

## PART 1 - CITES QUESTIONS

Note: Part 1 is composed exclusively of the questions included in the CITES Biennial Report format, approved at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, October 2004

### A. General information

Party	
Period covered in this report:	1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014
Details of agency preparing this report	Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment Directorate General Environment Service Multilateral and Strategic Affairs CITES Unit Eurostation II Place Victor Horta 40 box 10 B-1060 BRUSSELS
Contributing agencies, organizations or individuals	<a href="mailto:isabelle.gregoire@environment.belgium.be">isabelle.gregoire@environment.belgium.be</a> <a href="mailto:miet.vanlooy@environment.belgium.be">miet.vanlooy@environment.belgium.be</a>

### B. Legislative and regulatory measures

1	Has information on CITES-relevant legislation already been provided under the CITES National Legislation Project? If yes, ignore questions 2, 3 and 4.	Yes (fully)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
		Yes (partly)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		No information/unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>					
2	If your country has planned, drafted or enacted any CITES-relevant legislation, please provide the following details: Title and date: _____ Status: _____ Brief description of contents: _____							
3	Is enacted legislation available in one of the working languages of the Convention?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>					
4	If yes, please attach a copy of the full legislative text or key legislative provisions that were gazetted.	legislation attached	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		provided previously	<input type="checkbox"/>					
		not available, will send later	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5	Which of the following issues are addressed by any stricter domestic measures that your country has adopted for CITES-listed species (in accordance with Article XIV of the Convention)?	The conditions for:			The complete prohibition of:			
		Issue	Yes	No	No information	Yes	No	No information
		Trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> see a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Taking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Possession	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> see b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Transport	<input type="checkbox"/> see a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other (specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> see c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments	<p>a) The EU Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 provides stricter measures for intra-community trade in endangered species (appendices A and B). Disposition on transport of specimens are also harmonized by that regulation: Regulation CE n°338/97 makes the implementation of IATA rules for the air transport of live animals as well as the CITES directives related to transport obligatory (cf. Resolution 10.21 rev COP16)</p> <p>b) 1- Law of 28/07/1981 approving CITES provides in Article 4 the interdiction of possession of specimens of Appendix I excepting for general or specific exemptions referred to in Article 2 of the Royal Decree of 09/04/2003 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade. Specific exemptions are granted inter alia, introduced an inventory in the manner prescribed. As for all species that are listed in <u>Appendix I</u> /Annex A after the entry into force of the CITES Convention (In Belgium: 1984), it is mandatory to introduce an <u>inventory</u> for live specimens of the newly listed species.</p> <p>2- The Royal Decree of 16/07/09 establishes a list of 42 species of live mammals that can be held by private persons in Belgium. This Royal Decree entered into force on 1 October 2009 and is based on animal welfare issues. This decree regulates the possession of all mammals (and thus not specifically CITES-listed mammals), but as such it has an impact on trade in and possession of CITES-listed mammals.</p> <p>c) 1- In the framework of Article 66 of EU Regulation No 865/06 EC which provides that all living vertebrates (other than birds) that are listed in Appendix A of EU Regulation 338/97 must be marked with an unalterable microchip transponder. According to the conclusion of the study made by Gent's University (see attachment 1), we have decided to make identification with microchips of new born tortoises (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>, <i>graeca</i> and <i>marginata</i>) compulsory once the specimen is at least 4.5 cms. All other species of reptiles must be marked, unless there is a veterinary statement that declares the animal is unfit to be identified with a microchip. For these animals, a transaction specific certificate will be issued (valid for one sale only).</p> <p>2- Belgium follows the guidelines of the Commission services which regards to the prohibition of the issuance of certificats (intra EU-trade), export permits or re-export certificates for rhino horns.</p>
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6	What were the results of any review or assessment of the effectiveness of CITES legislation, with regard to the following items? Tick all applicable	Tick all applicable			
Item	Adequate	Partially Inadequate	Inadequate	No information	
Powers of CITES authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clarity of legal obligations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Control over CITES trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Consistency with existing policy on wildlife management and use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coverage of law for all types of offences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coverage of law for all types of penalties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Implementing regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coherence within legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Please provide details if available:

EU context Regulation

The EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 and its implementing Regulations, currently Commission Regulation (EC) 865/2006), have been in place in Belgium for over **18 years**.

This regulation has been proved effective in achieving the objectives of CITES to ensure that trade in species is sustainable. However, in order to make the regulatory system even more efficient and effective it was decided to revise the Implementing Regulation (Commission Regulation (EC) 865/2006) . This Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 has been amended in beginning 2015.

Belgium had actively collaborated at the revision of IR 865/2006 by participating in working groups, proposing guidance and modifications related to different subjects (see biennial report 2011-2012)

In May 2013, Belgium has organized an informal workshop for all the EU MS concerning crucial topics that could not be discussed at the COM meeting: several subjects on specific case were treated: for example:

- Treatment of newly listed species of Annex A and B;
- Proof of legal origin for Annex B –species (Appendice II):

An updated Reference Guide, published by the European Commission, TRAFFIC Europe and WWF, that helps understand the European Union Wildlife Trade Regulations was made also available begin 2015. This guide is to be used as reference material by CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, wildlife trade enforcement officials, wildlife traders and anyone interested in the legislation and the technicalities of its provisions.

In July 2014, Belgium has replied to the EU Commission questionnaire about the determining of an approach to the (re-)export of pre-Convention/antique ivory from the European Union.

BE context regulation:

- a) A modification of the law of July 28th, 1981 was necessary to eliminate any ambiguity for the interpretation of the concepts "to look for" and "to notice" CITES infringement.
- b) A modification of Royal Decree of 13/11/2011 laying down payments and fees due to the "Budget fund for raw materials and products" has been published in Augustus 2014 . The aim was to increase the fees that are due for applications of CITES documents and to dispose of Fees for replacement of cites documents (ex: which have been lost by the applicant) See details under point D5 Permitting and registration procedures.
- c) A Ministerial decree that designates authorized civil agents of Belgian CITES Management Authority other than Inspector veterinaries to sign official reports in the framework of administrative fines was as been published on 21/05/2013.
- d) In the framework of regionalisation of the Animal Welfare Unit on 1th July 2014 and the departure of our joint inspector team, a Ministerial decree that designates an authorized inspector of Belgian CITES MA responsible for the detection and determination of the CITES has been published in November 2014.

7	If no review or assessment has taken place, is one planned for the next reporting period?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
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	Please provide details if available:			
	- A Ministerial decree has been prepared in 2014 (finalized in 2015) to make the marking of raw ivory tusk and pieces compulsory.			
8	Has there been any review of legislation on the following subjects in relation to implementation of the Convention?	Tick all applicable		
	Subject	Yes	No	No information
	Access to or ownership of natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Harvesting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transporting of live specimens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Handling and housing of live specimens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Please provide details if available:			
9	Please provide details of any additional measures taken:			
	- 27 June 2013 and 4 April 2014: Royal Decree determining the financial contribution of Belgian federal authority for 2013 and 2014 to CITES.			
	- 24 May 2013 and 3 July 2014 : Royal Decrees for a financial contribution (15 000 EUROS) by the Federal Belgian Authority for the years 2013 and 2014 to WWF-Belgium for the management and development of the EU-TWIX project.			

### C. Compliance and enforcement measures

		Yes	No	No information
1	Have any of the following compliance monitoring operations been undertaken?			
	Review of reports and other information provided by traders and producers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inspections of traders, producers, markets <b>See Attachment 2</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Border controls <b>See Attachments 3a and b</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Have any administrative measures (e.g., fines, bans, suspensions) been imposed for CITES-related violations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	If Yes, please indicate how many and for what types of violations? If available, please attach details as Annex. <b>See Attachment 2</b>			
4	Have any significant seizures, confiscations and forfeitures of CITES specimens been made?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	If information available: <input type="checkbox"/> Significant seizures/confiscations <input type="checkbox"/> Total seizures/confiscations If possible, please specify per group of species or attach details on annex. <b>See Attachment 3b</b>	Number <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
6	Have there been any criminal prosecutions of significant CITES-related violations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	If Yes, how many and for what types of violations? If available, please attach details as Annex.			



8	Have there been any other court actions of CITES-related violations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<p>If Yes, what were the violations involved and what were the results? Please attach details as Annex.</p> <p>One judgement is occurred during the period 2013-2014. It comes after a long and extensive judicial inquiry (see biennial preceding report 2011-2012) involving international legal cooperation between Belgium and other European countries in which the criminal organization was operating, including the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands.</p> <p>On 27 June 2014, a Belgian court found four defendants guilty of forging breeders declarations and CITES certificates for over 20 species of birds, mainly birds of prey.</p> <p>The Criminal Court of First Instance of East Flanders also found the defendants guilty of participating in an international criminal organization operating across Europe. The organization illegally took eggs and chicks from the wild in France and Spain, hand-reared birds and then sold them on commercial markets with forged breeding and CITES documentation. The species targeted by the defendants included CITES Appendix I-listed species Imperial Eagle (<i>Aquila heliaca</i>) and Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), and many Appendix II-listed species including Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>), Bonelli's Eagle (<i>Hieraaetus fasciata</i>), Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), Booted Eagle (<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>), Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>), Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>), Red-footed Falcon (<i>Falco vespertinus</i>), Lesser Kestrel (<i>Falco naumanni</i>), Blackwinged Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>), Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>), Black Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>), Snowy Owl (<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>) and Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>).</p> <p>Sanctions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defendants sentenced to: 4 years (1 year suspended), 2 years (1 year suspended), 18 months (suspended) and 1 year (suspended)</li> <li>- Fines of EUR 90 000, 30 000 and 12 000, and EUR 835 800 of illegal gains of the trade (including real estate) confiscated.</li> </ul> <p>All seized birds were confiscated and entrusted to the BE CITES authority.</p> <p>The defendants however appealed this decision and the final judgement has not yet been made.</p>			
10	How were the confiscated specimens generally disposed of?	Tick if applicable		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Return to country of export</li> <li>- Public zoos or botanical gardens</li> <li>- Designated rescue centres</li> <li>- Approved, private facilities</li> <li>- Euthanasia</li> <li>- Other (specify)</li> </ul>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>:</p> <p><b>FOR LIVE ANIMALS:</b></p> <p><u>Rescue centres</u></p> <p>The Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp is the only rescue center officially recognized. Whenever the zoo is unable to accommodate the seized specimens, the MA seeks other solutions :</p> <p>Other rescue centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Carapace" for reptiles/amphibians and turtles in particular.</li> <li>- "Revalidation center of Oplabeek" mainly for birds and mammals</li> </ul>				

"Aquarium of Liège University" for fish and corals.  
 - "Museum of Natural History" in Tournai for reptiles and live amphibians.  
 In 2014, steps were taken for another rescue centre specialised in Parrots. This has been accepted in 2015.

Private renowned expert  
 When housing is not possible in one of the previous mentioned institutions which doesn't happen often, the service will look at alternative housings with adequate facilities to accommodate the specimens.

The return to the country of origin  
 It is quite exceptional and occurs only when the MA gets the assurance that the animal welfare requirements are met and with the agreement of the country of origin: During 2013-2014, we have been in contact with Togo and Cameroon for sending of seized reptiles specimens (see attachment 3b), but finally it was not possible to return the animals .

**FOR LIVE PLANTS:**  
 The National Botanic Garden of Meise is the only rescue center officially recognized.  
 In 2014, steps were taken for another rescue centre in Walloon Region (Liege University) .

**FOR DEAD SPECIMENS:**  
 - Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium, Brussels  
 - Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervueren  
 - Sea Life, Blankenberge : for educational purposes (ex dried seahorses)  
 - Customs: for educational purposes  
 - CITES Management authority : for educational purposes  
 In 2014, 5 seized ivory tusks were given to the Royal Museums of Art and History (Cinquantenaire, Brussels) for art restoration.

Public sale  
 A load of 147.282 m3 of Afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) seized in the section in the port of Antwerp (see attachment 4) has been offered in a public sale in April 2014.  
 These quantity was sold for 225,001 euros. This sum remains blocked until the final judgment. This money will be intended to supply the Belgian CITES Fund and is to be used for purposes in accordance with the CITES Convention, for example: a project of sustainable use of wood in Cameroon, beagle sniffing dog to facilitate the work of the Customs (detection of the wood, ivory, etc). The outcome of the court case is to date not known.

Destruction  
 Belgium crushed 1.5 tonnes of s seized ivory tusks and statuettes at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Brussels, on April 9, 2014  
 This campaign was launched in order to create public awareness regarding the increased demand for ivory and the increased levels of illegal trade and poaching, with the aim of cracking down on wildlife trafficking, see attachment 4

11	Has your country provided to the Secretariat detailed information on significant cases of illegal trade (e.g. through an ECOMESSAGE or other means), or information on convicted illegal traders and persistent offenders?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:		
12	Has your country been involved in cooperative enforcement activities with other countries	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>



	(e.g. exchange of intelligence, technical support, investigative assistance, joint operation, etc.)?	No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	<p>If Yes, please give a brief description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belgian Customs and Federal Police do regularly make use of the EU-TWIX list-server to share information on seizures and others related enforcement subjects with colleagues of CITES authorities in other EU Member States.</li> <li>- The GAD (Anti-drug Belgian Customs Group) do regularly broadcast relevant information on cases of fraud (News flash) or warning messages via the EU-TWIX list-server.</li> <li>- The Belgian Management Authority and Belgian enforcement authorities do exchange information on enforcement with other EU members states during the meetings of EU Enforcement Group.</li> </ul> <p>In 2013 and 2014, four Enforcement Group Meetings have been organised (29-30 April 2013, 25 October 2013; 24 april 2014, and one EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 29 and 30 October 2014).</p> <p>Cooperation with other countries (not exhaustive) in 2013 and 2014: interesting cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with Germany, the Czech Republic, and England for ivory seizure: our service have been informed by Germany that two Vietnamese people coming from the from Czech Republic have been stopped in Germany with 60 kilograms of ivory in their luggage. They wanted to fly to Vietnam with the ivory. For 18,2 kg they had the attached Belgian certificate, only the copy was presented to the customs and no export permits. The ivory tusks had been cut/sawn into pieces in order to hide the pieces in the luggage. The weight mentioned on the copy of certificate was falsified. The Belgian federal police already warned Europol. (SIENA Channel) and the certificate has been cancelled in our database</li> <li>- Collaboration with CITES authorities of New-Zealand for a suspicion of illegal export of <i>Naultinus spp.</i> Geckos. They transmitted information and photographs of a Belgian national who allegedly had <i>Naultinus spp.</i> geckos in his possession. The information was received from a reliable human source and backed-up by the personal Facebook page of that Belgian national where several pictures were posted of this specie. On 17 July the New Zealand CITES Management Authority confirmed that no legal exports of <i>Naultinus gemmeus</i> (Jewelled Geckos) have ever occurred from New Zealand. On the 18th of August the CITES MA Belgium organized an inspection, but apparently the Belgian national never got any of these <i>Naultinus gemmeus</i> gecko's. He got the pictures of a German website and used them to spice up his website.</li> <li>- Contact with USA for a large consignment in transit in Belgium of live reptiles: 2000 pythons, 121 chameleons and 150 varanus from Togo to Miami blocked in Brussels airport because accompanied by a copy of the CITES export permit delivered by the CITES Management Authority of Togo. The animals were correctly shipped according to the IATA rules, all the veterinary conditions were respected. Our service have contacted the CITES Management Authority of Togo to process of validating the export permit and to make inquiries to the exporting firm in order to find where the original permit is located. Finally, the legality of the specimens have been confirmed and the shipment could be released.</li> <li>- Collaboration with France in the framework of their large seizure of taxidermy specimens from a private collector where fraud and a large number of taxidermy specimens that were going to be offered for sale was established. Some documents proving the legal origin of the specimens were originating from Belgium, available information were transferred to CITES Management authority.</li> <li>- Cooperation with China : Belgium tried to coordinate with China a controlled delivery of an illegal ivory shipment but the action was cancelled since no penalty on illegal animal trade was possible in this case in China.</li> <li>- Regular collaboration with CITES Management authorities of other EU Member states and third countries was performed this in order to check the validity of CITES documents or ask further information on legal origin of specimens for which CITES documents are required.</li> <li>- Regular collaborations with Hungary, Germany, Austria in order to try to get copies of pictures of the tortoise specimens covered by EC certificate without the required photo-identification.</li> </ul>		
14	Has your country offered any incentives to local communities to assist in the enforcement of CITES legislation, e.g. leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders?	Yes No No information	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

15	If Yes, please describe:												
16	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Has there been any review or assessment of CITES-related enforcement?</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;"><input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Not applicable</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No information</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Has there been any review or assessment of CITES-related enforcement?	Yes	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>		No	<input type="checkbox"/>		Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has there been any review or assessment of CITES-related enforcement?	Yes	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>											
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	No information	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	Comments:												
17	<p>Please provide details of any additional measures taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Working on implementation of a specific CITES inspection service</u> to ensure the CITES controls on the Belgian territory ) : Recruitment of two fulltime CITES inspectors in September 2014, due to the regionalisation of the former joint Inspection Service, that controlled animal welfare, CITES and animal by-products (team of 23 persons, who's primary function was to inspect animal welfare; CITES was not the top priority of this team):</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Main tasks and working of the CITES inspections cells:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventive control: control of customers without a specific complaint</li> <li>- Control in response to applications submitted by the customer for the obtaining of a permit or certificate</li> <li>- Control in the framework of specific pre-defined action: e.g. birds of prey, parrots, caviar etc.</li> <li>- Control following complains (public, other CITES management authority, parquet..)</li> <li>- Giving input to improve Belgian legislation and positions on "enforcement"</li> <li>- Provide information to the customers on the correct application of the CITES legislation; both orally as by distribution of the specific brochures developed by the Management Authority (breeding with and trading in birds of prey, parrots, reptiles and amphibians).</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Organisation of controls:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annually: mutual agreement between head of unit cell CITES and inspectors to provide an annual Inspection Plan, in which the general and specific actions for the following year are foreseen.</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">At the end of the year, a summary is produced with number of handled controls and the results, the number of PV's, the imposed administrative fines and seizures. Starting in 2015, this will be made public on 3 March each year in the framework of World Wilde Life day together with the results of the other CITES enforcement authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monthly: 2 meetings/month between CITES cell and inspectors for the follow-up of controls</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Collaborations</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Besides close cooperation between inspectors and CITES cell other collaborations are necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- other enforcement authorities : federal and judicial police, customs, Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC), Regional inspection for specific cases (mainly indigenous birds of prey), Parquet (judicial statements) and legal department of the FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment (for administrative penalties); CITES Experts (offer support to the inspector on identification of species per domain: birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish, products such as ivory, plants.</li> </ul>												



- Belgian Enforcement Group : Major developments such as trends in legal and illegal trade, significant seizures and confiscations, court cases and other enforcement related issues are discussed during this meetings. These meetings usually precede the meetings of the "Enforcement Group" at EU level. The Belgian Enforcement Group is chaired by the Belgian CITES Management Authority and is officialised through Article 17 of Royal Decree of 09.04.2003. This group is made of representatives of different Belgian enforcement authorities referred in Article 7 of the Law of 28/07/1981. Its main objectives are the following :

- \* Exchange of information and establishment of effective communication networks at national and international level;
- \* Evaluation of measures in place and development of strategies for controls;
- \* Training of controlling authorities.

