

Report of the Regional Representatives for Europe
to the 49th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC)
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 – 25 April 2003

1. Introduction

This report outlines the activities of Parties within the European Region in the period between the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee (12 – 15 March 2002) and the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (22 – 25 April 2003). Currently there are 41 Parties to the Convention in the European Region of which **12 Parties** have contributed to this report.

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

- Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom continued to contribute as members or associated members to the work assigned to the SC Working Group on time-sensitive biological samples. The United Kingdom finally prepared a useful information document (COP 12 Inf. 9) on how to implement a facilitated transfer of time-sensitive biological samples together with the respective CITES documentation.

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

- providing scientific advice on species proposals, especially on the UK's successful basking shark proposal and attending CoP12.
- chairing the final session of the Coral Working during the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee in Costa Rica .
- attending 2nd hawksbill dialogue meeting in Grand Cayman.
- producing revised versions of the checklists of CITES-listed fauna and placing on UK CITES website (www.ukcites.gov.uk).
- distributing 500 free copies of CITES Plants Checklists to CITES Authorities around the world.
- distributing 250 copies of the CD Rom *CITES and Plants (Version 2)* to CITES Parties at CoP12.

- Italy participated, as Regional Member for Europe, together with France and Norway, in the 47th meeting of the Standing Committee, held the 3 and 4 November 2002, in Santiago (Chile) and also in the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee, held the 15 November 2002, at the closing of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Italy was also elected at the 47th Meeting together with Thailand (Chairman), Botswana, Canada, Chile as a member of the *Credentials Committee* for the 12. CITES Conference of the Parties.

- Representatives of the Scientific Authority of Italy participated at the 12th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee held in Leiden, Netherlands, 13-17 May 2002. The Italian delegation presented a document on the status of *Taxus baccata* species and other medicinal plants native to Italy. At the 12. CITES-COP Prof. Giuseppe Frenguelli, a representative of the Italian Scientific Authority, was elected as a new member of the *Plants Committee* for the European Region.

3. Capacity building activities

- On 17 December 2002 the European Commission (DG Enlargement) through its TAIEX programme had convened in Ankara, Turkey a seminar on the transposition and implementation of EU-legislation concerning CITES. Representatives from Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom gave presentations on certain aspects of the implementation of CITES in their countries.

- During the reporting period the CITES Management Authority of Portugal organized several training course for government officials involved in CITES implementation. These courses focused but were not limited to 'Watchmen of the Nature' from the Ministry of Urban Affairs, Territory and Environment, officials from the Republican National Guard's of the Service of Protection of the Nature and Environment (SEPNA) who have competences in enforcement matters and technicians of the CITES Regional Management Authority of the Archipelago of Madeira and the Azores.

- The UK Government provided GBP 507,927 in support of CITES related conservation, capacity building and training projects during the period covered by this report.

- The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) continued to sponsor a post at TRAFFIC International, and contributed to the following programmes and projects in support of CITES and related conservation initiatives:

- GBP 60,000 to IUCN: GBP 40,000 for the Shark Specialist Group; and GBP 20,000 for the African Elephant Specialist Group.
- GBP 60,000 to CITES: GBP 20,000 for Delegates' Assistance; GBP 15,000 for the Elephant Range State Dialogue meeting in Santiago; GBP 15,000 for capacity building missions to Fiji; and GBP 10,000 for a tiger mission to Thailand and snow leopard and Tibetan antelope projects.
- GBP 40,000 to UK NGO 21st Century Tiger (partnership between London Zoo and the Global Tiger Patrol) for tiger conservation projects in the Russian Far East and South East Asia.
- GBP 30,000 in support of post-CoP12 activities: GBP 15,000 for the CITES Bushmeat Working Group [Dec. Conf. 12.19]; GBP 10,000 for the Workshop on Economic Incentives [Dec. Conf. 12.22]; and GBP 5,000 for the Mahogany Working Group [Dec. Conf. 12.21].
- GBP 25,000 to UNEP / WCMC for its World Atlas of Great Apes.
- GBP 20,000 to the Global Tiger Forum for capacity building initiatives in support of the Government of India's new wildlife Crime Cell.
- GBP 3,000 each to UK NGO the Shark Trust for the March 2003 edition of its publication "*Shark Focus*", and to the UK Tropical Forest Forum's Bushmeat Working Group to fund the Group's Secretariat.

