

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



Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

The attached report for Europe has been submitted by the Czech Republic, Germany and Iceland.

Report of the Regional Representatives for Europe

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1. Introduction

This Report covers activities of the Parties within the European Region in the period between the 53rd meeting (June/July 2005) and the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee (October 2006). This Report was compiled using contributions received from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Additional information for the European Union (EU) and its 25 Member States¹ was received from the European Commission.

2. New Parties

San Marino has become the new Party since 20 October 2005. Currently there are 44 Parties to the Convention in the European Region.

The **Republic of Serbia** provided information on its present status with regard to the Convention. FR Yugoslavia ratified the Convention by adopting The Law on Ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, on 5 November 2001 ('Yugoslav Official Register', International Agreements, No.11/2001). Ratification instruments were adopted in March/April 2002. The Republic of Serbia was the focal point of the CITES. In accordance with the Constitutional Charter of State Union of Serbia and Montenegro adopted at 28th January 2003 ('Off. Journal of Serbia and Montenegro', No. 1/2003), all the competencies in the field of implementation of environmental international agreements, including the CITES Convention, were transferred from the Federal level to the Republic level. Since June 2006, the Republic of Serbia is an independent state and it is the successor to all international agreements including CITES.

The second new independent European state since June 2006, the **Republic of Montenegro** is no longer the Party to the Convention until it officially re-accesses.

¹ *The 25 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.*

3. Gaborone Amendment to the Convention

The European Commission has continued its demarche towards Parties that have not yet ratified the Gaborone amendment to CITES¹, which would allow the European Community (EC)² to become a Party to CITES and to play a full role in the work of the Convention. The European Commission has received many positive signals from Parties in this regard.

4. CITES Committees, International Meetings and Related Activities

The European members of the Standing Committee (SC) are the Czech Republic, Germany and Iceland, with Bulgaria, Portugal and the United Kingdom as alternates. Switzerland (depository) and the Netherlands (next host country) are members of the SC as well. The representatives to the Animals Committee (AC) are Dr. Thomas Althaus (chairman of the AC, Switzerland) and Dr. Katalin Rodics (Hungary), with alternates Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Dr. Alexander G. Sorokin (Russia). The representatives to the Plants Committee (PC) are Dra. Margarita Clemente Muñoz (chairman of the PC, Spain) and Dr. Giuseppe Frenguelli (Italy), with alternates Mrs. Nika Debeljak Sabec (Slovenia) and Mr Jonas Lüthy (Switzerland). Dr. Ute Grimm (chair, Germany) and Mr. Noel McGough (vice-chair, the United Kingdom) are members of the Nomenclature Committee. Meetings of the CITES Committees and related conferences are traditionally actively attended by many other European Parties and the European Commission as observers.

Belgium participated, *inter alia*, in the PC16 meeting in Lima (Peru, 2006) where the Belgian representative presented a document about the non-detrimental findings for timber trade.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate actively participated in two meetings of the Interpol Group for Wildlife Crime – in Lyon (France) in May 2005 and in Beijing (China) in June 2006.

Germany was nominated as a member of the AC working group (WG) on production systems and source codes at the 21st meeting of the AC and contributed actively to the further debate on this issue. Scientific Authority (SA) 'Fauna' of Germany participated as one of three representatives from the European Region at the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2005). During the reporting period, Germany participated constructively in the SC's WG on export quotas.

Head of the CITES Management Authority (MA) of Hungary, Dr. Katalin Rodics, as one of the regional representatives to the AC, participated and represented the Central and Eastern European countries at the 21st and 22nd meeting of the AC, and – together with Dr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) - prepared the European regional report for the AC.

A legal expert from Iceland participated in the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2005).

According to the text of Decisions 13.69 and 13.70, Italy is chairman of a WG on electronic permitting to further explore the use of information technology or electronic systems to enhance the implementation of CITES and report at CoP14. The remaining members of the WG are Chile, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom played an important role at the SC53 by announcing a substantial grant for MIKE (see Chapter 5). The United Kingdom's MA took an active role in the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2005) where certain definitions relating to introduction from the sea were agreed.

The United Kingdom's SA (Fauna) attended the AC21 and 22 meetings and participated as member of the AC WG on the review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species (Resolution Conf. 12.8 and Decision 12.75), member of the AC WG on the trade in hard corals [Resolution Conf. 11.10

¹ <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/gaborone.shtml>

² The European Community is the first and the most important "pillar" of the European Union which can *inter alia* sign international agreements and adopt legislation binding all EU Member States.

(Rev. CoP12) and Decision 12.62], member of the joint AC & PC WG reviewing production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species, member of the AC WG on synergy between CITES and CBD to identify those principles and guidelines [from the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity] of most relevance to CITES, and member of the AC WG on the periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices.

The United Kingdom's SA (Flora) continued to play an important role by its active participation in CITES matters. This included, *inter alia*, PC16, the EU mission on the implementation of the Appendix II listing of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), Lima, Peru, 26 - 28 June 2006, and the 3rd meeting of the CITES mahogany WG, Lima, Peru, 29 June -1 July 2006,

In 2005, the European Commission representing the European Community attended as observer the SC53 as well as the AC and PC's meetings in 2005 and 2006, where it participated in a number of WGs, including the mahogany WGs. At SC53, the European Union offered to take the lead in addressing the problem of illegal trade in caviar and organise an international workshop with range states, trading countries and consumer states with the main objective to combat illegal trade in caviar.

As a result, the EU CITES Enforcement Group held a first special session to discuss illegal caviar trade into the EU on 11 November 2005. The purpose of this session was to exchange information on the issue as well as on on-going investigations. As a result of this session, the EU Member States agreed to investigate their domestic markets for caviar further.

The European Commission then organized, with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC and WWF, the International Sturgeon Enforcement Workshop, which was held from 27 – 29 June 2006 in Brussels. The workshop was attended by more than 120 participants from 34 key caviar producer, trading and consumer countries as well as organisations such as Interpol, the World Customs Organisation, Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The participants identified a set of measures to improve the exchange of information and coordination among Parties, undertake joint international investigations and ensure proper implementation of CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13). The recommendations of this workshop will be tabled at SC54 for the Parties' consideration.

The European Commission representing the European Community took part in the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2005). In response to Notification No. 2006/023, the Commission submitted comments and considerations on the report of the workshop, which resulted from an initial discussion with the EU Member States on this matter and constitute the Community's state of reflection on this matter.

5. Broader International Cooperation and Assistance

The Czech Republic reported that one inspector from the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) was on a study visit to New Zealand in February 2006 and one member of the New Zealand's Wildlife Enforcement Group (WEG) was on a reciprocal visit in the Czech Republic in May 2006. This is result of the closer cooperation between the CEI and the WEG on CITES enforcement issues.

France informed that in September 2005, the French National Office of Hunting and Wild Fauna (ONCFS - Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development) participated in a 40-hours workshop in Manaus (Brazil), aimed at training the Brazilian Federal Police regarding CITES and wildlife trafficking. This course was very much appreciated by the participants and further cooperation with Brazil is expected.

The Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany contributed EUR 30,000 to the first governmental meeting of the GRASP-Initiative (Great Apes Survival Project) organized by UNEP in September 2005 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

In collaboration with TRAFFIC SE-Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the CITES Authorities of Viet Nam and Cambodia, the Germany's CITES MA conducted two CITES training seminars in Phnom Penh from 16 -17 March 2006 and in Hanoi from 20 - 24 March 2006. The basic concept of both meetings was to train future national trainers in such areas as the CITES principles and mechanisms to regulate the trade in endangered species, the role and responsibilities of customs officers in the implementation of the Convention and the implementation of CITES on national level.

A trainee from CITES MA of Hong Kong SAR visited Germany's CITES MA in January 2006. His training programme included among others an introduction into the EC CITES legislation and functioning of CITES administrative bodies of the SAs and the MA, as well as role of customs and regional CITES Authorities of the 'Bundesländer' in Germany.

The Government of the United Kingdom provided financial and technical support for many CITES-related conservation, capacity building and training projects during the period covered by this report. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) contributed to the following programmes and projects in support of CITES and related conservation initiatives:

- Lion workshop (November 2005). The United Kingdom's MA has played a key part in promoting sustainable management of wildlife natural resources in Africa through its support for an participation in the World Conservation Union (IUCN) workshop (January 2006) on the conservation and management priorities for the African lion.
- Flagship Species Fund – GBP 100,000 to contribute to the fund, administered by Fauna and Flora International, which is used to support field conservation projects in developing countries, including some in UK overseas territories. UK ministers announced the launch of this fund in November 2001 and the United Kingdom's MA supported it at about this level ever since. To date, Defra has provided GBP 480,000 to help conserve some of the world's most threatened species as well as leveraging a further GBP 474,000 from the corporate sector. The fund focuses on species belonging to three main groups; primates, turtles and trees.
- CITES Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) – GBP 42,200 to support the ETIS project, which collects data on legal and illegal trade in elephant products.
- CITES Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) – GBP 40,000 to support the MIKE project which collects data on illegal elephant killing.
- CITES Delegates Assistance Fund – GBP 30,000 to allow delegates from developing countries to attend CITES meetings. This is increased in 2006 as the next CoP in 2007 is in the Hague where the costs for delegates will be significantly higher than at previous CoPs.
- CITES workshop on CITES and livelihoods – GBP 10,000 to support a workshop on the impacts of CITES-listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor. This is the first time there has been explicit recognition that the CITES system should address the impact of listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor.
- CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force – GBP 22,000. This money will go towards the first meeting of the Great Ape Task Force and will provide a forum for the collection and exchange of intelligence and information regarding illicit trade in these species. The establishment of this group was welcomed by the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes and the first GRASP Council Meeting held in Kinshasa in September 2005.
- CITES Evaluation of electronic permitting systems – GBP 10,000 to enable the CITES Secretariat to evaluate the systems used by other agreements and organisations to license activities, and consider how current best practices might be adopted by CITES.
- CITES EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Communication Initiative – GBP 25,000 to contribute towards an initiative which was recommended at the United Kingdom-hosted Wildlife Trade Enforcement Coordination workshop in 2005. The project aims to deliver an EU-wide database to improve the effectiveness of CITES enforcement within the EU.
- CITES Capacity-building workshop on trade in agarwood (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) – GBP 12,000 to contribute towards a workshop aimed at improving enforcement and implementation of trade restrictions for this and other agarwood-producing species which are under threat from over-exploitation.
- 21st Century Tiger – GBP 50,000 to fund practical conservation projects that are taken forward by the 21st Century Tiger - a partnership between London Zoo and Global Tiger Patrol. The United Kingdom's MA have provided support in previous years and this contribution will allow to continue that support for what is a high-profile species.
- African Elephant Specialist Group – GBP 75,000 to contribute to the costs of this IUCN Group which is made up of specialists, conservationists and administrators in the range states of the African elephant. Its work supplements the MIKE and ETIS work mentioned. The United Kingdom supported this Group in previous years as well.
- Shark Specialist Group – GBP 35,000 to fund an officer within the IUCN Species Specialist Group, including travel costs to international meetings.