Two meetings of this group were held in 2013-2014.

- Information sheets "Alerts" from the CITES Secretariat are sent to contact people by the Customs that are responsible to disseminate them to appropriate persons within their administration.

- On 12 and 13th December 2013, Belgium participated in the Workshop 'EUTR and CITES' Chatham House, London. The major topic was the link between CITES and the EU Timber Trade Regulation (with detailed discussions on Compliance/Enforcement Synergies; Managing risks and sharing of EU Member states CITES Enforcement Experience).
- January 2014: Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of information between Customs and the Belgian CITES has been signed. In 2015, the CITES MA Belgium will further work out procedures on CITES infractions that they encounter.
- March 2014: Contact day for all CITES enforcement officers of the Netherlands. Organized by the NVWA at Ede-Wageningen. It was attended by customs, inspectors, public prosecutors. Belgium has given a presentation on the organization and procedures in Belgium.
- April 2014: Conference on wildlife trafficking organized by the EU com – attended by the CITES MA; more than 170 experts from 27 EU Member States, 7 non-EU countries, key international organisations and representatives from over 20 NGOs responded to an invitation by the European Commission to meet in Brussels and discuss challenges regarding the EU approach against wildlife trafficking. The conference, as well as the two workshops on the following day (governments and international organisations only), focused on two main areas: firstly, the situation within the EU, and in particular how enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime could be strengthened; and secondly, how the EU could - through its diplomatic tools and development cooperation - support more effectively global efforts to reduce wildlife trafficking. Key issues discussed and the main recommendations made by the participants are mentioned in summary [in attachment 5](#))
- May 2014: "Café" Halle-Vilvoorde: Consultation Round (arranged like a pop-up café) in order to optimize the collaboration between all the Federal Police and Public prosecutors of the new district Halle-Vilvoorde.
- Participation of SA advisor to SRG working group to prepare for the entry into force of CITES listings of shark species.
- September 2014, Belgium provided input on the request of the Commission on important and emerging trends in illegal trade and prosecutions in the European Union between February – June 2014 ;
- February 2014, Belgium submitted information regarding the issuance of import permits for *Pericopsis elata* from DRC, the quantities involved and the legal basis for accepting those applications
- April 2014, Belgium submitted comments and observations on re-exports of pre-Convention ivory issue which would serve as basis for further discussions.



Targeted actions

EBOLA actions 2013-2014

This is a joint initiative conducted by the Belgian Customs in cooperation with the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain and the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products. The aim of this action is to check passenger's luggage from third countries, especially Africa and Asia. The controls were approximately organized twice a month, in the various airports of Belgium where flights from the third countries are planned: Zaventem (Brussels), Gosselies (Charleroi), Bierset (Liege).

In 2013, 24 controls were organised; for CITES only one CITES seizure in 2013 consisted of 3,4 kg monkey meat and 1kg agouti meat.

-In 2014, 28 controls were organised; for CITES, 5 participation of CITES inspectors: no CITES specimen was found.

Postal parcels action in May 2013:

This action was decided by the Belgian Internet Service Center (BISC) which has been developed a methodology to identify fraud within the internet market.

The three main pillars of this methodology are:

- 1) The virtual control: occurs daily from the BISC-labo with all kinds software.
- 2) The monitoring and analysis of the financial flows : happens through cooperation with the internet payment service providers (PSP's).
- 3) Checking the contents of goods ordered via internet.

In the frameworks of these context, several actions have been carried out by Customs in collaboration of CITES inspectors in Bpost distribution centers to Brussels Charleroi, Liege, Antwerp and Ghent: a lot of postal packets were opened. Different type of control occurred (sanitary..) and CITES controls: only one CITES specimen was retained namely a fur coat *Dusicyon griseus* (BII) of which finally the proof of legal origin was confirmed.

September 2013 Control by antique dealers exhibition (Namur)

This control was organised by MA in collaboration by unity anti-poaching of the Walloon region: 3 person were controlled , one purchaser had approximately 80 raw and worked ivory items; as the person had no precise information on origin nor age of the pieces-, the pieces were seized and the person made voluntary abandonment.

Birds of prey actions- continued (see biennial reports 2007-2008, 2009-2010 and 2011-2012)

In the framework of this action, some DNA tests have been done in 2013 and 2014 (*Accipiter gentilis*, *Bubo bubo*)

The results of DNA tests revealed that the declared parents were indeed the real parents of the specimens

## D. Administrative measures

### D1 Management Authority (MA)

1	Have there been any changes in the designation of or contact information for the MA(s) in your country which are not yet reflected in the CITES Directory?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
2	If Yes, please use the opportunity to provide those changes here.	
3	If there is more than one MA in your country, has a lead MA been designated?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
4	If Yes, please name that MA and indicate whether it is identified as the lead MA in the CITES Directory.	
5	How many staff work in each MA? - one head of Unit : biologist (0.8 FTE) - 2 biologists (1,8 FTE) - 1 jurist (1 FTE) - 4 administrative assistants: one administrative assistant (0.5FTE) has been retired march 2014 and was replaced by a new person (0.8FTE), so in total 3.6FTE administrative staff	
6	Can you estimate the percentage of time they spend on CITES related matters?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	If yes, please give estimation : 100%	
7	What are the skills/expertise of staff within the MA(s)?	Tick if applicable
	- Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Biology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Economics/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- Law/policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Have the MA(s) undertaken or supported any research activities in relation to CITES species or technical issues (e.g. labelling, tagging, species identification) not covered in D2(8) and D2(9)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
9	If Yes, please give the species name and provide details of the kind of research involved.	



9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication on February 2013 Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery (see attachment 1) of studies Assessing the Use of Microchip Transponders as a marking Method in Juvenile Hermann's Tortoises (Testudo hermanni). This study started in September 2011 and ended July 2012 (see biennial 2011-2012).</li> <li><u>Marking of Ivory</u> Due to the historical relationship with our former colony (DRC), there is a lot of pre-convention ivory (both raw tusks as worked specimens) held by private individuals. There is more and more applications for EC certificates to sell this ivory. To improve the link between the document and the specimen as well as to increase the traceability, CITES Belgium MA has decided to follow the recommendation of marking in accordance with Resolution Conf 10.10 (Rev COP16) on trade in specimens of elephant for raw ivory tusks regardless of the length as well as cut pieces with a length of 20 cm or more, and a weight of 1 kg.  Tests of feasibility of the implementation of the marking by engraving were realized with the department of the Royal Museum of arts and History in 2013 but finally due to too much complications, it was decided to use a marker with 'indelible' ink. The identification code is also entered on the EU-certificate and later on our re-export certificate. We are using the following system: BE/year/ serial number/ weight in kg . Our service is keeping records of all data relevant to these marked ivory pieces (identification number, dimensions, Number of EU-certificate or re-export certificate, name and address of applicant). An Ministerial decree to make ' marking ivory' compulsory has been prepared in 2014 and will be published in 2015.</li> <li><u>Creation of a new CITES Trade database:</u> (project started in 2012 and launched in march 2015).. to strengthen the application of the CITES European regulation This elaborate electronic system allows CITES 'clients (traders as well as individuals) to apply for their CITES documents online and to pay online. The aim of this database is not only developing a database answering the current needs for stakeholders in a more transparent way, but also to align itself with the models developed by the other member states. Electronic applications of documents is more efficient, faster, more environmentally friendly (less paperwork) and more customer-friendly. This system also gives the possibility to ensure a better control of the legal trade, as it will be easier to extract data, discover trends etc. with this new user-friendly system</li> <li>In the framework of the development of computer-to-computer links (API) between the CITES Checklist/Species+ (WCMC) and national information systems which would allow Parties to access the CITES Checklist/Species, Belgium has participated as a pilot to test this data exchange functionality and as the basis to extend the service to other interested Parties and has also financially contributed to the development of this system by WCMC.</li> </ul>
10	Please provide details of any additional measures taken

**D2 Scientific Authority (SA)**

1	Have there been any changes in the designation of or contact information for the SA(s) in your country which are not yet reflected in the CITES Directory?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
2	If Yes, please use the opportunity to provide those changes here. Recruitment of 2 news experts for reptiles and plants (see attachment n°6)	
3	Has your country designated a Scientific Authority independent from the Management Authority?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
4	What is the structure of the SA(s) in your country?	Tick if applicable
	- Government institution	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academic or research institution <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Permanent committee <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Pool of individuals with certain expertise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Other (specify) <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>																																			
5	<p>How many staff work in each SA on CITES issues?</p> <p>The Belgian Scientific Authority consists of one coordinator and 20 experts from different universities, museums, institutes, botanical gardens and zoos around the country. These experts are included into five different sections: in 2013-2014: mammals (3 experts), birds (3), reptiles and other vertebrates (5), invertebrates (3) and plants (6). In order to improve its functioning, calls for new candidates were launched at several universities and scientific institutions. 2 new members were recruited: one specialist in marine fishes, and one for plants, Pterydophyta, Ferns</p> <p>One demission has been registered.</p> <p>The members of this Belgian Scientific Committee work on CITES related matters on a voluntary basis but they are entitled to reimbursement for their travel expenses and for the drafting of their expertise reports. This committee meets 3 to 5 times a year, usually before each meeting of the EU Scientific Review Group.</p>																																			
6	<p>Can you estimate the percentage of time they spend on CITES related matters?</p> <p>For the scientific coordinator: around 70% for 2013 (preparation of COP 16) and around 40% for 2014 (because management of new CITES Database)</p> <p>For members: between 1 and 8%, depending on the function and activity of the member to the authority</p> <p>If yes, please give estimation</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/></p>																																			
7	<p>What are the skills/expertise of staff within the SA(s)? <span style="float: right;">Tick if applicable</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Botany <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Ecology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Fisheries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Forestry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Zoology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Other (specify): ): Populations dynamics, taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- No information <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>																																			
8	<p>Have any research activities been undertaken by the SA(s) in relation to CITES species?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/></p>																																			
9	<p>If Yes, please give the species name and provide details of the kind of research involved.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Species name</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Populations</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Distribution</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Off take</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Legal trade</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Illegal trade</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Other (specify)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>etc.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species name	Populations	Distribution	Off take	Legal trade	Illegal trade	Other (specify)	1							2							3							etc.						
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1																																				
2																																				
3																																				
etc.																																				

		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Have any project proposals for scientific research been submitted to the Secretariat under Resolution Conf. 12.2?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<p>Please provide details of any additional measures taken:</p> <p>A document has been prepared for 21th Plant Committee (May 2014) by the Scientific Authority of Belgium (Service of Wood Biology of the Royal Museum for Central Africa -Tervuren,) to contribute to the assessment of international trade in timber species from Central Africa: the title is "Non-detriment findings for timber imports from Central Africa: stepwise approach of collecting documentation on carrying capacity of <i>Pericopsis</i> populations (see on CITES web site PC21 Inf. 4)</p>		

### D3 Enforcement Authorities

1	To date, has your country advised the Secretariat of any enforcement authorities that have been designated for the receipt of confidential enforcement information related to CITES?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	If No, please designate them here (with address, phone, fax and email).		
3	Has your country established a specialized unit responsible for CITES-related enforcement (e.g. within the wildlife department, Customs, the police, public prosecutor's office)?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Under consideration	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<p>If Yes, please state which is the lead agency for enforcement:</p> <p>Several services are competent for CITES enforcement : (art 7 of Belgian CITES act 1981),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal police environment unit and local police;</li> <li>- National research Inspection of the Customs;</li> <li>- Veterinary inspectorate Animal Welfare and CITES -&gt; Animal Welfare officially regionalised in July 2014</li> <li>- Agents of Federal Security of the Food Chain.</li> </ul> <p>A Belgian working group with representatives of these authorities was created in 2008 (see point B9).</p> <p>In September 2014, 2 fulltime CITES inspectors have been recruited (see point C 17).</p>		
5	Please provide details of any additional measures taken:		

### D4 Communication, information management and exchange

1	To what extent is CITES information in your country computerized?	Tick if applicable
	- Monitoring and reporting of data on legal trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Monitoring and reporting of data on illegal trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Permit issuance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>



2	Do the following authorities have access to the Internet?					Tick if applicable		
	Authority	Yes, continuous and unrestricted access	Yes, but only through a dial-up connection	Yes, but only through a different office	Some offices only	Not at all	Please provide details where appropriate	
	Management Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Scientific Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Enforcement Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
3	Do you have an electronic information system providing information on CITES species?					Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
The Belgium CITES Website has been totally reshaped in 2014 (online in March 2015) to allow the broad public a better understanding of CITES legislation, to provide information with sections adapted to every type of stakeholder, with our different publications and instruction letters. The link to the CITES trade database was added on the site.								
4	If Yes, does it provide information on:					Tick if applicable		
- Legislation (national, regional or international)?						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
- Conservation status (national, regional, international)?						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
- Other (please specify)? Specific details on national provisions, information translated for the broad public, publication on the keeping and trading in birds of prey, parrots, reptiles and amphibians, caviar, antiques, taxidermy, brochure for tourists, (see attachment 4)						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5	Is it available through the Internet:					Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide URL (new url web site):- <a href="http://www.citesinbelgium.be">www.citesinbelgium.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesenbelgique.be">www.citesenbelgique.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesinbelgie.be">www.citesinbelgie.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesinbelgien.be">www.citesinbelgien.be</a> (available in 4 languages)								
Other web sites used:								
- Species+ database								
- IUCN : conservation status								
- CITES trade database.								
- Circabc protected website of European Commission only accessible for authorities of EU Members States:								
6	Do the following authorities have access to the following publications?					Tick if applicable		
Publication		Management Authority	Scientific Authority	Enforcement Authority				
2003 Checklist of CITES Species (book)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2003 Checklist of CITES Species and Annotated Appendices (CD-ROM)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Identification Manual		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
CITES Handbook		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

7	<p>If not, what problems have been encountered to access to the mentioned information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2003 Checklist of CITES Species (book) no more used because existing of Species + database</li> <li>- Identification manual also used on web-site</li> </ul>		
8	<p>Have enforcement authorities reported to the Management Authority on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mortality in transport? <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Seizures and confiscations? See attachment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Discrepancy in number of items in permit and number of items actually traded? See comments. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <p>Comments: The quantities of really imported specimens or (re) exported are mentioned by the customs officers during the customs clearance (box n°27). These data are then encoded in the database by MA and used in our annual report, thus providing the most correct data available on trade with Belgium.</p>	Tick if applicable	
9	<p>Is there a government website with information on CITES and its requirements?</p> <p>Our web-site has been totally reviewed in 2014 and the new version is on line since 9 march 2015.</p> <p>If Yes, please give the URL: <a href="http://www.citesinbelgium.be">www.citesinbelgium.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesenbelgique.be">www.citesenbelgique.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesinbelgie.be">www.citesinbelgie.be</a> or <a href="http://www.citesinbelgien.be">www.citesinbelgien.be</a> (available in 4 languages)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No information <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
10	<p>Have CITES authorities been involved in any of the following activities to bring about better accessibility to and understanding of the Convention's requirements to the wider public?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Press releases/conferences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Newspaper articles, radio/television appearances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Brochures, leaflets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Presentations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Displays <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Information at border crossing points <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Telephone hotline <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- Other (specify) <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <p>Please attach copies of any items as Annex. See attachments n°4b</p>	Tick if applicable	
11	<p>Please provide details of any additional measures taken:</p> <p>See attachment n°4</p>		