- Additionally, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided following financial support to CITES activities:

- GBP 100,000 to UNEP for the Great Ape Survival Project (GrASP). This was the first payment of a 3-year allocation amounting to GBP 300,000. The first payment is for activities supporting National Great Ape Survival Plan workshops and conservation projects identified by GrASP.
- GBP 40,000 for CITES capacity building in Melanesia. This was the first payment from a total allocation of GBP 110,000. The project supports a TRAFFIC Oceania officer in Fiji to co-ordinate implementation of key recommendations from the CITES Workshop for Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region (April/May 2002), focusing on capacity building in Fiji and Vanuatu.
- GBP 40,000 for a capacity building workshop in UK Overseas Territories of the Caribbean region. The total allocation for this project is GBP 67,667. The first payment has funded preparations and production of training materials. The workshop itself, for 15 participants from the 5 Caribbean UK Overseas Territories, will take place in Anguilla in July 2003.
- GBP 39,305 for training and capacity building facilitating assessment of the status and exploitation of marine turtles in the Caribbean. FCO has committed a total of GBP 62,659 to this work (which ties in with Defra's ongoing research project "Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories", see below).
- GBP 38,000 for a TRAFFIC report *"In Harmony with CITES? An analysis of the compatibility between current forestry management provisions and the effective implementation of CITES listing for timber species in Malaysia"*. A Spanish translation has been prepared and the reports are currently being printed.
- GBP 9,000 to support participation by UK Overseas Territories at the Hawksbill Turtle Dialogue Meeting in the Cayman Islands (May 2002).
- GBP 622 from the British High Commission in India to cover Cambodia's membership of the Global Tiger Forum for one year.
- The British Embassy Nepal provided funding for a Nepalese CITES website (which can be viewed at www.citesnepal.org).

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

- helping the Government of India to fully establish the new Wildlife Crime Cell. Elliot Morley, UK Minister for Fisheries, Water and Nature Protection, has offered staff from the Wildlife Crime Cell the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by participating in inward visits to the UK working with the UK's National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit and other enforcement authorities. Access to specialised courses in the UK - including, for example, intelligence analysis training - will also be made available.
- the UK Scientific Authority (Flora) supporting and working with the Scientific Authority of Turkey on field studies of Turkish bulbs.
- donating a digital camera to the Management of Authority of China to support plant training initiatives.

- The CITES Management Authority of Sweden attended the ‘CITES pre-Conference of the Parties Meeting for the Nordic Countries’ held on 28.8.2002 in Copenhagen.
- Within the scope of an EU-Commission funded Twinnig-project with a CITES implementation component officials from Germany’s CITES Management Authority convened another CITES training seminar for national customs officers and representatives from the CITES Management Authority from 26.-28. January 2003 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- The German CITES Management Authority held two training courses on the use and application of a CITES specific implementation computer software (e.g. electronically based issuance of permits and preparation of statistics) provided to the CITES Management Authority in Austria from 30.9.-2.10.2002 and 13.-15.1.2003 respectively in Vienna.
- The CITES Management Authority of Turkey reported on a seminar on European Environment Law and CITES which was organized by the Turkish-Greek European Union Committee in Ankara on 19-20 December 2002 where representatives from all relevant institutions participated.
- In Turkey in accordance with the “Regulations Pertaining to Uprooting, Production and Export of Natural Flower Bulbs” which also includes CITES species such as *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus* and *Sternbergia*, annually Advisory Council and Technical Committee Meetings are held in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The CITES Management Authority of Turkey reported that respective Advisory Council Meetings for establishing 2002 collecting and export quotas were held on 15.10.2001 and 28.03.2002 and Technical Committee Meetings on 16.10.2001 and 29.03.2002. For establishing 2003 collecting and export quotas an Advisory Council Meeting was held on 17.10.2002 and a Technical Committee Meeting on 18.10.2002 respectively. In 2003 Advisory Council Meeting are scheduled to be held on 07.04.2003 and Technical Committee Meeting will on 08.04.1003.

