

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPA

The attached report for Europa has been submitted by Bulgaria\*. 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.

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

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## 1. Introduction

This Report covers activities of the Parties within the European Region in the period between the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting (July 2008) and the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (July 2009). This Report was compiled using contributions received from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Iceland Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Additional information for the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States<sup>1</sup> was received from the European Commission.

## 2. New Parties

Currently there are **47 Parties** to the Convention in the European Region.

During the period two new countries become Parties to CITES:

- **Armenia** became a new Party on 23 October 2008.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** became a new Party on 21 January 2009.

## 3. Gaborone Amendment to the Convention

**32 Parties** from the European region have ratified the Gaborone Amendment.

**Republic of Moldova** ratified the Gaborone amendment to CITES in October 2008.

The Gaborone amendment to CITES would allow the European Community to become a Party to CITES and to play a full role in the work of the Convention. The European Commission continues to use any bilateral and multilateral contacts with Parties that have not yet ratified the Gaborone amendment to encourage its ratification. Via its Notification 2009/019 to CITES Parties, the CITES Secretariat urged Parties which have not done so yet to accept the Gaborone amendment to CITES.

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<sup>1</sup> *The 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.*

#### 4. CITES Committees, International Meetings and Related Activities

The European members of the Standing Committee (SC) are **Bulgaria**, the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** and **Iceland**, with the **Czech Republic**, **Italy** and **Norway** as alternates. **Switzerland** (depository) is a member of the SC as well. The representatives to the Animals Committee (AC) are Dr. Thomas Althaus (chairman of the AC, **Switzerland**) and Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana (**Spain**), with alternates **Mr Colmán Ó Críodáin** (Ireland) and Mr Radu Suciú (**Romania**). The representatives to the Plants Committee (PC) are Dr. Margarita Clemente Muñoz (chairman of the PC), (**Spain**) and Mr Maurizio Sajevo (**Italy**), with alternates Mrs. Nika Debeljak Sabec (**Slovenia**) and Mr Jonas Lüthy (**Switzerland**). Dr. Ute Grimm (chair, **Germany**) and Mr. Noel McGough (vice-chair, the **United Kingdom**) are members of the Nomenclature Committee. Meetings of the CITES Committees and related conferences are attended by many other **European Parties** and the **European Commission** as observers.

Representatives of several European countries participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (Geneva, CH, July 2008) – **Bulgaria**, **Czech Republic**, **Iceland**, **Italy**, **Norway** and the **United Kingdom** as members and alternates, **Switzerland** as depository country, as well as **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Denmark**, **France**, **Germany**, **Hungary**, **Ireland**, the **Netherlands**, **Russian Federation**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, **Turkey**, and the **European Commission** attended the meeting as observers.

In January 2009 a workshop entitled 'Illegal Reptile Trade in the EU and Neighbouring Countries', was organized in Tarvisio, Italy by Corpo Forestale dello Stato of Italy, TRAFFIC Europe (EU-TWIX Project) and WWF Italy. The meeting was attended by the representatives from CITES MA and Enforcement Authorities from **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Bulgaria**, **Czech Republic**, **Croatia**, **France**, **Germany**, **Hungary**, **Italy**, the **Netherlands**, **Romania**, **Slovenia** and **Switzerland**.

In May 2009 a regional training seminar for CITES Enforcement Authorities of **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **Macedonia**, **Montenegro**, **Romania** and **Serbia** was organised in Donja Stubica, Croatia by TRAFFIC and financed by the European Commission, DG Justice, Freedom and Security.

**Austria** participated at the 18th Plants Committee Meeting in Geneva and, through its representative, Dr. Michael Kiehn, contributed to various working groups (CITES and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the CBD; exchange of herbarium specimens; nomenclatural matters). It also presented the report of the „Transport Working Group“, chaired by Austria, which includes plant transport agendas (see below). Austria will provide financial and expert assistance through Dr. Michael Kiehn, for the development of a brochure on CITES provisions regarding the exchange of herbarium specimens between registered scientific institutions.

Austria participated also at the 24th Animals Committee Meeting in Geneva where, through its representative Andreas Kaufmann, it chairs the Transport Working Group which now coordinates transport agendas for both live animals and plants. The TWG agreed to replace the *CITES Guidelines for Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Wild Live Animals and Plants* (1981) by developing new guidelines for non-air transport of live specimens for consideration and adoption at COP16. The TWG chair participated at various IATA and AATA conferences.

Austrian CITES representatives participated at all EU Management Authority, Scientific Review Group and Enforcement Group Meetings, and the expert meeting to review the effectiveness of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

The **Belgian** CITES MA attended the European Regional CITES Plants meeting (Lampedusa, 7-9.10.08). A member of the Belgian CITES SA attended the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, 20-24.04.09).

The Belgian CITES MA attended the 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> meetings of the EC CITES Committee that have taken place in Brussels respectively on 10.11.08, 13.03.09 and 15.06.09. The Belgian CITES MA also attended the 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> meetings of the EC CITES SRG that have taken place in Brussels respectively on 15.09.08, 01.12.08, 12.03.09 and 30.06.09. The Belgian CITES MA as well as members of the Belgian CITES Enforcement Authorities attended the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EC CITES Enforcement Group (Brussels, 30-31.10.08).

**Bulgaria** participated in the EU CITES Committee meeting and the Enforcement group organized by the European Commission.

The **Czech Republic** participated in the following international meetings:

- 7<sup>th</sup> European Regional CITES Plants Meeting, Lampedusa, IT, October 2008;
- Lynx enforcement meeting, Brussels, BE, October 2008;
- Workshop to the Project on monitoring internet trade in Central and Eastern European Countries, Bialowieza, PL, November 2008;
- CITES E-commerce workshop, Vancouver, CA, February 2009;
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Plants Committee, Buenos Aires, AR, March 2009;
- 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, CH, April 2009.

On the EU level, the Czech Republic took part in the meetings of the EU CITES Committee, the EU Scientific Review Group, the EU Enforcement Group, and the EU TWIX Advisory Group.

**The European Commission** representing the European Community attended as observer the 57<sup>th</sup> CITES Standing Committee in 2008 as well as the CITES Animals and Plants Committees in 2008 and 2009, where it participated in a number of working groups.

Furthermore, the European Commission attended the NDF workshop in Mexico in 2008 as well as the E-commerce workshop held in Vancouver in February 2009.

The European Community is a major importer of CITES listed species from Indonesia. In October 2008 representatives from the EC CITES Scientific Review Group (SRG) were invited to visit Indonesia on a fact finding mission. This visit provided an opportunity to meet with the Indonesian CITES Authorities, and to research and discuss common trade issues, particularly in relation to the trade in captive bred reptile species and maricultured corals.