- African Rhino Specialist Group – GBP 30,000 to facilitate collaborative work and information sharing between the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups on issues concerning legal and illegal trade in rhinoceros species. The work will result in a report to the CITES CoP in 2007.
- Analysis of CITES amendment proposals – GBP 10,000 to contribute towards the production of an independent report (The Analyses) by IUCN and TRAFFIC that enables Parties to assess the proposals submitted by the Parties to CITES to amend the listing of species on the CITES Appendices. At the last CoPs, this proved a useful tool in enabling Parties to make informed decisions.
- Global Tiger Forum (GTF) International Symposium on the Tiger – GBP 19,000 to contribute to the above symposium to be held in Nepal in March/April 2007. The symposium comes at an important time – the Indian Tiger Census is likely to be published in the Autumn of 2006 and the event should serve as a rallying point for international action to conserve the tiger if, as predicted, populations have shown a dramatic decline. This demonstrates the United Kingdom's continuing commitment to tiger conservation and the work of GTF.
- Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) – GBP 50,000. This money is a voluntary contribution to GRASP and will help the Secretariat in leveraging further support from other sources. It is vital that, in the early stages of this project, the Secretariat has sufficient funding to take actions forward. This contribution demonstrates the United Kingdom's continued commitment to the Conservation of Great Apes. The United Kingdom intends, funding permitting, to make this the first of an annual voluntary contribution to GRASP.
- UNEP - identifying timber tree species in international trade – GBP 20,000 to contribute to the EU forest law enforcement governance and trade (FLEGT) action plan which seeks to tackle illegal logging in developing countries. The United Kingdom's contribution would go towards the development a timber trade database to support the EU licensing scheme (which aims to prevent illegal timber entering the EU) and a series of stakeholder workshops in wood-producing countries of Asia and Africa.
- Training for CITES Authorities in Guinea on raptor identification and field survey techniques (November 2005) as part of a project commissioned by the United Kingdom's SA (Fauna) and United Kingdom's MA in collaboration with the CITES authorities of Guinea (see Chapter 10 for details).
- The Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Kew (the United Kingdom's SA for Flora) contributed information and training materials on plants in trade for CITES capacity building training course held in Taiwan, province of China, (18 - 26 November 2005) attended by HM Revenue & Customs.
- An India/United Kingdom Workshop on Wildlife Crime was held over two days (31 January and 1 February 2006) in New Delhi as part of the India-United Kingdom Sustainable Development Dialogue.
- Whilst in New Delhi, UK Minister Jim Knight announced that the United Kingdom was joining the US-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT). CAWT's aim is to focus political and public attention on the growing threats to wildlife from poaching and illegal trade.
- The RBG Kew continued as an active member of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and a number of its subgroups, including the South Atlantic Working Group. CITES advice was provided where necessary, in particular on the implementation and enforcement of CITES within the territories.

The **European Commission** contributes EUR 9,814,000 to establishing a long-term system for monitoring the illegal killing of elephants (MIKE). This project will run over a period of 5 years and is considered as contributing to the EC Development Policy objectives to reduce poverty as it entails a support for sustainable economic, social and environmental development, based, *inter alia*, on the wise use of natural resources. Also the **United Kingdom** provided a grant of GBP 50,000 that levered additional funding pledges for MIKE, helping secure adoption of the proposal for an advance from the CITES Trust Fund to support the MIKE Programme.

In order to assist in the implementation of certain decisions adopted at CoP13, the **European Commission** has provided a grant to the CITES Secretariat for an amount of EUR 286,070 with a view to improve the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and achieve greater synergies with other Conventions and organisations. The activities covered under this grant are the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea based on Decisions 13.18 and 13.19, a seminar on the conservation of & trade in saiga antelope *Saiga tatarica* based on Decision 13.27 to 13.35, workshops on national laws for implementation of the Convention based on Decision 13.83 and a training course for enforcement officers based on Decision 13.87.

6. National Legislation

A revision of the Biodiversity Act was completed and submitted to the Parliament in Bulgaria. The amendment of the Act was approved and promulgated in SG 88/4.11.2005. The revision has introduced labels that will be used for specimens under exemption provided by the Article VII.6 of the Convention. For implementation of this requirement, an implementing regulation for issuing of the labels have to be elaborated till the end of 2006. A draft regulation on domestic market with CITES-listed species and their marking was prepared. The regulation has to be adopted and promulgated till the end of the 2006.

In Croatia, a new Nature Protection Act (OG 70/05) entered into force in June 2005. The Act comprises provisions on keeping, breeding, trans-border transfer and trade in protected species of plants and animals, as well as corresponding fines for non-compliance. The Act represents one of the preconditions for the effective implementation of the Convention. Those provisions are the same as in the former Nature Protection Act (OG 162/03) as reported in the report for SC53.

In 2005 and at the beginning of 2006, three relevant implementing regulations were also adopted: (1) Ordinance concerning the conditions of keeping protected animals in captivity, marking methods and keeping records thereof (OG 146/05) (entered into force on 20 December 2005). (2) Ordinance on proclamation of wild taxa as protected or strictly protected (OG 7/06) (entered into force on 24 January 2006). (3) Ministerial ordinance on transboundary movement and trade in protected species (OG 34/06) (entered into force on 4 April 2006).

Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade in protected species (OG 34/06) regulates the procedure and conditions for issuance of permits for taking out, introduction, export, import or introduction from the sea of the wild taxa referred to in Annexes which form an integral part of this ordinance, the method of marking of live animals and consignments, the method of inspection and record-keeping, the conditions of trade and breeding, as well as procedure in case of confiscation of wild protected species that are illegally held or breed in captivity or are subject of illegal trade. This ordinance transposes provisions of the relevant EC regulations and directives as well.

With this ordinance, new forms for CITES import/export permits and re-export certificates are defined and will be used since September 2006. Until then, the existing CITES permits will be applicable.

The Ministry of the Environment of Iceland issued a regulation implementing provisions of the Convention on 6 December 2004. The Environment and Food Agency of Iceland, the relevant CITES MA published an information material in relation to the issuing of the new regulation. The Ministry of Fisheries issued a regulation implementing the provisions of the Convention on 12 September 2005. The regulation covers marine species.

The Republic of Moldova provided detailed information on its progress in CITES national legislation which is now being translated into English to be officially presented in time to the CITES Secretariat.

The Moldavian Parliament elaborated and approved (1) the Law on Red Book of the Republic of Moldova No 325-XIV from 15 December 2005, (2) the Law for the Completion and Modification of the Law on Animal Kingdom No 439-XIII from 27 April 1995 (No 461 from 20.11.2003) (Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, No 1-5 from 01.01.2004), and (3) the Law on Fish Found and Conservation of the Aquatic Biological Resources (No 149 from 8 June 2006). These pieces of legislation provide that *"The import/export, re-export and transit of wild fauna animals, stipulated by the CITES Convention, are permitted only through the CITES permit/certificate, authorised by the CITES MA with the resolution of the CITES SA of the Republic Moldova"*.

The Moldavian Regulations for the Foundation, Register, Completion, Keeping, Export and Import of Wild Flora and Fauna Collection of Plants and Animals (Governmental Order No 1107 from 11 September 2003) provide that (Article 6) *"For the reason of the forming and completion of the plants and animals collection, that are protected according to the international requirements, the special acts are prepared (Environment permit for export/import of wild plants and/or animals, Permit/Certificate CITES) taking into account the national and international legislative procedures"*, and (Article 20) *"In case of animal or plant collection, that are protected through the rules of the CITES Convention for import and export (re-export) of parts and exhibits, a CITES permit/certificate is obliged to obtain."*

Furthermore, the MA of the Republic of Moldova together with Central Customs Service emitted a common order No 19/90-01 from 14 March 2006, which established, through a mutual agreement, the border crossing points for the export, import and transition activities regulated by the CITES procedure and in accordance with the provisions of the international legal acts set up at the level of the EU, also considering the proposals of other stakeholders. On the basis of that *“For the customs offices at the border that are to be established, the local branches of the central authority in charge of managing natural resources and protecting the environment in cooperation with customs officers and with direct participation of the specialists from the territorial ecological agencies shall provide effective relevant control. The customs officers shall fill in the relevant blank spaces in the environment permit on export. The central authority in charge of managing natural resources and protecting the environment together with customs officers and other relevant bodies shall provide informative ads and billboards at all border crossing points.”*

The Moldavian Authorities elaborated also drafts of (1) a Law for Completion and Modification of the Code on Administrative Contravention, which will provide special regulations on protection and conservation of wild animal and plant species, and also provide administrative responsibilities on animal and plant import/export activities, and (2) a Law on Vegetal Kingdom (it is elaborated by ministers and departments - to be sent to the Government).

The **Republic of Serbia** also gave a detailed outline of its national legislation. The basic principles of the national policy referring to the Convention can be found in (1) Resolution on Policy of Environment Protection in FR Yugoslavia (*‘Yugoslav Official Register’, 31/93*) and (2) Resolution on Policy of Biodiversity Protection in FR Yugoslavia (*‘Yugoslav Official Register’, 22/94*). These resolutions pay special attention to the questions of preservation of biodiversity and protection of biological resources.

Trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna is regulated in the Law on Environment Protection (*‘Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia’, 135/04*).

With reference to the recommendations by the Convention related to the adoption of appropriate national legislation, there is the Decree on Control of Usage and trade of Wild Flora and Fauna (*‘Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia’, 31/05*).

At present, the Law on Nature Protection is in the legal drafting process within the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection - MSEP. The law is expected to be finalized by the end of 2006.

Additionally, there is a Decree on Protection of Natural Rarities (*‘Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia’, 53/93*) in force through which some 427 animal species and 215 rare, endangered and endemic plant species are protected.

The Regulation of documentation that is necessary for issuing the permission for import and export of endangered and protected species of wild flora and fauna, the content and design: Decrees of the Regulation relate to protected species whose traffic is specified by the CITES Convention, define the procedures of issuing permissions (export, re-export and import) for border crossing traffic, as well as the documents which should be submitted by those who request the edition of permission. The species whose traffic is controlled are listed in Appendices I, II and III of the CITES Convention. This regulation is also related to other wild species of flora and fauna, whose traffic is not forbidden but they are endangered and protected by other special regulations.

Specifying the documents to be presented with a request for issuing the permission (chapter 2 of the Regulation), the control and protection of wild flora and fauna are provided against uncontrolled exploitation. This protection, especially for international traffic, is provided by presenting permissions or opinions, edited by certified institutions specifying that the import / export in requested number does not endanger the survival of the species, by the proof that the adequate accommodation and care for the animals are provided by the receiver, by the proof that an alive specimen will be safely transported, diminishing the danger for life and health to the minimal possible level, by the exporter / importer’s statement about the future use of the species, and by evidence of payment of administrative taxes.

Chapter 3 of the Regulation is related to the permission – document which content is specified by the CITES Convention. The permission for CITES species is issued on a special form, while the permissions beyond CITES list, are issued in the form of decision.

Administrative tax for CITES permits is in accordance with the Law on administrative taxes.

In case of illicit trafficking, the Law on Confirmation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) ('Official Gazette of FRY' no. 11/2001), Law on Environment Protection ('Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia' no. 135/2004), as well as Criminal Law apply.

