

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

Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

1. The attached report has been submitted by Italy.
2. As it was received by the Secretariat some time after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith only in English.

General information

- Regional Representatives: France, Italy and Norway
- Alternate Regional Representatives: Portugal, Czech Republic and Turkey
- Number of Parties in the Region: 40
- Number of Parties providing information for this Report: 19

Introduction

This report was compiled by Italy, in collaboration with France and Norway.

It covers the period between the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Paris, France, 19-22 June 2001, and the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee.

NEW CITES PARTY

Ireland deposited its instrument of ratification of CITES on 8 January 2002, making it the 157th Party. Ireland also accepted the Bonn and Gaborone amendments to the Convention. The Convention will enter into force for this country on 8 April 2002. Ireland signed the Convention on 1 November 1974.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

21 countries of the European Region participated in the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee.

France and Italy participated in a Working Group on the Work Plan of the Secretariat and of the Standing Committee and on the updates of the CITES Action Plan.

This Working Group met in Geneva from 12 to 15 of February and its report will be presented as agenda item 5 – Implementation of the Strategic and Action Plan – at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Germany and Switzerland participated in a Working Group to work with the Secretariat in the developing of a draft Resolution on the subject of trade in time-sensitive biological samples for consideration at the 46th meeting. The results of the working group will be presented as Doc. 12 at this meeting. On the same subject the United Kingdom has prepared a discussion paper, presented at the meeting as an information document (Inf. 3).

United Kingdom was selected as member of the working group on the establishment of an Implementation Committee. The working group produced a document, presented at this meeting as SC46 Doc. 6.

France (convenor) and Czech Republic participated in a working group to analyse and evaluate existing funding mechanisms made available from the Parties, for the conservation of wild fauna and flora. France translated information given by the Parties in the questionnaire sent with Notification 2001/016 and gathered it in 21 tables, then presented for analysis to the Working Group. Results of the works are presented in SC46 Doc. 8.

As a result of the decisions taken at the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee a meeting on “Protection and Sustainable Management of Sturgeon Populations in the Black Sea Basin” was held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 23-26 October 2001. Representatives from seven range countries participated in the meeting (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Yugoslavia (non-Party country)). Representatives of the CITES Secretariat, FAO Secretariat and IUCN participated also at the meeting. A series of important recommendations were adopted at the meeting and a “Black Sea Sturgeon Management Group” was also established, chaired by Romania.

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Several Parties of the European Region participated in the 17th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee that was held 30 July – 3 August 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam: (Netherlands, Hungary as member, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland as Alternates, and Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine.)

The United Kingdom continued to chair the Working Group on trade in hard corals and presented a report to the group on the outcome of a research aimed at providing a mechanism to distinguish between fossilised and non-fossilised corals. The report is still under consideration by the group but is available on the UK CITES Website (www.ukcites.gov.uk/news/research.htm).

France participated in the Working Group on caviar labelling. At the meeting held the 8th October 2001 in Geneva attended also Switzerland.

Italy and Spain participated in the working group on implementation of Decision 11.100, regarding trade in alien species and the Animal Committee agreed on the preparation of a concise list of potentially invasive CITES species in linkage with the Plants Committee and IUCN.

In this occasion Italy presented also a paper on Forensic Analysis for *Acipenseriformes* spp. and a list of Italian specialists for Syngnathids.

Moreover the First European Regional Meeting of the Animals Committee was held from 14 to 16 November 2001 in Bonn, hosted and organized by Germany. At this meeting, around 100 participants from 37 Parties of the European Region discussed topical issues of trade in protected animal species. Austria and Germany are preparing a database for improving transport conditions of animals species.

Before the meeting a Seminar for Scientific Authorities was held from 12 to 14 November.

CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Several Parties of the European Region participated in the 11th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee that was held 3 – 7 September 2001 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

United Kingdom chaired the Working Group on Significant Trade and participated in various other groups.

France was charged of following issues:

- to carry on with the physiological study on *Prunus africana*;
- in the framework of the Working Group on the coordination of the terms used for medicinal plants, to translate into French the terms agreed by the WG;
- to study the import and use of *Taxus* spp. by French chemical companies.

Austria is producing a Checklist about *Bulbophyllum*.

The Netherlands has offered to host the next Plants Committee meeting that will be held in Leiden 13-17 May 2002.

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE CITES LISTING CRITERIA

Several Parties of the European Region contributed comments to Notification 2001/37. These comments are reflected in SC46 Doc. 14.

