminated, and many of which remain ignorant of CITES requirements.

*Directed to the Standing Committee and Plants Committee*

- To review whether it would be appropriate to re-establish the CITES Timber Working Group to allow it to review a range of implementation issues;
- Plants Committee to prepare possible revised terms of reference for the Timber Working Group and address them to the Standing Committee;
- In cooperation with the World Customs Organisation, review and harmonise HS codes related to CITES needs including identification of specific codes for CITES tree species.

- **Italy's** State Forest Corps had organized and held during the reporting period several meetings to update and co-ordinate the enforcement activities for its officials during the reporting period. Dominating subjects at these meetings were the amendments and decisions adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> CITES CoP as well as related procedures and regulations at the EU level. An important new project funded by the Italian Ministry of Information Technologies and by the Ministry of Forestry started recently in order to implement by means of web based technologies the issuance of CITES permits and certificates. During the first phase of the project the online application for CITES permits is envisaged until June 2005.

- The CITES Management Authority of **Lithuania** informed on several capacity building activities. During the years 2003-2004 officials from the Ministry of Environment gave comprehensive lectures for officers of the Customs Department. Furthermore 4 seminars on CITES were held for inspectors of environmental protection and one lecture for officials in the Department of Tourism. In addition customs officers themselves also held lectures on CITES regulations in the course of eight seminars organised by Customs Department.

- The **Norwegian Government** had organized in May 2004 in Oslo a customs training seminar. Furthermore after CITES CoP 13 the national CITES homepages were modified and a new CITES checklist was published both in Norwegian and in English which can be accessed under the internet site [www.dirnat.no/CITES](http://www.dirnat.no/CITES).

- The CITES Management Authority of **Poland** reported on several enforcement activities during the reporting period such as CITES trainings for Polish customs service on EU CITES regulations and CITES plants identification both run by customs authorities themselves. Furthermore several training courses including CITES regulations and species identification for boarder guard services and police were run by customs service. In addition customs service gave several lectures in schools, universities and other bodies about the conservation of CITES protected species.

- **Serbia** informed that with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat and representatives from the Environmental Agency of Slovenia two CITES training seminars were held in 2004. The seminars were targeted at CITES implementation bodies such as customs, police, CITES Management and Scientific Authority and Zoological Gardens. Currently a CITES guide for customs and other stakeholders is under preparation by the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection. Furthermore the CITES Management Authority of Serbia reported on the preparation of national management plan for sturgeon species and on the establishment of a scientific advisory board for the implementation of CITES which is composed of representatives from different scientific institutions specialized on certain taxa of wild fauna and flora. In addition in 2004 Serbia installed the Zoo 'Palic' near the boarder of Hungary as an official rescue centre for confiscated CITES animal species and further considerations are under way to open a bird rescue centre in Belgrade.

- The CITES Management Authority of the **Slovak Republic** reported on three CITES training seminars held between 14. – 23. March 2005 for the Slovak Environmental Inspection on EU CITES regulations and the new national CITES legislation. Another training seminar dealing with

the same subjects was held from 12. – 13. April 2005 for the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and on 28. April 2005 for officials from zoological gardens in the Slovakia.

- In May 2004, a representative of **Slovene Management Authority** participated in a 3 day training seminar for government officials responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Serbia and Montenegro. The seminar which was organized by the CITES Secretariat and the CITES Management Authority of Serbia and Montenegro was attended by 49 participants from the management, scientific and enforcement authorities.

In September 2004 a representative of the Slovene Management Authority participated in a 5 day regular training seminar for customs and border police officials in Croatia. The seminar was organised by the Croatian MA in close co-operation with the co-operation of the Ministries of Finance and Interior and a Danish consulting agency.

A regular 3-day seminar for Slovene customs took place in September 2004. Trainers from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the United Kingdoms Customs and Excise and Italy's 'Corpo Forestale' together with lecturers from the Slovene Management and Scientific Authorities, the Office of the State Prosecutor and Veterinary Faculty participated at the seminar. The seminar which mainly focused on the enforcement of the European Wildlife Trade Regulations was attended by 35 customs officers.

Finally in December 2004 the Slovene Management Authority donated 6 wide spectrum microchip readers AEG (ARE-H5) to the Customs Administration. The readers will be used for control of shipments of live animals at 6 border points which have been designated for CITES checks in Slovenia.

- In **Sweden** within the Swedish Board of Agriculture there has been a restructuring of the CITES MA. In connection with the creation of a special authority for animal welfare issues, i.e. the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency ('Djurskyddsenheten') it was decided that the management of CITES questions shall be administered together with certain veterinary health questions in a new Division called CITES- and Animal Health Division which is now the case. Both CITES plants and for the time being CITES Arthropoda are currently administered by the Swedish Plant Protection Division.

- **Switzerland** supported during the reporting period following research projects in the framework of CITES:

- "Review of Crocodile Ranching Programs" by IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group" (10'000. - SFr.);

- "Implementation of Recommendations Emerging from CITES Reviews of Significant Trade - Results and Success Factors" (10'000. - SFr.);

- "Management of the International Trade in Seahorses, *Hippocampus* spp." (10'000. - SFr.);

- "Status and Protection of the Hainan Gibbon (*Nomascus* sp. Cf. *nasutus hainanus*)" (10'000.- SFr.); and

- "Data Collection and Awareness Campaign for the Reduction of Unsustainable Use of Parrots as Pets (Region Baranquilla, Columbia)" (10'000.- Sfr).

In addition two studies were undertaken by officials of the Swiss CITES Management Authority, i.e. "Contributions to Species Conservation by Scientifically Administered Zoological Gardens in Switzerland" and "Trade in CITES Specimens in Switzerland - An Analysis of Trade Data over the Last 30 Years".