**Estonia** participated at the meetings of the Scientific Review Group, Management Committee and Enforcement Group organized by the European Commission. Representatives from the MA, Customs and Environmental Inspectorate took part at training seminar supported by Latvia and TRAFFIC Europe in Latvia, sept 2008.

A representative of the Scientific Authority attended the EU European Eel Working group meetings.

**Germany** At the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC) the Head of Germany's CITES Management Authority (MA) of the Federal Agency for Nature

Conservation (FANC), Dietrich Jelden, had been appointed as the AC's representative in the CITES Standing Committee's working group reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodylian leather goods. A comprehensive report about the AC's representative's activities and contributions had been submitted to the 24<sup>th</sup> AC meeting (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/24/E24-11.pdf>).

The Scientific Authority (Fauna) attended the CITES AC in 2008 and 2009 as the nomenclatural representative (Zoology) of the Committee and, together with the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety (Ministry), as observer, participating in a number of working groups.

The Scientific Authority (Flora) attended the CITES Plants Committee in 2008 and 2009, participating in relevant working groups as well as chairing a working group on non detriment findings of Medicinal Plants.

The CITES Standing Committee in 2008 was attended by the Ministry and the MA.

Furthermore, the Ministry supports the African Elephant Fund that is to be established according to Decision 14.79. As donor country, Germany, represented by the Ministry, therefore participated in a meeting (9 - 11 March 2009 in Gigiri, Kenya), the aim of which was to finalize an Action Plan, as a prerequisite for the Fund.

At the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings, held in 2008 in Cancun/Mexico, Uwe Schippmann (Head of Germany's Scientific Authority for Plants) gave a presentation on Resource Assessment Methods for medicinal and aromatic plants and participated in several working groups.

The Scientific Authority (Flora) also participated in an international workshop on tropical timber merbau (*Intsia* spp.), organized by TRAFFIC in November 2008 in Singapore and funded by the Ministry. In the workshop, participants discussed forest management, trade, enforcement and the relevance of listing merbau in CITES.

Representatives from **Iceland** participated in the working group on Introductions from the Sea.

**Italy** participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee in July 2008, contributing to the discussion about electronic permits and Ramin. On this latter Italy was requested to produce a written report, which was submitted for consideration of the Committee and included in Document SC57, Doc. 37.

During October 2008, the Italian Management Authority participated in the European Regional CITES Plant Meeting, held in Lampedusa (Italy), organized with the aim to improve cooperation and exchange information on Plant issues. The meeting produced various recommendations, among those it recommended to the Working Group on timber identification and measurement (chaired by Italy) to take into account, in the development of any recommendation, the need of standardisation of measurement methods and the use of descriptive codes for timber products. It further recommended to all Parties to refer to the Working Group to submit their protocols and procedures on timber identification and measurement.

Italy participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Plants Committee in March 2009 and was included as an observer Party in the WG3 and WG7, respectively on Asian medicinal plants and on *Cedrela* spp., *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii*.

During PC works, no further steps were agreed about the Working Group on identification and measurement of timber.

Subsequently Italy participated in the Animal Committee in April 2009. Italy is involved in the production of the progress report on sharks. Italy is also involved in a conservation project for *Vicugna vicugna*. In particular, the Italian Government is supporting a project developed in collaboration with TRAFFIC Network. The project aims to contribute to the

conservation of the species in Argentina, Peru, Chile and Bolivia improving vicuna management by local communities, as envisaged by the implementation of Vicuna Action Plan. The Italian Scientific Authority conducted an analysis on the imports directed to Italy of *Python spp.* and Corals from South East Asia.

Representatives of the **Romanian** CITES MA attended all meetings of the CITES Committee established under art. 18 of the Council Regulation (EC) no. 338/97.

Representatives of the Romanian CITES MA and of the National Environmental Guard (enforcement authority) attended the “Lynx species Meeting” organized by US CITES authorities and the European Commission, on 29 October 2008. The meeting was organized taking into account the recommendation of the Working Group for the periodic review of the family Felidae put forward at AC23 on April 2008, which was adopted by the Animals Committee. The aim of this meeting was to address the Lynx spp. look-alike issues within a CITES context.

The **Serbian** Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning organized two days seminar on CITES implementation on 14 – 15 October 2008 in Belgrad. To attend the seminar were invited representatives of Scientific Authorities, Customs, Inspections and several non-governmental organizations. Robert Bojesic, Senior Scientific officer of CITES Secretariat hold the presentation on all aspects of CITES.

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CITES organized a training workshop ‘Science & CITES’, hold on 10–13 March 2009, Palic, Serbia. The workshop brought the representatives of the Scientific Authorities from the region, Croatia, Bosna and Hercegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the lecturers from the CITES Secretariat and Serbia.

**Slovenia** has participated in most of the scheduled meetings of the EU Commission SRG, Committees, Enforcement Meetings and EU-Training Manual Working Group meetings.

**Turkey** was represented in the 24<sup>th</sup> CITES Animals Committee (April 2009)

The **United Kingdom** attended in the 24<sup>th</sup> CITES Animals Committee (April 2009), participating in two working groups, and the 18<sup>th</sup> Plants Committee (March 2009) Chairing the Working Group on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species and participating in three other working groups.

The UK also attended the Internal Experts workshop on non-detrimental findings (November 2008), co-chairing one working group; the European Regional CITES Meeting (October 2008), participating in the organizing committee and chairing two of the sessions; the EDIT meeting (February 2009); and the E-commerce workshop (February 2009).

## **5. Broader International Cooperation and Assistance**

**Austria.** Dr. Michael Kiehn, in his capacity as Austria’s PC representative, has continued his invited lectureship at the International University of Andalucia (Spain) for the „Masters Course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade“. Michael Kiehn was asked by the CITES Plants Committee, at its 18th meeting, to present the CITES PC’s views about the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at the GSPC Liaison Group Meeting, Dublin, 26-28 May, 2009. He was nominated by Austria for this Global Strategy

for Plant Conservation Liaison Group Meeting, and selected as participant for the meeting by the CBD.

In December 2008, the **Belgian** CITES MA contributed EUR 8.400 for the update of the EU-TWIX website and database. In 2008, The Belgian Federal Authority contributed EUR 15.000 for the maintenance and development of the EU-TWIX project (cf National legislation hereunder).

**Estonia's** Customs collaborate with police and customs of different countries (e.g. joint operations with neighbouring countries. Also cooperation with international bodies (WCO, Europol etc.) is going on.

The CITES authorities have been the recipient of written guidance and training to identify Traditional Asian Medical products – provided by expert from Netherland.