CITES CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Several regional and national training activities have been carried out in many European countries; among them it is worth mentioning the following:

- With the support and assistance of Germany's CITES Management Authority, TRAFFIC Europe and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre a Workshop on "The Enforcement of Wildlife Trade Controls in the EU" was held in Frankfurt, Germany, on 5-6 November 2001. The workshop, made possible thanks to financial contribution from the EU Commission, was attended by more than 70 representatives from 15 European Countries and selected case studies highlighting the potential on how to improve the ability of enforcement authorities in the EU were discussed.
- Regional Training Seminar for Custom Enforcement Officers was held in Romania on 5-9 November 2001.
- A Joint Training Course for Customs on parcel and mail shipments was organised by the UK Scientific Authority. The UK CITES MA and SA contributed to an IUCN/UK Committee workshop on links between CITES and CBD and in September 2001 participated in a seminar organized by TRAFFIC and African Resources Trust (ART) looking at the role of enforcement in implementing CITES.
- A training course open to Regional M.A., Customs Officers and Enforcement Department was held by France in Lyon from 1 to 5 October 2001
- A training seminar on CITES Flora was held in Switzerland for Customs Officers on 21 November 2001 and a representative of the Management Authority attended a seminar on international exchange of plants material, organized by the Association of Botanical Gardens of Switzerland.
- A CITES training seminar will be held in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba as part of the cooperation programme on CITES policy and enforcement between parts/countries in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- Two seminars have been carried out in Greece for different Authorities involved in CITES implementation (Forest – Customs – Port Authorities).
- A training seminar for the enforcement officers was held in Norway starting in the fall of 2001 and continuing until March 2002, and another one on TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) is planned for the Spring of 2002.
- Estonia organized two training seminars: the first was held on 15-19 October 2001 for Customs Officers, the second for environmental inspectors was held 21-25 January 2002. And on 18 January 2002 was also held a first meeting with executive police officers, to involve Estonian Police in CITES implementation. It was agreed to organise a specific training course.
- The Republic of Belarus participated in a workshop on the implementation of CITES, held in Latvia on 22-26 September 2001.
- Slovenian Senior Customs Officers were trained in Germany in November 2001.
- A workshop for Police Officers on CITES Crime issues was held in the Slovak Republic 24-26 October 2001 and from 4 to 6 December 2001 a "marking and registration" seminar was held as well. A study-tour of representatives of Management and Scientific Authorities inspection and customs officers was done from 16 to 22 June 2001 to Denmark on CITES implementation; also officers from Estonia took part in this study tour. All these activities were funded by the DANCEE (Danish Co-operation for Environment in Eastern Europe).

- A training seminar for Customs Officers, Management and Scientific Authorities was held in late December 2001 in Turkey with the participation of staff from the CITES Secretariat.
- A CITES training course for personnel of the State Forest Corps, the enforcement authority of Italy, was held in Rome 5-8 February 2002 on internal controls and investigations activities.
- In autumn 2001 a meeting of the CITES Flora and Fauna Enforcement Group (NGO, CITES MA and SA, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Board of Customs, Coast Guard, Police and Office of Public Prosecutor) was held in Sweden.

Also part of the capacity building activities are the publications produced by the UK Scientific Authority (Fauna) as the latest edition of the four Checklist of CITES listed Fauna, that were distributed to all CITES Parties with the collaboration of the CITES Secretariat. The Checklists can also be downloaded from the UK CITES Website (www.ukcites.gov.uk). The UK Scientific Authority (Flora), on behalf of CITES, published also three new CITES Plants Checklists and these will be distributed to all Parties via the CITES Secretariat.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- A new EU Commission Regulation No.1808/2001 implementing main Regulation 338/97 entered into force on 22 September 2001. This regulation replaces Commission Regulation 939/97 and contains new implementing measures, for example on marking of specimens and on procedures for captive breeding, that are binding for its Member States which are also Parties to CITES. Other EU Commission Regulation No.2087/2001 entered into force on 29 October 2001. This Regulation suspend the introduction of certain specimens of fauna and flora into the European Union. Other two EU Regulations 1579/2001 and 2476/2001 entered into force respectively on 5 August 2001 and 21 December 2001. These Regulations modify the Annexes of Regulation 338/97 after the modifications to Appendix III of CITES and to some Annotations in the Appendices.
- Austria produced Guidelines for implementation of CITES.
- In Italy a new law on sanctions for infringements of CITES and EU Regulations provisions, amending existing law 150/92, entered into force in June 2001, while two decrees providing a nationwide structure for the enforcement activities of the State Forests Corps entered into force in July 2001 and a new decree containing criteria and measures for keeping in captivity of specimen of *Tursiops truncatus* entered into force in December 2001. Moreover a new registration scheme for certain specimens of fauna and flora included in the EU Regulations entered into force in January 2002.
- A new CITES legislation is on the way to be approved by the Government of Norway, possibly in the spring of 2002.
- The Slovak Republic is on the way of approving a new CITES law that will enter into force on 1st July 2002.
- Slovenia, with the support of European Commission, TRAFFIC Int, and Belgium, has undertaken an analysis of EU Regulations in order to adequate national legislation.
- Turkey national CITES law No. 24623 has been published in the Official Journal on 27 December 2001. This law has been drafted with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat. Implementing Decrees are under preparation.
- Poland has prepared a national law based on the CITES provisions and EU Regulations, that is planned to enter into force in the mid of March 2002.