The Government of Switzerland supported the production of 22 identification sheets on fresh water turtle species which were listed at CITES CoP12 for the Identification Manual and provided in July 2004 30'000.- SFr. for the production of the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices (CITES CoP 13).

- **Turkey's** Ministry of Environment and Forestry provided information that in March 2004 the EU Twinning Project 'TR-02-EN-01' had started. The project is for Turkey part of a capacity building effort in the field of environment and has a running period of 27 months. Twinning partner is Germany's Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Subproject II is dedicated to the improvement of CITES implementation in Turkey in order to be well prepared to introduce related European Regulations.

To this date together with German short term experts following activities were undertaken:

- Establishment of a Technical Working Group which has met 13 times up to now. All related Institutions responsible of the Implementation of CITES participated at the meetings of this Working Group.
- CITES Training Programmes for Inspectors and Experts from 21.- 22 November 2004, in Antalya and from 11.-22. April 2005 in Ankara
- Initiation of a feasibility study on the need for improving existing and/or establishing new CITES Rescue Centres. Part of the study was an inspection tour (19-25.09.2004) to identify potential rescue centres in Turkey, such as to the Botanic Garden of Istanbul, Atatürk Airport and Halkali Custom in Istanbul, the Birds Paradise and Zoo in Darica/Izmit, the Bear Rehabilitation Centre in Bursa, both the Zoo and the Adnan Menderes Airport in Izmir as well as the Zoo in Ankara.

A representative from Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade participated in the training workshop in Sofia (14 to 18 March 2005), Bulgaria arranged by the CITES Secretariat as a part of its capacity building programme. Two presentations on the implementation of CITES in Turkey and on the determination of export quotas in Turkey were given by Turkish delegates during the workshop.

A CITES training course related to natural flower bulbs for local experts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs was held on 23-24 March 2005 at Yalova. Furthermore another training programme related to the implementation of the regulations on the management and conservation of natural flower bulbs was carried out on 7. – 8. April 2005 in Ankara.

- The Government of the **United Kingdom** (UK) provided financial support to the following CITES-related conservation, capacity building and training projects:

- £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 Fauna and Flora International (FFI), 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 protected under CITES.
- £70,000 to IUCN: £30,000 for the Shark Specialist Group - to fund the work of Programme Officers in arranging capacity building workshops and improving communication and awareness; £20,000 for ETIS – the key global monitoring system to crack down on illegal trade in elephant products together with a contribution of £20,000 to IUCN to help fund regional workshops aimed at improving the management of Africa's lion populations.
- £30,000 to support the CITES Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) project.
- £10,000 to the CITES Bushmeat Initiative to address the unsustainable trade in bushmeat.
- £5,000 to support the costs of a meeting on hawksbill turtles in the Caribbean.
- £5,000 to support the costs of a project to assess the trade in the *Aquilaria* species.
- £3,750 to assist a CITES Capacity Building Initiative in Oceania in particular to help fund a workshop in the region that will both seek to improve CITES implementation and promote the convention.

- £5,020 to facilitate the exchange of information and to assess the implementation of the Appendix II listing of *Swietenia macrophylla* (Mahogany) in Peru, the UK funded a mission to Peru by the CITES Secretariat from 14-17th February, 2005.
  - £50,000 to fund practical conservation projects that are taken forward by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger which is a partnership between London Zoo and the NGO, Global Tiger Patrol. The UK Government has provided support in previous years and this contribution will allow Defra to continue that support for a high-profile CITES protected species.
  - £15,000 for UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to contribute to the costs of a workshop that will identify tree species that are, or could be, threatened by international trade, as well as highlight best practice that will form the basis of future sustainable use at national, regional and international levels.
  - £10,000 to UNEP-WCMC to support the work on The World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation. The Atlas reviews the great apes' current status, distribution and key threats, and will provide crucial support to the work of UNEP's Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) partnership
  - £46,000 through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), a joint initiative with the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for technical assistance for drafting environmental legislation in Anguilla.
  - About £1,700 for a British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) conservation leaflet.
  - About £9, 000 for a Red List assessment of Cayman Islands native flora.
  - £75,000 for Albatross and Petrel Conservation Programme in the Falkland Islands.
  - Over £22,000 for a Strategy for action to implement the environment charter on St Helena.
  - £100,000 between March 2004 and March 2005 through the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as part of an on-going commitment to fund UNEP's 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.
  - In addition to funding, the UK Government had also provided practical assistance in a number of ways including CITES Capacity Building in Estonia. Representatives from the UK Scientific Authority (fauna) and H.M. Customs & Excise contributed to a CITES training workshop for enforcement authorities held in Tallinn from 1-4 June 2004.
- Regarding various capacity building initiatives the **European Commission** reported on following:
- The European Commission attended in April 2005 the Timber Implementation Workshop initiated and organized by the Italian Government in cooperation with the University of Perugia.
  - The Commission had undertaken a number of contracts for assistance in CITES scientific and implementation matters. In the framework of a Monitoring Contract, TRAFFIC Europe has continued to ensure the monitoring of the website for wildlife traders in the European Union (EU) ([www.eu-wildlifetrade.org](http://www.eu-wildlifetrade.org)) which they were mandated to set up under a previous contract. TRAFFIC had also revised and updated under contract the *Reference Guide to the European Community Wildlife Trade Regulations* and had prepared briefings for enforcement staff, an implementation manual on CITES timber species and other practical implementation aids for use by the Member States of the EU.