### **European Commission**

MIKE: The European Commission contributes EUR 9.814.000 to establishing a long-term system for monitoring the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE). This project will run over a period of 5 years (until 2011) and is considered as contributing to the EC Development Policy objectives to reduce poverty as it entails a support for sustainable economic, social and environmental development, based, inter alia, on the wise use of natural resources.

CITES-ITTO project: The European Commission contributes EUR 2,5 million, with co-funding from other partners, to the CITES-ITTO project ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. This project will assist the relevant countries in meeting the scientific, administrative and legal requirements for management and trade in these timber species. It will provide capacity building for scientific authorities to make "non-detriment findings" for the harvest of these species and the development of regional management plans by supporting co-operation between countries.

CoP14 decisions: In order to assist in the implementation of certain decisions adopted at CoP14, the European Commission in 2008 awarded a grant to the CITES Secretariat for an amount of 500.000 EUR with a view to improve the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and achieve greater synergies with other Conventions and organisations. This grant covered the activities of better implementation of and compliance with the Convention, effective enforcement of the Convention and improving species management and the scientific basis for implementation of the Convention.

CITES Capacity building: The European Commission is supporting a "CITES capacity building project" by the CITES Secretariat to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade. It will focus on regional training workshops and certain in-country follow up capacity building activities following a needs assessment process. A first contract was awarded for an amount of 1 million EUR. This project will be complemented through a second phase (Country focused project) to strengthen the CITES implementation capacity of developing countries to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade. The amount for this second phase will be 1,5 million EUR.

**Italy** has the Chair of an international Working Group on timber identification and measurement, established with Decisions 14.60 and 14.61. The group is working fully electronically through an electronic forum hosted by the CITES Secretariat. The terms of reference of the Group have been posted on the forum and the Chair is waiting for information to be submitted by Parties. The Group has numerous participants.

Italy, as member of the Working Group on Personal and Household Effects, is also contributing to the discussion on this issue.



Following consultation with the United States in the framework of their proposal CoP14, Prop. 21, Italy has agreed to finance a Workshop on the *Corallium spp.* distribution and *status* in the Mediterranean region. Italy has already provided for the financing and establishment of the Steering Committee, the Workshop will be held in Naples and will take place approximately in September 2009.

**Polish** Customs representatives, together with British colleagues took part in the CITES workshop organised in London (HM Revenue & Customs, WWF Poland). WWF Poland organised a CITES workshop for enforcement authorities from Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Poland (within the framework of European Commission, DG Justice project on “Strengthening capacities of European law enforcement officers and judicial authorities in the fight against wildlife crime”).

**Romania.** Mr. Radu Suciu from National Institute for Research and Development “Danube Delta” (CITES SA) participated as trainer to the Workshop Science & CITES, organized in March 2009 by CITES authorities of Serbia.

The **United Kingdom** has provided technical and financial support (GBP 110,000) for the following CITES-related conservation projects in the period covered by this report:

- *Flagship Species Fund*: supporting field conservation projects in developing countries.
- *CITES Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)*: to support the one-off sale verification missions.
- *CITES Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)*: supporting the MIKE Asia project.
- *Global Tiger Forum (GTF)*: The UK holds a seat on the Executive Committee of the GTF.

In addition, the UK has facilitated a visit from the Director of Herbarium from Trinidad and Tobago (August 2008), and the Indian Minister for Forestry (August 2008). We also facilitated a Workshop with the Turkish and Georgian CITES and scientific authorities to discuss potential project work on bulb species (September 2008), attended a workshop in Georgia (May 2009) on improving the implementation of CITES for selected plant species, and participated in an EC mission to Indonesia (October 2008) aimed at building links between EC and Indonesian CITES authorities. The UK represented the World Customs Organisation at a CITES training event for Customs officers hosted by the Chinese Customs authorities (December 2008).

The UK provided information, advice and training materials for a CITES training courses held in our overseas territory of the Cayman Islands (May 2008), and is assisting Montserrat with preparations for a CITES Training workshop.

The UK scientific Authority for flora has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CITES Secretariat to collaborate on training.

## 6. National Legislation

**Austria** is currently in the process of substantially revising the Federal Species Trade Act (2006) as well as the Federal Species Marking Ordinance (2006).



In **Belgium** with the Ministerial Decree of 04.06.09, published on 15.07.09, were nominated the different members of the Belgian Enforcement Group which was established by Royal Decree in 2003.

Royal Decree of 15.12.08, published on 29.01.09, establishes the financial contribution of the Belgian Federal Authority for the year 2008 to WWF-Belgium for the maintenance and development of the EU-TWIX project.

In 2009 **Bulgaria** enacted a regulation of marking on specimens of the species listed in Regulation EC 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. The regulation introduced different methods for marking of different kind of specimens.

**Czech Republic** reported that the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) prepared a new proposal to amend the Act No. 100/2004 Coll. On Trade In Endangered Species (CITES). The proposal was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in April 2008, and has been passed to the Parliament for adoption. By May 2009, the reading in the Parliament has not yet been concluded. According to the proposal, the MoE would issue new CITES documents according to the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006, such as the personal ownership certificates, travelling exhibition certificates, sample collection certificates, and pre-issued permits for biological samples.

Paragraph added to the Nature Conservation Act (came into force: 1.08.2008):

§ 59<sup>1</sup> License for (re)packaging plants of caviar.

Brief description of contents: rules and procedure for license the (re)packaging plants of caviar.

**Estonian** Regulation No. 63 of the Minister of the Environment of 20 December 2007 'List of animal species specified in Annexes to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, the live specimens of which may be killed' was amended (amendment came into force: 08.05.2009).

Brief description of contents: Pursuant to the Nature Conservation Law all CITES species are protected species and all provisions for the protected species apply to them as well. Among other things these provisions contain the prohibition of intentional killing. Therefore, in order to use legally acquired CITES specimens, we need such a regulation. *Anguilla anguilla* is added to that list.

**Germany** reports for implementation and law enforcement activities that in late 2007 the 'Standing Committee on Species and Biotope Conservation' of the *Bund/Länder* working group for Nature Conservation (BLANA) agreed at its 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting on the establishment of a CITES timber enforcement subcommittee under the chairmanship of the FANC. During the reporting period the subcommittee met twice. Major objectives of its work during the reporting period were to identify areas where controls of CITES protected timber species needs to be enhanced and intensified (i.e. builders yards, toy industry, music instrumental industries), how to handle stocks of CITES protected timber which had been acquired before CITES conservation legislation came into effect and finally to develop standardized guidelines for internal controls to be conducted by Federal State Authorities.