**D5 Permitting and registration procedures**

1	<p>Have any changes in permit format or the designation and signatures of officials empowered to sign CITES permits/certificates been reported previously to the Secretariat?</p> <p>If no, please provide details of any:</p> <p>Changes in permit format:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No information <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Changes in designation or signatures of relevant officials:																																																																																			
2	To date, has your country developed written permit procedures for any of the following?	Tick if applicable																																																																																	
		Yes	No	No information																																																																															
	Permit issuance/acceptance see comments In 2014, CITES MA have developed detailed internal written procedures for issuing of EC certificates : check list of information to verify and to ask to the applicant, boxes to tick in function of cases etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																																															
	Registration of traders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																																															
	Registration of producers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																																															
3	Please indicate how many CITES documents were issued or denied in the two year period? (Note that actual trade is normally reported in the Annual Report by Parties. This question refers to issued documents).																																																																																		
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	How many applications were denied because of severe omissions or mis-information?	quantity not recorded																																																																																	
4	Were any CITES documents that were issued later cancelled and replaced because of severe omissions or mis-information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																																																
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																																																																																
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																																																
5	If Yes, please give the reasons for this.																																																																																		



6	Please give the reasons for rejection of CITES documents from other countries.			Tick if applicable													
	Reason			Yes	No	No information											
	Technical violations			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	Suspected fraud			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	Insufficient basis for finding of non-detriment			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
	Insufficient basis for finding of legal acquisition			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Other (specify)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>												
7	Are harvest and/or export quotas as a management tool in the procedure for issuance of permits?			Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
				No	<input type="checkbox"/>												
				No information	<input type="checkbox"/>												
	Comments																
8	<p>How many times has the Scientific Authority been requested to provide opinions? During the period 2013 – 2014, 117 advices of the Scientific Authority were requested on specific species/countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 38 advices on mammals species .</li> <li>- 2 advices for birds</li> <li>- 11 advices on reptiles species</li> <li>- 10 advices on amphibians species</li> <li>- 4 advices on fish species</li> <li>- 23 advices on invertebrates species (mainly corals)</li> <li>- 29 advices on wood species</li> </ul>																
9	Has the Management Authority charged fees for permit issuance, registration or related CITES activities?			Tick if applicable													
	- Issuance of CITES documents:			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>													
	- Licensing or registration of operations that produce CITES species:			<input type="checkbox"/>													
	- Harvesting of CITES-listed species :			<input type="checkbox"/>													
	- Use of CITES-listed species:			<input type="checkbox"/>													
	- Assignment of quotas for CITES-listed species:			<input type="checkbox"/>													
	- Importing of CITES-listed species:			<input type="checkbox"/>													
	- Other (specify):			<input type="checkbox"/>													
10	<p>If Yes, please provide the amounts of such fees.</p> <p>Fees valid in 2013 and 2014</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Document</th> <th>Fees animals</th> <th>Fees: Plants</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Application of EC certificate</td> <td>12,50 EUROS Since September 2014 : <b>20 EUROS</b> per certificate</td> <td>12,50 EUROS Since September 2014 : <b>20 EUROS</b> per certificate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Application of import ; re(export)</td> <td>25 EUROS by species, with a maximum amount of 125 EURO by application. Since September 2014 <b>30 €</b> per species with a maximum amount of <b>300 €</b> per permit</td> <td>25 EUROS by species, with a maximum amount of 125 EURO by application Since September 2014 <b>30 €</b> per species with a maximum amount of <b>300 €</b> per permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applications for ownership, travelling exhibition and sample collection certificates</td> <td><b>40 EUROS €</b> per certificate</td> <td><b>40 EUROS €</b> per certificate</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Document	Fees animals	Fees: Plants	Application of EC certificate	12,50 EUROS Since September 2014 : <b>20 EUROS</b> per certificate	12,50 EUROS Since September 2014 : <b>20 EUROS</b> per certificate	Application of import ; re(export)	25 EUROS by species, with a maximum amount of 125 EURO by application. Since September 2014 <b>30 €</b> per species with a maximum amount of <b>300 €</b> per permit	25 EUROS by species, with a maximum amount of 125 EURO by application Since September 2014 <b>30 €</b> per species with a maximum amount of <b>300 €</b> per permit	Applications for ownership, travelling exhibition and sample collection certificates	<b>40 EUROS €</b> per certificate	<b>40 EUROS €</b> per certificate
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	For all CITES documents issued during 2013 and 2014 for trade in plants and animals (CITES import permits, export permits, re-export certificates and intra-Community certificates) the following amounts were collected.						
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>139.063,64€</td> <td>151.016€</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2013	2014	Total	139.063,64€	151.016€
	2013	2014					
Total	139.063,64€	151.016€					
11	<p>Have revenues from fees been used for the implementation of CITES or wildlife conservation? <span style="float: right;">Tick if applicable</span></p> <p>- Entirely: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>- Partly: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>- Not at all: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>- Not relevant: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Comments: revenues are used to cover :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CITES staff (3 FTE)</li> <li>- Conception of a new computerized CITES database</li> <li>- Material for CITES inspectors (such as a microchip scanner, portable scanner-printer, to be used to render inspections more efficiently as documents can be scanned on site, printing of the recorded questioning of suspects on site, ...)</li> <li>- Expenses of CITES experts and members of scientific authority</li> <li>- Accommodations of seized specimens</li> <li>- Cost of DNA analysis.</li> <li>- Funding of EU TWIX</li> </ul>						
12	Please provide details of any additional measures taken:						

**D6 Capacity building**

1	Have any of the following activities been undertaken to enhance effectiveness of CITES implementation at the national level?					Tick if applicable	
	Increased budget for activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improvement of national networks			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Hiring of more staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase of technical equipment for monitoring/enforcement			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Development of implementation tools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Computerisation			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	- Other (specify)					<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Have the CITES authorities in your country been the <i>recipient</i> of any of the following capacity building activities provided by external sources?						
	Please tick boxes to indicate which target group and which activity.						What were the external sources?
	Target group	Oral or written advice/guidance	Technical assistance	Financial assistance	Training	Other (specify)	
	Staff of Management Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EC: Management Committee meetings; correspondences.. , Secretariat (Standing Committee, correspondence.); TRAFFIC Europe ;UNEP-WCMC (Species +) ., IUCN. Other EU MA members states, Scientific advisor and CITES experts, CITES trade database.
	Staff of Scientific Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All members have received a "Welcome pack" with all necessary information to fulfill their mission., other EU SA members states and SA Third parties, Scientific review Group- correspondences. , Animals and Plants Committee, TRAFFIC Europe ;UNEP-WCMC (Species +)
	Staff of enforcement authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CITES Belgium Management Authority, EC, , EU TWIX, Europol, Interpol, WCO, other EU members
	Traders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Attachment 4
	NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See Attachment 4
	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3	<p>Have the CITES authorities in your country been the <i>providers</i> of any of the following capacity building activities?</p> <p>Please tick boxes to indicate which target group and which activity.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="263 246 1141 862"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="263 246 742 504">Target group</th> <th data-bbox="742 246 837 504">Oral or written advice/guidance</th> <th data-bbox="837 246 933 504">Technical assistance</th> <th data-bbox="933 246 1029 504">Financial assistance</th> <th data-bbox="1029 246 1125 504">Training</th> <th data-bbox="1125 246 1141 504">Other (specify)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 504 742 548">Staff of Management Authority</td> <td data-bbox="742 504 837 548"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="837 504 933 548"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="933 504 1029 548"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1029 504 1125 548"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1125 504 1141 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</tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 772 742 817">Other parties/International meetings</td> <td data-bbox="742 772 837 817"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="837 772 933 817"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="933 772 1029 817"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1029 772 1125 817"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1125 772 1141 817"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 817 742 862">Other (specify)</td> <td data-bbox="742 817 837 862"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="837 817 933 862"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="933 817 1029 862"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1029 817 1125 862"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1125 817 1141 862"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Details</p>	Target group	Oral or written advice/guidance	Technical assistance	Financial assistance	Training	Other (specify)	Staff of Management Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff of Scientific Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff of enforcement authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other parties/International meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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4	<p>Please provide details of any additional measures taken</p> <p><u>For Staff of Scientific Authority (SA):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transmission by the scientific advisor of useful information to facilitate the delivering of a NDF via a specific form pre-filled 'template application review'</li> <li>- Transmission of information to improve knowledge of CITES-: through- CIRCABC (EC secure website), Reference Guide, guidelines for the establishment of a scientific advice, guidance book (which contains among others the CITES legislation texts, contact lists, species lists...);</li> <li>- Organizing of meetings with all members approx. 4 times-/ year.</li> </ul> <p><u>For Staff of Enforcement Authorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transmission of any useful and practical information to facilitate control and improve knowledge of CITES via CIRCABC (EC secure website) and EU-TWIX; documents as guidance book, alphabetical lists, etc.;</li> <li>- Transmission of any useful information to the PIF (Border Inspection Post) coordinator which will then dispatch this information to the concerned authorities;</li> <li>- Meetings approx. 2 times/year of Belgian Enforcement Group with all representatives of enforcement authorities see (B9);</li> <li>- Organization of training by the Belgian Management Authority (see Attachment 4)</li> <li>-- Belgian CITES SA participated in the collection of information on experts/institutes able to identify CITES listed timber products to support enforcement. This was done in the framework of a project conducted by TRAFFIC for the European Commission, which consist of a consultation with EU Member States to list the main concerns and needs in relation to successful implementation of newly listed of wood species.</li> </ul> <p><u>For Traders and Public :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transmission of targeted and general guidance notes, dissemination of information, leaflets (see <b>attachment 4</b>);</li> <li>- Responses to 'FAQ's on a daily basis;</li> <li>- Information and assistance via e mail and phone to the stakeholders provided on a daily basis.</li> </ul>																																																						

#### Participation to Meetings and workshops

Belgium participated to all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level during the period 2013-2014:

- 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March 2013
- 63 st meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 2 March 2013)
- 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 14 March 2013)
- 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (Veracruz (Mexico, 28 April-03 May 2014 )
- 62h to 67 th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 8 February, 29 May 2013, 13 September, , 9 December , 28 February 2014, 4 June 2014)
- December 2013 Participation of one member of CITES BE SA to Expert Meeting on the CITES-listed tree species - *Prunus africana*
- On 12 and 13th December 2013, Belgium participated also in the Workshop 'EUTR and CITES' Chatham House, London. The major topic was the link between CITES and the EU Timber Trade Regulation (with detailed discussions on Compliance/Enforcement Synergies; Managing risks and sharing of EU Member states CITES Enforcement Experience).
- 63 th to 70 th Scientific Review Group Meetings (7 February 2013, 28 May 2013, 12 September 2013, 6 December 2013, 27 February 2014, 28 May 2014, 3 September 2014, 8 December 2014)
- During the same timeframe, the Belgian Scientific Authority met on 8 occasions ( 04.02.2013, 24.05.2013, 05.09.2013, 03.12.2013, 25.02.2014, 26.05.2014, 01.09.2014 and 02.12.2014 ).
- November 2014 Workshop with neighbouring countries - CITES Scientific Authorities. The workshop was focussed on the following aspects: General presentation of the CITES Convention and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, conditions needed to be met for a country to issue a CITES export permit (sustainability, legality, traceability), Specific focus on scientific requirements that need to be met under CITES/EUTR, duties of CITES Scientific Authorities and conditions under which a Non-Detriment Finding can be made (practical steps, sources of information, etc.)

#### **D7 Collaboration/co-operative initiatives**

1	Is there an inter-agency or inter-sectoral committee on CITES?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	If Yes, which agencies are represented and how often does it meet?		



3	If No, please indicated the frequency of meetings or consultancies used by the MA to ensure co-ordination among CITES authorities (e.g. other MAs, SA(s), Customs, police, others):							
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually	None	No information	Other (specify)
	Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See comments
Consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>With SA: 3-4 meetings annually each before EC Scientific working group meetings</p> <p>With Enforcement authorities: 2 meetings annually before or after EC Enforcement group meetings</p> <p>With regional authorities responsible for nature conservation (EC Habitats and Birds Directives), consultation when necessary. These authorities participate to the meetings Belgium enforcement working group (see D9).</p> <p>With animal welfare service: consultation when necessary (ex: for accommodation installation in Zoo etc.</p> <p>With CITES inspectors: 2 meetings once a month a + consultations by case by case on specific case</p> <p>Within the CITES MA authority: regular interne meeting in function of necessity</p>								
4	At the national level have there been any efforts to collaborate with:	Tick if applicable		Details if available				
	Agencies for development and trade	<input type="checkbox"/>		See point 3				
	Provincial, state or territorial authorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
	Local authorities or communities	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	Indigenous peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>		Collaboration with privates, trade associations, ex: Andibel and Anizoo (live animals), Federation of Wood, Fur Federation, falconers Clubs, bird/tortoises breeders associations				
	Trade or other private sector associations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
	NGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Traffic, WWF, IUCN, FACE (Hunters), IFAW				
	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		The Belgian federal agency for the safety of the food chain (FASFC) which is also competent for CITES controls. Animal welfare service.				

5	To date, have any Memoranda of Understanding or other formal arrangements for institutional cooperation related to CITES been agreed between the MA and the following agencies?		Tick if applicable
	SA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Customs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Police		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other border authorities (specify)		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other government agencies: with The Belgian federal agency for the safety of the food chain (FASFC)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Private sector bodies		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Has your country participated in any regional activities related to CITES?		Tick if applicable
	Workshops		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Meetings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Has your country encouraged any non-Party to accede to the Convention?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	If Yes, which one(s) and in what way?		
9	Has your country provided technical or financial assistance to another country in relation to CITES?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	If Yes, which country(ies) and what kind of assistance was provided?		
11	Has your country provided any data for inclusion in the CITES Identification Manual?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	If Yes, please give a brief description.		
13	Has your country taken measures to achieve co-ordination and reduce duplication of activities between the national authorities for CITES and other multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. the biodiversity-related Conventions)?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>

14	<p>If Yes, please give a brief description.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participations in different meetings of the Belgian "Nature Steering Committee" and "Biodiversity Steering Committee" both depending from the Belgian "Coordinating Committee for International Environmental Policy"(CCIEP) in the context of the COP 16 preparation</li> <li>- Collaboration with the 'Marine Environment' unit from DG for the preparation of COP 16 (inclusion of <i>Lamna nasus</i> ..)</li> <li>- In the framework of the current discussions at EU level on the preparation of a legal instrument on invasive alien species (IAS), different experts meetings have been held in 2013. Among the topic discussed one is related to the link with CITES Regulation which currently imposes a ban to 7 IAS species. Preparation of this topic was organized at Belgian level between CITES and IAS national experts (contact group on IAS depending from joint Nature and Biodiversity Steering Committees under CCIEP) in order to discuss for a common understanding of the problem. In February 2013, a joint meeting has been organized by the European Commission with SRG and IAS experts on the same topic. Exchanges of points of view are still going on the subject.</li> </ul>
15	Please provide details of any additional measures taken:

#### D8 Areas for future work

1	Are any of the following activities needed to enhance effectiveness of CITES implementation at the national level and what is the respective level of priority?			
	Activity	High	Medium	Low
	Increased budget for activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hiring of more staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development of implementation tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Improvement of national networks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Purchase of new technical equipment for monitoring and enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Computerisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Has your country encountered any difficulties in implementing specific Resolutions or Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>
		No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	If Yes, which one(s) and what is the main difficulty?			
4	Have any constraints to implementation of the Convention arisen in your country requiring attention or assistance?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>
		No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	If Yes, please describe the constraint and the type of attention or assistance that is required.			
6	Has your country identified any measures, procedures or mechanisms within the Convention that would benefit from review and/or simplification?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>
		No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information		<input type="checkbox"/>
7	If Yes, please give a brief description.			
8	Please provide details of any additional measures taken:			

### E. General feedback

Please provide any additional comments you would like to make, including comments on this format.

Thank you for completing the form. Please remember to include relevant attachments, referred to in the report. For convenience these are listed again below:

Question	Item		
B4	Copy of full text of CITES-relevant legislation	Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C3	Details of violations and administrative measures imposed	Enclosed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>
C5	Details of specimens seized, confiscated or forfeited	Enclosed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>
C7	Details of violations and results of prosecutions	Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>
C9	Details of violations and results of court actions	Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>
D4 (10)	Details of nationally produced brochures or leaflets on CITES produced for educational or public awareness purposes,  Comments	Enclosed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Not available	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>



## **ANNEX - PROPOSED BIENNIAL REPORT FORMAT**

### **PART 2 - SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS<sup>1</sup>**

Note: Questions in Part 2 are additional to those in Part 1, and relate to information on the provisions of the EC Regulations (Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006) that fall outside the scope of CITES.