- UNEP-WCMC had been contracted to provide the trade data which the EU Member States and the European Commission need to implement Community legislation. Furthermore UNEP-WCMC had also prepared synthesis and analyses of EU Member States' annual and biennial reports. The Commission has also financially contributed to the in-depth analysis undertaken by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in combination with TRAFFIC to evaluate the CITES CoP 13 listing proposals.
- The European Commission had furthermore provided financial support to EU TWIX, a project aimed at improving co-operation and information exchange in order to reinforce and strengthen the enforcement of the EU wildlife trade Regulations, through the creation of a database accessible to all Member States' Enforcement Authorities.
- Finally, the Commission had contributed to a project investigating the conservation of and trade in *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia or African Teak) in the three main exporting range States, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. Prior to the listing of mahogany and ramin in the CITES appendices, this was the most commercially important species protected under CITES and is currently the subject of a significant trade review. The report of this project has been tabled as an Information Document for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee to be held in May 2005 in Geneva.

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

- **Austria** provided information that the respective requirements for reporting, marking and housing for specimens of CITES relevant species have been tightened in the new national Animal Protection Act (BGBl Nr. 118/2004) and the national Animal Housing Regulation (BGBl Nr. 486/2004). Furthermore a revision of Austria's national regulation dealing with marking and identification of live Annex A specimens, particularly reptiles, is currently in progress.
- The CITES Management Authority of **Azerbaijan** reported of having finalized their draft legislation to allow to fully implement CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 ('Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish'). However the 'Rule on the regulation of Acipenseriformes stocks, their utilization and trade in the Azerbaijan Republic' still requires to be adopted by the parliament of the Azerbaijan Republic.
- The Nature Protection Directorate of the **Croatian Ministry of Culture** informed that in September 2003 the new Nature Protection Act (NPA) came into force (Official Gazette, No. 162/03). The NPA implements the provisions of all relevant international treaties to which Croatia is a party. In relation to CITES the NPA provides rules for regulating the keeping, breeding, trans-border transfer and trade in any CITES species but also provisions for sanctions in case of non-compliance. The full harmonization of the NPA with all the provisions of the Convention is envisaged through the adoption of several implementation regulations.
- Information received from the Ministry of Environment of the **Czech Republic** confirms that as a result of the accession into the European Union on 1st May, 2004, the EC CITES-related legislation has become applicable in the Czech Republic. Additionally following new national legislation entered into force to provide for implementation of the above EC Regulation:
  - Act No. 100/2004 Coll. on trade in endangered species;
  - Decree No. 227/2004 Coll. for implementation of certain provisions of Act No. 100/2004 Coll.
- On 25 February 2005 **Germany's** new Federal Ordinance on Species Conservation came into force. The most important revised new regulations relate but are not limited to following issues:

- Provisions to regulate and restrict the breeding, keeping and training in the wild of hybrids of birds of prey;
- Revision of the provisions on marking of wild animals e. g. by extending the marking regulations to further bird species and by explicitly naming the organisations which are authorized by the federal government to provide the respective marks, labels or transponders. In addition, primarily because of welfare aspects keepers of animals especially reptiles have the right to choose between marking by transponder or identification by photo documentation.

- **Hungary** reported that the amendment of the national legislation for the implementation of CITES and EU regulations (Government Decree no. 271/2002) was finalized in 2004 and published on 20. October 2004 in the official gazette. The amended decree designates now the Ministry of Environment and Water, Department of International Treaties on Nature Conservation as the CITES Management Authority and from 1 January 2005 onwards the Environmental, Nature Conservation and Water Management Inspectorates as the regional Management Authorities responsible for internal controls and inspections, keeping the register of CITES species and issue special domestic documents such as breeding certificates and certificates of origin. The office for Nature Conservation has been designated as the CITES Scientific Authority. The regulation also lists those customs offices designated to carrying out the checks and formalities for the introduction and (re-)export of specimens of CITES listed species. There is now a legal obligation of declaration and registration for all specimens listed in Annex A of the EU CITES Council Regulation and live specimens of mammals, birds and tortoises listed in Annex B (with certain exceptions) of the same regulation. All registered specimens must be marked and covered by a special certificate. The new regulation also requires DNA tests for Annex A birds of prey species as a proof that the offspring had been bred in captivity. It provides for sanctions against offenders breaching the rules as well as provisions for seizures and confiscations.

- **Lithuania** informed that in 2004 an EU-funded Phare project started which is in general an instrument that assists EU accession and applicant countries in their preparation for joining the EU. Phares's objectives are among others to strengthen public administrations and institutions to function effectively inside the European Union and to promote convergence with the European Union's extensive legislation. The duration of Lithuanias Phare project is 18 months during which the existing national CITES implementing legislation will be reviewed, gaps identified and amendments to various national legal acts proposed to allow either full implementation of the requirements of CITES and the related EU Regulations.

- The Parliament of the **Republic of Macedonia** adopted the new Law on Nature Conservation in September 2004 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No.67/2004). This Law incorporates provisions referring to the implementation of CITES, i.e. regulation of international trade in wild species of flora and fauna (Articles 29, 30 and 31). In accordance with the National Programme for approximation of the Macedonian legislation, a priority has been given on the transposition into the national legislation of the provisions of EU Council Regulation (EC No. 338/97) which implements CITES uniformly in the European Union.

- **Norway** reported that no major changes in the national CITES related legislation had been made. A proposal for a new nature conservation act has been sent out for public hearing. This act may pave the way for changes in the present national legislation on CITES. In the connection with the issuance of a new national CITES checklist Norway also adopted expanded exemptions for personal and household effects in line with the provisions of the Convention and CITES Resolution Conf. 13.7.