By the Article VIII of the CITES Convention, the obligation is determined for the state members to undertake measures to ban trade with the units by which the provisions of the Conventions are infringed, and which include: sentences for trade or possession of units, issuing measures for confiscating or returning such units to the country of export.

By the Article 28 of the Law on Environment Protection import, export and transit of endangered and protected species of wild flora and fauna have been regulated. Fines have been determined for violation of economy rules from CSD 150,000 to 3,000,000 if a person collects and places on the market certain species of wild flora and fauna, their developing features and parts without the permit of the relevant Ministry. The fines of the same amount are determined for the act of import, export and transit of endangered and protected species of wild flora and fauna, their developing features and parts without the permit of the relevant Ministry. Person in charge within a legal entity will be fined from CSD 30,000 to 200,000. A fine for the person in charge within a competent authority is determined from CSD 5,000 to 20,000 for the infringement if that person issues a permit opposite to regulated conditions.

Within the Criminal Law, a criminal act 'illicit trafficking' is determined, according to which for the illicit trafficking a person may be sentenced from three months to five years imprisonment. Criminal act is also 'taking out of the country without a permit specially protected wild and animal species' with a sentence of three months to three years imprisonment.

Turkey informed that 10 regulations were prepared according to 4915 numbered "Terrestrial Hunting Law" and were published in the Official Gazette. One of the 10 regulations is "Regulation on Keeping, Breeding and Trade of Game and Wild Animals, and Keeping, Producing and Trade of Their Derivatives", and this regulation was published in the Official Gazette dated 16 June 2005 numbered 25847.

In addition, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development is the MA for live plants according to the Turkish CITES Legislation. The General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development deals with issues of natural flower bulbs according to the "Regulation Pertaining to Uprooting, Production and Trade of Natural Flower Bulbs" which was published in the Official Gazette dated 24 August 2004 numbered 25563. In the lists of this regulation, there are only four taxa listed in the CITES Appendices. These are *Galanthus*, *Cyclamen* and *Sternbergia* listed in Appendix II and Orchidaceae spp. listed in Appendix I of the Convention. Since 1974, export of Orchidaceae species (included tubers and products) has been banned. Export permits for *Galanthus*, *Cyclamen* and *Sternbergia* are issued by the General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development. The activities related to natural flower bulbs and CITES that have been carried out by the General Directorate between June 2005 and September 2006 are listed below:

- The Advisory Council and the Technical Committee of Natural Flower Bulbs held their meetings on 27 September 2005. At these meetings, the national quotas for 2006 were determined. "Export List of Natural Flower Bulbs for 2006" was published in the Official Gazette dated 20 October 2005 numbered 25972.
- The Advisory Council and the Technical Committee of Natural Flower Bulbs held their meetings on 28 March 2006. The national quotas have been allocated to the firms according to their shares.

Turkey informed further on that according to the Article 5 of the amended "Regulation Regarding the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, "The Communiqué on Importation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" was revised and published in the Official Gazette dated 19 June 2005. According to the amendments in the tariff codes of the related products, above mentioned Communiqué was also revised and published in the Official Gazette on 31 December 2005 by the Under-secretariat for Foreign Trade.

CITES is implemented in all the 25 Member States of the European Union through Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.¹ Arising from the outcome of the CITES CoP13, the European Commission adopted a new Regulation implementing the relevant changes in the Appendices of the CITES Convention².

On 9 July 2006, a new extensive Commission Regulation on wildlife trade implementing CITES entered into force in the EU.³ This Regulation requires that all caviar containers in trade, regardless of their size or origin will have to bear a label that contains a specific set of information. In addition, all caviar producers and processing operations in the EU have to be registered. These measures implement requirements (Resolution Conf. 12.7) agreed by the CITES Parties at CoP12 in 2002 and will greatly facilitate the identification of the source and legality of the caviar and thereby assist in combating illegal activities. The new Regulation also introduces new provisions to facilitate the travel of captive-bred pets and travelling exhibitions and to expand the list of derogations for personal and household effects (Resolution Conf. 12.9). Furthermore, simplified procedures with regard to certain trade in biological samples are introduced (Resolution Conf. 12.3). The European Commission is also preparing the necessary amendment to this Regulation in order to implement resolutions adopted at CoP13. These amendments concern in particular the inclusion of a new chapter on procedures for the movement of sample collections covered by ATA carnets, changes to the provisions regarding the retrospective issuance of permits in order to ease procedures for personal and household effects and personally owned live animals, the inclusion of two additional derogations from the permitting requirements for personal and household effects, the inclusion of a definition of "pre-Convention specimens" and additional provisions as regards plant specimens subject to exemption.

On 19 April 2006, a new Regulation suspending the importation into the EU of specimens of certain wildlife species was adopted.⁴

In addition to the above EC legislation, several EU Member States reported the following legislative activities:

In **Austria**, a new national Species Trade Act (*Änderungen des Artenhandelsgesetzes BGBl 29/2006*), which entered into force on 8 March 2006 and which modified BGBl I No 33/1998, has strengthened customs control powers.

A new Federal Decree for the Marking of Species (*Artenkennzeichnungsverordnung BGBl II No 164/2006*), which entered into force on 21 April 2006 and which replaced BGBl I Part II No 321/1998, has (i) placed the decree on a more solid legal footing, (ii) revised marking regulations for all taxa and (iii) tightened the use of photo documentation for identification of reptiles.

Another new Federal Decree (*Bundesverwaltungsabgabenverordnung*) containing charges for CITES permits and certificates and which will replace *Bundesverwaltungsabgabenverordnung BGBl. II No 146/2000*, will come into force with markedly lower charges for most CITES documents by the end of October 2006 at the latest.

The **Belgian** CITES MA drafted in Royal decrees on the modalities for the payment of the administrative penalties (published in September 2005) and on the compensation of the CITES experts (not yet published).

France. The French CITES Office at the Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development has worked together with Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna to help them to adopt their local legislation regarding CITES. These texts have not been published yet, but significant progress has been made. A

¹ Official Journal L 61 of 3 March 1997. The www version of the Official Journal is at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>.

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 1332/2005 of 9 August 2005 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (Official Journal L 215 of 19 August 2005).

³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (Official Journal L 166 of 19 June 2006). This Regulation replaces Commission Regulation (EC) No 1808/2001.

⁴ Commission Regulation (EC) No 605/2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 349/2003 suspending the introduction into the Community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora (Official Journal L 107 of 20 April 2006).

new MA has been set up in Mayotte and is registered in the national contacts of the CITES Secretariat website.

Germany. In order to support the work of the German customs offices and the MAs of the '*Länder*', the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety published on 20 January 2006 a revised list of appointed expert bodies and individuals (Federal Gazette No 53 of 16 March 2006). The task of these independent experts is the identification of animals or plants to species level or whether it can be assigned to a certain population. During the reporting period, the most recent list of all experts in the Federal Republic of Germany was published by the Ministry of Environment.

On 19 July 2006, Germany amended its Ordinance on Fees (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2981). The ordinance which provides for the levying of fees for permits and certificates issued by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for CITES protected species now allows for taking fees for the registration of caviar packaging enterprises and the CITES certificates issued either for travelling exhibitions or trade sample collections. These new fee facts resulted from several amendments made in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006.

Italy reported that a national law on caviar's labelling would be put into force. It is the result of a WG on caviar organized by the Italian CITES MA with the Italian Forestry Corps and the Ministry of the International Trade.

Latvia provided information that the Nature Protection Board (CITES MA) organized a workshop on existing national CITES implementing legislation on 3 March 2006. The workshop was attended by representatives from Ministry of Environment of Latvia – Director of Legal Department (Legal Unit takes part in drafting normative acts in all areas of the Ministry's jurisdiction, checks compliance of normative acts, internal instructions and agreements and contracts drawn up by the Ministry to requirements of normative acts and legal techniques), Director of Nature Protection Department and Head of Division of Species and Habitats Protection (Division of Species and Habitats Protection takes part in protection of animals, Bern, Bonn and CITES Convention issues). During the workshop, national legal acts were analyzed, some gaps were identified and also necessary amendments were proposed to the Ministry of Environment of Latvia.

There are no law-making activities concerning CITES in the **Netherlands**. However, the implementation of CITES is being reviewed. This concerns mainly policy for issuance of permits and certificates, capacity building, (administrative) enforcement and public awareness activities.

Starting point of the review is to make analyses of all target groups, such as circuses and biomedical research institutes. The analyses provide information on the level of compliances and how the level of compliance is influenced by knowledge of legislation, transparency of legislation, administrative burden of permit-issuance procedures, and administrative and penal controls and sanctions in case of infringements.

Based on the analyses, target-group oriented policies are made. These policies concern education on the CITES-regulations, amelioration of national legislation in cases where the legislation is not effective, more or less stringent obligations for an applicant in the procedure to obtain a permit or certificate, administrative and penal law enforcement measures.

The target-group oriented review and all programs related to this review have already started and will be completed in approximately April 2007. With this target-group oriented approach the CITES MA of the Netherlands hopes to reach maximum level of compliance.

Also the MA of **Portugal** is carrying out a study reviewing all national legislation related to CITES, including offences, penalties and police powers, restrictions to detention of some species, marking, registration of keepers of CITES species. Portugal is approaching the problem of use and keeping of Primates and Carnivora which is forbidden by internal legislation. Portugal is studying publication of new legislation for circuses and temporary expositions that will forbid the use and keeping of those species. Expositions and circuses that have already got those specimens would be allowed to keep but not breed them. For the moment, enforcement agencies are seizing illegal specimens as can be demonstrated by number of seizures (see Chapter 8).

The MA of the **United Kingdom** continued its review of Statutory Instrument 1997 No 1372; the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997. These Regulations specify the offences, penalties and police powers for breaches of the EC Regulations implementing CITES, insofar as they relate to trade in the United Kingdom. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC – the United Kingdom’s SA for Fauna) and the RBG Kew (the United Kingdom’s SA for Flora) provided input and advice to Defra into the UK Statutory Instrument 1997 No 1372: The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 (COTES); new Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 and consultation on the use of powers under Article 8.2 to prohibit the keeping of certain CITES specimens.

As part of this review, the United Kingdom published Statutory Instrument 2005 No 1674; the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2005, which came into force on 21 July 2005 and increased the maximum penalty for certain wildlife offences from two to five years imprisonment.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 introduced stronger powers for police officers and wildlife inspectors in England and Wales in investigating offences involving native species of conservation concern. These powers came into force on 31 May 2006. A number of the species concerned are also listed in the Appendices to CITES.

The United Kingdom is reviewing its current domestic legislation The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Designation of Ports of Entry) Regulations 1985, to ensure that it is fully compliant with current animal and plant health legislations, and Article 12 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97. A full consultation will be undertaken over the Summer/Autumn of 2006, with revised legislation being implemented in Spring 2007.

7. Administrative Measures and Capacity Building in European Parties

The **Austrian** Customs Authority in the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) has been subject to restructuring following the 2004 EU enlargement. One important consequence is BMF’s intention to increase use of customs officers located at district offices to affect CITES trade controls. The necessary preparation and coordination to ensure effective customs controls at the district level, which will involve controls of international trade (based on CITES permits) as well as intra-Community trade (based on EC certificates), is in progress and will involve all relevant organizations dealing with CITES issues through the creation of focal points at state levels.