Please be aware that questions in Part 2 have been updated since the last reporting period, and this new version should be used when submitting biennial reports.

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<sup>1</sup> Part 2 agreed at COM 45

## PART 2 - SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Note: Questions in Part 2 are additional to those in Part 1, and relate to information on the provisions of the EC Regulations (Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006) that fall outside the scope of CITES.

Please be aware that questions in Part 2 have been updated since the last reporting period, and this new version should be used when submitting biennial reports.

### PART 2 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

The numbering of this section reflects that in Annex 2, Part 1, with the addition of (b) to distinguish the two. New questions that do not correspond to questions in Annex 2, Part 1 are marked "new". Unless otherwise stated, the legislation referred to below is Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97.

#### B. Legislative and regulatory measures

1b	If not already provided under questions B (2) and B (4), please provide details of any national legislation that has been updated in this reporting period and attach the full legislative text.						
2b	If your country has planned, drafted or enacted any additional Regulation -relevant legislation, other than that reported under question B (2) or above, please provide the following details:						
	Title and date:			Status:			
	Brief description of contents:						
5b	Has your country adopted any stricter domestic measures, other than those reported under question B(5), specifically for non CITES-listed species <sup>2</sup> ?						
	Tick all applicable categories below that these categories apply to.						
		The conditions for:			The complete prohibition of:		
	Issue	Yes	No	No information	Yes	No	No information
	Trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Taking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Possession	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional comments		See answer to question B5 - Part 1					
8b	Has there been any review of legislation on the following subjects in relation to implementation of <i>Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97</i> ?						
		Yes	No	No information			
	Introduction of live Regulation-listed species into the Community that would threaten the indigenous fauna and flora (in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2 (d)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Marking specimens to facilitate identification (in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1 (iii)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<sup>2</sup> In this questionnaire, "non CITES-listed species" refers to species that are listed in the Regulation Annexes, but not in the CITES Appendices. They include some species in Annexes A and B and all those in Annex D.

	<p>Please provide details if available:</p> <p>a) The Belgian Management Authority and scientific advisor are included in the current discussions at EU level on the preparation of a legal instrument on invasive alien species (IAS). Among the topic discussed one is related to the link with CITES Regulation which currently imposes a ban to 7 IAS. A Belgian Royal Decree establishing a list of twenty plants and animals whose importation, exportation and transit will be banned in Belgium is also being developed by the service concerned within General Direction 'Environment'. More specific action have been taken during this period.</p> <p>b) - According to the conclusion of the study made by Gent's University (see attachment 1), we have decided to make identification with microchips of new born tortoises (Testudo hermanni, graeca and marginata) compulsory once the specimen is at least 4.5 cm. All other species of reptiles must be marked, unless there is a veterinary statement that declares the animal is unfit to be identified with a microchip. For these animals, a transaction specific certificate will be issued (valid for one sale only).</p> <p>- CITES Belgium MA has decided to follow the recommendation of marking in accordance with Resolution Conf 10.10 (Rev COP16) on trade in specimens of elephant for raw ivory tusks regardless of the length as well as cut pieces with a length of 20 cm or more, and a weight of 1 kg (see D1 point 9)</p>
9b	<p>Please provide the following details about Regulations-related violations:</p> <p>i) Maximum penalties that may be imposed;</p> <p>ii) Or any other additional measures taken in relation to implementation of the Regulation not reported on in question B (9).</p> <p>Article 5 of the law of July 1981 : amount of the penalties: minimal fine of 156 (26 x 6) € to 300 000 (50 000 x 6) € and prison sentences of six months to five years.</p> <p>- Article 5 bis of the same law was included to allow administrative sanctions, in particular fines and admonitions.</p> <p>The payment of administrative fines ends the public action.</p>



### C. Compliance and enforcement measures

2b	Have any actions, in addition to those reported in C (2-9) above, been taken for Regulation-related violations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
9b	Please provide the following details about Regulations-related violations: i) Maximum sanctions which have been imposed over this reporting period; ii) The outcomes of any prosecutions;	
16b	Has there been any review or assessment of Regulation-related enforcement, in addition to that reported under C (16) above?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments:	
18 new	Have specimens been marked to establish whether they were born and bred in captivity? (In accordance with <i>Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006</i> , Article 66)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: Depending on the species and/or the age/ sensibility of the specimen/ type of breeding , article 66 of EC Regulation 865/2006 may or not apply.  - For juveniles of <i>Testudo hermanni</i> and <i>T. graeca</i> with a plastron smaller than 4.5 cm , a restricted certificate (for transaction within the Belgian territory and for one transaction with another Member State) is issued. When the specimen is big enough to be identified with a microchip, the certificate is then replaced.  - For babies of birds specially Ara's bred directly by their parents and for which we are convinced ex: via veterinary attest that the reasons of non-identification by ring is acceptable we tolerate the microchips instead of ring. For indigenous species (bird of prey) we check also with the regions if derogation may apply.  - For young mammals specimens: if requiring of anaesthesia to be identified microchip; Ex: for the young wolves been born in a park in half wild conditions, we accept that the specimens 'll be later identified. The EC Certificate issued is limited to the park for display to the public 18c) and box 20: indicates that the specimen cannot leave the park without our authorisation and that the specimen will be identified at the first opportunity according to the engagement of the veterinary  In general, if the location of microchip is the standardized one, we don't mention them on the certificate, if not, we mention the localisation on box 4.	
19 new	Have any monitoring activities been undertaken to ensure that the intended accommodation for a live specimen at the place of destination is adequately equipped to conserve and care for it properly? (In accordance with Article 4 paragraph 1 (c) of <i>Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97</i> ).	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments:  - Guarantees that the intended accommodation is adequately equipped are provided through a written declaration given by the candidate owner. The scientific advisor sends to this person an 'accommodation care questionnaire' <b>see attachment 8</b> which must be filled in by the applicant (plan of installation, type of care, presence of other species in the same environment, etc.). This document is then examined by the scientific advisor that deals with the norms established in animal welfare legislation. If needed, the intended accommodation is controlled.  - commercial operations dealing with live animals must be registered according to the law of 14 August 1986 on animal welfare. Registration implies that specific standards for the holding of live animals have to be respected.  - In case of transfer of specimens of wild, or F,U, I origin code to another EU Member state advice from the Belgian Scientific advisor is required..	



20 new	Have national action plans for co-ordination of enforcement, with clearly defined objectives and timeframes been adopted, and are they harmonized and reviewed on a regular basis? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph IIa.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>																				
	Comments: Belgium has, or is in the process of, establishing a formal action plan with all administrations involved: FPS Finance (Customs – protocol in place but details still under discussion), AFSCA (sanitary authority – protocol in place), and the administrations of the three regions (under discussion).																							
21 new	Do enforcement authorities have access to specialized equipment and relevant expertise, and other financial and personnel resources? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph IIb.) If yes, please provide details.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>																				
	Comments: A list of experts available for species identification is mentioned in the Guidance book (prepared by the MA) which is distributed to all enforcement authorities in the country. The CITES inspector received specific information, and equipment to ensure their controls: Guidance book, alphabetic CITES listed species, identification materials (Canadian identification guide, books), chip reader.																							
22 new	Do penalties take into account inter alia the market value of the specimens and the conservation value of the species involved in the offence, and the costs incurred? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph IIc.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>																				
	Comments: Legal basis: art. 5 law of 28.07.1981: min. 156 € for infringement from 10.01.2013 (before 150 €). The below described table shows the various infringements for which points are attributed according to their gravity and to 3 criteria: recurrence of offense, the status of the offender and the quantity of specimens. An amount is attributed by according to the value of animals: <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1176 1436 1467"> <thead> <tr> <th>Animal value</th> <th>Basis factor = 1 point</th> <th>For every additional point when the infringement is &gt; to 1 point</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>&lt; 500 €</td> <td>156 € (since 10.01.2013)</td> <td>1<sup>st</sup> added point: 44 €, following points: 50 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500-1000€</td> <td>200 €</td> <td>50 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1000-2000€</td> <td>300 €</td> <td>75 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000-5000€</td> <td>400 €</td> <td>75 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5000-10.000€</td> <td>500 €</td> <td>100 €</td> </tr> <tr> <td>&gt;10.000€</td> <td>600 €</td> <td>150 €</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The fine is determined on basis of the number of points.				Animal value	Basis factor = 1 point	For every additional point when the infringement is > to 1 point	< 500 €	156 € (since 10.01.2013)	1 <sup>st</sup> added point: 44 €, following points: 50 €	500-1000€	200 €	50 €	1000-2000€	300 €	75 €	2000-5000€	400 €	75 €	5000-10.000€	500 €	100 €	>10.000€	600 €
Animal value	Basis factor = 1 point	For every additional point when the infringement is > to 1 point																						
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>10.000€	600 €	150 €																						

23 new	Are training and/or awareness raising activities being carried out for a) enforcement agencies, b) prosecution services, and c) the judiciary? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph II d.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: see attachment 2a			
24 new	Are regular checks on traders and holders such as pet shops, breeders and nurseries being undertaken to ensure in-country enforcement? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph II g.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: Until July 2014, controls at shops, breeders, zoo etc. were usually carried out by veterinary inspectors of the inspection service attached to the Animals and Plants General Directory in collaboration with the federal or local police. CITES controls of shops dealing with live animals are usually carried out together with Animal Welfare controls. Since July 2014, the service Animals welfare of the Animals and Plants General Directory has been regionalised. The CITES cells had to recruit two inspectors specific for CITES control: one for Flemish region and one for Walloon region.			
25 new	Are risk and intelligence assessment being used systematically in order to ensure thorough checks at border-crossing points as well as in-country? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph III h.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: Risk and intelligence assessment is used daily during the controls of the passengers and the control of the cargo shipments or postal parcels. This is needed since it is impossible for the Customs to check all the goods and the passengers entering the country.			
26 new	Are facilities available for the temporary care of seized or confiscated live specimens, and are mechanisms in place for their long-term re-homing, where necessary? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph III i.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: If live animals or plants are seized, they have to be brought to a rescue centre or an appropriate institution see also answer to question C10-- part 1. According to Article 16 (3) and (4) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, and article 6 of our Belgian law, all confiscated and seized are at the disposal of the Management Authority who decides the final destination of the confiscated specimens, taking into account that the accommodations for live specimens are suitable. Euthanasia is possible as a last resort, however up till now, this option has not yet been used (unless when necessary due to sanitary of animal welfare reasons). The parts, goods and derivatives will either be given to musea scientific institutions as well as to the management authority or enforcement authority for educational purposes, or, if no purposeful destination can be found, the specimens will be destroyed..			
27 new	Is cooperation taking place with relevant enforcement agencies in other Member States on investigations of offences under Regulation No. (EC) 338/97? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph III e.)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: such cooperation takes place on a case by case basis. Belgium participates actively in the meetings of the EC			
28 new	Is assistance being provided to other Member States with the temporary care and long-term re-homing of seized or confiscated live specimens? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph III j.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Comments:			

29 new	Is liaison taking place with CITES MAs and law enforcement agencies in source, transit and consumer countries outside of the Community as well as the CITES Secretariat, ICPO, Interpol and the World Customs Organization to help detect, deter and prevent illegal trade in wildlife through the exchange of information and intelligence? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph IIIk.)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: such liaisons take place on a case by case basis, see also answer to question C 13 - part 1			
30 new	Is advice and support being provided to CITES MAs and law enforcement agencies in source, transit and consumer countries outside of the Community to facilitate legal and sustainable trade through correct application of procedures? (In accordance with <i>Commission Recommendation C (2007) 2551</i> , paragraph IIIl.)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			

#### D. Administrative measures

##### D1 Management Authority (MA)

8b	Have the MA(s) undertaken or supported any research activities in relation to non CITES-listed species or technical issues (e.g. species identification) not covered in D2 (8) and D2 (9)?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 new	Has the Commission and the CITES Secretariat (if relevant) been informed of the outcomes of any investigations that the Commission has considered it necessary be made? (In accordance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of <i>Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97</i> )?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

##### D2 Scientific Authority (SA)

8b	Have any research activities been undertaken by the SA(s) in relation to non CITES listed species?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>				
9b	If Yes, please give the species name and provide details of the kind of research involved.						
	Species name	Populations	Distribution	Off take	Legal trade	Illegal trade	Other (specify)
	1						
	2						
	3						
	etc.						
No information							<input type="checkbox"/>

11 new	How many Scientific Review Group (SRG) meetings have the SA attended?  Indicate any difficulties that rendered attendance to the SRG difficult: Our scientific advisor (see also D2. 11 – part 1) has attended SRG meetings that took place in 2013 and 2014. During these meetings the scientific advisor transmitted the advices given by the different members of our Scientific Authority on the matters under discussion. Sometimes, members of our SA attend SRG meetings depending of their time disponibility. ( working for CITES on a voluntary basis and have very busy schedules).	Number 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### D3 Enforcement Authorities

6 new	Has a liaison officer/focal point for CITES been nominated within each relevant enforcement authority in your country? See C 17	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Under consideration	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>

### D4 Communication, information management and exchange

1b	Is Regulation-related information in your country computerized on?	Tick if applicable	
	- Annex D listed species		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	- Other matters not reported on in question D4 (1) (please specify)		<input type="checkbox"/>
3b	Do you have an electronic information system providing information on Regulation-listed species?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>

### D5 Permitting and registration procedures

9b	Has the Management Authority charged fees for any Regulation-related matters not covered in question D5 (9)? If yes, please provide details of these Regulation-related matters and the amount of any such fees.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 new	Can you indicate the percentage of permits/certificates issued that are returned to the MA after endorsement by customs?	Percentage : 85%	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 new	Has a list of places of introduction and export in your country been compiled in accordance with Article 12 of <i>Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97</i> ? If yes, please attach. See <b>attachment 9</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 new	Have persons and bodies been registered in accordance with Articles 18 and 19 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details. Not during this period 2013-2014	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 new	Have scientific institutions been registered in accordance with Article 60 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details. Not during this period 2013-2014 <a href="http://www.cites.org/eng/common/reg/si/BE">http://www.cites.org/eng/common/reg/si/BE</a>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No information	<input type="checkbox"/>



17 new	Have breeders been approved in accordance with Article 63 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details.	Yes No No information	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
18 new	Have caviar (re-)packaging plants been licensed in accordance with Article 66 (7) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details Not during this period 2013-2014 <a href="http://www.cites.org/eng/common/reg/ce/BE">http://www.cites.org/eng/common/reg/ce/BE</a>	Yes No No information	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
19 new	Are phytosanitary certificates used in accordance with Article 17 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details. AFSCA (Sanitary Authority) issues phytosanitary certificates that are used as CITES export permit for artificially propagated plants in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation 865/2006. This if third countries do accept these documents.	Yes No No information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
20 new	Have cases occurred where export permits and re-export certificates were issued retrospectively in accordance with Article 15 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006? If yes, please provide details.	Yes No No information	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

**D8 Areas for future work**

2b	Has your country encountered any difficulties in implementing specific suspensions or negative opinions adopted by the European Commission? (In accordance with Article 4 (6) Yes, case discussed during workshop organized in Brussels on 11 December 2014 We needed to share the experience with MS for following case: Country A exports a specimen to country B (both non-EU). At the time of the original export, the EU has a negative opinion for this species/country combination. Sometime later on, country B wants to export the specimen into the EU. At that time, there is a positive opinion for the original species/country combination. It was not so clear that this import be allowed into the EU. What if the scientific advice at the time of the first export was not negative, but "no opinion"? Would you ask your SA then to consider the application, having them threat it as they had received it at the time of the first export? How would you deal with the import if there would be currently a negative opinion, but at the time of the original export, the EU had a positive opinion?	Yes No No information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4b	Have any constraints to implementation of the Regulation, not reported under question D8 (4) , arisen in your country requiring attention or assistance?	Yes No No information	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

# Assessing the Use of Microchip Transponders as a Marking Method in Juvenile Hermann's Tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*)

Tom Hellebuyck<sup>1</sup>, PhD, DVM, DECZM (Herpetology), Frank Pasmans<sup>1</sup>, PhD, DVM, DECZM (Herpetology), Annemie Van Caelenberg<sup>2</sup>, PhD, DVM, Miet Van Looy<sup>3</sup>, An Martel<sup>1</sup>, PhD, DVM, DECZM (Wildlife Population Health)

1. Department of Pathology, Bacteriology, and Avian Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

2. Department of Medical Imaging and Small Animal Orthopaedics, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

3. Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, Eurostation II, Place Victor Horta, 40 Box 10, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium

**ABSTRACT:** International conventions dictate reliable identification of various reptile species that are subject to intensive trade targeting and habitat destruction. As a rule, tortoises with a minimal plastron length of 100 mm are fitted with a microchip transponder. The development of new generations of transponders, however, may offer the possibility to identify smaller individuals. This study evaluated the use of microchip transponders in juvenile Hermann's tortoises, *Testudo hermanni*, by using two groups of 30 captive-bred tortoises. Microchip transponders were implanted in the first group of tortoises, and the second group served as a control group. During a 10 month observation period, including 2 months of hibernation, both groups were evaluated for short- as well as mid-term effects of microchip implantation, and readability of the microchips was checked twice a week. Body weight and plastron length were determined twice a week to compare growth and weight curves between both groups. Radiographs were obtained from all animals immediately after microchip implantation, 4 wk later, and at the end of the observation period. In addition, applicability and readability of the marking method were evaluated in 130 tortoises (family Testudinidae) and 73 turtles (family Emydidae) with a plastron length exceeding 100 mm. Besides overall uncomplicated application and excellent readability, our results provide a solid basis for the assumption that the use of microchip transponders does not result in negative behavioral or physical effects and that they are safe to use in juvenile Hermann's tortoises, allowing at least mid-term identification of tagged individuals.