- With regard to the implementation of the EU Enforcement Action Plan the 'Standing Committee on Species and Biotope Conservation' of the *Bund/Länder* working group for Nature Conservation (BLANA) agreed at its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting in May 2008 on two main focus areas in CITES enforcement in 2008 and 2009, i.e. international trade in caviar and in live turtles and tortoises. With regard to caviar an enforcement strategy paper had been

approved with clear targets and deadlines including country wide standardized controls of the caviar trade in close co-operation with federal (customs investigations agencies) and regional authorities which were carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

**Italy** reported that following the publication of National Decree 6th of May 2008, on the marking of primary and secondary containers of caviar and registration of producing and repackaging plants, issued as implementation of the provisions of Res. Conf. 12.7 and of EU Reg. 865/06, the Management Authority has carried out inspections in the producing/repackaging plants in order to authorize and list them in the national and international registers, as required by Res. Conf. 12.7. The national facilities that have been authorized are two producing plants and three re-packaging plants. A draft of a national Decree on marking requirements is also currently under revision by the Management and Scientific Authorities.

### **European Commission**

CITES is implemented in the European Community through Council Regulation 338/97/EC of 9 December 1996<sup>1</sup> on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

On 4 February 2008, an amendment to the existing so-called "Implementing Regulation" was adopted.<sup>2</sup> The amendments to this Regulation reflect the results of CoP 13 and CoP 14 and concern in particular sample collections and certain formalities relating to the trade in species of wild fauna and flora.

The findings and recommendations of the 2007 study on the effectiveness of the EC wildlife trade regulations were discussed with relevant stakeholders and Member State experts in 2008. The European Commission will be working on possible follow up actions, which might include a revision of the Implementing Regulation.

On 14 May 2009, Commission Regulation (EC) No 407/2009 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein was adopted. The Regulation implements recent changes to CITES Appendix III and includes additional amendments relating to the Annexes of Regulation (EC) 338/97 for certain non-CITES listed species. It also amended inconsistencies between the CITES Appendices and the scientific names in those nomenclatural references which appeared both in the CITES Appendices as well as in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 338/97.

On 30 April 2009, Commission Regulation (EC) No 359/2009 suspending the introduction into the Community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora was adopted. The European Commission is updating this Regulation on a regular basis.

### **Implementation**

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, met three times in 2008 and so far twice in 2009. 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 four times in 2008 and so far twice in

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 61 of 3.3.1997, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> *Commission Regulation (EC) N° 100/2008 of 4 February 2008 amending, as regards sample collections and certain formalities relating to the trade in species of wild fauna and flora, Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/9*

2009. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met twice in 2008 and so far once in 2009. This group plays a key role for exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities. In addition, the Enforcement Group decided to invite representatives of enforcement networks of other regions to take part in its meetings on a regular basis. In this context a representative of NAWEG (North American Wildlife Enforcement Group) took part in the EC Enforcement Group meeting on 30-31 October 2008. Representatives from other regions will be invited to take part in future meetings of the Group.

In line with the international commitment to strengthen enforcement of CITES and in response to the Council's December 2006 conclusions on halting the loss of biodiversity, the Commission adopted on 13 June 2007 an EC Action Plan on CITES Enforcement in the form of a Recommendation to Member States. The Action Plan sets out a series of measures that Member States should implement in order to enhance their efforts to combat illegal trade. These include adopting national action plans for enforcement, imposing sufficiently high penalties for wildlife trade offences and using risk and intelligence assessments to detect illegal and smuggled wildlife products. Equally important consideration is given to raising public awareness about the negative impacts of illegal wildlife trade and ensuring greater cooperation and exchange of information within and between Member States as well as with third countries, Interpol and the World Customs Organization. The implementation of this Action Plan is currently being assessed.

### **Other issues**

The European Commission has concluded a number of contracts in order to ensure assistance in CITES implementation, enforcement and scientific matters.

In the framework of its Monitoring Contract with the European Commission, TRAFFIC updated the *Reference Guide to the European Community Wildlife Trade Regulations* and prepares briefings for enforcement staff and species-related reports as well as other practical implementation information. They are also responsible for the compilation and analysis of the biennial reports of the EC Member States. TRAFFIC continues to ensure the monitoring of the website for wildlife traders in the EC ([www.eu-wildlifetrade.org](http://www.eu-wildlifetrade.org)) which they were mandated to set up under a previous contract.

UNEP-WCMC has been contracted to provide the trade data which the Member States and the Commission need to implement Community legislation. The contract provides for reviews and studies of species as well as the EC wildlife trade database which contains up-to-date information on the species and the legislative framework in the EC. They are also responsible for synthesis of Member States' annual reports.

**Moldova** is in the process of registering animal collections, including nurseries, according to Regulations for the foundation, register, completion, keeping, export and import of wild flora and fauna collection of plants and animals according to the Governmental Order Nr.1107 from September 2003, which provides:

- *Art. 6.* 'For the reason of the forming and completion of the plants and animals collection, that are protected according to the international requirements, the special acts are prepared (Environment permit for export/import of wild plants and/or animals, Permit/Certificate CITES) taking into account national and international legislative procedure'
- *Art. 20* 'In case of animal or plant collection, that are protected through the rules of CITES Convention for the import and export (re-export) of parts and exhibits, the Permit/Certificate CITES is obliged to obtain.'

The Parliament of Moldova approved a new Code on Administrative Contravention, which provide special regulations on protection and conservation of wild animal and plant species, and also provide administrative responsibilities on animal and plant import/ export activities.

**Romania** reports the issuing of a Governmental Ordinance no. 164/2008 amending the Governmental Ordinance no. 195/2005 of environmental protection establishing sanctions for non-compliance with marking requirements in accordance with the method approved or recommended by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the specimens concerned and, in particular, for containers of caviar;

The CITES MA drafted the Governmental Decision regarding the registration system for sturgeons stocks from aquaculture facilities, of the caviar produced from aquaculture operations, and marking by labelling of the caviar. The drafted Governmental Decision establishes the register, forms of the register of the sturgeons specimens from the aquaculture (parental stocks, young specimens and caviar produced), obligations for licensing of the processing and (re)-packaging plants, the authority that controls the register, the enforcement authorities of the provision, and requirements for labelling of the caviar (including for internal market).

**Serbia.** The Law on Nature Protection was adopted (Official Register of Republic of Serbia, 36/09) and the regulation on CITES Convention implementation will be completed by the end of July 2009. The Law and the Regulation will covered all the aspects of CITES implementation, including EU Regulation (EC) No. 856/2006.

**Turkey:** Quantity of the export quota for Medicinal Leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*) which is listed in Appendix II of CITES has been set by the Scientific Authority (TUBÍTAK) upon request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Necessary legislative arrangements have been made in order to set up an export quota for European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) which was listed in CITES Appendix II and the listing came into force at 13 March 2009. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has attempted to have the Scientific Authority (TUBÍTAK) set a quota 2010.