Export quantities of *Cyclamen* and *Galanthus* except *Sternbergia* that are in CITES Annex are announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in the Official Gazette each year in form of two “Export Lists of Natural Bulbs”. The “Export List of Natural Flower Bulbs” for 2002 was published in the Official Gazette (No.24596) on 27. November 2001. For 2003, the respective export list was published in the Official Gazette (No. 24941) on 19. November 2002.

- The Norwegian CITES Management Authority hosted an international training seminar on Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCMs) in Oslo on 3rd May 2002. Participants came from 5 different European countries.
- The Norwegian CITES Management Authority in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat hosted an international CITES Training Seminar in Oslo from March 31st to April 3rd 2003. The 41 participants came mainly from Europe (9 countries) but also from Saudi Arabia and Peru.
- From 21-23 May 2002 the CITES Management and Scientific Authority of Italy together with the State’s Forest Corps and in collaboration with the Italian Wildlife Biology (INFS) had organized the international workshop “*The Use of forensic analyses for CITES enforcement in Europe: Current projects and perspectives*”. Aim of the workshop which was held at Villa Fogliano, Sabaudia, in the Circeo National Park was to share expertise on DNA methods used in European countries for CITES enforcement purposes and to make recommendations on ways to achieve an improved cooperation on the exchange of information about forensic, genetic analyses. 15 countries of the European region participated in the workshop, some of them had been sponsored by Italy.

- On 23 and 24 October 2002 a training workshop was held in Sabaudia, near Rome, in the Circeo National Park. The workshop organized by the Management Authority of Italy was devoted to all officers involved in the Customs controls (Customs and State's Forest Corps), to train them in the use of the Operation Manual on methods and procedures to be adopted for the control operations at the border customs, mentioned below.

- On 7 February 2003 Professor Giuseppe Frenguelli, European representative and member of the CITES Plants Committee from Italy organized the workshop "*The role of CITES in nature conservation*". The workshop was held at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Perugia and dealt in principle with objectives, implementation and enforcement of CITES in Italy, role and activities of the Italian Management and Scientific Authorities in connection with the EU CITES legislation and the most significant indigenous flora species included in the CITES Appendices.

- On 21 March 2003 a seminar on "*CITES provisions for timber species: last amendments*", was held during the SAIEDUE Exhibition, in Bologna. The major objective of the meeting was to inform all stakeholders in Italy on the most recent changes in the CITES Appendices, which were adopted at the 12th Conference of the Parties. The seminar had been organized by the Italian Timber Manufacturers Association in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Land Protection, the State's Forest Corps and the Ministry of Production Activities.

- The CITES Management Authority of Lithuania reported that an EU-PHARE project for capacity building in the Conservation of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna in particular aiming at the implementation of CITES and the Bern and Bonn Conventions will start in 2003 and will last for 18 months. During the 1.7 million Euro project funding is foreseen for training of staff of the Management Authority, Scientific Authorities, customs, State Food and Veterinary Service, Plant Protection Service, Police and State Environmental Protection Inspection. Furthermore funding is also foreseen for the development of database for purposes of implementation of CITES, for public awareness raising, for establishment and equipment of premises for keeping of wild animals in border control posts and for creation of a mobile exhibition about CITES.

- The CITES Management Authority of Macedonia reported that it has started a process to intensify the cooperation with the CITES-Secretariat. This cooperation aims in particular at organizing training workshops by international experts for national enforcement officials involved in issuance of the CITES documents, customs procedures and ministry staff involved with the development national legislation to implement the Washington Convention.

- The CITES Management Authority (MA) of Croatia reported on the participation of representatives from the CITES MA and customs officials from Croatia at a CITES training course in January 2003 in Budapest organised by the CITES Management Authority of Hungary.

- Another CITES seminar for customs and police in March 2003 in Slovakia was also attended by enforcement officials from Croatia.

- The MA of Croatia is currently planning for CITES training and education seminars in June 2003 for customs and police officials together with representatives from neighbouring countries such as Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary.

- The CITES MA of Poland had organized in October 2002 a three days CITES training seminar which was attended by 75 national enforcement officers from customs, veterinary and phytosanitary control.