- Due to **Poland's** accession to the European Union in May 2004 a new Nature Conservation Act had to be adopted which among others regulates CITES issues according to the respective EU Regulations on international trade of wild fauna and flora
- **Serbia** provided comprehensive details on the legal basis to implement CITES in this country and more specifically on the adoption and enactment in 2005 of a new decree on controlling the exploitation and trade of CITES protected wild plant and animal species.
- The Ministry of the Environment of the **Slovak Republic** provided information that with the accession to the European Community on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 and the applicability of all CITES related EU regulations on its territory the CITES Management Authority had prepared a new CITES act (No. 15/2005) and a new decree (No. 110/2005 which entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 **Slovenia** became a Member State of the European Union and from that date the European Wildlife Trade Regulations became directly applicable. At the same time several new implementing regulations entered into force in Slovenia:
  - *The Decree on the course of conduct and protection measures in the trade in animal and plant species* (Official Gazette of RS, No. 52/04) lays down a detailed course of conduct and protection measures in trade in specimens of animal and plant species for the purpose of implementing the European Union's Wildlife Trade Regulations. This Decree also regulates trade in species protected under regulations governing the protection of wild animal and plant species, and the conditions for breeding of specimens of wild animal species and artificially propagating specimens of wild plant species. Furthermore the Decree governs the registration of scientists and scientific institutions (transposition of CITES Resolution Conf. 11.15), the disposal of seized and confiscated specimens (transposition of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.10) and the competencies of CITES authorities (Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities). The Decree also lays down penalties in accordance with Article 16 of the Council Regulation (EC) 338/97.
  - The Rules on the marking of animals of wild species kept in captivity* (Official Gazette of RS, No., 58/04) provide for which animals of wild species have to be marked, the methods of their marking, the record of markings, the types of marks, the manner of supplying marks, and the control of animal marking.
- **Turkey** reported that according to its national CITES Legislation the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (here specifically the General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development - GDAPD) has been designated as the responsible CITES Management Authority for live plants. Furthermore the GDAPD is responsible for all issues concerning trade and management of natural flower bulbs according to the 'Regulations Pertaining to Uprooting, Production and Trade of Natural Flower Bulbs' which was published in the Official Gazette (No. 25563) on 24 August 2004. The lists annexed to this regulation, include also four CITES protected plant taxa, i.e. *Galanthus*, *Cyclamen* and *Sternbergia* which are listed in CITES Appendix II as well as Orchidaceae sp. listed in CITES Appendix I. Since 1974 export of Orchidaceae species (including tubers and manufactured products) has been banned.
- The **United Kingdom's** (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 as they relate to trade within 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.

- CITES is implemented uniformly in the **European Union** (EU) through Council Regulation 338/97/EC of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. In this context it is noteworthy that within the reporting period on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004 Commission Regulation (EC) No 776/2004 suspending the introduction into the European Community of specimens of certain wild fauna and flora entered into force. This regulation amends Regulation (EC) No 349/2003 of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003. The above mentioned regulation lists in its Annex the CITES and non-CITES species for which the introduction into the Community has been suspended. The English version of the new suspension regulation is available through the World Wide web under

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l\\_123/l\\_12320040427en00310049.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l_123/l_12320040427en00310049.pdf)

- On 18 February 2005 Commission Regulation (EC) No 252/2005 suspending the introduction into the **European Community** of specimens of certain wild fauna and flora entered into force. This regulation amended again Regulation (EC) No 349/2003 through the replacement of its Annex which had been previously amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 776/2004 of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004. The above mentioned regulation is the most up-to-date 'EU-suspension-regulation' and lists again in its Annex certain CITES and non-CITES species for which the introduction into the Community is currently suspended. The English version of the new suspension regulation is available through the World Wide web under

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/legislation\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/legislation_en.htm) .

- The **European Commission** informed that arising from the outcome of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP 13), the Commission is in the process of adopting a Regulation implementing the relevant changes in the appendices of the CITES Convention. It is expected that this *Commission Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 on the protection of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein* incorporating the new annexes will be adopted before the end of June 2005 and published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The implementation of the CITES CoP 12 Resolutions by a new Regulation replacing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1808/2001 of 30 August 2001 laying down detailed 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, was considerably delayed. Since the Accession to the European Union of the 10 new Member States on 1 May 2004, the Commission services have had to cope with the increasing translation burden of Community legislation into 20 languages. It is planned to have this Regulation adopted within the next few months. The changes reflecting the CITES CoP 12 Resolutions concerned, inter alia, simplified procedures for the issuance of permits and certificates relating to time-sensitive samples, a special certificate to facilitate the movement of captive born and bred specimens that are part of a travelling exhibition, additional derogations regarding personal effects, amended provisions regarding the labelling of containers of caviar, and other measures of a routine and technical nature, including the alteration of the different codes used in permits and certificates and amendments to the list of standard references used for determining the names of species listed in the Appendices to the Convention. The new Commission Regulation will also take account of Resolution Conf. 10.20 on the movement of personally owned live animals.

The **European Commission** is also currently preparing amendments to the new Commission Regulation (ex-1808/2001) in order to implement the resolutions adopted at the CITES CoP 13. These amendments concern in particular the inclusion of new paragraphs on procedures for the movement of sample collections covered by ATA carnets, changes to the provisions regarding the retrospective issuance of permits in order to ease procedures for personal and household effects and

personally owned live animals, the inclusion of two additional derogations from the permitting requirements for personal and household effects, the inclusion of a definition of “pre-Convention specimens” and additional provisions as regards plant specimens subject to exemption.