In March 2006, the Customs Agency under the Ministry of Finance of **Bulgaria** has organized a 3-day training seminar on CITES implementation. The seminar was organized for 25 customs officers and was held in the Customs Training Centre in Sofia. An expert from the CITES MA was invited as a lecturer. Additional training seminar for customs officers is going to be organized till the end of 2006. The Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water is going to organize one training seminar on the control on domestic trade with CITES-listed species for biodiversity inspectors from the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water till the end of 2006 as well.

The CITES MA of **Belgium** initiated a process for the establishment of a National Enforcement Working Group in accordance with Art 17 of the Royal Decree of 9 April 2003 relative to the protection of fauna and flora by the control of their trade. This WG gathers representatives from all CITES-relevant organizations (representatives from customs authorities, from federal police, local police, regional authorities, controlling agents and also external consultants). The principal mission is to streamline better information exchange between the different controls authorities about legal and illegal trade of CITES specimens.

Furthermore, Belgian CITES MA organized a training seminar in May 2006 on “CITES and Plants” directed to the CITES controlling agents. The Belgian MA also provided a CITES compendium to the CITES controlling agents (art 7 of the Belgian law). This document compiles different updates of the CITES legislations (national, community and international levels) and gives guidelines and practical information so as to ensure a good application of the existing legislation.

In June 2005, the Ministry of Culture of **Croatia** together with the Ministry of Finance, the Customs Directorate and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Border Police organized an international CITES seminar for

education of customs officers, border police, veterinary and phyto-sanitary inspection and nature protection inspectors.

The Ministry of the Environment of the **Czech Republic** (MoE) and the General Directorate of Customs (GDC) signed an agreement on cooperation in matters related to the CITES enforcement on 30 March 2006. The agreement replaces a previous one of 1998 in order to reflect changes connected with the Czech Republic's joining the EU in 2004. The agreement enables close cooperation between the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) and the Customs in controls of trade in CITES specimens.

The MoE, as the primary national MA, organized altogether 11 regular half-day joint "CITES meetings" with the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection (CITES SA), the CEI, the GDC, the State Veterinary Administration (SVA), the State Phytosanitary Administration (MA competent to issue "CITES-phytosanitary certificates" for export of artificially protected plants) and other bodies for discussing and exchange of information on current CITES matters.

Additional special meeting of the above authorities was organized on the occasion of Mr. Trevor Salmon's (the Head of the **United Kingdom's** MA) visit to the Czech Republic on 25 July 2006.

A meeting by the MoE of the **Czech Republic** with national rescue centres for confiscated CITES animals and plants was organized in Prague on 30 March 2006.

A special meeting of the MoE and the SVA was organized on 31 May 2006 to discuss the current EU import ban on wild birds due to avian influenza and the EC veterinary provisions on trade in primates resulting from the "Balai" Council Directive 92/65/EEC as amended.

The MoE also organized 2 all-day meetings with the Czech Regional Authorities and the Protected Areas Authorities that serve as the national MAs for issuing the "EC certificates" for intra-Community trade in CITES specimens.

The CEI, which is the national primary law enforcement body for wildlife trade, organized a special one-day seminar for its inspectors on 25 May 2006. During this meeting, a presentation by Mr. Colin Hitchcock from New Zealand was given on work of the New Zealand's Wildlife Enforcement Group.

CITES is continuing to be part of regular training of wildlife inspectors from the CEI and compulsory curriculum for Czech customs officers.

Since December 2005, the Czech Customs has been using 'sniffer-dogs' trained in detecting CITES specimens and other illegal "veterinary" commodities (e.g. live birds because of avian influenza). Two dogs are currently on duty at the International Airport Prague - Ruzyně.

Estonia organized a training seminar for enforcement officers in November 2005 with participation of about 40 officers from Customs and Environmental Inspectorate. Lectors were from MA, SA, Customs, Environmental Inspectorate and different experts/scientists.

Finland has further developed its system with Key Prosecutors for Nature Resources Offences in 2006. Finland has also arranged a national training course for customs officers in March 2006. The Finnish MA and the Key Prosecutor for Nature Resources Offences participated in a CITES workshop for authorities organized by the Swedish CITES authorities and TRAFFIC Sweden in Västerås (**Sweden**) in February 2006.

From 2 – 5 April 2006, the **Germany's** CITES MA held an expert workshop for officials from the "new" EU Member States (the **Czech Republic**, **Estonia**, **Hungary**, **Latvia**, **Malta**, **Poland**, and **Slovakia**) plus **Italy** and the **United Kingdom** in the International Nature Conservation Academy on the Island of Vilm. One of the principal objectives of the workshop was to discuss problems associated with the implementation of the EC CITES legislation. Therefore, particular emphasis during this workshop was put onto discussion of problems regarding wildlife trade within the EU and the experience including constraints which the 10 new EU Member states have perceived with the EC CITES legislation implementation since their accession to the Community.

In addition to the research study on the identification of CITES protected timber species and the CD-ROM called "*CITESwoodID*" (see Chapter 10), **Germany** conducted a workshop on the implementation of this timber identification tool for trainers at German Customs and trainers for regional CITES MAs from 1 – 2 March 2006 at the Technical College for Timber in Bad Wildungen.

From 2 - 5 March 2006 and in close collaboration with WWF-Germany, the Foundation for Nature Conservation and Environment (*'Sächsischen Landesstiftung für Natur und Umwelt'*) of the *'Bundesland'* Saxony (**Germany**) had organized an international workshop on the use of so-called 'sniffer-dogs' in detecting in particular illegal shipments of live CITES protected animals. During the workshop which was held in Bad Schandau close to the border with the Czech Republic and which was attended by representatives from **Poland**, the **Czech Republic**, **Slovakia**, the United States of America and the CITES Secretariat, practical demonstrations were given how trained dogs could efficiently detect not only living CITES protected specimens but also parts and derivatives derived from them. The German Customs announced at the meeting that they will start from 2007 onwards at selected border posts a pilot study on the education and use of sniffer dogs to detect illegal shipments of CITES species. Furthermore, the workshop proved to be useful in promoting a wider use of sniffer dogs among CITES enforcement officials and for intensified cooperation on this special enforcement field.

Organized by the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL), the **Germany's** Federal Agency for Nature Conservation held a 2-day CITES upgrading course (15 – 16 March 2006) on the latest developments in the EC CITES legislation. Based on practical case studies, the seminar was primarily intended to consolidate main recent changes in the EC CITES implementation regulation at the *'Länder'* (i.e. regional) CITES Authorities level and to provide incentives for an enhanced uniform implementation of the Convention at the national level.

According to national legislation in **Hungary**, the Environment, Nature Conservation and Water Inspectorates are responsible for regional enforcement issues, such as keeping registration, inspections and issuing domestic CITES documents. One officer in each inspectorate is assigned to deal with CITES. These officers have been educated several times – about the CITES, EC and national provisions concerning animal and plant trade.

In January 2006, the Hungarian CITES MA launched a training programme for customs, border police, veterinary and phytosanitary officers on the CITES and the EC wildlife trade regulations. In the frame of the project, colleagues from the MA visited all major border stations and internal headquarters where staff of the 3 different authorities has been trained together on the legislation relating to wildlife trade and their role in enforcement. Until 20 April, CITES MA visited 14 places and trained 578 officers. Ministry of Environment and Water signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with the Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard and with the Border Police. According to these contracts, Customs and Border Police officers are being trained occasionally, but such large-scale training programme with the participation of 3 different authorities has never been organized before. This project was a good example of cooperation of 4 different ministries for the protection of endangered species.

On 7 - 9 June 2006, a 3-day training seminar was organized for police officers in **Hungary**. The course was financed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and co-organized by the Hungarian CITES MA and the RSPCA. Participants were criminal investigators from 19 County Headquarters, the National Investigation Agency, Airport Police, Motorway Police and from the Central Office. These officers will be designated as responsible coordinators for wildlife crime issues within the Police. Beside Hungarian speakers, foreign trainers with great experience in wildlife crime investigation were invited from the **Germany's** MA, **Norway** and the **United Kingdom**. The program contained information on the most important regulations relating to wildlife crime, investigation techniques, case studies and a lot of practical tasks.

On 16 - 17 June 2005, a regional workshop was held in Budapest, **Hungary** on the EC wildlife trade regulations in Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop was organized by the RSPCA International and its aim was developing regional collaboration in fighting against wildlife crime. Participants were police, customs officers, wildlife inspectors and members of CITES MAs from **Austria**, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, the **Czech Republic**, **Germany**, **Hungary**, **Poland**, **Romania**, **Serbia** and **Montenegro**, **Slovakia** and **Slovenia**. The representatives of the CITES Secretariat and European Commission were also participating.

A member of the Hungarian CITES MA got a full scholarship from the International University of Andalusia (Spain) and attended the 5th Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade in Species: The International Framework".

In 2005, the Ministry of the Environment of Iceland held a number of coordination meetings with MAs, SAs, Customs officials and the Ministry of Fisheries for organising and improving the implementation of the Convention. In June 2006, The Environment and Food Agency of Iceland, the relevant MA arranged a course for the Customs Authority. A CITES course will from now on be a part of the customs staff education program. The work on issuing of multilingual brochures to distribute at border posts has begun and to draw attention to those, confiscated CITES items will be set up for display at the main airport in Iceland at Keflavik. The MA has prepared customs declaration labels in accordance with article VII (6) of the Convention to be used by the scientific institutes. Some confiscations have been made and issuing of CITES permits is increasing steadily with increased public and customs awareness. The Directorate of Fisheries, the relevant MA regarding marine species, issued six CITES permits during the reporting period - five import permits and one export permit.

Meetings to update and coordinate enforcement activity on CITES in Italy were organized by Corpo Forestale dello Stato (Italian Enforcement Authority) for its personnel of CITES offices during the reporting period (two meetings). In particular, outstanding action points resulted from the EU CITES Committee meetings, as well as related new procedures on the EC regulations and guidelines about caviar illegal trade have been discussed. Moreover, the Central Headquarter of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato has organized a 3-day training course on the CITES investigations and enforcement and another 2-day workshop on zoonosis (with particular reference to avian influenza). The meetings were also related to the discussion held within the EU Enforcement Group about prompt alerting on risk of the most illegally traded specimens (caviar, crocodile skins, birds, ivory etc.), and during the International Sturgeon Enforcement Workshop (Brussels, 27 – 29 June 2006) attended by the Italian MA and by the CITES Service of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato.

A project funded by the Italian Ministry of Information Technologies and by Ministry of Forestry - Corpo Forestale dello Stato to implement an actual Italian computerized procedure using the web oriented technologies is at a good turning point. In fact, the second phase of the project has started provided for the implementation of the application on line (through the web). This phase was presented to the Italian CITES Authorities, the Corpo Forestale dello Stato offices, as well as to stakeholders, traders and trader associations. Special seminars on this procedure have been organized for the CFS offices and for traders in the most important areas of manufacturing activities, during May - June 2006. The new procedure is going to be on line by the end of September 2006.

