



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Department of Home Affairs DHA
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO



Switzerland and Trade in Songbirds



CITES Workshop on Trade in Songbirds
Bangkok, December 10th -13th 2023



• Legislation

Import Regulations:

CITES Legislation

Any import of live wild birds, CITES and non-CITES species, is subjected to requirement of an import permit and physical controls upon import (responsible agency: CITES MA)

Veterinary legislations:

In addition, due to a common Veterinary Agreement with the EU, no wild-taken species may be imported into Switzerland from outside the EU. (responsible agency: Veterinary BIP's)



• Legislation

National legislations:

CITES Legislation

Any breeder is required to be able to provide proof of legal origin of birds in his/her possession and need to "have proper book-keeping. He is also required to provide this information to a new holder upon sale of the specimens (responsible agency: CITES MA)

Species protection legislation

No taking or trade in wild species originating from Switzerland is permitted (responsible agency: Cantonal agencies)



- **Availability of trade data**

CITES trade data are publicly available through Annual Report data in CITES Trade database.

Trade data of non-CITES listed species is not easily available.
Development of a analysis tool of these data is in preperation



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- **Main trading parties and species**

Trading parties:

Italy, Germany as well as other European Parties

Main species traded:

Different species of Estrildidae, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Bullfinch), *Carduelis carduelis* (Goldfinch). Almost exclusively captive bred species (colour morphs).



• Legislation on keeping of songbirds

Legislation on animal welfare and legislation in combination with legislation on hunting in relation to national species:

Facilities on a commercial scale have to be registered (animal welfare legislation).

Some groups of songbirds need a detention permit from the cantonal authorities but not all (Kolibris, Trogons, Sunbirds, Birds of paradise)

National species can only be taken and kept under very strict conditions



- **Types of trade and reasons for keeping songbirds in Switzerland**

Almost exclusively trade in live birds

Keeping is almost exclusively for pets and some Zoos

Mostly for cagebirds and some for competitions



• **Illegal Trade**

Very rarely seizures of songbirds at Swiss borders

This year exceptionally two incidents of illegal trade:

28 specimens of captive bred pheasants (10 species, 15 animals App.I, 3 App. III, 10 NC), not songbirds but anyway.....

More than 500 birds were found to be kept and most likely traded illegally, 200 of which were national species. Investigations are ongoing....



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Thank You!