The **United Kingdom** continues to review its national implementing regulations. In particular:

- In April 2009 we implemented the first phase in moving to a full cost recovery charging regime for the issue of CITES Permits.
- We are reviewing ports of entry and exit through which CITES goods can enter and leave the European Union.
- We are reviewing the offences, penalties and powers relating to the domestic implementation of EU Wildlife Trade regulations.

The UK MA continues to work closely with UK overseas territories, Crown dependencies and the CITES Secretariat to enact adequate CITES legislation.

## **7. Administrative Measures and Capacity Building in European Parties**

**Austria** is currently in a process to establish a national central information platform and support service to assist Austria's Scientific Authorities in the Provinces has been further developed.

The **Belgian** MA and members of different Belgian CITES Enforcement Authorities participated to a CITES training organised by the French “Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage” from 27 to 30.04.09 in Orléans (France).

In March 2008, the **Bulgarian** National Customs Agency organized a 2-day training seminar on CITES implementation. The seminar was attended by 25 customs officers from different customs borders point and was held in the Customs Headquarters in Sofia. An expert from the CITES MA was invited as a lecturer.

Three days training seminar on the control on domestic trade with CITES-listed species for biodiversity inspectors from the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water was organised By the Bulgarian Management Authority in November 2008.

In **Estonia** in the framework of courses for Customs students (in the Estonian National Defence Academy) there have been lectures about the CITES.

Regular seminars and trainings for enforcement officers are organized, where one of the subjects is CITES.

The **European Commission** (DG Justice, Freedom and Security) concluded a contract with WWF Germany. The aim of this three-year project is to improve the capacity of law enforcers within the enlarged EC to combat illegal trade in wildlife. The project supports information exchange and cooperation on wildlife trade controls between the various authorities in the EC and by developing and conducting training for law enforcement authorities/officers in the EC Member States and selected neighbouring countries. Amongst others, a training workshop on CITES enforcement was organised in Croatia in March 2009.

**Iceland** Customs officers at the main International Airport in Keflavik (Reykjavik) have been continuously trained in awareness of and recognition of illegal goods.

In **Italy's** capacity building framework, the Management Authority has published a translation of the Canadian Identification Manual for Tropical Timber, which is currently in distribution to the State Forestry Corps Operational teams at all customs of entrance for timber on national territory.

The Ministry of the Environment (MoE)of the **Czech Republic** has organised 7 regular half-day “Joint CITES meetings” with the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP, the CITES SA), the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), the General Directorate of Customs (GDC), the State Veterinary Administration (SVS), the State Phytosanitary Administration (MA competent to issue “CITES-phytosanitary certificates” for export of artificially protected plants) and other bodies for discussing and exchange of information on current CITES matters.

The MoE also organised 2 all-day meetings with the Czech Regional Authorities and the Protected Areas Authorities who serve as the national MAs for issuing the “EC certificates” for intra-Community trade in CITES specimens.

The MoE continued in managing and further development of the “Registr CITES” which is a robust software and database tool for issuing CITES documents in the Czech Republic. All national CITES Authorities have been connected to that system. The MoE organized two training workshops for officers on the use of the “Registr CITES”.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) and the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP, the CITES SA) in collaboration with the Prague Zoo organized a two-day workshop for the wildlife inspectors on determination of CITES species and specimens in September 2008.

CITES is continuing to be part of regular training of wildlife inspectors from the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) and compulsory curriculum for Czech customs officers.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK) together with the Central Commission for Animal Welfare and the MoE organized a two-day workshop in Prague in November 2009. The theme was "Problems in keeping and trading in exotic animals with respect to welfare, CITES and other legal provisions". The workshop was attended by veterinarians, animal traders and keepers as well as by CITES officers from the Czech Republic.

The **Poland** Customs Authorities co-organised two CITES related workshops on identification of tropical timber and Traditional Asian Medicine in close cooperation with Police and WWF Poland.

With the support of Customs Chamber in Warsaw, for the very first time, training schemes for dogs concerning detection of CITES specimens have been elaborated.

Regional Prosecutor's Office in Poznan, in co-operation with WWF Poland, organised seminar on CITES enforcement aspects for app. 50 prosecutors.

Moreover, in the reporting period, Customs organised numerous meetings, lectures and presentations concerning better understanding of CITES for pupils and students.

The **Romanian** Management Authority staff provides training for enforcement and other services (National Environmental Guard, Customs, border police, veterinary and phytosanitary officers) working on CITES. In 2008 two training seminars were organized for customs officers.

The National Customs Authority has included CITES training seminar in its Annual Training Program for customs officers.

A three-day regular training for **Slovenian** Customs and Environmental inspectors took place in October 2008.

Slovene Management Authority organized a one-day seminar for Slovene public prosecutors in March 2009.

A representative of Slovene Management Authority is a member of the EU Working group on Training.

A representative of Slovene Management Authority gave lectures on seminar organised by Traffic in Croatia in May 2009.

In February 2009 a representative of Slovene Management Authority gave lecture to traders on implementation and provisions of CITES, EU wildlife trade regulations and national legislation.

The specialists from Management Authority of **Moldova** participated at 4 training seminars for Customs specialists, which were organized in the Custom's Training Centre. At the trainings were participated more than 120 specialists.

By an order of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Management Authority) a Working Group on CITES implementation had been established. The Working group consists of representatives from SA, Custom, Police, Ecological Inspectorate, Veterinary, Phyto-sanitary Inspection, NGOs and others. The meetings are held in case of necessity but not rare then once per 3 months. At the same time, the private meetings with some representatives of the working group are held monthly or in case of necessity.

In **Turkey** during the period July 2008 – June 2009 are issued 399 import permits, 172 re-export certificates and 27 export permits by the local directorates of Ministry of Environment and Forestry located in Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Ankara for birds, terrestrial mammals and reptiles. Also, 699 compliance certificates for import and export for non- CITES species are issued by the MA.

The number of issued CITES permits has risen steadily since 1998, with a large increase in the number of re-export certificates. There are approximately 140 Customs points in Turkey. The Undersecretary of Customs implement rotation to the Customs officers therefore lack of awareness is occurring and due to this situation some problems have been appeared in respect to the CITES implementation. For example misidentification of species and the CITES permits by the customs officers. Because of this a special training programmes on CITES implementation for the customs officers from the local directorates as Istanbul, Izmir, Antalia, Ankara and Antalya had been organized By the Management Authority.

CITES implementers in Turkey need successfully operating Rescue Centers because the confiscated specimens at the Customs border points will be temporary placed in Rescue Centers which will be used until the legal procedure is completed. Turkey has lots of zoos and several botanical gardens but none of them have been established with the aim to serve as the rescue center. The first Rescue Center has been built and will be completed in Bursa in a short time by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The Authorities which is issuing export certificates had been delegated by the central units of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to the Istanbul Provincial Directorate. In August 2008 two days seminar was organized for the relevant staff working on CITES implementation.