## 5. Implementation and law enforcement activities

- **Austria's** CITES Management Authority reported on the initiation of a process to establish a National Enforcement Focal Point which encompasses representatives from all CITES-relevant organizations (Austrian representatives from customs authorities, CITES Management Authority, CITES Scientific Authority and Austrian delegates attending meetings of the CITES Animal and Plant Committee etc.) to streamline better information exchange and to deal with changes in trade patterns of CITES-listed species.

- The CITES Management Authority of **Azerbaijan** reported that it had undertaken customs training courses on CITES implementation and on the specific role of customs.

- In the awareness that law enforcement officers play a key role in the implementation of CITES both, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Planning of **Croatia** and the Ministry of Internal Affairs held from 9.-11. September 2003 a CITES Training Seminar for police officers with assistance provided by ‘Scanagri Denmark a/s’ which had organized and led the participants through the seminar.

From 6. – 10. September 2004 the Ministry of Culture in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs had organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> CITES Training Seminar in the Republic of Croatia. The seminar which was again supported by trainers from Denmark was attended by officers from customs and border police as well as nature protection inspectors from all across Croatia.

- The Ministry of Environment of the **Czech Republic** reported that since the March 2004 Czech Republic's customs officials had uncovered more than 20 cases of attempts for smuggling of wild fauna and flora. These included about 190 reptiles, 32 birds, 10 plants, 34 souvenirs and 29 kg of foodstuffs of CITES protected specimen. The majority of cases were discovered by checking of personal baggage at the Prague International Airport. Mail consignments are further frequent ways of trying to smuggle CITES protected specimens, especially skins and skulls of reptiles, dried butterflies and live plants like cacti.

CITES enforcement officials of the Czech Republic conducted more than 800 CITES-related check-ups in 2004. Altogether 38 legal persons and 48 physical ones were fined for breaking the law. The total of fines imposed amounted to more than CZK 750 000 (€23 000).

One person was sentenced in early 2004 to 3-years imprisonment for two illegal imports of live reptiles originating from Indonesia and Madagascar which had been the first prison sentence since 2002.

- **Hungary** provided detailed information on a number of seizures during the reporting period. Major cases and trends during this period were the seizure of 2 live *Ara macao* (April 2004), the seizure of 95 live *Testudo hermannii* and *Testudo graeca* (August 2004), the smuggling of Red-footed and Peregrine Falcons (August 2004), the seizure of 2 secretary birds (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) and 2 Kori Bustards (September 2004), the seizure of 30 Pancake Tortoises (*Malacochersus tornieri*) in February 2005 and 50 cases of interceptions during their import of Traditional Chinese Medicines at Budapest airport

Furthermore 24 confiscated tortoises had been returned for repatriation and release to Romania in August 2004 in a cooperative effort together with the CITES Management Authority of Romania.

These animals had been smuggled by a Romanian citizen who during the in depth investigations had provided details of the exact place where the animals had previously been collected.

- During the period covered by this report the enforcement activities in **Italy** by the relevant agency, CITES Service of State's Forest Corps, resulted in major confiscations of many CITES protected specimens (live animals, in particular live reptiles as pet animals, corals, shells, caviar, leather goods, ivory by-products, stuffed turtles, hunting trophies or game birds).

The phenomenon related to the illegal introduction of *caviar* remained unchanged. The most remarkable seizures were done by the operational CITES units that operate at the airports of Rome, Bologna, Venice and Verona.

Noteworthy were the results obtained as a consequence of a joint investigation on fiscal aspects in the south of Italy, with the Italian Carabinieri (C.C.) and Guardia di Finanza (G.d.F.) police forces. In the houses of private people accused, illegally owned animals were found, in particular 19 Psittaciformes (*Cacatua alba*, *Amazona ocreocephala*, *Platycercus* spp. *Neophema* spp, *Phoropus* spp. species), as well as other animals such as fallow deers, several caimans, 4 yellow anacondas and other pythons and boas. In fact, it seems that it has become fashion habit of criminal organization' bosses to keep in their houses exotic and dangerous animals.

In December, together with the Guardia di Finanza, two Italian citizens were referred to the Judiciary Authorities for abuse of animals and infraction of CITES laws. In fact, about one hundred of endangered animals (*Testudo* spp., pythons and parrots) either dead or kept in very bad conditions were found and seized. The animals, acquired in tropical countries, had been shipped in transit avoiding any controls via Eastern European countries. The surviving animals were quarantined or transferred to 'Bioparco Foundation' in Rome or to a WWF CRASE centre. Further investigations are going on.

The seizures of two rhino horns offered for sale in the internet shows the increasing role of this media to offer unlawfully protected wildlife. Besides the rarity of the rhino species concerned the size of the well preserved horns itself were remarkable.

Illegal shipments of animals and protected plants were also detected in parcels sent by the postal channel. In particular live reptiles were the main specimens seized, as demonstrated by a recent seizure of 6 specimens of *Geochelone elegans*.

A very important confiscation of more than 4.000 ivory pieces, coming from Hong Kong took place in February 2005 with a Chinese trader mainly involved.

- Under a Nordic cooperation programme (cf the Nordic Council of Ministers) the **Norwegian police unit for environmental crime** had among others initiated cooperation with other Parties in the Nordic region on CITES issues of common interest.

- During the reporting period, the Inter-sectoral Committee for the Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade of **Slovenia** met twice. The Slovene Customs reported 69 seizures while the Slovene Criminal Police informed about one major seizure including several skins from CITES protected different spotted cat species.

Most notable from Slovene Customs point of view were the seizures of a considerable amount of Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) at Customs Post Offices and at Ljubljana International Airport. The seizures included 2300 specimens (plasters and capsles) containing *Moschus* spp., 640 specimens (plasters) containing *Panthera pardus*, 720 specimens containing *Manis pentadactyla* (plasters and capsles) and 60 specimens containing *Saussurea costus*.

