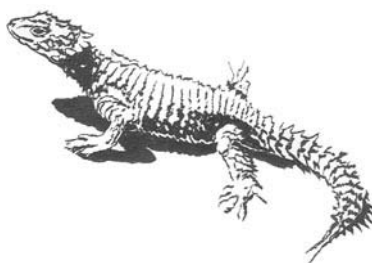


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Dr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) and Dr Katalin Rodics (Hungary) in their capacity as regional representatives for Europe.

General information

2. Alternate regional representatives: Dr Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Dr Alexander G. Sorokin (Russian Federation).
3. Number of Parties in the region: 41.

Communication with Parties in the region since the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC19, Geneva, August 2003)

4. Following AC19, Dr Althaus circulated the Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade requesting comments from the Parties in the region. He also requested those Parties to send contributions for the present report.
6. Both regional representatives participated at the coordination meeting [for the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC50) and the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties] of the European region on 30 January 2004 in Brussels.
7. Although electronic communication functions well and contacts between Parties and individuals are easily established and maintained, the flow of information and the exchange of views regarding AC matters is not frequent. There is little response to inquiries. This, we hope, is due to the workload of the Management Authorities (MA) or Scientific Authorities (SA) in the region and not to lack of interest, other priorities or lack of communication between the MAs and SAs within Parties. Thus, this report can only give a glimpse of CITES-related activities in the region, and should not be considered complete (activities concerning capacity building, law enforcement, training and public awareness are treated more extensively in the European regional report to the Standing Committee).
8. A problem that should be looked into is the double function of the Chairman of the AC, acting at the same time as regional representative. A solution to this problem could be that the alternate of the AC Chairman's particular region becomes regional representative in his place.

Follow-up on agenda items since AC19

9. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland chaired the AC working group on fossil coral; undertook reviews of *Probarbus julieni* and, in collaboration with Spain, *Corallium rubrum* in the context of the review of the criteria for amending Appendices I and II. He submitted a case study of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) to the working group on this issue, looking at the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation and outlined his experience in processing applications for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes, in response to Notification 2003/071 (relating to Resolution Conf. 12.10 and Decision 12.78).
10. Spain was a member of the AC working group on the process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes and participated in the intersessional work following AC19 in response to Notification 2003/71, in which the Secretariat requested information on the problems and possible solutions for a better registering process. The MA and SA of Spain produced a common answer to that Notification. The issue was briefly discussed at the 28th meeting of the Scientific Review Group of the European Commission, on 15 January 2004, and the response to the Notification was sent to the Secretariat in due time. In addition to the review on *Corallium rubrum* (Cnidaria), Spain undertook also a review of *Parnassius apollo* (Insecta, Lepidoptera). Both species revealed no major problems to be evaluated with the criteria utilized in the exercise. Last, but not least, Spain was also a member of the AC working group on the periodic review of animal species included in the Appendices, and therefore participated actively in the intersessional work following AC19.
11. A representative of the SA of the Republic of Slovenia was involved in the working group on trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles.
12. Representatives of the MA and SA of Spain participated in a capacity building workshop in Paraguay, organized by the CITES Secretariat in conjunction with the Paraguayan CITES authorities, held in Asunción from 1 to 5 March 2004. The representative of the Scientific Authority also visited areas where CITES species are harvested for trade.

Research activities and scientific activities

13. The MA of Slovenia prepared a comprehensive report on the conservation of and trade in brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Slovenia. The report was considered at SC50 (Decisions 12.27 and 12.28).
14. The SA of the Czech Republic prepared material on the status of, trade in and breeding of the Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in the Czech Republic and sent it to the CITES Secretariat, United Arab Emirates and the AC regional representative.
15. The Department of Nature Conservation of Poland reported the following activities in the field of conservation of native CITES species: a project for the restoration of *Falco peregrinus* is being developed, a project for the reintroduction of *Bubo bubo* in Wolinski National Park is being developed; monitoring of distribution and number of *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Milvus milvus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Bubo bubo*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aquila clanga*, and *Pandion haliaetus* is being carried out, as well as research projects on the population changes of *Lynx lynx* and *Canis lupus*. Finally, a draft project of an Action Plan for large Carnivora (*Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx* and *Canis lupus*) is under preparation.
16. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom has contributed to the following programmes and projects in support of CITES and related conservation initiatives:
 - a) GBP 100,000 to the Flagships Species Fund which aims to provide practical support to the conservation of endangered species and their associated ecosystems in developing countries. This is a partnership between Defra and the United Kingdom-based charity Fauna and Flora International, with support from global companies including BP and Rio Tinto. The fund focuses on a number of key taxonomic groups and the 'flagship' species within them, many of which are CITES-listed species.