**KEY WORDS:** identification, marking method, microchip transponder, tagging, *Testudo hermanni*, testudinids.

## INTRODUCTION

Microchip transponders for individual recognition are currently used in many organisms, including captive and wild animals. Next to permanent, reliable, and unique identification of tagged individuals, the absence of short- as well as long-term adverse effects on fitness, general behavior, and other biological traits are major concerns toward the use of such an identification method in a certain animal species (Gibbons and Andrews, 2004). A wide variety of transponders are available, and some are small enough to be fitted in relatively small animal species. This is illustrated by the successful and safe use of small-sized microchip transponders in passerines, small mammal and fish species, amphibians, and even invertebrates in an growing number of studies (Pengilly and Watson, 1994; Ott and Scott, 1999; Perret and Joly, 2002; Gibbons and Andrews, 2004; Schroeder *et al.*, 2011; Pasmans *et al.*, 2012). Studies evaluating microchip transponders in juvenile or small reptile species, however, are lacking.

International trade in all tortoise species is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora. These regulations dictate that live annex A-listed vertebrate species should be identified with a unique and unalterable marking method. As a rule, tortoises with a minimal plastron length of 100 mm are fitted with a microchip transponder. These microchips have to be compliant to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards 11784 or 11785. ISO compliance ensures safety, reliability, and quality of the microchips as well as consistency in their use. The latter ISO compliant microchips are presumed too large to be safely fitted in tortoises with a plastron length <100 mm (Knapp and Affre, 2007). A valid and safe alternative method for the marking of such juvenile tortoises is thus neither available, nor required based on regulations of the European Commission. Consequently, illegal trade of various tortoise species is likely to persist, resulting in a continuing decline of populations in the wild.

This study evaluated the short- and mid-term effects of equipping juvenile Hermann's tortoises, *Testudo hermanni*,

with a plastron length <100 mm with the smallest available ISO-compliant microchip transponders. The marked tortoises were monitored for any negative behavioral or physical effects during a 10 month observation period. The tested marking method was assessed toward applicability, readability, and sustainability in the juvenile tortoises. Applicability and readability of the marking method were also evaluated in 130 tortoises and 73 turtles with a plastron length >100 mm.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sixty captive bred, approximately 3-mo-old Hermann's tortoises were used in this study. All tortoises were clinically healthy and showed an average body weight of  $35 \pm 5$  g and average plastron length of  $46 \pm 2$  mm at the start of the trial. All tortoises were assigned a number that was painted on the carapace of each animal by using nail polish. This procedure allowed easy identification of the individuals of the control group as well as the marked tortoises if identification using the microchip transponders would fail. The experiment was performed with the approval of the Ethical Committee of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium.

Six groups of 10 tortoises each were housed in a room where the temperature was maintained at 28°C (82°F) during the day and 20°C (68°F) during the night. A 12 h photoperiod was given with a self-ballasted 160-W bulb (Powersun®, Zoo Med Europa, Ekeren, Belgium) installed above each enclosure, creating a local hot spot and providing the necessary ultraviolet light. The animals were offered daily vitamin- and mineral-supplemented vegetables (Reptivite™, Zoo Med Europa). Drinking water was offered daily in shallow dishes, and the enclosures were sprayed with water three times a week. During a 2 wk period before

implanting the microchip transponders, all tortoises were submitted to a daily health check, and the general behavior and appetite of the individual tortoises were rigorously monitored throughout this acclimatisation period and the entire trial.

During a 2.5 yr period, all tortoises and turtles belonging to private collections that were presented at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ghent University) to be fitted with a microchip transponder were included in this study to assess the applicability and readability of the evaluated marking method.

After local disinfection of the insertion site with ethanol, microchip transponders (1.4 mm × 9 mm, ISO standard 11784, Planet ID GmbH, Essen, Germany) were subcutaneously inserted into the left inguinal region in each tortoise and turtle included in this study (Fig. 1). First, the left hind limb was stretched caudally, and a skin fold that runs cranial to the hind leg from the knee toward the carapace was located. The needle tip was inserted distally in this skin fold with the bevel directed upward and advanced subcutaneously while aiming toward the carapace and ensuring the subcutaneous position of the needle. The microchip was injected when the needle tip reached the proximal third of the inguinal region, ventral to the carapace. The insertion wound was sealed using tissue glue (Vetbond™, 3M Animal Care Products, St. Paul, MN). Immediately after implantation, the microchip transponders were read using a Back Home I MAX reader (Virbac Animal Health, Barneveld, The Netherlands), and then each animal was evaluated for signs of general distress and acute complications such as hemorrhage. In addition, the three groups of marked juvenile Hermann's tortoises were submitted for radiographs to determine the precise anatomical localization of the inserted microchip.



**Figure 1.** Subcutaneous implantation of a microchip transponder at the inguinal region in a juvenile Hermann's tortoise, *Testudo hermanni*.



Following microchip transponder insertion, all tortoises were observed twice daily for negative behavioral or physical effects of microchip insertion during a 10 month observation period. More specifically, wound healing, appetite, locomotion, fitness, and behavior (i.e., basking, sleeping, moving, feeding) were evaluated daily for each tortoise. Except for a 2 month hibernation period, starting at week 9, all tortoises' weights and plastron lengths were determined twice a week. Microchip transponders were also read in all of the tortoises during these examination periods.

Radiographs were repeated in the tagged and nontagged animals at the end of the fourth week and again at the end of the trial. Radiographic evaluation allowed the detection of gross pathological changes at the insertion site, possible migration or loss of the microchip transponders, and assessment of skeletal mineralization in each tortoise.

Prior to the start of the hibernation period, the environmental temperature and photoperiod were decreased gradually during a 2 wk period. Simultaneously, the animals were deprived of food and were bathed in lukewarm water every 2 days to stimulate defecation. During hibernation the environmental temperature was maintained at 5–8°C (41–46°F). After hibernation, the photoperiod and temperature were increased gradually, water was offered immediately, and food was offered after a few days.

To determine if the insertion of microchip transponders affected the physiology of the juvenile tortoises, the gain in body weight and plastron length were measured and compared between tagged and non-tagged tortoises. Both were calculated by subtracting the baseline measurements from

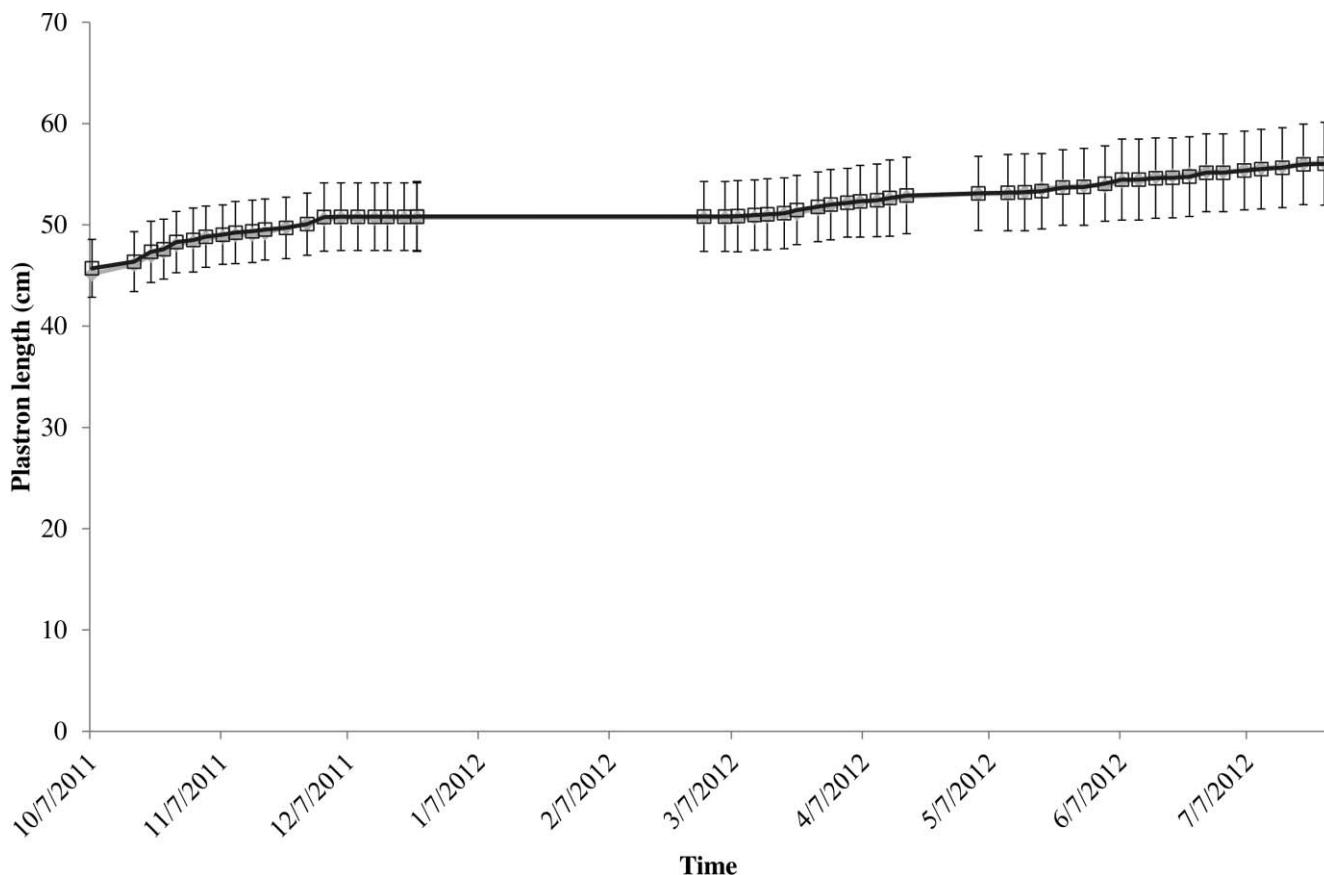
the final measurements. An independent samples T-test was used to make these comparisons. A  $P < 0.05$  was used to determine statistical significance. SPSS 19.0 (IBM, Brussels, Belgium) was used to analyze the data.

## RESULTS

There was no significant difference in the net body weight ( $P = 0.562$ ) or plastron length gain ( $P = 0.305$ ) between tagged and non-tagged tortoises, suggesting that microchip transponders do not impact growth and are a suitable identification method for the unique marking of *Testudo hermanni* with a plastron length  $\geq 45$  mm. Minor hemorrhage was observed immediately after insertion of microchip transponders in two (6.7%) of 30 tortoises; however, applying gentle pressure to the insertion site was sufficient to stem the bleeding in both cases. No signs of general distress or acute negative physical effects were encountered during or immediately after microchip insertion.

In all marked tortoises, microchips could be easily read during the entire observation period. Based on the consecutive series of radiographs, migration of the inserted microchip transponder could not be observed in any of the tagged tortoises during the 10 month observation period. In addition, radiographs did not reveal any gross pathological changes at the insertion site, and no obvious differences in skeletal mineralization could be noted when marked and unmarked tortoises were compared.

Implantation of microchip transponders did not interfere with normal locomotion in any of the marked tortoises.



**Figure 2.** Plastron length of two groups of juvenile *Testudo hermanni* either tagged (◆) or nontagged (□) with a microchip transponder. Each group consisted of 28–30 tortoises, and plastron length is expressed as average  $\pm$  SD for both groups.



Although not quantitatively assessed, there seemed to be no discernible difference in overall fitness, and activity budgets were highly similar when marked and unmarked groups of tortoises were compared. A comparable gain in body weight and growth was noted in all groups of tortoises throughout the observation period. The latter is reflected by the absence of any discrepancies between the established weight and growth curves of the marked and unmarked tortoises (Figs. 2–3).

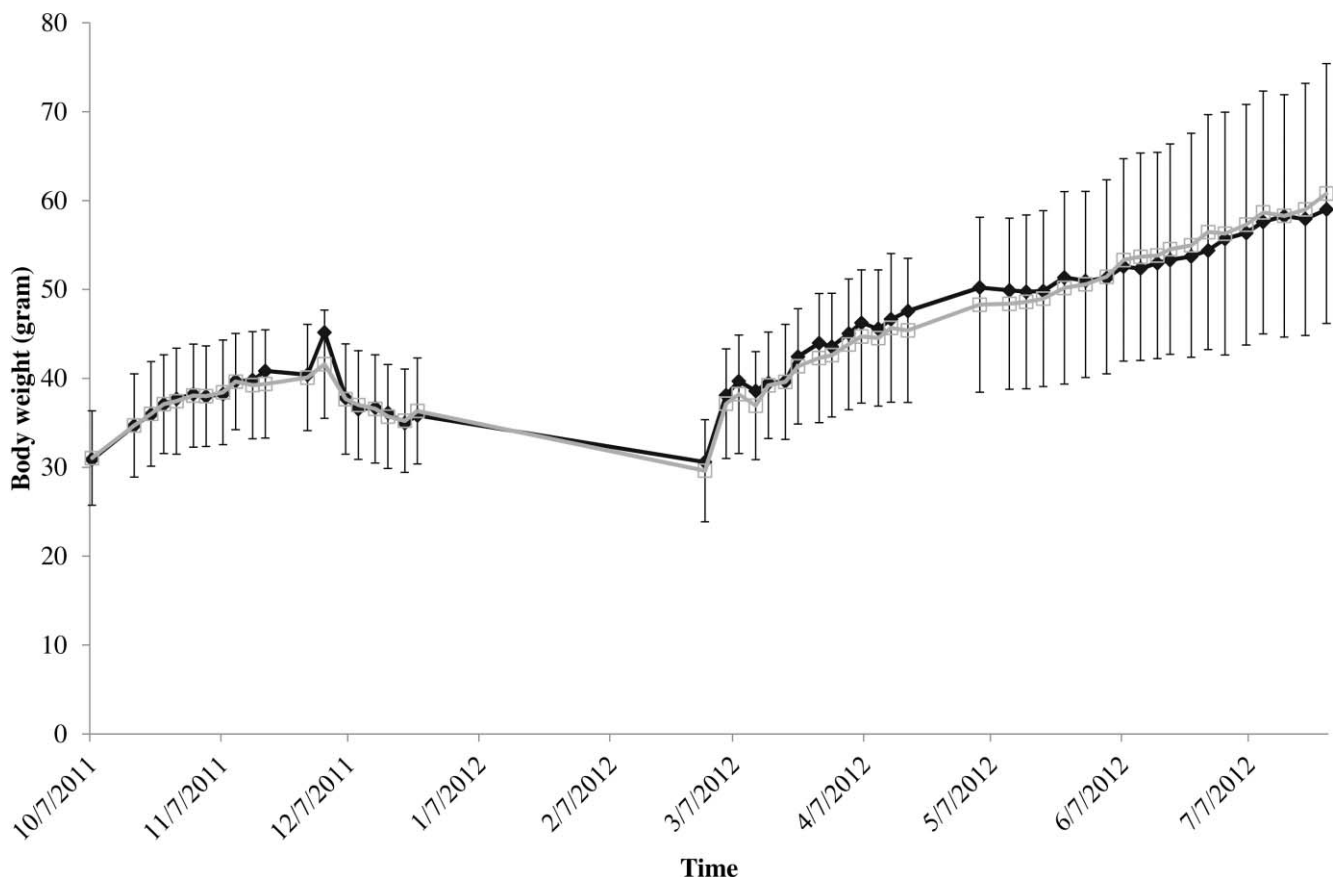
Although the daily health checks did not reveal any clinical abnormalities before hibernation, two unmarked and one marked tortoise did not survive the 2 month resting period. One week after the hibernation, an additional tagged tortoise succumbed after showing anorexia and apathy. During necropsy of the deceased tortoises, no pathological changes could be observed at the insertion site of the microchip transponders. Incomplete intestinal emptying was assigned as the presumptive cause of death. In general, no negative effects related to microchip implantation could be observed resulting from hibernation, a period that is considered a physiological stress. All remaining tortoises showed increasing activity patterns as the environmental temperature and photoperiod were increased, and feeding behavior was restored within a few days, on average, after ceasing hibernation.