The Nature Protection Board of Latvia (CITES MA) organized several training seminars on CITES. The objective of the training was to give all authorities more deep knowledge about CITES, including how to control shipments and permits, main groups of species on CITES and EU Regulations. In total, 94 customs officers, 56 environmental inspectors have been trained and supplied with education material. The survey of the capacity building activities is given in the following table:

Date	Place	Time	Participants	Financially supported by
2005 14.-15.07.	Ozolnieki	1 day	18 customs officers, 16 environmental inspectors	Nature Protection Board (CITES MA)
2006 07.04.	Daugavpils	1 day	36 customs officers	Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund and Nature Protection Board (CITES MA)
2006 20.-21.04	Riga	2 days	20 environmental inspectors	State Environmental Service and Nature Protection Board (CITES MA), Natural History Museum of Latvia (CITES SA)
2006 11.-12.05.	Riga	2 days	20 environmental inspectors	State Environmental Service and Nature Protection Board (CITES MA), Natural History Museum of Latvia (CITES SA)

Date	Place	Time	Participants	Financially supported by
2006 18.07.	Ogre	1 day	40 customs officers	Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund and Nature Protection Board (CITES MA)
2006 planned in the end of September		1 day	customs officers	Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund and Nature Protection Board (CITES MA)

The MA of the **Republic of Moldova** participated at 4 training seminars for customs specialists, which were organized in the Customs Training Centre in Moldova. More than 120 specialists participated at the trainings.

The CITES MA of the **Netherlands** is building a training program for its own staff, which has partly been renewed during the last year, policy- and lawmaking officials, enforcement officials and magistrates. This training program will start by the end of September 2006.

The CITES MA of the Netherlands is also developing a program for administrative law enforcement. This program will be an addition to the penal law enforcement program that already exists. It is targeted at infringements of a less serious nature. The aim of the program is to use penal law enforcement mainly for serious infringements, such as professional smuggling of CITES-specimens taken from the wild, without neglecting less serious infringements and thus create a maximum level of compliance.

In the period covered by this Report, the CITES MA of **Norway** had one meeting and training seminar with the Directorate for Customs and Excise, with chief executives participating from all the regional customs offices.

In **Poland**, several CITES trainings for Customs Service were organized: (1) training on identification of CITES insect species and taking samples of genetic material, and (2) local trainings regarding CITES issues.

WWF Poland organized three training seminars on enforcement of CITES regulations for police officers and one workshop for Customs and Police Services, with support of the Ministry of Finance.

Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe with support of Polish Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Environment organized two training seminars for judges and prosecutors, representatives of General Veterinary Inspectorate and one workshop for representatives of institutions associated with implementation of CITES regulations in Poland.

WWF Poland published Polish translations of two identification guides "Hunting Trophies Manual" and "Tortoises Manual" for enforcement purposes, which were distributed to customs officers.

CITES MA of **Portugal** organized a 2-day CITES training workshop in November 2005 in Azores for regional enforcement authorities and MAs and an 8-day CITES training workshop in February 2006 in Madeira for regional MAs, SAs and enforcement authorities. The CITES MA is also organizing regular training workshops for national enforcement authorities two times a year.

In 2005 – 2006, the CITES MA of Portugal provided various confiscated objects of CITES species for training and educational purposes as a loan to enforcement authorities and museums.

Portuguese CITES MA has also initiated a feasibility study on the need for improving existing and/or establishing new CITES rescue centres. Part of the study was an inspection tour and several meetings to identify potential rescue centres in Portugal.

Portuguese CITES MA initiated a process to establish a National Enforcement Focal Point which encompasses representatives from all CITES-relevant organizations (Portuguese Customs Authorities,

CITES MA, SA, Police, etc.) to streamline better information exchange and to deal with changes in trade patterns of CITES-listed species.

The MA of **Serbia and Montenegro** organized a 2-day CITES international training seminar held in Kotor (Montenegro) from 10 – 12 May 2006. The main objectives of the meeting was to train government officials from customs, police as well as the CITES MAs and SAs in **Serbia, Montenegro** and the **FYR Macedonia** on the implementation and enforcement of both the regulations implementing CITES in the European Community as well as the Convention itself, and to establish or improve coordination among the participants in control of traffic in CITES specimens. The training was given by foreign lecturers, Mr. Franz Boehmer (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in Bonn – the CITES MA of **Germany**), Mr. Guy Clarke (Customs and Excise – Heathrow Airport, the **United Kingdom**) and Mr. Robert Boljesic (Ministry of the Environment and Spacial Planning in Ljubljana – the CITES MA of **Slovenia**). There were 36 participants at the meeting from Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia. The meeting was supported and financed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

In **Slovenia**, the representatives of Slovenian Inter-sectoral CITES Enforcement Committee met with **Croatian** colleagues on 31 May 2006 to discuss law enforcement activities.

In May 2005, a representative of **Slovenian** MA gave lectures to customs and border police officials in **Croatia**.

A two-day seminar for Slovenian Criminal Police took place in May 2006 in **Slovenia**.

A representative of the **Slovenian** MA gave lectures to students of the Master's degree programme "Conservation, Management and Control of Species in International Trade" at the International University of Andalusia (**Spain**) and at the post-graduate programme "Nature heritage protection" at the University of Ljubljana (**Slovenia**).

In **Slovakia**, several training courses were organized for District Offices for Environment and Slovak Environmental Inspectorate on the EC CITES regulations and the national CITES legislation in June 2005, February 2006 and March 2006 respectively. Another training seminar for State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Rescue Centres) in relation to the wildlife trade regulations was organized on 28 February 2006. CITES legislation is also a part of the compulsory curriculum for customs officers.

An Expert's Coordinative Body (ECB) to combat the environmental crime aimed at illegal wildlife trade was established in April 2006 in **Slovakia**. The members are representatives of the Presidium of the Police Force, the Attorney General, Ministry of Environment (CITES MA), the Customs Criminal Office, the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and the State Veterinary Authority. The aim of the ECB is to strengthen cooperation among involved authorities regarding control of the wildlife trade. The first meeting of the ECB was held in June 2006.

In **Sweden** there are continuing meetings within an unofficial cooperation group on flora-and fauna crime with representations from the MA, SA, Customs, Coast guard, Swedish Animal Welfare Agency, County Administrations, Prosecutor's Office and TRAFFIC/WWF. A 3-day CITES seminar was arranged in February 2006. All authorities within Sweden involved in CITES legislation were represented. About 140 persons attended the seminar. Together they tried to improve coordination in enforcement matters, analyze areas to improve and give CITES a higher priority on the agenda. Representatives from the SA and Customs of the **United Kingdom** held lectures and led exercises.

Within the **Swedish** Board of Agriculture (the Swedish CITES MA), all work with CITES related matters has been concentrated at the CITES and Animal Health Division.

Turkey provided information that by March 2004, the EU Twinning Project TR-02-EN-01 has been started. The project is part of the "Capacity Building in the Field of Environment for Turkey, Component 3 Nature" and has a running period of 27 months. The Turkish twinning partner is the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of **Germany**. Subproject II is dedicated to improvement of CITES implementation in Turkey in order to be well prepared to introduce the related EC regulations later on. Completed activities of that Project are listed below:

- The third basic level CITES training course for inspectors and experts took place on 20 - 29 September 2005 in Ankara. It was organized together with German short-term experts.
- A study visit to **Germany** and the **United Kingdom** which took place between 30 May and 9 June 2005. The aim was to analyse actual situation, identification of needs and evaluation of experience in the EU Member States.
- Another study visit was arranged to **Germany** (Frankfurt, Metelen, Cologne / Bonn) between 11 – 17 December 2005 for seeing applications of the EU Member States for training of customs officers and supervisors in the part which is related to CITES.

A representative of the Turkish General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development has become a member of the WG of the Twinning Project by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry related to improve the implementation of CITES and participated in the meetings. Also, two experts participated in the basic training programme held within the third basic training programme held in Ankara in September 2005.

Between 1 January – 31 December 2005, the **Turkish** General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development issued 126 CITES permits related to natural flower bulbs and cactus species. However, 8 of these permits have not been used by the firms.

The **United Kingdom** provided information about the following capacity building activities on national and European level (for the United Kingdom's activities on broader international level see Chapter 5):

- Customs & Police training. The JNCC (United Kingdom's SA Fauna) and the RBG Kew (United Kingdom's SA Flora) contributed to the UK CITES training course (organized by HM Revenue & Customs) which is run annually for wildlife enforcement officers in HM Revenue & Customs and the Police.
- The RBG Kew provides ongoing training on CITES and plants and the identification of species in trade for UK enforcement officials namely HM Revenue and Customs, The Police and Defra Wildlife Inspectorate. For this period, Kew has assisted in the training of approximately 163 UK enforcement officers and approximately 100 overseas CITES, enforcement and administrative agency staff.
- Wildlife Inspector training. The JNCC facilitated a training session for Wildlife Inspectors on zoo inspections and their compliance with the EC wildlife trade Regulation No 338/97.
- Like many others, the United Kingdom's SA (Fauna & Flora) contributed to the 5th Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade in Species" at the International University of Andalusia (Spain).
- The RBG Kew is assisting with the development and organization of the 3rd European Regional CITES Meeting to be held in Perugia, Italy, 18-21 October 2006.
- The RBG Kew attended and gave presentations on CITES plants for a 2-day CITES training course in Sweden (7-10 February 2006) attended by Swedish CITES, enforcement and administrative agencies.
- HM Revenue & Customs – a comprehensive training of HM Revenue & Customs terminal staff from Heathrow Airport has begun. For this period, 30 HMRC dedicated terminal staff have been trained.
- Defra Wildlife Inspectors – The RBG Kew trains 6 dedicated plant Inspectors at day courses at Kew and at an annual Defra Inspector's seminar (3 - 5 February 2006). A general presentation on CITES and plants in trade was given to all Defra Inspectors at this seminar to raise the profile of plants in trade.
- The RBG Kew provided training on plants in trade for Dorset and Hampshire Police in two separate one-day courses (30 - 31 May 2006). Over 35 Police officers received training.
- In February 2006, the United Kingdom contributed an additional GBP 200,000 to its National Wildlife Crime Unit to enable it to relocate, strengthen and broaden its role, and to provide it with an operational facility. The Associations of Chief Police Officers have also provided resources and practical support to help with these changes, which will enhance the Unit's role in targeting and disrupting serious wildlife crimes and the criminals who commit them, at the regional, national and international levels.
- In February 2006, the United Kingdom contributed GBP 16,500 towards the maintenance and development of EU-TWIX, an enforcement database and list-server for CITES enforcement officers throughout the EU.

On the **European Union** level, the Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee is composed of representatives of the EU Member States' MAs and is chaired by a representative of the European Commission. The Committee which agrees on implementation measures for CITES in the EU, meets four times in 2006. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the EU Member States' SAs and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the EC regulations, also meets four times in 2006. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the EC regulations, meets twice in 2006. Due to the increasing importance of exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities, in particular because of the enlargement of the EU in May 2004, the meetings of the Enforcement Group have become increasingly important.