- b) GBP 61,000 to IUCN: GBP 36,000 for the Shark Specialist Group and GBP 25,000 for the African Elephant Specialist Group. This money is used, *inter alia*, to fund the work of programme officers in arranging capacity-building workshops and improving communication and awareness, on both shark and elephant conservation.
 - c) GBP 30,000 to CITES: GBP 20,000 allocated towards the costs of the third dialogue meeting of the wider Caribbean region on the hawksbill turtle. It is the British Government's hope that the meeting will facilitate regional collaboration, planning and information exchange and will also provide for collaboration with others working on the conservation of this species in the Caribbean. GBP 10,000 for the CITES bushmeat working group.
 - d) GBP 30,000 to the Zoological Society of London as follows: GBP 25,000 for 21st Century Tiger to allocate to tiger projects as appropriate; and GBP 5,000 for the Global Tiger Projects Database.
 - e) GBP 100,000 between March 2003 and March 2004 as part of an on-going commitment to fund UNEP's Great Ape Survival Project, (GrASP). This was used for activities supporting National Great Ape Survival Plan workshops and ape conservation projects as identified by GrASP.
17. The results of two research projects, which were conducted in Germany over the last few years were published in 2003 in English. Both publications, *Biochemical Investigations into the Ageing and Origin of the Caviar Sorts Beluga, Sevruga and Osietr* and *Transport Losses of CITES-Protected and Non Protected Animal Species* have been widely distributed by the MA of Germany to other interested authorities, scientists and NGOs.
 18. DEFRA's research on the seasonal movement and behaviour of basking sharks is continuing to produce some unique and fascinating results. It was hoped that the 3-year research programme would be concluded in January 2004, but due to technical problems with the tags in the 2003 field season, the project has been extended until January 2005.
 19. DEFRA is currently considering tenders for a research project on the genetics of basking sharks. The project aims to elucidate further elements of the life history of the basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic (especially within European Union and United Kingdom 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.
 20. Following a successful research project funded by DEFRA, an on-line identification guide for CITES-listed coral species was launched on 14 July 2003 (www.arkive.org). The guide will give 24-hour access worldwide to users as diverse as school children, scientists, holidaymakers and customs officials, allowing them to use the simple on-line guide to recognize endangered corals and thus help to reduce the illegal trade in these species.
 21. The final report arising out of research commissioned by DEFRA into the extent and impact of illegal hunting operations on musk deer (*moschus* spp) in the Russian Federation is expected to be published in Spring 2004. The research focussed on providing an assessment of the extent of domestic consumption of musk in the far east of the Russian Federation and the identification of routes used for illegal trade to neighbouring countries (especially China, Mongolia and North Korea). The findings of the research project are expected to contribute to an assessment of the impact of exploitation, especially by poaching and illegal trade, and of the conservation status of musk deer in the far east of the Russian Federation.
 22. DEFRA's research on marine turtles in British overseas territories [commonly known as Turtles in the Caribbean Overseas Territories Project (TCOT)] continues to progress well and is on target for a report to be produced at the end of 2004. The research team has so far facilitated the collection of a large number of samples in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. These are currently being analysed and analysis will be completed in time for the final reporting deadline. Both British and overseas territories project partners will be able to collect

samples up to and beyond the end of TCOT (August 2004). Further information can be found at www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/tcot.

23. DEFRA expects to have completed by the end of 2004, the research project "Plant Substances as Alternatives for Animal Products used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)". The aim of the research project is to identify plant substances that could be used as viable alternatives for the following four animals currently pre-eminently used in TCM:
- a) all sub-species of tigers (*Panthera tigris*);
 - b) the Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*);
 - c) the black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*); and
 - d) the white rhinoceros [northern and southern (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni* and *C. S. simum*)].
24. The specific objective is to identify the active chemical components derived from the four animal species of this study. Once known (or where active ingredients are already known), the aim is to find plant substitutes. DEFRA expects the results to inform future policy on promoting substitutes for endangered animal species used in TCM, contribute to the conservation of endangered species, aid the implementation of CITES in respect of the animal species concerned, and contribute to progress in implementing Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP12).