- Belarus in the period has issued 16 permits for export of CITES specimens and is on the way to develop amendments to national law in order to implement CITES.
- Bulgaria in December 2001 submitted to the Parliament a new Law for implementation of Biodiversity Convention, one chapter of which is referred to implementation of CITES.
- Estonia has completed an analysis of present national legislation, in order to prepare amendments in compliance with international and EU Regulations and to fully implement and enforce CITES.
- Romania adopted a Law regarding fish and stock management, fishing and aquaculture and Acts for fishing licences and management and conservation of the sturgeon, with very restrictive measures. Moreover, it adopted measures for harvesting and trade of wild fauna and flora.

Romania organised also the “First Meeting of the Joint Scientific Advisory Group for Conservation and Management of the Sturgeon in the Danube Rivers and Black Sea (JSAG)”, held in Tulcea on the 29th June 2001.

- Sweden has implemented national legislation on animal welfare, directly impacting conservation and keeping of certain endangered species.
- Macedonia started with activities related to the preparation and printing of CITES certificates and, at present, a proposal of certificate as per Res. Conf., 10.2 Annex II has been accepted by the Secretariat and two first certificates have been issued: one for turtles (*Testudo hermanni*) specimens and one for two elephant tusks (*Elephas* spp). In the meantime, a new Law on Customs Tariffs has been adopted, with an appropriate Decision on Classification of Forms for import and export of goods. It is adding to this law two lists of wild fauna and flora species from Macedonia, which require certificates issuing and with this law Macedonia is going towards implementation of CITES and other international treaties provisions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

In the period investigation and prosecuting activities involving smuggling or trafficking of CITES specimens has been carried out by the European countries. Among them is worth mention:

- In the UK, the 4-month prison sentences received in June 2001 by two shopkeepers for smuggling bushmeat, including some endangered species, into the country. This was the first bushmeat prosecution undertaken in the UK.

And moreover in the U.K., the case of endangered species of birds of pray, brought through Customs “Nothing to declare” channel from Thailand that led to the discover, at the smuggler’s home, of further birds, gibbon, slow loris and tortoises. In this big operation one of defendants was sentenced with 22-month prison for smuggling offences, and the main defendant with 6,5 years in prison for smuggling birds of pray, knowingly acquiring and possessing specimens which had been illegally imported.

- Five tigers and four primates were confiscated without CITES permits in Greece.
- Norway carried out a big number of confiscations for products of traditional Chinese medicine originating from SE Asia.
- Italy confiscated significant quantities of CITES specimens brought through Customs (dead corals, shells, reptile skins like bags, belts and shoes, caviar and live reptiles as pet animals following the travellers, ivory by-products, embalmed turtles, hunting trophies, game birds as well) and on national market (live reptiles, ivory and birds).

RESEARCH AND STUDIES ACTIVITIES

Bulgaria from September 2001 is implementing a project named PHARE, with Austria and Germany also partners, referred to reviewing existing legislation, training courses for Customs Officers and M.A officers, public awareness activities, setting up of rescue centres for confiscated fauna.

The Slovak Republic and Estonia undertook a study-tour to Denmark from 16 to 22 June 2001 to get know-how on CITES implementation.

Swiss CITES M.A. on January 31 2002 published the result of a study on the imports of aquaria-fish into Switzerland.

A scientific expedition has been carried out by France in New Caledonia to study endemic geckos (*Rhacodactylus* spp).