In majority of cases, the specimens were confiscated. Several criminal charges were imposed to offenders.

Concerning the disposal of confiscated specimens Slovenia reported that a shipment of live specimens of *Testudo hermanni* had been successfully returned to the country of origin (Croatia) where the animals were released in the wild.

- **Sweden** reported that the national co-operation in enforcement matters with WWF/TRAFFIC Europe-Sweden is ongoing and very successful regarding CITES- and Wildlife enforcement. The unofficial co-operation group against "Flora- and Fauna Criminality" with representatives from the main enforcement bodies in Sweden such as the CITES Management and Scientific Authority, Customs, Coast Guard, the Swedish Animal Welfare Agency, Länsstyrelsen (regional enforcement authority), the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Environment and TRAFFIC/WWF Europe-Sweden as host have had three meetings during the reporting period. At the last meeting it was decided to hold a workshop for representatives from national enforcement authorities early next year which will be hosted by WWF/TRAFFIC Europe-Sweden.

Furthermore concerning enforcement activities in Sweden since the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee neither the Customs nor the Police had made major seizures or confiscations. For example only four confiscations of live specimens at the borders and within the country have been reported during 2004.

- The CITES Management Authority of **Switzerland** introduced in 2004 DNA-analysis for inspection of shipments of *Galanthus* bulbs. As a preliminary result the practicability and usefulness of this tool could be clearly demonstrated and various large commercial shipments of illegally traded and wrongly declared bulbs were confiscated, totalling about 200'000 bulbs of *G. woronowii*. Furthermore in a shipment of wild-collected *G. woronowii* originating from Turkey, bulbs of the sympatric and morphologically quite similar species *G. rizehensis* were detected for which Turkey had not established an annual export quota. The infraction had been notified to the CITES Management Authority of Turkey, where this particular case has now resulted in a revision of the collection practice of *G. woronowii*.

- The **United Kingdom's** (UK) 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 has developed a strategic document describing wildlife criminality affecting the UK, which will drive and underpin future UK law enforcement effort.

The Head of the NWCUI represented the UK at the CITES Expert Group meeting on Enforcement in February 2004 in the USA, at a Europol meeting to discuss the response to wildlife law enforcement in the EU, met with the Head of Intelligence of the Canadian Wildlife Service in September 2004 to discuss possible areas for future collaboration and joined with the CITES Secretariat to organize a programme focussing on interagency cooperation, liaison and collaboration.

Furthermore the UK sponsored a CITES enforcement mission to Thailand in December 2004.

- With regard to activities related to the management and international trade in CITES protected natural flower bulbs **Turkey** reported on following activities between March 2004 and June 2005:

- The Advisory Council and the Technical Committee of natural flower bulbs held their meetings on 30. March 2004 during which the national quota for the year 2004 was allocated to the firms according to their shares.

- The Advisory Council and the Technical Committee held their meetings on 7. and on 8. October 2004 respectively. At these meetings, the national quotas for 2005 were determined.

- The list of Natural Flower Bulbs allowed for export in 2005 was published in the Official Gazette (No. 25626) of 27. October 2004.

- The Advisory Council and the Technical Committee of natural flower bulbs held their annual meetings on 15. and on 16. March 2005 respectively during which the national quota for the year 2004 was allocated to the firms according to their shares. The national quota for bulbs for the year 2005 had already been determined in October 2004.

- During the reporting period the two first meetings (11. November 2002 and 24. February 2003) of a new established enforcement body, the European CITES Group, were convened at the Europol headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands. Both meetings were attended by representatives from national police and other CITES enforcement authorities from **Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom**. One major objective of the new formed group is to strengthen the straight forward cooperation in specific investigation cases of fraud against the provisions of CITES.

- The **European Commission** provided following information on implementation activities during the reporting period:

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the *Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (COM)*, the *Scientific Review Group (SRG)* and the *Enforcement Group (EG)*. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, had four meetings in 2004. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the Member States' Scientific Authorities and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the Regulations, met also four times in 2004. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met once in 2004. However, due to the increasing importance of exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities, in particular because of the enlargement of the EU in May 2004, it was agreed that the Enforcement Group should meet twice per year starting in 2005.

## 6. Public awareness activities

- **Austria** reported on following public awareness activities since the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee:

- A significant up-date of Austria's CITES homepage ([www.cites.at](http://www.cites.at) or [www.artenschutz.at](http://www.artenschutz.at)) as been completed.
- Since 2003, the Austrian Ministry of the Environment has been funding WWF-CITES awareness campaign aimed, in particular, at travel agents and travel guides, to be completed by the end of 2005. A follow-up project, with a focus on visitors to zoos and botanical gardens, and passengers at Vienna Airport, has been initiated in March 2005.
- Courses and lectures on CITES issues, especially implementation and enforcement, for scientists and amateurs.
- A seminar on international environmental conventions, incl. CITES, at the University of Vienna (winter term 2004/2005).
- Lectures about CITES and animal transport to members of China National Parks and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture.
- Seminars for the Austrian police on illegal trade in endangered species and about other CITES issues.

- The Nature Protection Directorate of **Croatia** issued in May 2003 the first leaflet on CITES which was widely distributed with the assistance of the Croatian Tourist Board and the Ministry of Culture. The intention behind the leaflet is informing the widest public about CITES and what tourists should be aware of when travelling overseas.

- The Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the **Czech Republic** (MoE) provided information that in 2004 altogether 10 information seminars and lectures on CITES-related issues were held for representatives from zoos, botanical gardens, the wildlife trade and other stakeholders. Furthermore

the Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP) had produced a CITES poster and an information leaflet for the general public. In addition CITES information is also part of the websites of the MoE, the ANCLP and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate.