In February 2009 a training on CITES implementation had been given to the customs staff by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Two meeting about Natural Flower Bulbs which covers CITES listed species were held in October 2008 and March 2009.

The **United Kingdom** has provided capacity building for approximately 300 UK enforcement officers, including two training courses for the UK Border Agency and the police (November 2008 and March 2009). The events included modules covering legislation, enforcement techniques, document fraud, Health and Safety, wildlife forensics and identification and were attended by Polish enforcement officers. The UK has also been involved in enforcement training for Slovakian National Police officers and Romanian Customs Service National Police officers.

Contributed to a Spanish Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade in Species" (May-June 2009)



## 8. Combating Illegal Activities

The **Belgian** MA, in collaboration with members of different Belgian CITES Enforcement Authorities and experts, has launched an extensive controlling operation by birds of prey's breeders during the period May 08 to January 2009.

In 2008 in **Bulgaria** three cases were recorded with a total number of 7 specimens involved, as follow:

- three specimens of *Crocodylus niloticus* (one stuffed and two skins), origin Sudan. Action taken: seized, appealed in the court, no further information;
- one specimen of *Ara ararauna* and one *Clorocebus aethiops* (Live, unknown origin) detected on the local market. Action taken: confiscated and imposed penalty;
- two specimens *Psittacus erithacus* (Live, unknown origin) - detected on the local market. Action taken: confiscated and imposed penalty.

On 2 June 2009 in a joint action the Regional Police Department – Rakovski and the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Waters – Plovdiv a sale of 153 tortoises of the two species – Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) and Iberian tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) collected from the Eastern Rhodopwere Mountine was prevented. The animals were temporary accommodated in a Rescue Center. Two days later each of the offenders were sentenced on probation for one year and 3 year trial period and penalty of 1000 BGN (511,28 Euro) were imposed. Five days later the animals were released to the wild in the region they had been caught.

In the **Czech Republic** the information for the public about cases of illegalities against CITES which have been detected in the Czech Republic or in which the Czechs have been involved is published by The Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) on [www.cizp.cz](http://www.cizp.cz) – CITES – CITES news.

The **Bulgarian** Customs Agency and **Czech** Customs and the CEI took part in the Global Customs CITES Action Day 15-1-09 which was coordinated by the WCO Secretariat.

**Estonia** reported on several cases that have happened Tallinn airport and have comprised tourists, bringing the souvenirs from exotic countries. Souvenirs have been mainly snakes in the bottles or leather goods made from reptile skin (Cobra and crocodile). Some seizures have been at border crossing point where Customs has seized the traditional Asian medicine (comprises bear fat, leech extract). Environmental Inspectorate carry out controls on similar items in inland (in drugstores and markets).

The **European Commission** reports that activities for combating illegal activities are incorporated in the Enforcement Action Plan (see above)

In **Italy** as part of the checks and controls carried out by the "Corpo Forestale dello Stato", during the year 2008 are to be reported the seizure of 100 illegal bags of *Crocodylus niloticus* (captive bred) that occurred in late July 2008 at Bologna Airport.

Also about 450 illegal specimens of *Tridacnae spp.* from Hawaii (USA) were seized at the Fiumicino airport. Almost 3000 skins of *Varanus niloticus* / *Python sebae* of wild origin from Sudan, hidden in postal parcels and owned by a citizen of Sudan were seized in Milan and Rome.

The CITES central investigation department of the "Corpo Forestale dello Stato" also seized two live specimens (captive-bred) of *Panthera leo* from France owned by a citizen

of Romania kept inside a van; were also seized about 700 specimens of *Hippocampus spp*, *Sayussurea spp*, *Manis spp.*, contained in several packs of illegal traditional Chinese medicine in some Chinese shops near Florence; other 500 skins of *Python reticulatus* bred in captivity from Vietnam were seized at the airport to a company that faked the import permit. Finally the Forestry Corps seized eight live (captive-bred) specimens of *Pantera tigris* without any certification and authorization, owned by an Italian citizen.

In **Romania** in order to improve the cooperation between national CITES enforcement authorities a collaboration protocol has been adopted.

Enforcement at entry points is made by Customs through documentary checks and physical inspection and also through inclusion of CITES risk profiles in general risk assessment.

In-country enforcement is made by inspection at pet shops, taxidermists, importers, breeders, owners and other facilities conducted by the commissioners of the National Environmental Guard together with Police in accordance with the provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding concluded between these two authorities.

**Serbia.** According to the Strategy on the integration and management of the border, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (Directorate for Plant Protection and Directorate of Veterinarian Medicine) signed an agreement on transfer of a part of the competence on control of the trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna at all the border crossing points. According to the agreement, the Border Phytosanitary Inspection and Veterinary Inspection are in charge on control of export and import of CITES specimens, while the Republic Inspection of Environmental Protection is in charge of regulation on the internal trade. The agreement entered into force on 1 January 2008.

Further on and according to the Strategy, the Management Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning defined the Enforcement Authorities as a measure of capacity building in process of the CITES implementation in Republic of Serbia. The information on formation of Enforcement Authority of Serbia was submitted to the CITES Secretariat in February 2009.

**Slovenian** Customs officers seized and confiscated a number of parts and derivatives of CITES appendix I, II and III species. During the reporting period Slovenian Customs reported 32 seizures of wildlife specimens, 12 of CITES specimens. Slovene Customs seized 44 specimens of stony corals, five tins of caviar (*Huso huso*). Of mammals, 1 worked bone of Cetacea had been confiscated. Two illegal shipments of Date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) were uncovered. Several shipments of medicine contain endangered species *Saiga tatarica*, *Hirudo medicinalis*, *Hoodia gordonii*, *Rauvolfia serpentine*) have been confiscated.

The **United Kingdom** Wildlife Law Enforcement Working Group which comprises representatives of police and other enforcement bodies, the UK management and scientific Authorities, other relevant agencies and some NGOs determines UK conservation priorities for enforcement effort, and has identified illegal trade in caviar, ivory, tortoises, ramin and traditional medicines as priority areas.

The UK Management Authority, Customs and Scientific Authorities have delivered a number of training programmes to assist enforcement and inspection staff in CITES matters, including CITES awareness and enforcement and skills training for UK Police and customs officers (September, November and December 2008, February, March and June 2009), contributing to the Police Wildlife Crime Officers (PWCO) Annual Conference (October 2008) attended by over 100 enforcement officers, and ongoing support provided by the UK Scientific Authorities to UK enforcement agencies on the identification and maintenance of seized and detained material.