The **European Commission** has contracted Milieu to carry out a study on the enforcement of the EC wildlife trade regulations in the EU. The objective of this study is to identify, for each of the 25 EU Member States, the mechanisms and structures that are in place to ensure the effective enforcement of the EC regulations, in particular as regards the role and competencies of the relevant authorities / enforcement agencies as well as the level and form of cooperation and coordination between the different agencies and authorities at the national level. The study should provide a clear picture of the situation in each of the 25 EU Member States as well as the EU as a whole. It should identify gaps and good practice and should provide recommendations on the means of improving the enforcement mechanisms at national level as well as at the EU level.

In the framework of a Monitoring Contract with the **European Commission**, TRAFFIC has revised and updated the *Reference Guide to the European Community Wildlife Trade Regulations* and has prepared briefings for enforcement staff and species-related reports as well as other practical implementation information. They are also responsible for the compilation and analysis of the biennial reports of the EU Member States. TRAFFIC continues to ensure the monitoring of the website for wildlife traders in the EU (www.eu-wildlifetrade.org) which they were mandated to set up under a previous contract.

The **European Commission** has also contracted TRAFFIC and IUCN to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the EC wildlife trade regulations thereby assessing the EC wildlife trade legislation in place and identifying options for improving the effectiveness of the legislation in reaching the objective of CITES to ensure that trade in species does not threaten their survival. The outcome of a workshop bringing together all the EU Member States, co-organized by the **Germany's** Ministry of Environment and the European Commission to be held on the Isle of Vilm in Germany in November 2006, will also feed into this process.

UNEP-WCMC has been contracted by the **European Commission** to provide the trade data which the EU Member States and the Commission need to implement the EC legislation. They are also responsible for synthesis of Member States' annual reports.

The **United Kingdom** hosted the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Coordination Workshop (Latimer, 25 - 27 October 2005) for EU wildlife law enforcement officials as part of its Presidency of the EU. All 25 EU Member States were represented along with all the UK CITES authorities. Its aim was to consider practical solutions to improve cooperation within and between EU Member States on the enforcement of the EC wildlife trade regulations. Workshop participants agreed a statement and a range of recommendations, which included that a draft Action Plan for Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in the EU should be further developed, endorsed and implemented.

An intergovernmental meeting was held on the 27 April 2006 in Budapest, where future needed changes in the EC regulations have been discussed. The meeting was attended by delegates from MAs and SAs of the **Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Hungary**. The workshop was organized by the Hungarian CITES MA and financed by the Species Survival Network.

8. Combating Illegal Activities

The **Bulgarian** CITES MA and Customs Agency have conducted a joint investigation on imported sturgeon caviar on the local market. The investigation was conducted due to lack of information in the office of the CITES MA for imported caviar. The conclusion of the investigation was that caviar shipments had the

necessary CITES documentation but they had not been presented to the Customs at the time of border crossing. The Customs Intelligence Service drew up a statement against the importing company.

The most important case of confiscation in Croatia happened in December 2004 when 50 specimens of emerald monitor (*Varanus prasinus*) originating from Indonesia were confiscated at the Zagreb Airport. This case was finished in May 2005 when 33 healthy monitors were returned to Indonesia for releasing into the wild (National Park in Papua New Guinea). 14 animals died after confiscation and 3 specimens that were not fit to travel stayed in a rescue centre in Croatia.

Croatia further reported that illegal trade in tortoises (*Testudo hermanni* and *Testudo graeca*) increased. In 2005, they had two cases of confiscation of live tortoises: 506 specimens (returned into the wild in the country of origin, Serbia and Montenegro) and 47 Croatian specimens (placed into a rescue centre; after recovery will be returned into the wild). In 2006, they have so far had one confiscation of 22 tortoises (placed in a rescue centre; the country of origin refused their return due to veterinary regulations).

The Czech Republic reported on a number of seizures of illegal CITES specimens during the reporting period. The most interesting case is an ongoing police investigation of illegal activities of a famous Czech reptile trader from Central Bohemia. The investigation started by a police raid in all the trader's premises in October 2005 which resulted in seizure of more than one hundred live reptiles and large number of documentation. The trader was also detained. The case is still under investigation and the trader has been charged by police investigators of criminal offence of unauthorized management of protected wild fauna.

In 2005 – 2006 period, the Czech Customs detected more than 65 cases of illegal international trade in CITES specimens. Most of the cases were detected at the Prague – Ruzyně International Airport. The second most frequent route of smuggling is by international mail. The Czech Republic is completely surrounded by other EU Member States so that there are no regular customs controls on land border crossings any more.

Hungary provided information on number of seizures in the reporting period. A few major cases:

- In February 2006, investigators of the Hungarian National Investigation Agency seized 400 tins of caviar from a company's warehouse and from souvenir shops. The company offered and sold repacked Russian caviar in the EU without necessary documents. The shipment was seized and the criminal investigation is in process.
- In April 2006, Hungarian customs officers at the Romanian border found 34 tins of Russian caviar which were hidden in a car. The shipment was smuggled from Romania without any document and has been seized. Criminal procedure is in process against offender.
- In April 2006, Hungarian airport customs officers discovered a shipment of 18 live Egyptian tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni* (App. I.)) and 36 spiny-tailed lizards (*Uromastyx* sp.). The animals were smuggled by a Slovakian citizen arriving from Egypt and were hidden in spice and tea boxes in his personal luggage. An advertisement of a reptile fair held on the same weekend in St. Pölten, Austria was also found by him. Austrian colleagues have been informed about the seizure.
- 201 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*) smuggled by a Czech citizen from Serbia were seized by Hungarian customs in June 2006. The animals were hidden in a petrol tank of a car which was specially reconstructed for smuggling. While customs officers were examining the vehicle, the offender disappeared and went back to Serbia by foot using another passport. A warrant for arrest was issued against him and the animals were taken to a rescue centre.
- 181 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*) were seized in June 2006 from a Serbian tourist-bus driver at the Serbian-Hungarian border. He was entrusted by a German dealer to transport the shipment to Germany. The animals were confiscated and placed in a rescue centre. Hungarian MA contacted the Serbian MA on possible reintroduction of the tortoises. The smuggler was sentenced to five months imprisonment suspended for two years and was fined both by the court and the nature conservation inspectorate.
- In July 2006, 55 pancake tortoises (*Malacochersus tornieri*), 48 radiated tortoises (*Geochelone radiata*) and 68 leopard tortoises (*G. pardalis*) smuggled by a Serbian truck-driver were seized at the Serbian-Hungarian border. Criminal procedure is in process.
- There were many other illegal shipments containing *inter alia*: reptile skin products and traditional Asian medicines seized particularly at Ferihegy International Airport (Budapest, Hungary). Some of

these contained considerable amount of illegally imported goods, such as 1,371 watchstraps from Thailand, 86 crocodile and *Varanus* skin bags and ivory jewellery from Nigeria.

Portugal provided the following table with a survey of seized and confiscated specimens during the reporting period.

Taxa	Description	Quantity	Country of origin
<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Skin	1	AO
<i>Ateles paniscus</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Callithrix geoffroyi</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Live	11	UNK
<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Live	2	UNK
Felidae	Skin	3	CH
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Tooth	2	UNK
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	12	AO
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	0,730 (Kg)	AO
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	1	CN
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	9	CU
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	74	MZ
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	5 (Kg)	TH
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	2	ZR
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Live	1	ZW
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Ivory piece	10	UNK
<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	Live	6	UNK
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Live	2	UNK
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Skin	1	MZ
<i>Panthera leo</i>	Live	2	UNK
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Live	3	UNK
<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	Live	2	UNK
<i>Amazona o. ochrocephala</i>	Live	2	BR
<i>Amazona</i> sp.	Live	2	VE
<i>Ara chloroptera</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Ara</i> sp.	Live	2	UNK
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Live	12	PT
<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Live	2	UNK
<i>Leotryx lutea</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Live	1	PT
<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	Live	3	UNK
<i>Psittacus erythacus</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Live	1	PT
<i>Boa constrictor</i>	Live	6	UNK
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Carapace	1	CV
Cheloniidae	Carapace	7	MZ
<i>Crocodylus cataphractus</i>	Skin	1	TD
<i>Eunectes murinus</i>	Skin	2	UNK
<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Python molurus</i>	Live	8	UNK
<i>Python regius</i>	Live	7	UNK
<i>Python regius</i>	Live	3	UNK
<i>Python sebae</i>	Live	1	UNK
<i>Python sebae</i>	Skin	3	UNK
<i>Python</i> sp.	Skin	2	CI
<i>Python</i> sp.	Skin	1	TD
<i>Python</i> sp.	Skin	1	BR

Taxa	Description	Quantity	Country of origin
<i>Python</i> sp.	Skin	4	AO
<i>Python</i> sp.	Skin	3	CV
<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Live	75	UNK
<i>Acropora</i> sp.	Coral	140 (Kg.)	UNK
Coral	Coral	2	MZ
Coral	Coral	0,750 (Kg)	UNK
<i>Goniospora minor</i>	Live	4	UNK
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>	Body	2 Kg	PH
<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	Timber	2 Kg	UNK

During the period covered by this report, the enforcement activities carried out in Italy by the CITES Service of the Italian Forestry Corps resulted in relevant confiscations of live animals, in particular live birds, reptiles as pet animals following travellers, corals, shells, caviar, leather goods, ivory by-products, stuffed turtles, hunting trophies, game birds etc. Italy provided more detailed information about the following cases:

- The phenomenon related to illegal introduction of caviar has been confirmed. The most remarkable seizures have been performed by the CITES Operational Units that operate at the airports of Bologna - Borgo Panigale and Verona.
- A very interesting result was obtained as a consequence of a Corpo Forestale dello Stato investigation started at Ancona harbour on illegal traffic and smuggling of falcons, eagles and condors in southern Italy, in connection with eastern countries and Northern Europe. Thanks to searches in different places, more than 200 live animals of the above mentioned families were found and seized and two people (one from Austria and one from Germany) have been denounced. The investigations are still carried on in cooperation with other European authorities involved. In relation to such case, another search has been done and live animals, such as Psittaciformes, Gruiformes, Falconiformes and Felidae spp. (in terms of Italian legislation on dangerous animals) were found and seized.
- Following a warning, a Libyan citizen was denounced for illegal traffic of about 300 tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni*) in Fiumicino International Airport, coming from Libya and ready for the Naples illegal market held by four shops with exotic animals. Further investigations are going on.
- In March 2006, Italian Judiciary Authorities started debating against two Italian citizens that had been referred in 2004 for abuse on animals and CITES laws infraction. In fact, about hundred of endangered animals (*Testudo*, pythons and parrots) dead or kept in very bad conditions were found and seized. The animals, acquired in tropical countries, were made to transit through East European countries, so avoiding all controls.
- Other relevant activities have been carried out regarding illegal traffic of *Testudo* spp. (an Italian citizen denounced and 9 live animals seized), illegal sale of *Ambystoma mexicanum* (axolotl) (one Italian man denounced for illicit trade of more than 10,000 live animals during 3 - 4 years and 40 live specimens seized), and seizure of more than 500 skins of *Prionailurus bengalensis*, smuggled in a big suitcase without any document. This last case is very recent and investigation has just started.

Regarding enforcement matters in Sweden, it can be mentioned that several large-scale inspections were performed around season holidays 2005/2006 targeting fish retailers in search for illegal caviar. 74 retailers were inspected, 9 house warrants performed and 14 cases are now under investigation. The actions gave media headlines and the price of legal caviar doubled.