- The **Estonian Ministry of Environment** provided information on a CITES exhibition and presentation of confiscated CITES specimens at the Travel Trade Fair 'Tourest 2005' on 18-20 February 2005 in Tallinn, a CITES exhibition in Tallinn Airport (September – December 2004) and a CITES exhibition at the Environmental Information Centre (February – May 2005).

- On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2004 **Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment**, Jürgen Trittin, at a press conference introduced to the public 'CITES-online', a pilot scheme launched by the 'e-Government-Initiative' of the German Federal Government and designed to make electronically available all the federal governmental services by 2005. Front-ranking field of action by the 'Bund-Online 2005'- Initiative has been the enforcement sector of the "Washington Convention" (CITES). The electronic system, officially launched on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2004 makes it possible to optionally apply for a permit or a certificate at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation via the world wide web through the CITES Management Authority's homepage (<https://www.cites-online.de>). Offering services via the Internet considerably facilitates administrative procedures not only for applicants but also for the Management Authority at the Federal Agency, eventually resulting in an even wider acceptance by the public.

As in recent years, the conservation of species threatened by international trade and overseas travelling was again an issue during a press and information campaign. On 11<sup>th</sup> August the new species protection exhibition of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation was launched at a press conference and presented to the media by the Customs Authorities at Munich Airport and the Federal Agency. The exhibition with its numerous exhibits not only attracted large a number of visitors but also had a remarkable response in the media.

Sufficient reason to raise awareness of the major problem of tourists returning home from their holiday with live specimens or unscrupulous traffickers smuggling exotic animals was the relocation of seven long-tailed green monkeys to the South African Zoo in Johannesburg on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004. Those monkeys recently repatriated to South Africa with the kind help of 'Lufthansa' were found in May 2001 at Frankfurt Airport in the luggage of a Nigerian lady passenger.

- As in the previous years in summer 2004 **Hungary's** CITES Management Authority in cooperation with WWF Hungary launched again a public awareness campaign targeting mainly at tourists travelling overseas. As awareness tools leaflets, posters, outdoor billboards, internet banners, TV and radio spots were used. Furthermore a campaign website was created under the slogan „all for the eyes, nothing for the hands” and a 'CITES tram' in Budapest did also contribute to raise consciousness about CITES and its objectives of people in Hungary's capital.

Besides these campaigns the CITES Management Authority tries to raise public awareness about CITES by regularly writing articles, giving presentations in schools or other public institutions.

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 issues about sustainable development. A major part of this guide will be comprise about 15 case studies that provide best practice examples of innovative and successful communication campaigns worldwide. UNEP has expressed strong interest to include as a case study the campaign on CITES conducted by Hungary's Government in 2003 and 2004.

- On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2004 the CITES Management Authority of **Italy** (Direction for the Conservation of Nature of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection) together with the Italian State Forestry Corps and the "Bioparco" of Rome (Rome Zoo), opened an permanent exhibition "Furti di Natura"('stolen wildlife') with the aim to raise more awareness and to inform citizens about the

illegal trade in wild flora and fauna as well as to advise the public to refrain in case of uncertainty from importing specimens threatened of extinction and protected by CITES.

- **Lithuania** provided information on a number of interviews on the requirements of CITES given in 2003-2004 by officials of the Ministry of Environment on requirements and the rules of CITES to local, state radio and TV stations. Furthermore several articles in the largest Lithuanian newspapers were published on CITES in the past two years.

Both the Ministry of Environment and the Customs Department provided up-to-date information about CITES and related local and EU legislation on their internet sites.

In 2004 the Lithuanian Post issued two stamps that illustrate CITES species (owls) and the CITES logo.

During inspections of pet shops and markets which the State Environmental Protection Inspection started after the Convention entered into force both owners and employees of shops were also informed about the legal requirements for trade in wild animals and on the documentation needed for export and import of animals.

- In **Macedonia** during 2004/2005 training has been organized for collectors of curing and aromatic herbs. The training was organized in the framework of the Project: "Modernization of Macedonian Agricultural and Food Sector and Approximation with the EU", supported by GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and the Swiss Agency for Export Promotion (SIPPO). Under this project, the guide "Curative and aromatic herbs - guidelines and monographs for collectors in accordance with the principles of organic production" was produced. The selection of herbs incorporated in the guide produced include plants which are traditionally collected in Macedonia, especially species under threat of extinction. Activities have been targeted to persons who further train collectors, as well as companies dealing with collection, processing and trade in curative and aromatic herbs themselves, employees in the local units of the public enterprise "Macedonian Forests" and officials of the administration of National Parks, who will be obliged to keep records of types and quantities of collected curative and aromatic herbs.

- **Norway** reported that a film on CITES and the international trade in wildlife which was produced in 2004 and presented on national TV in January 2005 had spurred public interest in CITES issues.

- **Poland's** CITES Management Authority informed about several public awareness initiatives such as press and TV interviews on CITES regulations which were given by employees of the Ministry of the Environment and on following campaigns which were carried out by WWF Poland:

- TV spots on "Don't buy from smugglers";
- Educational campaign focused on tourists and young people through leaflets, posters or lessons at schools; and
- A campaign against the illegal trade of turtles.

Furthermore the Polish Society of Nature Conservation "Salamandra" by monitoring trade in CITES specimens on the Polish Internet was sensitizing the general public about CITES and its provisions. In addition the Botanic Garden of Warsaw University published an educational package and guidebook on plants called "CITES Plants" which includes a CD-ROM.