- The CITES MA of Poland also attended an international meeting in Estonia in October 2002 organised by the Danish Co-operation for Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE). The objective of the seminar was mainly to create a platform for exchange of experience on the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Baltic and neighbouring countries.

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

- On 1st March 2003 Commission Regulation (EC) No 349/2003 suspending the introduction into the European Community of specimens of certain wild fauna and flora entered into force. This regulation replaces Regulation (EC) No 2087/2001 of 24. October 2001 which has now been repealed. The above mentioned new regulation lists in its Annex the CITES and non-CITES species for which the introduction into the Community has been suspended. The English version of the new suspension regulation is available through the World Wide web under http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/2003/l_05120030226en.html.

- The CITES Management Authority of Portugal reported on the current revision of the national legislation to implement beyond current EU law the Convention in Portugal.

- In January 2003 the UK Management Authority published a consultation paper on the review of UK Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1372: The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 (COTES). These Regulations specify the offences, penalties and police powers for offences arising from the EU Regulations implementing CITES, insofar as they relate to trade controls within the UK. The consultation paper sets out the UK Government's proposals for strengthening, clarifying and updating the Regulations. It also proposes that for certain offences the maximum prison sentence should be increased from two to five years.

- In 2002 Turkey had submitted to the Secretariat a draft English translation of its National Regulation on the Implementation of CITES. According to the provisions of Article 5 of this Regulation, which had entered into force on 27 December 2001, the Ministry of Environment issued "The Communiqué on **Exportation** of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" and "The Communiqué on **Importation** of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" were both published in the Official Gazette on 21 February 2003 by the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade. In accordance with these two Communiqués, The Ministry of Environment, The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and The Ministry of Forestry are authorized to issue the CITES Certificates for export, re-export and import of any specimens of endangered species of wild fauna and flora which are listed in the Appendices of CITES. Thus, Turkey is regulating international trade in CITES protected species in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

- A new Norwegian CITES Regulation came into force on 1st January 2003. The new Regulation will be particularly useful concerning more swift updates of national legislation relating to CITES decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties. An English translation of the text is still pending.

- The Management Authority of Italy reported that on 6 May 2002 the Decision No. 5987 of the Director of the Customs Agency entered into force, providing "Location of im- and export operations regarding CITES species at specific Customs Offices in Italy".

- On 20 September 2002 the Italian Ministry of Environment and Land Protection, the State's Forest Corps and the Customs Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry of Production Activities, presented an Operation Manual providing methods and procedures to be adopted for customs control operations at the border for the import, (re-) export, transit and transshipment of specimens of endangered fauna and flora species, according to the Regulation (EC) 338/97 and amendments

thereof (European Union legislation). The Manual provides a complete guide to all officers involved in customs controls, in order to ensure both standardization of the operations and better fighting against illegal trade in endangered species.

- From October 2002 to January 2003 the Italian CITES Management Authority worked on a draft for national legislation for the implementation of the (EU) Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 which relates to the keeping of wild animals in zoos ('EU Zoo Directive'). The draft is at present under discussion at the Department of EU Policies in Italy, for its approval.

- In November 2002 Italy established a simplified procedure to identify animal and plant specimens included in the Annexes of the EU CITES Council Regulation and which originate either from captive-breeding operations or artificial propagation facilities was adopted. This procedure has been disseminated to the CITES Scientific Authority and all officers of the State's Forest Corps involved in the enforcement and issuance of CITES permits or certificates. The new established procedure should assist to ensure that the breeding stock was established in accordance with the provisions of the EU regulations and national Legislation.

- In 2002 in Lithuania legislation on Trade in Wild Animals and Plants was passed through the adoption of Order No. 658/831/743 by the Ministry of Environment, State Food and Veterinary Service and Plant Protection Service. This legislation provides the provisions for the implementation of the EU Council Regulation (EC) No338/97.

- The CITES Management Authority of Macedonia reported on current activities related to the adoption of appropriate national legislation to implement CITES. A draft version of the Book of Regulations for placing the use and trade of wild flora and fauna species under control, has been prepared. The Book of Regulations is intended to legally protect the endangered wild species of plants, fungi and animals from the Republic of Macedonia including their gathering from natural habitats, use and trade.