During the reporting period, Customs in Slovenia reported 46 seizures while the Slovenian Criminal Police reported 3 major seizures of CITES specimens. The most significant cases relate to the illegal trade in date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*). A considerable amount (166 kg) of this species was confiscated. Slovenian Criminal Police in cooperation with Croatian and Italian colleagues discovered an organized group of date mussel suppliers. Twelve people have been under investigation including one enforcement officer. Several criminal charges were imposed to offenders.

Slovenian Customs seized 264 specimens of stony corals, 50 shells of Tridacnidae spp., caviar of *Huso huso* and *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*. Of mammals, four worked specimens of Elephantidae spp., one *Ursus arctos* hunting trophy and a considerable amount of TCM (plasters and capsules) containing *Panthera pardus*, *Moschus* spp. and Ursidae spp. have been confiscated. Of reptiles, several specimens of Crocodylia spp., skins of *Python sebae* and 24 bottles containing *Xenochrophis piscator* have been confiscated. A shipment of live specimens of *Testudo hermanni* (11) and *Testudo graeca* (7) was confiscated and placed in a rescue centre. Of plants, several specimens of Cactaceae spp., roots of *Panax quinquefolius*, and live orchids of genera *Vanda* spp. and *Cattleya* spp. have been confiscated.

Slovakia provided information about the following cases:

- During the reporting period, Slovak Customs reported 3 seizures of 1 piece of *Tridacna* spp., 5 pieces of *Xenochrophis piscator* and 2 pieces of Scleractinia.
- Authorities of internal control (Slovak Environmental Inspectorate and District Offices for Environment) found out 14 violations of CITES legislation and imposed fines in total 43,500 SKK (ca 1,088 EUR). The most significant cases included 2 live *Testudo hermanni*, 2 live *Buteo buteo*, 1 live *Falco tinnunculus* and 1 live *Morelia viridis*.
- Three live *Chamaeleo werneri*, 3 live *Chamaeleo deremensis*, 1 live *Chamaeleo sternfeldi* and 3 live *Chamaeleo fueelleborni* were confiscated and 1 live *Macaca mulatta* was seized by authorities of internal control.
- In May 2006, one person was stopped with 6 nestlings of *Falco peregrinus* on the Slovak-Hungarian border. Specimens were illegally taken from the wild. Person was taken into custody. The case is still under investigation, the specimens were returned to nests in the wild in Slovakia. At least 2 other persons were involved in this crime.
- Slovak police detected a group of offenders who imported 47 live and 8 dead specimens of *Geochelone radiata*, 27 live and 6 dead specimens of *Geochelone elegans*, 47 live and 5 dead specimens of *Testudo hermanni*, 57 live and 33 dead specimens of *T. graeca*, 10 live and 5 dead specimens of *T. marginata*, 2 dead specimens of *T. kleinmanni*, 2 live specimens of *Sanzinia madagascariensis*, 8 live specimens of *Brachylophus fasciatus*, 1 live specimen of *Chelus fimbriatus* and 2 live specimens of *Elseya branderhorsti*. The specimens were seized. All specimens were taken from the wild.
- Another police case concerns group of offenders who imported 4 live specimens of *Batagur baska*, 1 live and 1 dead specimens of *Geochelone radiata*, 1 dead specimen of *Pyxis arachnoides*, 7 live specimens of *Testudo hermanni*, 1 live specimen of *T. graeca*, 1 live specimen of *T. marginata* and 1 live specimen of *T. horsfieldii* from Asia. All specimens were seized. Both cases are still investigated.

9. Public Awareness and Information

The Austrian CITES homepage now also provides (backdated) statistical analyses of Austrian trade in CITES-listed species. Tabulated trade levels are updated monthly and can be accessed at www.umwelt.net.at/article/articleview/29355/1/8021.

Since 2003, the Austrian Ministry of the Environment has been funding WWF-CITES Awareness Campaigns aimed, in particular, at travel agents and travel guides, zoos and botanical gardens, passengers at the Vienna International Airport, and, in 2006, at holders and breeders of CITES-listed specimens.

The Belgian CITES MA gave in December 2005 a presentation about the application of CITES in Belgium directed to members of a national parrot breeding association (Belgische Vereniging voor Parkieten). The Belgian MA gave another presentation in February 2006 on the "Importance of CITES and Animal welfare for the movement of biological material" at a seminar organized by PERSEUS (Partners in Regulatory and safety Service) on "Moving biological material into and out of Belgium: an update on requirements".

An NGO "Green Action" as a part of a project "Green Belt" organized a regional workshop in Croatia where officials from the Croatian Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate held lectures for local stakeholders (hunters, officials, local community, local NGOs) on negative impact of illegal hunting and illegal trade in wild species. Production of a leaflet concerning trade in exotic animals and obligations for keeping them in captivity is planned in 2006 as a part of cooperation between the "Green Action" and the Ministry of Culture as well. Main goal of that leaflet will be to inform and alert the public.

In the **Czech Republic**, the Agricultural Faculty of the Southern-Bohemian University organized a 1-day Conference "Questions about CITES" in České Budějovice on 11 April 2006 with more than 100 participants. The Southern-Bohemian University is going to teach a new bachelor's degree subject called "Biology of pet animals and ornamental plants and conservation issues" since the 2006 Autumn semester. Lessons on CITES and related issues will be part of this subject.

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (CITES SA) published an informational brochure in Czech on CITES in the Czech Republic after the country's joining the EU, and a brochure "Do you know CITES?" with basic information for the public in Czech and English. A poster in Czech "Do you know their price?" focused on most often traded wildlife species was published as well.

Estonia organized a CITES exhibition at the Estonian Police Board (September 2005), a CITES exhibition and presentation of collection of confiscated goods at the Tourest 2006 (Travel Trade Fair, February 17-19) in Tallinn, a CITES exhibition at the Estonian Museum of Natural History (April 2006), and a CITES exhibition at the Luhamaa border point (border to Russia, June 2006).

Finland reported that several articles on CITES with the aim of raising public awareness were published in newspapers and periodicals. Some interviews were given for radio/TV.

France published in December 2005 a leaflet informing travellers, which was widely distributed e.g. by travel agencies, French Embassies in Asia and Africa, and tourist offices in French overseas territories.

A National CITES website has been created at http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=255, as well as a database including all information and legislation concerning species listed in the CITES Appendices and the Annexes of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 (<http://cites.ecologie.gouv.fr/v1/pages/base.asp>).

Since 1 June 2006 and until next Autumn, a short film on CITES awareness has been shown on all long flights of Air France.

Germany celebrated the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention by a press conference held at the Zoo in Berlin on 19 June 2006.

In Spring 2006, the **Hungarian** MA in cooperation with the WWF Hungary and the REX Foundation launched an awareness raising campaign now targeting children of 10-18 years age. For this country-wide campaign, all elementary schools and high schools have been involved obtaining teachers' support in delivering the message. Posters and handouts on CITES were distributed to ca. 4.400 schools in Hungary and the CITES website has been developed – containing pages for children and teaching material for teachers as well. Entries have been invited for board game and Internet game competition, and the MA plans to publish the winning CITES board game in the near future. In Autumn 2006, the continuation of this 'children campaign' and launching of a umpteenth 'tourist campaign' is planned. In frame of the latter, leaflets, suitcase lockets and a CITES show-case are on the way on Ferihegy International Airport as well.

The CITES MA of **Italy** (Direction for the Conservation of Nature of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection) with the Italian State Forestry Corps and the "Bioparco" of Rome (Rome Zoo) opened a permanent exhibition "Furti di Natura" (stolen wildlife) with the aim to make aware and to inform citizens about illegal traffic of flora and fauna threatened with extinction and protected by CITES. Furthermore, a programme for secondary schools has been put in place during Winter 2005 - Spring 2006, with production and distribution of educational materials to pupils and teachers, involving them in a full day activity in the Bioparco, and subsequently school work two months lasting. To this purpose, an 'educational kit' has been produced, consisting of small suitcases containing all kind of educational material (e.g. puzzles, drawings, games with animals and plants etc.) to be given every time a school is going to visit the display.

The Italian Ministry of Environment and Land Protection, in cooperation with the State Forestry Corps, Customs Agency and Ministry of Productive Activities, organized a permanent display at the departure gates of the International Airport Roma - Fiumicino. Two large panels in Italian and English were placed at the entrance hall of the airport. Besides some basic information about CITES, the main purpose of the

panels is to bring attention of the public on possibility of illegal transporting animals and/or plants. At the same location, small guides are also available for tourists. They contain a short description and introduction of CITES and an overview of CITES souvenirs from main tourist destinations. On the last pages of the guide, important information is given about various cases in which permits are needed, the consequences in case of lack of CITES documents and some CITES specimens most commonly confiscated. Moreover, the guide contains references of the MAs of the states therein mentioned, and the two last pages consist of a short section of games for children, called "Learn playing". The display is enriched by a projection of a video showing images of illegal capture/collection and transport of CITES animal and plants. There is also a permanent exhibition of seized specimens that is also contributing to draw the attention of the public on the display.

In **Latvia**, a significant up-date has been completed in web homepages of the CITES MA (www.dap.gov.lv), the SA (www.dabasmuzejs.gov.lv) and the State Environmental Inspectorate (www.vvd.gov.lv).

A permanent CITES exhibition was opened in the Natural History Museum of Latvia (CITES SA) in the end of 2005 where confiscated CITES specimens are also displayed.

In April of 2005, the Latvian MA started to launch a public awareness campaign financially supported by the Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund. The campaign is targeting mainly at tourists travelling overseas. Leaflets, posters and TV advertisement (TV advertisement for uploading is available on <http://www.dap.gov.lv/?objid=1131>) were used as awareness tools.

The CITES MA also developed and distributed information leaflets (plain ticket size) about CITES to biggest Latvia's travelling agencies in February 2006.

In April 2006, the CITES MA received a financial support from the Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund for further continuation of public awareness campaign.

Besides mentioned campaigns, the Latvian MA tries to raise public awareness about CITES by writing articles, giving presentations in schools and other governmental or public institutions on regular bases.

The CITES MA of the **Netherlands** is working on a (target-group oriented) communication program. This program will offer information on CITES through different media such as internet, brochures, workshops etc. It is aimed at reaching a high level of awareness. As it forms a part of the review of the implementation of CITES (see Chapter 6) it will be used, amongst others, for target groups that can be highly influenced in their compliance behaviour by a high level of information. There will be a difference in media used for small target groups and large target groups such as tourists.

Norway is going to issue a new CITES brochure for the public this Summer, replacing the old one from 1996. Norway is updating continuously its CITES web pages (www.dirnat.no/cites). Norway also contributed with texts on CITES to a Nordic Council of Ministers initiative on a new information brochure on MEAs.

CITES coordinators of Polish Customs carried out lectures for pupils and students concerning trade in endangered species in **Poland**. The WWF Poland carried out campaigns on (1) placement of display panels presenting confiscated CITES specimens on 3 international airports in Poland, (2) educational meetings for pupils from Warsaw's schools, and (3) awareness campaign called "Don't buy illegal tortoises". Another awareness building action for children was conducted by "Salamandra" in Poland.