## 9. Public Awareness and Information

The **Austrian MA** in collaboration with WWF, CITES awareness raising focused on the implementation of the new caviar labelling requirements and trade with medicinal plants. The latter included a review of commercial outlets which sell CITES-listed medicinal plants, the development of information folders for and dialog with all potential stakeholders (pharma industry, medical practitioners, etc.) as well as customs officers. A joint project between the Ministry and WWF to take CITES into schools is currently being developed.

- A national conference on the interaction between CITES and animal protection, particularly with regard to the transport and holding of live specimens, was held at Austria's Tiergarten Schönbrunn, Vienna. It was attended by all relevant national stakeholders from CITES, authorities responsible for the implementation of animal protection legislation, traders, keepers, NGOs, etc.. It aimed primarily at developing a constructive dialog between those responsible for CITES and animal protection agendas, and to agree on steps to be taken for the improvement of cooperation and implementation.
- The statistical analyses of Austrian CITES trade patterns since 1997 have been further developed and are accessible at <http://www.umwelt.net.at/article/articleview/29355/1/8021> (see also [www.cites.at](http://www.cites.at)).

**Belgium:** On 31.07.08, the Belgian CITES MA participated to a Press Conference organised by the Sea Life Center (Blankenberge) at the occasion of a seizure of 80 kg of seahorses at the Belgian National Airport.

The Belgian CITES MA informed the participants to the Naturaria-Fair, the biggest fair in Belgium related to reptiles, insects and aquaria, that took place in Antwerpen on 28.09.08 about CITES dispositions concerning these groups of species.

The Belgian CITES MA developed during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester 2009 an information leaflet intended to traders in caviar.

The exhibition presented problems caused by the illegal trade in rare species was exposed in **Bulgaria**. The exhibition consists of 10 boards, each presenting different groups of illegally traded species (cacti, reptiles, cats, monkeys, etc.). The exhibition was produced in Poland by the nature conservation organization Salamandra, regarding the activity of the CITES Working Group of CEEweb for Biodiversity. In Bulgaria this initiative was popularized by Green Balkans and the Birds of Prey Protection Society. The "premiere" of the exhibition was in the building of the "Sofia Customs". Other places the exhibition will be held are: the Sofia International Airport, the Natural History Museum – Sofia, the Sofia Zoo, and the Stara Zagora Zoo.

In the **Czech Republic** the information on CITES for the public is accessible on web pages of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) ([www.mzp.cz/cites](http://www.mzp.cz/cites)), the Agency for Nature

Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP) ([www.nature.cz](http://www.nature.cz)) and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate ([www.cizp.cz](http://www.cizp.cz)).

The General Directorate of Customs has placed several "CITES showcases" at the Prague-Ruzyne and the Ostrava International Airports. The showcases display permanent exhibitions of popular CITES specimens as an awareness campaign targeted on travellers.

The information brochures for the public on CITES in Czech are available at [http://www.env.cz/cz/cites\\_publikace](http://www.env.cz/cz/cites_publikace).

The following new information material has been published by the State Authorities:

- Leaflet "CITES & European Union. Information on trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora after the Czech Republic's accession to the EU", ANCLP, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2008.

The following major public awareness projects about CITES with participation of the State Authorities took place in the Czech Republic:

- o The 3<sup>rd</sup> national conference "Questions about CITES" with more than 100 participants was organized by the Agricultural Faculty of the Southern-Bohemian University in Ceske Budejovice for two-days in February 2009. The Southern-Bohemian University has been teaching a bachelor's degree subject called "Biology of pet animals and ornamental plants and conservation issues" since the 2006 autumn semester. Lessons on CITES and related conservation issues are part of this subject.
- o One-day workshop "International Conventions in Nature Protection" was organized by the Czech Association for the Care about Environment (CACE) in Prague in June 2008 with co-operation by CITES experts from the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (ANCLP, the CITES SA), the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) and the General Directorate of Customs (GDC).

**Estonia** Informed about several events in respect to Public awareness and information, as follow:

- o Presentation in Tourest (Travel Trade Fair) in Tallinn (CITES exhibition and presentation of collection of confiscated goods).
- o CITES exhibition in Environmental Inspectorate (October 2008)
- o CITES exhibition in Narva City museum
- o CITES exhibition in Enterprise Day (2008)

The **European Commission's** website

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home_en.htm) provides information about the European Community and its implementation of CITES.

The "Reference Guide to the European Community Wildlife Trade Regulations" has been thoroughly revised by the European Commission and TRAFFIC under its contract with the European Commission. This guide has been published on the above-mentioned website. It is to be used as reference material by CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Enforcement officials, traders and the general public.

**Germany's** Management and Scientific Authorities of the FANC issued during the reporting period three new CITES leaflets to raise awareness of the Conventions objectives on different subjects and levels.

Besides pointing out on carvings made of ivory, reptile leather products, caviar, furs, plants such as orchids or birds of CITES protected species but also to highlight the successes of

the Convention a new 16 pages CITES leaflet was printed in late 2008 which should primarily draw the attention of any tourist to the fact that besides the destruction of habitats the international trade in endangered species is a major cause for the decline of many populations of wild fauna and flora worldwide.

In addition in late 2008 Germany's Scientific Authorities of the FANC issued two leaflets to promote and raise awareness of two publicly accessible data bases, WISIA ([www.wisia.de](http://www.wisia.de)) and ZEET ([www.zeet.de](http://www.zeet.de)), which had been initiated already several years ago and continuously updated to the most present legal situation. WISIA lists all CITES protected species according to the most current taxonomy and their individual history of legal protection, whereas ZEET comprises only those CITES species for which the EU has taken decisions to postpone any trade.

**Poland** MA reported for activities organised from the NGO and for publication of 3 guidebooks:

Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra":

- Organisation of 5 trainings for representatives of local authorities responsible for registration of CITES animals.
- Organisation of an exhibition on CITES in the one of the biggest malls in Poznan.

WWF Poland:

- Creation of the Internet CITES species database ([www.wwf.pl/cites](http://www.wwf.pl/cites)).
- Organisation of numerous information campaigns and educational events directed to the wide public (e.g. pupils, teachers, tourists, travel agencies).
- Distribution of leaflets, booklets, badges, posters at the airports (in cooperation with Polish Airlines LOT, travel agencies and Customs Chambers).

Moreover, WWF Poland sponsored the purchase of specialised equipment for temporary keeping and transport of seized animals. The equipment was distributed among the major entry border points in Poland.

Publications:

- Publication of a guidebook for registration purposes addressed to the local authorities responsible for the registration of CITES animals.
- Elaboration and edition of a guidebook directed to the trade sector on current CITES legislation and conditions of trade in CITES species.
- Edition of guidebooks on illegal trade in CITES specimens directed to prosecutors.