- Furthermore the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia through its Agency of Environment initiated in cooperation with other public bodies, scientific and expert institutions the preparation of a proposal for amendment and supplementing the Government's Decision for distribution of goods on export and import forms ("Official Gazette of RM" No.49/2002). The Decision contains as an annex the Lists of endangered wild plants, fungi and animals in Macedonia. It also contains segments by which the national legislation is approximated with the provisions of CITES.

- The MA of Croatia has drafted a new Nature Protection Legislation which includes the major provisions to nationally implement CITES. The new legislation has just entered the parliamentary procedure.

- The CITES Management Authority of Poland reported on current work to revise its 'National Regulation of the Minister of Environment on Permits for the Transportation of Certain Plants and Animals across State Borders (Journal of Acts of the Republic of Poland No 39, item 357 of 16 April 2002) as a consequence of the decisions taken at the 12th Conference of the Parties of CITES.

- Moreover the CITES Management Authority of Poland indicated that the drafting of a new Nature Conservation Act (Journal of Acts of the Republic of Poland of 2001, No 99, item 1097 with further amendments) is underway including provisions on the registration of scientific institutions, on marking of certain CITES specimens and on financing of rescue centres for the disposal of confiscated specimens.

- The CITES Management Authority of the Czech Republic reported that in 2002 Ministry of Environment had made a proposal to change the Criminal Code which was finally approved by the Parliament and had in the meantime entered into force. Serious offences against CITES can now be treated a criminal offence with maximum penalty of up to 8 years in jail.

5. Law enforcement activities

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

- The CITES Management Authority of Sweden had organized during the reporting period its yearly meeting for Sweden's national "Flora and Fauna Crime Group". The group consists of representatives from the Board of Customs, the Coast Guard, the Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Environment, the CITES Management- and Scientific Authorities as well as representatives from TRAFFIC Europe-Sweden.

- In February 2003 a case in the UK which involved the illegal import of the tropical timber 'Ramin' was resolved. The case started a year ago in February 2002, when HM Customs and Excise seized a consignment of Ramin that had been illegally imported from Indonesia. The consignment consisted of 38m³ of picture mouldings with a retail value of GBP 171,713. The company responsible, Arqadia, is one of Europe's largest manufacturer of picture frames. The case was investigated by HM Customs and Excise' National Intelligence Section, and the UK CITES Scientific Authority (the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) was called to give witness statements and assist with the identification of the picture mouldings and HM Customs and Excise required identification of a comprehensive range of samples from the consignment. The case was concluded in March 2003 with Arqadia being fined GBP 80,000 and consenting to the release of a press notice by HM Customs and Excise publicising the case and naming the company.

- The UK Scientific Authority (Flora) worked with the UK Management Authority to train Wildlife Inspectors and with HM Customs and Excise to train key Customs Officers and Police. Also developed an Implementation Guide with HM Customs and Excise on the application of CITES to the control of Ramin and distributed this to the major UK points of entry.

- Portugal reported several significant seizures during the above mentioned reporting period. Among these seizures were two chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes* and *Pan paniscus*) which had been offered by someone to a Zoological Garden, a significant amount of ivory objects (*Loxodonta africana*) from a private person, the seizure of 44 eggs from different *Psittacidae* at the Lisbon Airport and again three months later another seizure of 44 eggs at the Airport of Porto. The latter two seizures were both associated with flights from Brazil.

- In Turkey the Undersecretary for Customs had in 2002 during a general information campaign informed all Customs points on the provisions of CITES and in particular on the respective provisions which have to be applied with regard to consignments for caviar of 250 Grams and more.

- During the reporting period, Italy inspected significant quantities of CITES specimens, leading to important confiscations of about two thousand specimens of live animals, among those many live

reptiles brought with by travellers as their pets, corals, shells, caviar, reptile leather skin products such as bags, belts or shoes, ivory products, embalmed turtles, hunting trophies and game birds. In the course of the many document controls and investigations carried out by the State's Forest Corps due to their complexity and importance cases are worth to be noted:

- The persistent illegal introduction of caviar and unfertilized eggs of sturgeons coming from Bulgaria, Iran, the Russian Federation and Latvia. The most remarkable seizures were carried out at the airports of Fiumicino-Leonardo da Vinci, Bologna-Borgo Panigale, Venice and Verona;
- The use of the postal channel for illegal trafficking of CITES protected animals and plants, ivory carvings, hunting trophies, goods made of reptiles skins and also live animals, such as some to Italy endemic species which are also protected by other international conventions. Among those species were salamanders, addressed to the United States and German markets;
- The most frequent seizures of reptiles species during road controls, carried out in collaboration with the Traffic Police. Some of these snakes, even if not included in the CITES annexes, are very rare and poisonous.
- Major seizures of shipments of various game birds which originated from Eastern Europe have been achieved along the Adriatic Coast;
- Regarding the non compliance with the provisions of Ministerial Decree of 8 January 2002 for registration of animal and plant specimens included in the Annexes of EU Regulations, about 40.000 controls have been carried out at commercial shops and breeding operations, which led to administrative sanctions amounting to 257,000 Euros.
- In collaboration with TRAFFIC-Italy the CITES Identification Manual was translated into Italian and has been provided now to the State's Forest Corps.

6. Public awareness activities

- In the UK the Magistrates Association, representing around 80% of Magistrates in England and Wales, took forward two important initiatives aimed at raising awareness of environmental (including wildlife crime) crime. In conjunction with the UK CITES Management Authority and other interested parties, the Association:
 - dedicated its AGM in October 2002 to an exploration of wildlife and environmental crime, from identification of criminals, through difficulties in collecting evidence, to sentencing.
 - produced an online toolkit "*Costing the Earth*" in November 2002 for use by Magistrates, legal advisors and Judges, on wildlife and conservation offences. The toolkit can be found on the Magistrates Association website at www.magistrates-association.org.uk. It covers a wide range of subjects including the importance of environmental protection, the seriousness of these crimes, sentencing criteria and case studies.
- In April 2002 the UK's National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit was launched. Its main role is to counter organized trade in illegal wildlife and reduce opportunities for wildlife crime by:
 - collecting and analysing intelligence from a wide variety of sources
 - working closely with Police and Customs officers to take forward investigations and prosecutions

- identifying the main individuals involved in serious wildlife crime
- gathering intelligence in relation to priority species and related products
- having access to police and other databases, as well as to sophisticated intelligence gathering systems and analysis techniques.

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

- The UK CITES Management Authority and WWF-UK continued their joint Souvenir Alert campaign encouraging travellers not to buy endangered species souvenirs. The CITES Management Authority also started work on design and production of a new CD-Rom and poster to raise awareness amongst traditional medicine practitioners of the CITES controls on plants and herbs commonly used in traditional medicine. Work was also completed on a multi-lingual poster (for distribution to CITES Parties) aimed at discouraging the trade in and use of medicines containing tiger products.

- The UK CITES Management and Scientific Authorities continued to maintain the website dedicated to CITES issues in the UK (www.ukcites.gov.uk).

- Portugal reported on having made now available general information on CITES and its application in its national territory of Portugal on the official website (www.icn.pt) of the CITES Management Authority, which is the Institute of the Conservation of Nature ('Instituto da Conservação da Natureza' - ICN).

- The Norwegian Customs in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority and the airport authority at Gardermoen International Airport opened a new CITES exhibition on March 12th 2003. The exhibition will be updated concerning new brochures in both Norwegian and English.

- A new CITES checklist in Norwegian (the 5th edition), including indexes in Norwegian, English and Latin was posted on the World Wide Web in March 2003 (www.dirnat.no/cites). The checklist is mainly meant as a helping tool for enforcement personnel as for example customs, police etc. Printed copies can be supplied by the Management Authority.

- The CITES Management Authority of Italy presented in June 2002 a CITES exhibition at the *1st Eco-Environment Show* held in the Liguria region. A comprehensive display of confiscated parts and derivatives of CITES specimens was shown, offering six thematic paths: live animals, plants, skins, ivory, corals and shells, food and traditional Chinese medicine. Leaflets, posters and other information material on CITES and EU-legislation was also distributed.

- In July 2002, at the new air terminal of the Venice-Galileo Galilei Airport, a permanent exhibition of confiscated parts and derivatives of CITES specimens was installed, providing also an "Advice for travellers" panel, both in English and Italian, and leaflets.