- Regarding publicity activities the **Republic of Slovakia** informed that detailed information about the new wildlife legislation had been provided to the media which among others resulted in CITES specific articles in 2 environmental magazines and 3 magazines for breeders of exotic animals. Furthermore the web site of the CITES Management Authority ([www.cites.sk](http://www.cites.sk)) was updated following accession to the EU and the adoption of the new wildlife legislation.

- The Management Authority of **Slovenia** issued a leaflet on the Mediterranean Date Mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) both in Slovene and in English which was distributed to all border ports and schools.

In September 2004, the Management Authority and Customs Administration organised a joint press conference to inform the public about the outcome of a CITES training seminar and various enforcement activities. The conference was followed by TV broadcasts and articles in all main national newspapers.

A representative of the Management Authority gave several lectures at the UNESCO school network and post-graduate programme on Nature Heritage Protection at the University of Ljubljana. Finally the Management Authority of Slovenia informed the public about the outcome of CITES COP 13 which resulted in articles published in several national newspapers and in one specific radio broadcast programme.

- The Management Authority of **Switzerland** published reports on the outcome of CITES CoP13 and relevant implications for plant traders and collectors in the corresponding journals such as for orchid collectors, cactus & succulent plants collectors, in two major journals for professional gardeners, landscapers and garden centres and in the journal of the society of Swiss pharmacists.

- During the reporting period, the **United Kingdom's** (UK) CITES Management Authority continued to publicise CITES and its provisions as for example 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 UK has been promoting the campaign through continuing distribution of leaflets and luggage labels and through attendance at two major travel shows, namely the Holiday and Travel Show in Manchester from 14-16 January 2005 and Destinations 2005 in London's Earls Court from 3-6 February 2005.

During the course of 2004, the UK Management Authority also attended the following shows and fairs in order to publicise CITES such as the Falconry fair in Newport, Nr Telford, Shropshire (May 2004), the Art & Antiques fair in London (June 2004), the Country Land & Business Association Game Fair (July 2004) and the Parrot Society show at Stafford County Showground (October 2004).

In addition, the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Roadshow continued its programme of events throughout the UK, bringing attention to the controls protecting wildlife, including CITES. The Roadshow reaches an audience of around one million people a year.

## **7. Activities related to CITES relevant research**

- The **Austrian Government** had contracted opinion research experts to conduct a public opinion poll about the level of public knowledge and awareness of CITES.

- In October 2003 a **German Government** funded research project at the University of Osnabrück on the development of a DNA-quick test for all species of *Galanthus* spp. (snow drops) has been initiated. The project is expected to end in mid 2005. By means of molecular methods typical DNA-markers (primer) are to be developed with the aim to identify all traded *Galanthus* species quickly and at all seasons, i.e. even if in non-budding condition. In the event of a positive outcome, the enforcement authorities within the plant conservation sector would for the first time have a workable identification method at hand and at low costs which could possibly even be extended to other plant groups. Yet, to this end more considerable field studies are necessary. Furthermore, the study is supposed to produce phylogenetical findings on related species within the *Galanthus* genus. Furthermore for the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, Germany had prepared and submitted an information document that also served as additional working paper brought on the agenda by the CITES Animals Committee (CoP 13 Doc. 35) with regard to non-sustainable shark fishing

(FOWLER, S., RAYMAKERS, C. & U. GRIMM (2004): Trade in and Conservation of two Shark Species: Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) – BfN Skripten 118; Bonn-Germany).

- The **Republic of Macedonia** reported on the need to develop studies on the population status of National CITES species in their natural habitats to allow the determination of national and regional quotas for sustainable harvesting and use of such species. The development of studies on endangered species, especially those of high commercial interest, has been envisaged under the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia. So far, two studies to assess the quantities of *Evernia prunastri* and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* have been developed in the Republic of Macedonia.

- The Management Authority (MA) of the **United Kingdom** (UK) provided information on activities related to CITES relevant research as follows:

- The UK MA's four-year research project on the seasonal movement and behaviour of basking sharks was completed in January 2005 and has produced results which will contribute to the better understanding and management of basking shark populations. The findings will be launched in June 2005 at an international workshop in London hopefully with Ministerial attendance.

- Furthermore the UK MA is currently funding a two-year research project on the conservation genetics of basking sharks. This 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. The project is due to conclude in March 2006.

- The UK MA's research on marine turtles in UK Overseas Territories - commonly also known as '*Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT) Project*'- provided in November 2004 the results of a 3-year UK Government (Defra and FCO) funded project involving diverse collaborative research initiatives, capacity building and awareness raising efforts regarding the status and exploitation of marine turtles in the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT) which included Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

- The final report of the research project "Plant Substances as Alternatives for Animal Products used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)" was recently accepted by the UK MA. The aim of the research project is to identify plant substances that could be used as viable alternatives for four animals, i.e. tigers (*Panthera tigris*), the Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), the Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) and the White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) all of which are currently pre-eminently used in TCM. Based on both traditional use and scientific evidence for pharmacological actions, single herbs and TCM 'prescriptions' (combinations of herbs) were selected for investigation. A selection of 7 single herbs and 2 prescriptions were chosen for investigation as potential alternatives to bear bile, 9 single herbs and 6 prescriptions as potential alternatives to rhino horn and 19 single herbs and two prescriptions as potential alternatives to tiger bone.

Supported by evidence of efficacy as anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial agents as measured in this study, by information obtained from the available scientific literature, and by TCM theory, a number of prescriptions and single herbs have been selected as suitable alternatives to the use of bear bile, rhino horn or tiger bone in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Further studies are warranted to assess other pharmacological mechanisms through which the plants might mediate anti-inflammatory effects.