In the U.K. is now underway a basking shark research, with the aim to find out more about the population structure, movements and life history of basking sharks in the North East Atlantic, using tags transmitting data via satellite. The preliminary result will be used by the UK in preparing a proposal for the 12th Conference of the Parties to list the basking shark on Appendix II of CITES.

A 3-year project on exploitation of marine turtles in the UK Overseas Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Island, is also being carried out by the UK MA. The UK has also commissioned surveys to identify best uses of genetic research in support of enforcement activities and, moreover, a research to assess the level of illegal trade in tortoises within the UK.

In the framework of ongoing co-operation between CITES China and the UK on plants issues, the UKSA also hosted for 6 months a member of MA of the Peoples Republic of China, attending an international Diploma Course in Plant Conservation Techniques, which carried out a research on orchids trade and produced training material to be used in CITES implementation and enforcement in China.

PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

France co-operated in editing the "Identification Guide on Sturgeons and Paddlefish", drawn up by Canada.

Slovenia completed an information campaign on CITES, using leaflets, bookmarks, posters and manual, printed both in English and Slovene languages. Related products will be distributed at the 46th SC meeting.

Austria produced , in co-operation with WWF-Austria, an awareness programme and a Guide for tourists on CITES aspects and a new Homepage (www.bmlfuw.gv.at).

Sweden produced a brochure on trade of CITES fauna and flora and on trade of parts of the EU "birds and habitat" Directives. The M.A is also providing for updating of the WCMC species database with Swedish names.

Italy produced an information campaign for travellers by means of a significant quantity of posters that will be permanently affixed at the authorized ports of entry/exit of CITES and EU listed specimens.

Estonia distributed to stakeholders the Estonian version of the Green Parrot ID Program Manual, prepared by the UK Customs and is also preparing a CITES video presentation, to be ready for the beginning of march 2002, and to be used both for TV broadcasting and for training and information purposes. Shooting took place on 26-28 September 2001.

Estonia prepared also a CITES exhibit in a travel exhibition that will be opened on 12 March 2002, and educational material for school groups visiting the exhibition. A short training workshop for selected teachers and exhibit guides is related to the opening.

Poland issued a set of commemorative stamps, presenting a selection of endangered fauna and flora, with the CITES logo. Moreover a show-case is exhibited at the Ministry of the Environment, containing examples of CITES specimens.

Posters and special leaflets have been produced in Greece to create Authorities and Public awareness on CITES.

The UK CITES MA and WWF-UK continued their "Souvenir Alert" campaign, warning travellers against buying souvenirs derived from endangered species, through: a series of local launches at UK airports; distribution of "Souvenir Alert" leaflets to the WWF Network in Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand, the Netherlands and Slovenia; targeting travel companies and educational establishments to distribute the leaflets; promoting the campaign at two major travel exhibitions, where a seminar on sustainable tourism will be held by WWF-UK.

Moreover, the UK partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) established an Internet Website (www.defra.gov.uk/paw) and the PAW Roadshow attended a variety of events around the UK, publicising the controls protecting wildlife, with an audience of around 800,000 people, while the Metropolitan Police Force continued its education and awareness programme at London Zoo.

A souvenir awareness campaign for tourists was launched in summer 2001, with the active participation of CITES Authorities and Customs by WWF Netherlands. Furthermore, NL MA and WWF-NL prepared a brochure on TMC and CITES, as part of a campaign to traders and TCM practitioners, that will be printed in Dutch, English and Chinese languages.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

The UK CITES MA was represented:

- at an International Tiger Symposium organised by the Global Tiger Forum and at the Forum's 2nd General Assembly and 3rd Executive Committee meeting, held in New Delhi in November 2001. These events have been supported with UK funding.
- In September 2001 at a Conference in Cameroon, organised by FAO and IUCN, which examined the links between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and food security for the sustainable use of wild meat.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES

The UK continues to sponsor a post at TRAFFIC international and has contributed further funding for following programmes and projects:

- In November 2001 the UK Government launched the "Flagship Species Initiative" focused on selection of high profile species across many taxonomic groups for conservation overseas, with an allocation of US\$ 402,024 over 3 years, while matching support will be sought from the business sector.
- US\$ 57,432 have been given to UK NGO 21st Century Tiger in support of tiger conservation projects in Sumatra and the Russian Far East.
- A first contribution of US\$ 249,235 has been given by the Government to the UNEP's Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) and it will be contributing further in the next 3 years.