A total of 130 privately owned, clinically healthy tortoises and 73 turtles (Table 1) were tagged with a microchip transponder during a 2.5 yr period. Occasional but minor

**Table 1.** Number of testudinids with a plastron length >100 mm that were fitted with an ISO-compliant microchip transponder during a 2.5 yr period.

Family	No. tagged
<b>Emydidae</b>	
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	53
<i>Pseudemys nelsoni</i>	6
<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	3
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	9
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	2
<b>Testudinidae</b>	
<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	109
<i>Testudo marginata</i>	6
<i>Testudo graeca</i>	9
<i>Malacochersus tornieri</i>	6

hemorrhage was observed in <5% of both the tortoises and turtles that were fitted with a microchip transponder. In all these cases, exercising gentle pressure was sufficient to stem the bleeding. Acute negative side effects were not observed



**Figure 3.** Body weight of two groups of juvenile *Testudo hermanni* either tagged (◆) or nontagged (□) with a microchip transponder. Each group consisted of 28–30 tortoises, and body weight is expressed as average ± SD for both groups.

in any of the study subjects following microchip implantation. Excellent readability was observed in all tagged animals, including large turtles and tortoises.

## DISCUSSION

Although the length of the observation period in this study was relatively short in comparison with the typical life span of healthy *Testudo* species, our results show that subcutaneous implantation of microchip transponders does not result in adverse effects and that the use of this identification method is not contraindicated in juvenile Hermann's tortoises with a plastron length of  $\geq 45$  mm.

A consistent but relatively slow growth rate was observed in the tortoises, as is typical for growing, juvenile *T. hermanni* (Stubbs and Swingland, 1985; Willemsen and Hailey, 2001). The established weight and length curves, however, are sufficient to assess the possible negative effects of microchip implantation.

The tested marking method does not affect fitness, behavior, or survivorship and does not result in significant behavioral and physical discrepancies when marked and unmarked tortoises were compared. The use of unique and easily readable ISO compliant microchip transponders resulted in unambiguous identification of the tagged individuals at least for the duration of the observation period, and in our opinion, long-term identification using this marking method may be presumed.

This study is, as far as the authors' know, the most extensive one to examine the consequences of equipping juvenile Hermann's tortoises with ISO-compliant microchip transponders. Recently, a similar project was conducted in juvenile testudinid species using Nonatec™ microchips (Lutronic International Ltd., Rodange, Luxembourg) (Quest *et al.*, 2012). While the Nonatec™ is currently the smallest available microchip and is routinely used in laboratory animals, this type of microchip is not ISO compliant and several shortfalls were encountered during the testing of its use as a marking method in tortoises (Quest *et al.*, 2012). The primary shortcomings were the readability of the Nonatec™ microchips, which proved to be lower in comparison to ISO compliant microchips, and a specific reader was required for these microchips. Moreover, the numerical information carried by these microchips may be partly altered after insertion using software which is available from the manufacturer. Nevertheless, the results of the study confirmed an absence of negative side effects following the use of microchips as an identification method in juvenile tortoises (Quest *et al.*, 2012).

The results of this study provide a solid basis on which to assume that microchip transponders have very few negative effects, if any at all, on fitness, general development, and behavior in juvenile Hermann's tortoises. In the juvenile Hermann's tortoises, as well as the various testudinid species with a plastron length  $>100$  mm, easy application of the evaluated marking method and excellent readability of the microchip transponders were demonstrated. Accordingly, the use of this marking method is a valid and safe identification method allowing the individual recognition of *Testudo* species with a plastron length  $\geq 45$  mm. The use of the described marking method could render the opportunity to more firmly enforce current regulations in tortoises.

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## ATTACHEMENT n°2 - C3

Controls in the Walloon, Flemish and Brussels regions made by veterinary inspectors of the Inspection Service attached to the Animal Welfare and CITES service occurred generally in the context of monitoring and approval of applications for animal welfare agreements. Targeted CITES controls were directly asked for by the CITES management authority.

Among other case by case controls, specific controls were conducted in bird of prey breeders, parrots breeders, tortoise breeders, antiques dealers, zoo's in Wallonia, wood importers and for internet advertisements. The majority of species confiscated were birds of prey, reptiles (*Testudo hermanni*, *T. graeca*), products (ivory, wood).

*Number of realized CITES inspections by animal welfare and CITES Inspectors*

2013 <del>(total for Wallonie and flander)</del>	2014 <del>(total for Wallonie and Flander)</del>
129	96

To be noted: since 1 July 2014, the service animal welfare has been officially regionalized which can explain the diminution of quantity specific CITES controls for 2014

*Number of infringements.*

Infringements.	2013	2014
Seizures	11 animals : tortoises, bird of prey, parrots and 147m3 tropical wood	7 Animals: tortoises, bird of prey animal parts(skulls, tiger claws, Tridacna shell) plants product: essential oil Nardostachys grandiflora-300 grs
Reports	30	13
Warnings	31	19

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Comment [VLM1]: Il ne faut pas mentionner les douanes?

Comment [VLM2]: Vue le fait qu'on ne donne pas des chiffres par région, pour moi, il ne faut pas mettre que c'est pour la flandre et le wallonie, c'est évident que c'est pour tout le territoire belge.

Some of these records have resulted in administrative fines (Article 5. Bis of the Royal Decree of 9 April 2003) (see below) set out by our legal department (within the Federal Public Service of Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment). Once these administrative fines are paid by the offender, the prosecution ends~~see~~. If the fines were not paid, the file was forwarded to the public prosecutor~~-form~~.

The amount of administrative fines was assessed by using a weighting points system which takes~~s~~ into account~~-~~: the seriousness of the offenses, nature of the offender, the value of the specimens involved~~-~~, the notion of recurrence.

Other records (called criminal) were directly transferred to the prosecutor of the regions where the offenses had taken place.

Table of administrative fines set out for 2013 and 2014 for the Walloon and Brussels regions (FR) and for Flemish region (NL).

	2013	2014
Amount of CITES files	30	29
Fines proposed	€7911	€8331
Total amount of the paid fines	15 (€5530)	24 (€8081)
Total file with no further action from Public prosecutor	0	3

Comment [VLM3]: C'est quand même pas correct, en Brussel il peut y avoir aussi des dossiers NL, non?

The most common infringements to the CITES legislation recorded:

- No CITES registers (in and out) kept~~-~~: infringement of article 12 (Royal Decree of 09/04/2003);
- Absence of EC certificate for Annex A species when commercialized: infringement of Article 8.1 and 8.3 of EC Regulation 338/97 or no evidence that Annex B specimens were acquired in accordance with the law (Article 8:-5);
- ~~Utilization~~ Use of ~~non-~~invalid EC certificates (art 11.3 of EC Regulation 338/97):
- Use of EU certificate for tortoises issued with photo-identification but without ~~the annex with the photo-ID~~the picture joined;
- Use of transaction specific certificates ~~(with a~~restriction of transaction (box 20 ticked)~~) used~~ without taking into account the restriction;
- Non~~-~~compliance with marking requirements (art 66 of Regulation No. 865/2006) for species included in Annex A.
- No return to the CITES Management Authority of documents that are no longer valid (Regulation No. 865/2006 (Article 10 § 6 and 11));



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To be noted to the seizure of 112 EC certificates for tortoises not present by him . these EC certificates covered small specimens not yet identified? or identified by a grossist in reptiles for which serious welfare infringement were detected

Dehaes infraction:

Saisies de certificate

En conclusion, ce magasin m'a laissé une impression très négative. Quand on envisage le nombre total de cadavres découverts dans les enclos (88) ainsi que le nombre de spécimens que le vétérinaire a décidé d'euthanasier (102) et que l'on compare ces chiffres au nombre de spécimens restant (1031), on est à plus de 15% de mortalité ! L'analyse des chiffres, en particulier pour les lézards, suscite l'interrogation tant il peut donner l'impression que le propriétaire a délaissé totalement la maintenance de certaines de ses espèces. Sans préjuger de la suite qui sera donnée à ce dossier, je ne puis que suggérer un suivi (très) régulier des installations tant sur le plan zootechnique que sur le plan du bien-être des pensionnaires.

To assess the legality of origin of some controlled juveniles specimens, claimed to have been born and bred in captivity, our service ~~had~~ required several DNA testing, to establish whether or not the indicated parental stock was indeed the founder stock of the controlled offspring-parentally analyses. In 2013 and 2014, 9 analysis ~~these~~ have been done in an laboratory in The Netherlands:

Year	Amount of DNA forensic analyses	Results
2013	5 For specimens of <i>Falco peregrinus</i> , <i>Cacatua moluccensis</i> <i>Ara Macao</i> , <i>Bubo bubo</i> , <i>Amazona auropalliata</i>	OK link between descendants specimens and parents established
2014	4 For specimens of <i>Athene noctua</i> , <i>Bubo bubo</i>	OK: link between descendants specimens and parents established

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Species	CITES Appendice	EU Appendice	Description of goods	Quantity of specimens	Enforcement Authority	Direction	Country of destination	Type of location	Country of origin	CITES infringement: no CITES doc	Detection method
09/01/2013	<i>Elephantidae</i>	I	A	TUS	1 large tusk	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Export	UK	Postal center	unknown	no Cites document	Routine, X ray
09/01/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	TUS	1	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	expot	United Kingdom	Postal center	Belgium	no Cites document	routine
15/01/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	3,056 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
15/01/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	8 pairs earrings, 2 rings, 4 pipes, 17 pendants en 12 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
15/01/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	8 earrings + 2 rings + 4 pipes + 17 pendants + 12 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
15/01/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	3,056 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
16/01/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	12 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Cameroun	no Cites document	Routine
17/01/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	0,123 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Cameroun	no Cites document	Routine
22/01/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	0,678,7 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Ivory Coast	no Cites document	Routine
22/01/2013		II	B	BOD	8	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Ivory Coast	no Cites document	Routine
22/01/2013	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	I	A	LPS	1 handbag	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Ivory Coast	no Cites document	Routine
22/01/2013	<i>africana</i>	I	A	CAR	4 chopsticks, 2 necklaces en 14 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Ivory Coast	no Cites document	Routine
24/01/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	0,25 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
24/01/2013	<i>Varanus spp.</i>	II	B	LPS	1 handbag + 2 belts =3	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
24/01/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	203	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
24/01/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	II	B	LPS	1 handbag + 2 belts + 2 wallets = 5	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine

24/01/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	1 sculpture of 0,405kg , 8 rings, 53 pendants, 2 chopsticks, 2 necklaces en 5 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
31/01/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	1,6 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
31/01/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp</i>	II	B	LPS	2 belts +3 handbags = 5	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
31/01/2013	<i>Hippocampus spp,</i>	II	B	BOD	400	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
31/01/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	7 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
07/02/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	0,065 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
07/02/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	21 small objects : 0,778 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
07/02/2013	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	II	B	CAP	1	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	China (Hong Kong)	no Cites document	Routine
07/02/2013	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>	II	B	CAP	1	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	China (Hong Kong)	no Cites document	Routine
18/02/2013		I	A	FOO	2	Police	Internal	Belgium	Entreprise	Unknown	No CITES document	Targeted action
26/02/2013	<i>Mauremys reevesii</i>	III	C	MED	5000	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	China	no Cites document	Routine
04/03/2013	<i>pythonidae spp</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	2 belts + 1 wallet	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/03/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 handbag + 1 wallet	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/03/2013	<i>africana</i>	I	A	CAR	2 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/03/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	6	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
08/03/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	28 chopsticks + 16 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine

12/03/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	0,345 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
12/03/2013	<i>Hippocampus spp.</i>	II	B	BOD	210	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
31/03/2013	<i>Scleractinia spp</i>	II	B	COR	40	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Italy	arrival center	Domenican Republic	no Cites document	Routine
04/04/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	1,250 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/04/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	22 rings + 1 necklace + 2 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/04/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	3 handbags + 1	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
04/04/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	BOD	1	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
08/04/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	15 pieces in Whisky Johnnie Walker Red Label	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Internal	Belgium	Postal center		no Cites document	Routine
12/04/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	7 wallets + 2 handbags	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
12/04/2013	<i>Varanus spp.</i>	II/I	A/B	LPS	1 wallets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
12/04/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	2 pendants + 1 bracelet	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
17/04/2013	<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>	II	B	LIV	2	Police	Internal	Belgium	Entreprise		no proof of legal origin	Targeted action in the city with other enforcement officers
24/04/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	0,226 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
24/04/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	7 juwels + 10 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine



29/04/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	27,574 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Roemenia	Transit hall	RDC	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 belt + 3 handbags	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Congo- Brazaville	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	6 bracelets + 35 juwels	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Congo- Brazaville	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	40	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Congo- Brazaville	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 belt + 3 handbags	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	DRC	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR0	35 jewels + 6 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	DRC	no Cites document	Routine
09/05/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	40	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	DRC	no Cites document	Routine
17/05/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD	81	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Cameroun	no Cites document	Routine
25/05/2013	<i>loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	5,127 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Export	Greece	Postal center	Belgium	no Cites document	Routine X ray
27/07/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	1 pendant	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	France	Postal center	Burundi	no Cites document	Routine
29/07/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	0,233 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Italy	Postal center	Burundi	no Cites document	Routine
29/07/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	1,425 kg	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Italy	Postal center	Burundi	no Cites document	Routine
19/08/2013	<i>Kinixys belliana</i>	II	B	LIV	32	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Air fright	Togo	Lengths of specimens not respected	Routine
19/08/2013	<i>Kinixys homeana</i>	II	B	LIV	98	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Air fright	Togo	Lengths of specimens not respected	Routine

19/08/2013	<i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>	II	B	LIV		20	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Air fright	Togo	Lenghts of specimens not respected	Routine
19/08/2013	<i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i>	II	B	LIV		21	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Air fright	Togo	Lenghts of specimens not respected	Routine
22/08/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	32 pearls + 2 pipes + 2 pendants		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
22/08/2013	<i>Manis spp.</i>	II	B	SCA	0,1958 kg		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
30/08/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	110 objets : 7,100 kg		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	arrival center	RDC	no Cites document	Routine
02/09/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	6 bracelets		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
05/09/2013	<i>Boa Constrictor</i>	II	B	LIV		2		Internal	Belgium	Circus	unknown	no Cites document	Targeted action
06/09/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	MED		500	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	China	no Cites document	Routine
07/09/2013	<i>Testudines</i>	I/II	A/B	CAP		1	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Ivory Coast	no Cites document	Routine
17/09/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	100 juwels + 10 chopsticks + 13 bracelets		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
17/09/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD		20	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
22/09/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	6 statues		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	arrival center	DRC	no Cites document	risk assessment
22/10/2013	<i>Varanus</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	2 pair of shoes + 1 belt		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Senegal	no Cites document	Routine
22/10/2013	<i>pythonidae spp</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	2 pair of shoes + 2 handbags + 4 wallets + 1 belt		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Senegal	no Cites document	Routine
22/10/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	2 pair of shoes + 10 handbags + 18 wallets + 1 belt		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Senegal	no Cites document	Routine

22/10/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD		8	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	arrival center	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
12/11/2013	<i>Hippocampus</i>	II	B	BOD		120	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
12/11/2013	<i>Serpentes</i>	I/II	A/B	DER	1 bottle of snake wine		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	arrival center	thailand	no Cites document	Routine
12/11/2013	<i>serpentes</i>	I/II	A/B	DER	2 bottles of snake wine		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Bulgaria	Postal center	thailand	no Cites document	Routine
13/11/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	1 ring + 3 pendants + 1 bracelets + 1 comb		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	probably Belgium	arrival center	unknown	no Cites document	Abandoned luggage
13/11/2013	<i>crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	SKI	1 skin		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	probably Belgium	arrival center	unknown	no Cites document	Abandoned luggage
13/11/2013	<i>crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	SKI	1 skin		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	probably Belgium	arrival center	unknown	no Cites document	Abandoned luggage
13/11/2013	<i>crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 pais of shoes		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	United States of America	no Cites document	Routine
20/11/2013	<i>crocodylia spp.</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 wallet		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	Luxembourg	Postal center	thailand	no Cites document	Routine
29/11/2013	<i>Python regius</i>	II	B	LIV		9	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	Export	DRC	Departure center	Belgium	no Cites document	risk assessment
11/12/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	0,250 kg		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	China	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
11/12/2013	<i>Hippocampus spp,</i>	II	B	BOD		12	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Liberia	no Cites document	Routine
19/12/2013	<i>Pythonidae spp</i>	II	B	LPS	2 bags		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
19/12/2013	<i>Crocodylia</i>	I/II	A/B	LPS	1 bags		GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine

19/12/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	4 bracelets	GAD -CUSTOMS BRUSSELS NAT. AIRPORT (Zaventem)	transit	china	Transit hall	Guinee	no Cites document	Routine
20/07/2013	<i>Boa Constrictor</i>	II	B	LPS+SKIN	1+1	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	Iran	Postal center	Colombia	no Cites document	Routine
24/07/2013	<i>Corallium spp</i>	III	C	CAR	1 necklace	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	Import	Belgium	Postal center	China (Hong Kong)	no Cites document	Routine
01/03/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	ivory pearls 937 gr	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Nigeria	no Cites document	Routine
25/02/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	30 Ivory bracelets, total 1574 gr	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Nigeria	no Cites document	electronic marchine declared as CURRENT SENSOR »
13/03/2013	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	I	A	CAR	12 bracelets, total 1,8 kgr	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Nigeria	no Cites document	electronic marchine declared as CURRENT SENSOR
11/01/2013	<i>Manis spp</i>	II	B	SCA	1kg	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	China (Hong Kong)	Postal center	Cameroun	no Cites document	routine declared as palstic materials
09/03/2013	<i>Crocodylia spp.</i>	II	B	LPS	18 belts	GAD -CUSTOMS LIEGE AIRPORT (Bierset)	transit	Sweden	Postal center	Bolivia	no Cites document	Routine
04/06/2013	<i>Chameleon chameleo</i>	II	A	LIV	1	CUSTOMS CHARLEROI AIRPORT (Gosselies)	transit	unknown	hall passengers	unknown	no Cites document	



Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Species	CITES Appendice	EU Appendice	Description of goods	Quantity of specimens	Enforcement Authority	Direction	Country of destination	Type of location	Country of origin	CITES infringement: no CITES doc	Detection method
08/04/2014	<i>Gastrodia elata</i>	II	B	MED	??	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	CHINA	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
23/09/2014	Cataceae spp.	II	B	MED	2 boxes (60 capsules)	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
19/09/2014	Cataceae spp.	II	B	MED	59 capsules	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
19/11/2014	Cataceae spp.	II	B	MED	330 capsules	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
18/11/2014	Cataceae spp.	II	B	MED	150 capsules	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
03/02/2014	bulbophyllum	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
03/02/2014	<i>Dendrobium leonis</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
03/02/2014	<i>Nympaea</i>	II	B	LIV	4	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine
12/02/2014	<i>Dendrobium exile</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES document (no import - no export)	Routine

05/12/2014	<i>Lophophura williamsi</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine
05/12/2014	<i>Echinocactus horizontalonicus</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine
17/12/2014	<i>Encephalartos spp.</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	SOUTH-AFRICA	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine
04/11/2014	<i>Ascocentrum sp.</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine
04/12/2014	<i>Dendrobium spp.</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine
04/12/2014	<i>Cycas siamensis</i>	II	B	LIV	1	DOUANE ZAVENTEM G.A.D.	IMPORTATION	BELGIUM	MAIL CENTER at AIRPORT	THAILAND	No CITES documen t (no import - no export)	Routine

## Annex 4: Appendix 4: Communication, exchange of information (D4.10 et 11).

Details of the various actions undertaken by the Belgium Management Authority (MA) in the field of communication during the years 2013 and 2014 (see attachments 4b for examples).

### **1/ Press releases by the Belgian CITES Management Authority (non-exhaustive):**

- March 2013: different press releases have been edited during CITES COP16 (see attachments): on sharks, polar bear, musical instruments, ....
- March 2013: press release about sending of *Pericopsis elata* blocked in Antwerp: "CITES libère le bois d'Fromosia bloqué depuis le 22 mars dans le port d'Anvers"
- July 2013: The MA wanted to draw attention on the problem of souvenirs made of protected animals or plants "Le trafic d'objets exotiques qui fleurit ". (Le soir-6, 7 July).
- December 2013: Within the framework of Christmas and New Year holidays, MA wanted to alert Belgian consumers about the dangers of purchasing cheap illegal caviar offered on the internet.
- April 2014: Within the framework of destruction of 1.5 tones ivory stockpile several press releases have been made.
- July 2014: press release about the result of CITES Belgian court judgement on illegal trade in birds of prey.
- September 2014: press release on seizure of two booted eagles of illegal origin (wild) from Morocco.
- December 2014: within the framework of Christmas and New Year holidays, press release about the publication of folder "Achetez du caviar en toute légalité!".

### **2/ Press releases by other authorities or NGO (non-exhaustive)/TV broadcasts:**

- August 2013: publication by NGO WildLeaks « Sur le Net, dénoncez en secret les braconniers » ( La Libre Belgique édition nationale – 26/08/2014).
- August 2013: publication in a newspaper 'La dernière heure', « Les douanes traquent ces chasseurs de souvenirs ».
- April 2014: press release about the campaign "ivory crush" in collaboration with IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare).
- June 2014: publication in a newspaper about Wildlife souvenirs 'Vacances – « Les souvenirs qu'il vaut mieux oublier » (L'Avenir, 21/06/2014).

- o July 2014: Participation of a member of CITES MA to a TV broadcast aimed at children (OUFTVI) in the rescue centre of Opplabbeek (one of the rescue centres where seized live mammals, reptiles and birds are placed by the MA). The aim of this broadcast was to raise children's awareness on why you have to be careful buying souvenirs on holiday, as they might be made out of protected animals or plants.
- o September and October 2014: publication of some articles in specialized magazines and newspapers on the uplisting of different sharks-species, notably the porbeagle, to CITES and the consequence thereof for the sector (De Standaard 10 October 2014 and VISAKTUA magazine, September 2014).

### **3/ Guidance notices, leaflets, etc. distributed by the Belgian CITES Management**

#### **Authority:**

In April 2014: distribution of CITES Wood ID tool CD-rom to members of Enforcement working group.

In 2013 and 2014, the CITES Unit of the FPS Health has published a series of explanatory brochures and notes to inform the public of its legal responsibilities regarding the implementation of the Convention.

These publications are aimed at citizens (tourists and/or consumers) as well as professionals involved in the trade in specimens of protected species. They are available on our CITES website ([www.citesinbelgium.be](http://www.citesinbelgium.be)).

The brochures are listed below:

- Breeding and trading in birds of prey
- Enjoying caviar legally
- Breeding and trading parrots
- Breeding and trading Reptiles and amphibians
- Giving your souvenir a future

Specific Guidance was written for:

- Antique dealers
- Taxidermists
- Tropical timber importers
- Tortoise breeders
- Timber importer: CITES and EUTR
- Hunting associations, hunting trophy importers (explaining the new rules on import of 6 species for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures)
- Owners of musical instruments

Alphabetical list of the animal species protected by the CITES regulation:

This list is updated following each meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, usually every three years.

### **4/ Presentation/ training by the Belgian CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority:**



In March 2013, the scientific advisor gave a presentation on CITES in the framework of formation in a high school about breeding and trade of CITES tortoises (Zemst)

In June 2013, the head of the Belgian CITES Management Authority and the Enforcement liaison officer gave a presentation on CITES legislation and procedures of seizure, administrative fines and general follow-up of CITES-cases by the legal system during a training day of the prosecutors. It was organized by the Network of Prosecutors responsible for Environment and was held in the airport of Zaventem. The customs officers gave a presentation on the significant seizures that they encountered.

In February, July, October and November 2013, Belgian CITES Management Authority gave presentations on the correct implementation of the CITES legislation when breeding and trading with CITES-listed parrots for several Bird associations (WPC, FP, AOB, KBOF, BVP, ...).

In July 2013 the Belgian CITES Management Authority held its yearly meeting with ANIMALES (traders association) where discussions are held between the policy-makers and one of its major stakeholders.

In August 2013, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on the correct implementation of the CITES legislation when breeding and trading with CITES-listed reptiles to a Turtle association.

In October 2013 the head of the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on the legislation applicable to CITES protected wood at the request of the Belgian Federation of wood importers.

In October, November and December 2013, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave three CITES training days to Customs working at Charleroi-Gosselies Airport(1 day), and Liege airports (2 days).

In March 2014, the scientific advisor gave a presentation on CITES in the framework of a symposium in Namur on Moving biological material into and out of Belgium.

In March 2014 the Enforcement liaison officer gave a presentation in the Netherlands on the first organized Contact Day of all the CITES enforcement officers. The presentation gave an insight in the Belgian CITES procedures and significant seizures.

In May 2014 the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave two CITES training days to Veterinarians/inspectors of the Animal Welfare and CITES Inspection Service of Public Federal Service Public Health. This service (amongst others) controls the application of CITES legislation within Belgium.

In July 2014 the Belgian CITES Management Authority had its yearly meeting with ANIMALS ANIMALES (traders association) where discussions are held between the policy-makers and one of its major stakeholders.

Regarding communication with the CITES stakeholders, Belgium continues to inform the general public and the specialized sector by means of leaflets containing information on the CITES regulations in birds of prey, parrots, reptiles and amphibians and also for the consumer of caviar. Belgium also continues to inform the tourists with a brochure "An endangered species is no souvenir".

**Special Events organised by Belgian CITES Management Authority:**

On 3 March 2014, date of the World Wildlife Day, Belgium celebrated its 30th Anniversary of becoming a Party to CITES. The Belgian CITES Management Authority organised at this occasion a symposium at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels. Representatives of the European Commission, CITES Secretariat, scientists, customs officers, breeders of CITES species, representatives of NGO, were all present to celebrate this anniversary. This event was well covered in the press.

On 9 April 2014, Belgium proceeded to the destruction of its stockpile of illegal ivory – about 1.5 tons. This event took place in cooperation with the Custom Authorities and IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) at the "Palais des Colonies", in Tervuren. A special ceremony was held to mark the occasion, with dignitaries from the Belgian government, representatives of the European Commission, CITES Secretariat, scientists, customs officers, NGO's. This stockpile was compiled of ivory confiscated by the different controlling authorities, the custom services in particular, since 1984, the year in which the CITES convention became effective in Belgium. A press conference with speeches of the Belgian Minister, competent for CITES, a customs' representative and the CEO of IFAW were given. This event got worldwide press coverage.

**Permanent exhibition** in Pairi Daiza (Cambron-Casteau) on the protection of biodiversity with a special highlight on CITES.

## Commission Summary – Key Outcomes of the

### Expert Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking

On 10 April 2014, more than 170 experts from 27 EU Member States, 7 non-EU countries, key international organisations and representatives from over 20 NGOs responded to an invitation by the European Commission to meet in Brussels and discuss challenges regarding the EU approach against wildlife trafficking.

The conference, as well as the two workshops on the following day (governments and international organisations only), focused on two main areas: Firstly, the situation within the EU, and in particular how enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime could be strengthened. Secondly, how the EU could - through its diplomatic tools and development cooperation - support more effectively global efforts to reduce wildlife trafficking.

The following summary presents the key issues discussed and the main recommendations made by the participants.

#### Part 1 - Strengthening enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife trafficking within the EU

As a priority, it was considered crucial to generate within the EU (and globally) **awareness** and **political will at higher level** to treat wildlife trafficking as a serious problem. This is particularly the case where organised criminal groups are involved, which requires similar resources and awareness as other forms of serious crime.

In addition, the following points were highlighted:

- A **strong legal framework** including **deterrent sanctions** needs to be in place in all Member States as a precondition for effective enforcement. Significant differences in the implementation of existing EU rules, such as the Environmental Crime Directive, are problematic as enforcement in the EU as a common market is only as strong as its weakest link. Sanctions also need to meet certain thresholds as this is an indicator of the seriousness of the crime which triggers awareness and resources but also because this allows for the use of essential cooperation instruments, such as the European Arrest Warrant. Some other legal challenges for criminal prosecutions, e.g. on jurisdiction, also exist.
- Some of the **rules on trade** in endangered species, notably on intra-EU trade, could be strengthened further to close loopholes and could at the same time benefit from some simplification.
- All actors along the enforcement chain from customs, inspectors and the police (including where necessary specialists on financial or organized crime) to prosecutors and judges need to improve their **cooperation**. Good practices that exist in some Member States should be shared more widely.

- **Bringing some serious cases to court and obtaining strong judgements** is essential to show the importance of the crime area and to help raise awareness in the public, with policy makers and in the judiciary. The basis for this will be the quality of the investigation and the presentation of the case in court. Some form of specialization of investigators, prosecutors and possibly also judges was considered useful in this regard. Alternatively designated contact points in all prosecution services can be an option.
- **Training** (at all levels and also jointly for the different actors), **information material, guidance documents** and **checklists** for inspectors, prosecutors and judges are essential. Amongst the judiciary, the training focus should be on criminal law judges. Guidance and training material should be shared widely and be further developed. Other measures discussed that could help for better prosecutions and mobilization of the judiciary include developing further methods and exchange practices on how to attribute monetary value to the species; showing the impact on overall conservation, e.g. through conservation impact statements; using the full range of legislation, including e.g. tax laws, laws on membership in an organized criminal group etc. and routinely requesting confiscation of the assets.
- The **lack of reliable and comprehensive data** is a major problem. It is crucial that all Member States ensure that data is collected and made available, including to Europol whose analyses are important for priority setting in the fight against organised crime at EU level.

At the same time, resources from enforcement services are challenged by the multiple **reporting requirements** and different formats used by different organisations (Interpol, CITES, Europol, WCO, Traffic ...) are a problem and require too many resources. ICCWC could be a useful forum to discuss how to unify the reporting format.

- **Illegal internet trade** plays an important role, and police officers with specific expertise are important for teams working on illegal wildlife trade.

#### **Strengthening cooperation amongst Member States and with other partner countries**

- EU Member States should become more active in working together. The existing **networks of practitioners at all levels** should be further strengthened. More information on seizures, prosecutions and court decisions should be shared, also beyond the current users of EU Twix. The **EU Enforcement Group** plays an important role for information exchange but also in training less experienced colleagues. However, it can only fulfil its role if all Member States actively engage. The group should be made more operational with participants including mainly enforcement officers and discussing specific operational challenges. At home, it is important that the participants act as multipliers and pass on their knowledge to colleagues. The Enforcement Group can also play an important role to ensure that CITES decisions/resolutions on enforcement are implemented in a more uniform way throughout the EU. Regular and targeted interaction with third country enforcement authorities would be helpful.
- EU Member States should engage in **joint operations**, both within the EU and internationally. This also helps to raise awareness.



- Within the **Commission, additional resources and expertise on enforcement** could play an important role to strengthen the focus of activities and to improve cooperation.
- **Europol (including Envicrimenet) and Eurojust** are willing and available to work more in the area and can provide important support for cross-border activities. They can help in coordinating joint controlled deliveries or joint investigation teams of several Member States and can also assist in liaising with third countries, including e.g. by covering translation costs.
- **Seconding** officers to key source and market countries can be very useful, even if only for a short period, e.g. to solve bilateral cooperation problems.
- **Data sharing**, in particular concerning nominal data, is often very challenging due to legal obstacles. A review of respective national legislation could be useful.

**Organized wildlife crime within the EU** receives so far too little attention amongst policy makers and experts on organised crime. Therefore, more comprehensive analysis of the illicit trade flows and criminal groups involved is essential. The importance of the EU's **four year policy cycle** that determines the priorities of the EU's fight against organized crime was emphasised. The current cycle will be reviewed in 2015, and organized wildlife crime could become a priority. This requires that Europol has the necessary data from Member States to do the analytical work to prepare such re-prioritisation.

Other points highlighted in this context were:

- The need to look more into **illicit financial flows** associated to wildlife trafficking, e.g. regarding money laundering;
- The need to ensure that **EU instruments/measures** against organized crime can be applied to wildlife trafficking;
- The importance of providing for a **maximum imprisonment of at least four years** in cases of organized wildlife crime which means recognizing it as a "serious crime" which is key for the applicability of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. At national level, this would allow for the use of essential investigative tools, such as wire tapping, covert investigations etc.;
- The importance of **controlled deliveries** as an essential tool to reach the leaders of criminal networks.

## **Part 2 - The International Dimension**

Regarding **international activities and diplomatic action** the following points were highlighted:

Priority should be given to the **implementation of the commitments** agreed in CITES and those taken at the recent high level Summits against wildlife trafficking in London, Paris and Gaborone.

To this end, action should be first taken using **existing international instruments**, and in particular:

- The **CITES Convention**, where Parties should be encouraged to fully use all tools on enforcement and compliance available to them to address illegal wildlife trade occurrences;
- The International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (**ICCWC**), for which long-term support and funding should be secured. The capacities of the agencies composing ICCWC should also be strengthened. The extension of ICCWC to other organisations such as UNEP was also mentioned, where its expertise on the rule of law and environmental legislation in particular could represent an added-value;
- The **African Elephant Action Plan**, as the main strategy agreed by all African range States to better conserve and manage African elephants.

**International enforcement cooperation on enforcement** should also be reinforced, notably through:

- Enforcement cooperation with key market, transit and range countries at bilateral (for example through MoU or regular dialogues) and regional levels (notably with an enhanced involvement of the EU Enforcement Group with Wildlife Enforcement Networks in other regions);
- The sharing of experience on enforcement best practices (such as the adoption of adequate legislation on sanctions or involvement of the judiciary);
- The participation by Member States in international enforcement operations, such as the Cobra operations.