- On 1st of April the CITES Management Authority of Lithuania printed a leaflet about CITES and distributed this widely among travel agencies and in airports.

7. Activities related to CITES relevant research

- The UK Management Authority's research on the seasonal movement and behaviour of basking sharks is now well underway and is beginning to produce some unique and fascinating results. These preliminary results were used to inform the UK's successful Appendix II listing of the

basking shark. The satellite tagging work has shown that basking sharks do not hibernate (as previously thought) and revealed significant movements across international boundaries (England to France to Ireland to Scotland) by individual sharks. The research has also indicated some deep-diving patterns and exploitation of zooplankton communities at continental shelf-break fronts. The research is now entering the final year of a three-year project and c10 further sharks will be tagged in the summer.

- The UK is intending to fund further research on the conservation genetics of basking sharks in the near future. The project aims to elucidate further elements of the life history of the basking shark in the NE Atlantic (especially within EU and UK territorial waters) and globally. In particular, the project will aim to determine the population structure of basking sharks by genetic analysis, in order to contribute towards the future recovery and sustainable management of basking shark populations. The work will contribute not only to the Appendix II CITES listing and the EC CITES regulations, but also implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, the establishment of any catch quotas under the Common Fisheries Policy, the EC shark action plan, and, therefore, ultimately to the implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for Sharks.

- The UK CITES Management Authority has funded the development of an on-line identification guide for CITES-listed coral species. Currently around 2000 coral species are encompassed by the taxa listed in Appendix II of the CITES convention. The taxonomy of corals, particularly the Order Scleractinia is still developing, and the identification of many coral species requires considerable expertise. It is intended that the site, which is due to go live in May 2003, will be used by the UK CITES MA and customs officers in the UK, as well as being available to all CITES parties world-wide. It will also provide a useful resource for the UK Overseas Territories which have much of the world's coral resource. A major aim is to inform the public as to which corals they should avoid buying on holiday as souvenirs or use in their aquaria. This project is also seen as a pilot for the possible further development of a more extensive on-line identification guide for other (groups of) CITES-listed species.

- The UK Management Authority's research on Marine Turtles in UK Overseas Territories is progressing well and is on target to report in 2004. The research team (the University of Wales' Marine Turtle Research Group and UK NGO the Marine Conservation Society) produced a leaflet reporting on progress for the 12th CITES Conference, and further copies of this can be supplied on demand (as hard copy or as a PDF file) from the UK CITES Management Authority (Defra). The project is the UK's contribution towards furthering the understanding of marine turtle ecology and exploitation in the Caribbean. It was launched in November 2001 and is now taking forward a programme of habitat monitoring, genetic stock analysis and socio-economic surveys, in order to assess the status and evaluate the use of marine turtles in the UK Overseas Territories of the Caribbean region. Based on the data from this research, a series of recommendations will be produced in 2004, which will be provided to the Governments of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the UK. These recommendations will be used to inform the future conservation, monitoring and management of marine turtle populations in these Territories. Further information can be found at www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/tcot.

- In March 2003 the UK Management Authority invited tenders for a research project on trade in wild-collected non-CITES plants from China, to assess the species involved and gather information on their conservation and taxonomic status, possible propagation and natural distribution in China. The UK has a growing market for wild-collected non-CITES plants from China, due to the large number of Alpine garden enthusiasts with an interest in the plants concerned. China has expressed concern about the implications for these plants in trade and has indicated it would value assistance in assessing the scale of the problem. This project will undertake a survey to identify potential

detrimental trade, and an overview of the European and global trade in these species, to place UK trade in context and assess the global threat to the species concerned. The research results will be used to promote efficient and effective sustainable use of the plant species concerned and the actions required to avoid their possible inclusion in the CITES Appendices. The research results are intended to inform decisions by CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in both the UK and China on desirable export and import requirements for the plants concerned.

- The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia has recently started the monitoring of the populations of certain CITES and non-CITES species of wild plants, fungi and animals, native to Macedonia and involved in the international trade. The objective of this activity is establishing the respective populations prerequisites for introduction of permanent or temporary trade prohibitions or establishing quotas for their protection and sustainable use.