Relevant CITES implementation issues in the region

25. The chair of the Transport Working Group has been appointed head of the Animal Transportation Association (AATA).
26. The United Kingdom produced revised versions of the checklists of CITES-listed fauna, including their status on the Annexes of the European Commission CITES regulations (available on the UK CITES website and in JNCC reports Nos. 340-343). [http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites_species.htm]. See also Notification to the Parties No. 2003/086.
27. The Management and Scientific Authorities of Germany are using a scientific information system for international species conservation which has been developed by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (FANC) as an important reference tool for dealing with management and scientific-related aspects of species conservation. It is available in English and German and contains comprehensive information on protected plant and animal species, including taxonomy, protection status and distribution. It provides 85,000 data sets for protected animal and plant species. Since 2001, the internet database WISIA-online (www.wisia.de) has been available to a broad public for the first time as a service database of the FANC.
28. At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003), the Standing Committee agreed that the Secretariat should conduct a technical mission to Paraguay and neighbouring countries to assess the sustainability of trade and to provide technical assistance to implement the Convention. At the request of the Secretariat, Spain agreed to support the mission and provided it with EUR 20,000 and one member of its Scientific Authority as part of the mission's team. During the visits to Paraguay and Argentina, this person was not just responsible for the scientific aspects of the mission, but also represented the Scientific Review Group of the European Commission of the European Union.
29. The establishment of a CITES rescue centre in Prague (given that it is an important border crossing into the European Union) is planned. It will be situated within Prague's zoological and botanical gardens, with the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment and the Municipal House of Prague, and its operation will be ensured by the Czech Environment Inspectorate, State Phytosanitary and Veterinary Service, and the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic.

Capacity-building activities

30. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, two butterfly species, *Atrophaneura jophon* and *A. pandiyana* were included in Appendix II of CITES. The respective identification sheets have been developed and submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the CITES Identification Manual.
31. The representatives of the Management Authority of Slovenia lectured on its experience of CITES implementation in a new Party at the fourth Masters' Course on CITES at the International University of Andalucia.
32. CITES is implemented within the European Union by EC regulation 338/97, which includes stricter measures than CITES. According to this regulation, import permits are required for all CITES Appendix-II listed species. Since it came into force, the Scientific Review Group of the EC has made more than 1,300 decisions regarding the possibility of import permits for more than 600 animal species from various countries of origin (positive advice and import restrictions). These decisions are represented in the ZEET database (www.zeet.de) in German. The database has been placed on the homepage of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in order to meet the growing information demand by importers, pet keepers, hobbyist associations and other interested groups in Germany.
33. The only three species of the family *Lacertidae* (Reptilia) included in the CITES Appendices are endemic to Spain, namely *Gallotia simonyi*, *Podarcis lilfordi* and *Podarcis pityusensis*. The relevant information for the Identification Manual sheets, including photos and an array of original drawings, was sent by Spain to the Secretariat in November 2003.
34. Spain is currently evaluating the possibility of translating into Spanish the sheets of the Identification Manual that are not available in this language. Spain has received from the Secretariat the list of the sheets to translate and once they have made an assessment of the costs, they will be able to inform us when the translation may commence.

Other topics related to CITES and animal species

35. The Scientific Authority of Germany has developed draft proposals to include two native shark species, the spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) and the porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), in Appendix II of CITES. Both species are commercially fished and internationally traded mainly for their meat.
36. Slovenia collaborated with Spain on the preparation of a proposal to include *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Appendix II. Spain provided Slovenia with an important amount of information on the status and trade of the date shell (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) for the preparation of the proposal to include it in Appendix II. Spain started negotiations some years ago to include the date shell in the Annexes of the European Union CITES Regulation, and is now strongly supporting the proposal of Slovenia.

Work to be done by the next meeting of the Animals Committee

37. A directory of experts similar to the one prepared for the Plants Committee still needs to be established for the Animals Committee.