**New international initiatives** should be considered to secure the engagement of the international community beyond environment experts, with a view in particular to addressing the implications of wildlife trafficking on peace and security and rule of law:

- The adoption of a specific **UNGA Resolution** and the appointment of a special **UN Representative/Envoy** on wildlife trafficking. The added-value of such initiatives compared to existing tools should be thoroughly analysed. Key issues in that regard include a reflection on the mandate, profile, timeline and budget of a possible UN Envoy. The link with security as well as with other initiatives on natural resources and conflicts could be explored further. The UN Group of Friends on this issue based in New-York is a good vehicle to take those issues further;
- An enhanced role for **UNEP** as the universal UN body competent for environment and the opportunity for the UN Environment Assembly to consolidate the commitments agreed at the London, Paris and Gaborone Summits;
- The adoption of actions at the **G8/7 and G20** levels;
- The inclusion of wildlife trafficking as part of the goals and targets under discussion for the **post-2015 agenda**.

Further engagement from the **Embassies/EU Delegations** and the diplomatic network on wildlife trafficking was also advocated. This could be done through instructions from the headquarters to increase attention on the matter, the inclusion of wildlife trafficking in the portfolio of embassy staff (notably those in charge of security, customs or organised crime), as well as coordinated action with other embassies, civil society and international organisations on the ground on specific issues.

On the **development cooperation** side, the following suggestions were presented:

- Mapping the needs and funds available for financial assistance in the range, transit and consumer countries: while this represents a challenging task, this exercise should allow maximising the impact of development cooperation assistance and avoiding overlaps. It should be done in coordination with the beneficiary countries and other donors, at national, regional and (if relevant) continental levels;
- Development cooperation funds against wildlife trafficking could be raised not only in support of biodiversity conservation but also in connection with national or regional security strategies;
- The need to foresee urgent financial support to address urgent crisis situations was also stressed, based on the model of what is planned for current interventions by ICCWC or under the new MIKES programme;
- The challenges faced by specific initiatives such as forest certifications to ensure objectivity were also raised, as well as the need to engage with the private sector on some projects;
- The importance of the African Elephant Action Fund was emphasised.

The following **overarching issues** were singled out, to be considered when launching new international initiatives or adopting actions:

- It is essential to include the socio-economic dimension of the drivers and features of wildlife trafficking. Wildlife trafficking driven by poverty will not stop if alternative sources of income are not found for the “front-line” poachers on the ground. The involvement of local communities in devising and implementing anti-poaching measures is key to their success. In addition, socio-economic research on wildlife trafficking should be further developed to help understanding better its characteristics and how to address it. Putting an economic value on the scale of wildlife trafficking will also assist convincing policy-makers of the importance of the issue;
- Understanding the motivations of people involved in poaching or in the consumption of illegal wildlife products and passing on clear messages as to the consequences of their acts is another imperative to change behaviours, as part of anti-poaching and demand reduction campaigns;
- Data collection on wildlife trafficking at the international level remains patchy and insufficient. The establishment of a worldwide report on wildlife trafficking would be a first step forward to expose the global reality of the problem.

## CITES – Belgian Scientific Committee

M A M M A L S				
Name and first name	Speciality	Private Address and/or Office Address	Phone and Fax	E-Mail
<p><b>VAN DER STRAETEN Erik</b>  <a href="#">Vice-président/Ondervoorzitter</a></p>	<p>General, including Africa, Eurasia, trophy species, rodents,</p>	<p>From March - September:  <small>Kerkevelstraat, 35                      2610 WILRIJK- Vanaf Maart 2015</small>                      Erik Van der Straeten Dr.sc.                      Remi Ghesquièrestraat 58                      8940 Geluwe (Wervik)</p> <p>From Oct – February: Z-Afr                      Postbus1283                      7654 Wellington                      Zuid-Afrika</p>	<p>PR.                      0032/3/827.19.62</p> <p>PR. 00 27 21 864 27                      92</p>	<p><a href="mailto:erikvds1@telenet.be">erikvds1@telenet.be</a> (vanaf 9.4.13)</p> <p><a href="mailto:erikvds@skynet.be">erikvds@skynet.be</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:fc226651@skynet.be">fc226651@skynet.be</a></p>
<p><b>d'HUART Jean-Pierre</b></p>	<p>General, including large mammals</p>	<p>Conservation Consultant                      Rue du Monty 14                      1320 Beauvechain</p>	<p>PR. 0032/10/86.64.46                      FX. 0032/10/86.64.46                      MOB. 0032 (0)496                      052 982</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dhuartjp@yahoo.com">dhuartjp@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>LEUS Kristin</b></p>	<p>General, including captive-breeding, Callitrichidae, population biology, wild pigs.</p>	<p>Programme Officer CBSG                      Europe                      Copenhagen Zoo                      p/a Annuntiatenstraat 6                      2170 MERKSEM</p>	<p>PR. 0032/3/645.58.94</p>	<p><a href="mailto:kristin@cbsgeurope.eu">kristin@cbsgeurope.eu</a></p>

## BIRDS

Name and first name	Speciality	Private Address and/or Office Address	Phone and Fax	E-Mail
<p><b>LONEUX Michèle</b> Privé : Rue Saint-Pierre 44 5360 HAMOIS</p>	<p>Ornithology, dynamic of populations, systematic, conservation and scientific valorisation of zoological specifically for birds and invertebrates. Member and web-master of Grouse Specialist Group de l'IUCN-WPA-SSC -Tétraonidés.</p>	<p>Université de Liège <del>Unité de Biologie du Comportement, Ethologie et Psychologie animale</del> Institut de Zoologie <del>Quai Van Beneden, 22</del> 4020 LIEGE</p> <p>I.R.S.N.B. – Centre de Baguage, Rue Vautier 29, 1000 BRUXELLES</p>	<p>PR. 083/612564 ou GSM. 0473 348 165</p> <p>0032 2 627 43 66</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Michele.Loneux@ulg.ac.be">Michele.Loneux@ulg.ac.be</a> (ULG)</p> <p><a href="mailto:loneuxmichele@skynet.be">loneuxmichele@skynet.be</a> (home)</p> <p><a href="mailto:Michele.Loneux@naturalsciences.be">Michele.Loneux@naturalsciences.be</a> (IRSNB-KBIN)</p>
<p><b>TAVERNIER Paul</b> privé: Polbroek 17 9520 St.-Lievens-Houtem Tel.: 053/626347</p>	<p>Veterinary aspects, diseases</p>	<p>Zelfstandig dierenarts</p>		<p>Paul.tavernier@ugent.be</p>
<p>LOUETTE Michel</p>	<p>African birds</p>	<p>Head of Department Royal Museum for Central Africa Dept of Zoology Leuvense Steenweg,13 3080 TERVUREN</p>	<p>PO. 0032/2/769.56.21FX. 0032/2/769.56.42 Privé: Zilversparrenstraat 23, 8310 Sint-Kruis Brugge Telefoon 050/69 03 46</p>	<p><a href="mailto:michel.louette@africamuseum.be">michel.louette@africamuseum.be</a></p>



**REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS & FISH**

Name and first name	Speciality	Private Address and/or Office Address	Phone and Fax	E-Mail
<b>MEIRTE Danny</b>	Reptiles, amphibians (Africa)	Museum voor Midden-Afrika Leuvense Steenweg, 13 3080 TERVUREN	PO. 0032/2/769.56.29 FX. 0032/2/767.56.42 (building D. Meirte) FX. 0032/2/769.02.42 (other building)	<a href="mailto:danny.meirte@africamuseum.be">danny.meirte@africamuseum.be</a>
<b>JOUK Philippe</b> <u>Président/Voorzitter</u>	Aquarium fish, reptiles	Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen Koningin Astridplein, 26 2018 ANTWERPEN	PO. 0032/3/202.45.53 FX. 0032/3/202.45.47	<a href="mailto:Philippe.jouk@kmda.org">Philippe.jouk@kmda.org</a>
<b>ADRIAENS Dominique</b>	Fish, aquaculture	Evolutionaire morfologie vertebraten & Museum voor Dierkunde Vakgroep Biologie Universiteit Gent KL. Ledeganckstraat, 35 9000 GENT	PO. 0032/9/264.52.19 FX. 0032/9/264.53.44	<a href="mailto:Dominique.Adriaens@UGent.be">Dominique.Adriaens@UGent.be</a>
<b>BELPAIRE Claude</b> Privé : Oude Route 7, 3390 Tielt-Winge	Fish, especially freshwater fish; aquaculture	Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek Duboislaan 14 1560 GROENENDAEL-HOEILAART	PO. 0032 (0)2 658 04 11 MOB. 0032 (0)475 678992 SECR. 0032 (0)2 658 04 10 FAX. 0032 (0)2 657 96 82	<a href="mailto:Claude.Belpaire@inbo.be">Claude.Belpaire@inbo.be</a>
<b>MOREAU Kelle</b> Privé: Meibloempjeslaan 2, box 3, 8400 Oostende, Belgium	'Zeevissen' (National member of several ICES- and EC-working groups and workshops incl. Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes)	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Oostende, Belgium	Telephone Number : +32 486 12 58 77	<a href="mailto:kelle.moreau@gmail.com">kelle.moreau@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:kelle.moreau@ilvo.vlaanderen.be">kelle.moreau@ilvo.vlaanderen.be</a>
<b>PASMANS Frank</b>	Reptiles, amphibians, veterinary & captive- breeding aspects	Vakgroep Pathologie, Bacteriologie en Pluimveeziekten Faculteit Diergeneeskunde Universiteit Gent Salisburylaan 133 9820 MERELBEKE	PO. 0032 9 264 74 36 FX. 0032 9 264 74 94	<a href="mailto:Frank.Pasmans@UGent.be">Frank.Pasmans@UGent.be</a>

PO : Office Phone Number; MOB: mobile phone; SECR: Secretariat; PR : (home) Phone Number ; FX : Fax

## I N V E R T E B R A T E S

Name and first name	Speciality	Private Address and/or Office Address	Phone and Fax	E-Mail
<b>SHERIDAN Christopher</b>	Corals, marine fish from the Indo-Pacific	Service de Biologie Marine Université de Mons 14/11 Quai des Otages 7000 MONS	PO. 0032/65/373433	<a href="mailto:sheridan.christopher@gmail.com">sheridan.christopher@gmail.com</a>
MASSIN Claude	Corals, molluscs	I.R.S.N.B. Section Malacologie Rue Vautier, 29 1000 BRUXELLES	PO. 0032/2/627.43.47 FX. 0032/2/627.41.41	<a href="mailto:Claude.massin@naturalsciences.be">Claude.massin@naturalsciences.be</a>
POULICEK Mathieu	Corals, molluscs	Laboratoire d'Ecologie Animale et d'Ecotoxicologie, Unité d'Ecologie Marine Dept. Sciences et Gestion de l'Environnement Université de Liège Institut de Chimie (B6C) Allée de la Chimie 4000 SART TILMAN LIEGE	PO. 043 66 5067 MOB 0475446084 FX. 043 66 5147	<a href="mailto:mpoulicek@ulg.ac.be">mpoulicek@ulg.ac.be</a>

## PLANTS

Name and first name	Speciality	Private Address and/or Office Address	Phone and Fax	E-Mail
<b>VIANE Ronnie</b>	Plants, Ferns, Pteridophytes	Vakgroep Biologie Onderzoeksgroep Pteridologie K.L. Ledeganckstraat, 35 9000 GENT	PO. 0032/9/264.50.57 PR. 0032/475/428072 FX. 0032/9/264.50.57	<a href="mailto:ronnie.viane@UGent.be">ronnie.viane@UGent.be</a>
<b>BEECKMAN Hans</b>	Timber, incl. identification of wood	KMMA Leuvense Steenweg, 13 3080 TERVUREN	PO. 0032/2/769.56.11 FX. 0032/2/767.02.42	<a href="mailto:hans.beeckman@africamuseum.be">hans.beeckman@africamuseum.be</a>
<b>DESSEIN Steven</b> privé: Onze-Lieve-Vrouwstraat 117 3020 Herent	African plants	Nationale Plantentuin van België 1860 Meise	PO. 32-2-260-09-56  PR. 016/651633 MOB. 0473-741941	<a href="mailto:Steven.dessein@br.fgov.be">Steven.dessein@br.fgov.be</a>
<b>BELLEFROID ELKE</b> Oud Klooster 20 1540 Herne	Pterydophyta, Ferns	Nationale Plantentuin van België 1860 Meise	PO: 02 260 0990 PRIVÉ 0476/35.18.00	<a href="mailto:Elke.Bellefroid@br.fgov.be">Elke.Bellefroid@br.fgov.be</a> <a href="mailto:Elke.Bellefroid@gmail.com">Elke.Bellefroid@gmail.com</a>
<b>VAN DAMME Patrick</b>	Timber, incl. tropical and sub-tropical agriculture and ethno botany	Plantaardige Productie Universiteit Gent Coupure links 653 9000 GENT	PO. 0032/9/264.60.87 - 60.89 or -60.90 FX. 0032/9/264.62.41	<a href="mailto:Patrick.VanDamme@UGent.be">Patrick.VanDamme@UGent.be</a>
<b>WESSELINGH Renate</b>	Plants evolutionary ecology, plant life history and reproductive strategies, phylogeography, ecology of montane tropical forest	Biodiversity Research Centre Earth and Life Institute Université catholique de Louvain Croix du Sud 4-5, box L7.07.04 1348 LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE	PO. 0032/10/47.34.47 FX. 0032/10/47.34.90	<a href="mailto:Renate.wesselingh@uclouvain.be">Renate.wesselingh@uclouvain.be</a>
<b>STEVART Tariq</b>	Orchidaceae, timbers and endemic plants of Africa. IUCN Red Listing.	Université Libre de Bruxelles CP169 Herbarium de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles 50 Av. F.D. Roosevelt 1050 BRUXELLES	PO 0032/6502139 MOB 0032/494632253	<a href="mailto:tstevart@yahoo.com">tstevart@yahoo.com</a>

PO : Office Phone Number; MOB: mobile phone; SECR: Secretariat; PR : (home) Phone Number ; FX : Fax



## LIVE ANIMALS – ACCOMMODATION AND CARE QUESTIONNAIRE

### 1. Application Details

Name of Applicant : .....  
Species (latin name): .....  
Total number of specimens and origin (wild, captive-bred etc): .....

2. Provide the name(s), full postal address and telephone number (also email address if available) of the premises where the specimens will be kept at the place of destination <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The 'place of destination' is defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 as the place at which at the time of introduction into the Community, it is intended that specimens will normally be kept; in the case of live specimens, this shall be the first place where specimens are intended to be kept following any period of quarantine or other confinement for the purposes of sanitary checks and controls.

3. Describe the enclosures specifically set aside for the specimens applied for (including the number and type of enclosure). How many other animals will be held in the same enclosure?

4. Provide an indication of the number of specimens (and species) to be held in each enclosure if there is more than one enclosure (for the specimens applied for)



5. Describe any enclosure furnishings that will be available (e.g. feeding stations, nesting boxes, environmental stimuli, heating, lighting, etc) \*

6. Outline the provisions that will be made for food/disease control/waste disposal. \*

7. Provide details of the veterinary care that will be undertaken/available post-import

8. Please provide any other relevant information.

If you are sending any further information separately please state by what means (email, fax, post):

Name..... Signature .....

..... Date: .. / .. / ..

Address (if different from no. 2)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

\* delete as applicable

Places of introduction and export, according to Article 12 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97

Abbreviations: I - Introduction, E- export, N/A - Information Not Available, Y - Yes, N - No, A - Air, S - Sea or other port, Ra - Rail, Ro - Road, M - Mail

General notes

<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed

<sup>2</sup> For parts and derivatives of animal origin, only products for human and non-human consumption are allowed

<sup>3</sup> Only ungulates and registered Equidae

<sup>4</sup> Only registered Equidae

<sup>5</sup> Ungulates only

<sup>6</sup> Commission Decision of 5 September 2007 amending Decisions 2001/881/EC and 2002/459/EC as regards the list of border inspection posts

\*,\*\*,\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\*: Specific restrictions

Belgium										
Place	Mode of transport (A, S, Ra, Ro, M)	Animals			Plants		Timber (Y,N)	Microchip (Y,N)	Border Inspection Post <sup>6</sup> (Y,N)	Remarks
		Live Animals		Parts and Derivatives - Animals (I, E)	Live Plants (I,E)	Parts and Derivatives - Plants (I, E)				
		Commercial (I,E)	Pets (I,E)							
Antwerpen	S	N	N	I,E	I,E	I,E	Y	N	Y	
Bierset	A	I,E	I,E	I,E	I,E	I,E	N	Y	Y	
D.S.V (Airport & Sea - SA)	M	N	N	I',E	I,E	I,E	N	N	N	<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed
Deurne	A	N	N	I',E	I,E	I,E	N	N	N	<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed
Charleroi - Gosselies	A	N	N	I',E	I,E	I,E	N	N	N	<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed
Oostende - Airport	A	E	E	I', E	I,E	I,E	N	Y	Y	<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed
Oostende - Seaport	S	N	N	I',E	I,E	I,E	N	N	N	<sup>1</sup> Only items that are not subject to veterinary controls are allowed
Zaventem	A	I,E	I,E	I,E	I,E	I,E	N	Y	Y	
Zeebrugge	S	N	N	I,E	I,E	I,E	Y	N	Y	