In November 2008 **Slovenian** Management Authority provided educational material including four thematic leaflets on the most popular exotic wildlife companion animals: tortoises, iguanas and parrots. The publicity material was distributed in 2008 to Slovenian schools and museums.

An upgraded CD on the implementation of CITES in Slovenia was also published in October 2008.

Slovenian Customs carried out considerable public awareness events including exhibitions of seized and confiscated specimens, educational events for scholars and interested public. Information of seizures was published in all main national newspapers, articles and TV and radio broadcasts were performed.

The **United Kingdom** is developing a CITES Communications Strategy involving all UK stakeholders (government and non-government) involved in CITES to help promote CITES. Opportunities for collaborative efforts between the UK regulatory authorities and others are being explored.

The UK hosts biannual stakeholder meetings with trade representatives, NGOs, and Government authorities involved in CITES providing updates on developments within CITES and discussing the implementation of CITES in the UK. The UK also issues a quarterly bulletin on such issues which is posted on the internet and circulated to UK stakeholders. Guidance for businesses is regularly produced, most recently *Additional Guidance for taxidermists* and *Guidance on Identification of corals in trade*.

UK enforcement authorities gave a lecture on UK CITES enforcement, CITES smuggling trends and the UK CITES Action plan to approximately 50 degree level students and their lecturers (February 2009).

## 10. CITES Relevant Research, Scientific & Technical Information and Publications

**Germany** reports that in 2008 and 2009, the Scientific Authority (Fauna) prepared updated drafts of listing proposals for two shark species (*Lamna nasus*, *Squalus acanthias*) to be submitted for the 15<sup>th</sup> CITES-CoP in 2010.

A new version of the CITES timber identification programme CITESwoodID has been developed between September 2007 and August 2008. The programme is now available in English, French and Spanish language. The new version also includes now the newly listed CITES species *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia stevensonii* and *Caesalpinia echinata*.

In total, the programme contains 12 trade relevant CITES taxa and 45 Non-CITES look-alike-taxa with similar appearance. The CD can serve as a practical and quick approach for all persons and institutions involved in controlling import as well as export of wood and wood products of CITES listed timber species. The primary aim of using the CD -Rom is to exclude timbers that are definitely not CITES regulated. This provides the basis for a simple risk analysis.

**Poland** MA reports the continuation of actions aimed at restoring the population of *Falco peregrinus*, *Parnassius apollo* and *Acipenser oxyrinchus* and for a project on conservation of *Phocoena phocoena*.

WWF Poland started a project on the conservation of big predators in Poland (*Lynx lynx*, *Canis lupus* and *Ursus arctos*).

**Romanian** Government has financed in 2008 the continuation of the supportive stocking programs for sturgeons in Danube River. More information regarding sturgeon stocking programs and fishing of sturgeons in Romania in the last years can be found at the following web link:

<http://www.indd.tim.ro/rosturgeonsn/index.php?lang=en>.

The **Serbian** Management Authority of the Ministry of Environmental Protection started cooperation with the non-governmental organization 'Vier Pforten', Austria in rescuing the 'Dancing Bears' of Serbia. In December 2009 three 'Dancing Bears' from Serbia were transported to the rescue center of Vier Pforten in Bulgaria. According to the agreement between Vier Pforten and the Ministry, Vier Pforten will construct a rescue center for bears in Serbia and after its completion will return the exported animals back to Serbia.



The **Slovenian** Management Authority financially supported five research activities in relation to CITES species.

Project called 'The investigation of bears (*Ursus arctos*) removed from nature and molecular genetics research of the Slovenia', finished in October 2008. Objective of this project was to estimate the size of the brown bear population and analysis of the contents of the brown bear digestive apparatus.

<http://www.arso.gov.si/narava/%c5%beivalske%20vrste/ogro%c5%beene%20in%20zavarovane/>

Monitoring of populations of *Tursiops truncatus* in Slovenian and adjacent waters is ongoing. The objective of this project is to estimate the size of the population, photo-identification and gathering of basic information on their ecology.

Rescue centres for wild animals for temporary care of seized and confiscated animals due to illegal keeping in captivity, illegal trade, export or import or other reasons specified by law is provided by a contract with the Management Authority.

Project Monitoring of selected bird species populations (*Aquila pomarina*, *Otus scops*, *Strix uralensis*) in special protected areas (SPA) is ongoing. Different species are selected each year to be included in the monitoring. Selected species were monitored in 2007 or/and 2008. Objective of this study is to establish the uniform methodology and parameters for monitoring of selected species, and selection of permanent survey transects, points and areas.

[http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx\\_library/Monitoring\\_ptic\\_\\_2007-II.pdf](http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/Monitoring_ptic__2007-II.pdf)

Study Monitoring of selected bird species populations *Gyps fulvus* and other birds of prey, finished in September 2008.

[http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx\\_library/Drugo\\_vmesno\\_porocilo\\_2009.pdf](http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/Drugo_vmesno_porocilo_2009.pdf)

The Institute of Zoology of **Moldova** (Scientific Authority) is providing monitoring of *Falco cherrug*. Information about the status of *Falco cherrug* l(Şoim dunărean) in the Republic of Moldova was sent by Secretariat in 2009. Unfortunately, the state institutions apply insufficient measures in conservation of flora species, and local authorities don't provide sufficient assistance and efficient mechanisms for contributing in rare and endangered species protection and Customs provide insufficient attention to the control of the procedures for international trade of flora and fauna

**United Kingdom** reports that the following research is proposed or has been carried out in the:

- *Radio carbon dating of ivory* – The project intends to identify methods to enable easier dating of ivory.
- *Development of forensic DNA techniques for the identification of Ramin and Rosewood timber* – The project will further advance the use of genetic techniques for the forensic identification of CITES-listed timber and wood products.
- *Conservation and sustainable use of Geophytes in Turkey and Georgia* –in discussion with colleagues from Turkey and Georgia the aim is to develop a project that will assess the impact of collection on geophyte species and methods of sustainable collection of bulbs for trade



The following publications and articles have been produced or are under review:

- *CITES Cactaceae Checklist 2nd Edition (1999)* - work on a third edition is underway in collaboration with the Italian SA.
- *Orchid Checklist Volume 5 (Bulbophyllum)* – in press
- *Orchid Checklist 1 (the genera Cypripedium,, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipediou and, Pleione)* – a second edition is now in preparation.
- *Survey of the occurrence and relative abundance of raptors in Guinea subject to international trade* - produced in collaboration with the CITES authorities of the Republic of Guinea. Further reports are in preparation.
- *Annotated checklist of the CITES-listed corals of Fiji with reference to Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa.*