Portugal reported that a significant up-date of its CITES homepage (www.icn.pt, and links) has been completed. Portuguese authorities organized courses and lectures on CITES issues, especially implementation and enforcement, for scientists, amateurs, keepers and breeders, and veterinary bodies.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection-Directorate for Environmental Protection of **Serbia**, agreed that RSPCA would support and finance to make and print the publication "The guide for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)" in Serbia. This publication would be of educational and informational significance for the personnel working on control and implementation of the Convention, as well as for the general public.

The MA of **Slovenia** organized a press conference in May 2006 to inform the public about the outcome of enforcement activities. The MA also released a four-year report and a CD on the implementation of CITES in Slovenia. The aim of the report is to present the legislative, administrative and other measures for CITES implementation since the date of Slovenia's accession to the EU on 1 May 2004. The information is available at <http://www.sigov.si/mop/>.

In **Slovakia**, information about the EC and national legislation was provided to the media (6 various magazines including environmental magazines and magazines for hunters and breeders of exotic animals, and radio). A brochure "National and EC Wildlife Trade Regulations" and a leaflet "CITES and EC Wildlife Trade Regulations" (both in print) were prepared for the public during the reporting period. A new alphabetical checklist (Slovak and scientific names of species) prepared by the Slovak CITES SA can be accessed at www.cites.sk.

During the reporting period, the MA of the **United Kingdom** continued to publicise CITES. One way in which the United Kingdom's MA does this is through its Souvenir Alert campaign. The campaign, launched in 2000 together with WWF-United Kingdom, aims to alert tourists to the problem of bringing back illegal wildlife souvenirs from their travels. The United Kingdom has been promoting the Souvenir Alert campaign by continuing to distribute leaflets and luggage labels.

In the last 12 months, the United Kingdom's MA also attended the following shows and fairs in order to publicise CITES: Falconry Fair [May 2005 (not included on last report)], Hedge Hawks Falconry Centre (June 2005), Game Fair (July 2005), International Herpetological Breeders meeting (July 2005), Parrot Society Show (Oct 2005), and Falconry Fair (May 2006).

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

The JNCC (United Kingdom's SA Fauna) and the RBG Kew (United Kingdom's SA Flora) both provide scientific input at meetings of the Sustainable User's network (SUN), providing updates for traders on CITES issues relevant to fauna and flora.

The RBG Kew carried out the following activities as well:

- 'A Year at Kew' BBC documentary – coverage was given of a seizure of ramin blinds by HM Revenue and Customs and the work of Kew as the CITES SA in assisting with the identification of timber at the Jodrell Laboratory.
- Assistance to traders – Kew assisted Defra with the development of 'Additional Guidance for Timber Importers and traders', a guidance note on tree species in trade.
- Kew has produced a poster on plants in trade as part of an updated set of wildlife crime posters for the PAW Roadshow exhibition.

10. CITES Relevant Research, Scientific & Technical Information and Publications

Austria provided information on necessary research to respond to a call from the Secretariat for a "Review of Significant Trade" involving Austrian trade in the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). The research demonstrated no indication that exports of saker falcons from Austria (all captive-bred and marked in accordance with existing national legislation) have had a detrimental effect on the survival of the wild population of the species in Austria. Although export figures are rising, the population of wild sakers in Austria has recovered from a decline during much of the second half of the 20th century and still shows signs of a slight increase. However, there are indications that the illegal taking of hatchlings from wild breeding pairs is taking place in Austria and that genetic introgression from released or escaped falconer birds occurs in the Pannonian saker population. The effects of these have to be monitored in the future.

A CITES Checklist for the Genus *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae)¹ was published by the University of Vienna (Dr. M. Kiehn), in collaboration with the Austrian CITES SA and the Vienna Botanical Garden.

¹ <http://www.cites.org/common/notif/2005/E049A.html>

During the year 2005, the Ministry of Environment and Water of **Bulgaria** signed a contract with NGOs and Bulgarian Academy of Science for preparation of two action plans for protection and management of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and wild cat (*Felis sylvestris*) and one for restoration of the population of ship sturgeon (*Acipenser nudiiventris*) considered extinct.

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the **Czech Republic** (CITES SA) prepared a short report on status of European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) population in the framework of the review of Felidae by the AC. The Czech Environmental Inspectorate with a support of the SA was involved in a project for development of DNA analysis for paternity tests of some Testudinidae species.

In 2005, the **Germany's** SA 'Flora' had commissioned a research study on the identification of CITES protected timber species. This study resulted in the development of a CD-ROM both in English and German which was presented to the Parties at the PC meeting in Lima, Peru, 2006. The CD-ROM called "*CITESwoodID*" provides identification keys for 8 trade relevant CITES timber species (e. g. mahogany, ramin, afrormosia) and further information for additional 40 non-CITES timber species which can readily be mistaken for any CITES protected timber. The software programme includes a database with digitalised macroscopic pictures of all wood anatomical directions and an interactive identification key. This CD-Rom is an effective enforcement tool for CITES administrative and enforcement authorities allowing them to readily identify or differentiate visually or with a tenfold magnifying glass those CITES-listed timber species that are regularly in international trade.

Germany's SA had commissioned TRAFFIC International to carry out a review on population status, harvesting, trade and management of the heavily traded timber species merbau (*Intsia spp.*) which has been distributed as an information document at the 16th meeting of the PC. Depending on the results of the review it may also be considered to conduct a workshop in the countries of origin of this important timber taxon.

Following the meeting on "Management and Enforcement of the CITES Timber Trade in the European Region" in Perugia in April 2005, the **Italian** CITES MA have made a paper with all the information about the measurement of the timber. This paper was presented at the latest PC meeting held in Lima (Peru) in July 2006.

Several projects concerning native CITES species are being carried out in **Poland**: (1) restoration of *Falco peregrinus*; (2) conservation of *Falco tinnunculus* and *Tyto alba*; (3) reintroduction of *Bubo bubo* in Wolinski National Park; (4) monitoring of distribution and number of *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Milvus milvus*, *Milvus migrans*, *Bubo bubo*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aquila clanga* and *Pandion haliaetus*; (5) monitoring of distribution and number of *Canis lupus* and *Lynx lynx*; (6) reintroduction of *Parnassius apollo* in Pieniny National Park; and (7) reintroduction of *Otis tarda* in region of Wielkopolska. In relation to NATURA 2000, there are several national species management programmes in preparation for the following CITES species: *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Phocoena phocoena* and *Lutra lutra*.

Serbia reported that the Scientific Advisory Board for the implementation of the Convention includes representatives from different scientific institutions and scientists that are specialized for different groups of fauna and flora. The Zoo Palic near Subotica was declared in 2004 to be a rescue centre for abandoned and confiscated animals. In 2006, this institution began planning for a program of active protection of endangered birds of prey through shelter, rehabilitation and reintroduction into their natural habitat. Possibilities are also studied for creating conditions for reproduction of these animals, which could be a valuable genetic material for revitalization of natural populations.

Serbia signed the agreement concerning Regional Strategy (for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sturgeon Populations of the N-W Black Sea and Lower Danube River in accordance with CITES) as agreed in November 2003. Serbia is a party of a Sturgeon range region group - Black Sea Sturgeon Management Action Group (BSSMAG). The National Management Plan for sturgeon species was finalized in 2005, and the implementation will be done in stages over several years.

Turkey provided detailed information on a project "Research on Present Status of Sturgeon Population and Rearing Possibilities". The executive institution is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research, Trabzon Central Fisheries Research Institute. The duration of the project is 36 months (February 2006 – February 2009). Abstract of the Project: "*Anadromous sturgeons' species have been classified as endangered species in global scale and entered into the Red*

Data Book in many countries. It is well known that there were 6 or 7 sturgeon species inhabiting around the Turkish Black Sea coast and entering rivers, mainly the Kyzilyrmak, the Yepilyrmak, the Sakarya and the Coruh for spawning. Stocks of these species declined sharply during the 1970s due to overfishing, dam construction, habitat destruction and water pollution. As a result, protection and management measurements have been implemented since then. However, situation of stocks and habitats has continued to worsen. On the other hand there has been no comprehensive study on the life cycle, population structure and habitats of these species. Therefore, situation of stocks and factors threatening these species are not documented. It is fact that protection and sustainability of these anadromous species are our major responsibility and moral issue. The main aim of the project is to determine current status of the stocks, habitats, genetic variation and to develop conservation and management strategies and plans."

The SA (Flora) of the **United Kingdom** produced and distributed two manuals "CITES and Slipper Orchids - the genera *Paphiopedilum*, *Phragmipedium* and *Cypripedium*" and "CITES Orchid Checklist 4 - the genera *Aerides*, *Coelogyne*, *Comporettia* & *Masdevallia*", which were launched as CD-ROMs at PC16 in Lima, Peru, in July 2006 by the British Ambassador to Peru, Catherine Nettleton. The manuals are available in English, French and Spanish.

To follow up the "Ramin Pack", the United Kingdom's SA (Flora) have produced and updated CD-ROMs that cover ramin, afrormosia and bigleaf mahogany. These are accompanied by a manual and a series of posters. These packs have specifically targeted at UK enforcement and contain information directly related to UK Customs procedures. Copies have been sent to enforcement officers in other EU Member States (via the CIRCA website) and other CITES Parties, including Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, the United States and Thailand. "Timber posters" have also been produced for ramin, afrormosia and bigleaf mahogany by the RBG Kew. These have been circulated to all EU Member States via the CIRCA website and EU Enforcement Group meetings and to other CITES Parties.

The CITES image database held at the RBG Kew (the United Kingdom's SA for Flora) continues to be updated and now includes some 20,000 images.

To assist wildlife enforcement officers, the United Kingdom has also published two handbooks: "Wildlife Crime: A guide to the use of forensic and specialist techniques in the investigation of wildlife crime"; and "Wildlife Trade Law: A UK Enforcer's Fact file". Both can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/paw.

At the 11th EU Enforcement Group meeting (Brussels, 10 November 2005), the RBG Kew (the United Kingdom's SA for Flora) presented the results of a collaborative trip to South Africa (7 - 15 October 2005) working with the South African CITES Authorities on the trade and identification of cycad species.

The following publications have been produced by the RBG Kew:

- McGough, H.N. (2004). Target 11: Protecting species from international trade. *In* Anon (2004) Plant Diversity Challenge – The United Kingdom's response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. 34-35. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, United Kingdom.
- McGough, H. N. (2006). Legislation: a key user of taxonomy for plant conservation and sustainable use. *In* Jury, S. & Leadlay, E. (eds) Taxonomy and Plant Conservation. 255-265. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.
- McGough, H.N., Roberts, D. L., Brodie, C. & Kowalczyk, J. (2006). CITES and Slipper Orchids, CITES et les orchidées Sabot de Vénus, CITES y las Zapatillas de Venus. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 240 + CD-ROM pp.
- Smith, M. J., Brodie, C., Kowalczyk, J. Michnowicz, S., McGough, H.N. & Roberts, J. A. (2006). CITES Orchid Checklist, 4. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 184 + CD-ROM pp.
- Groves, M. (2005). Plant Identification. *In*: Defra. Wildlife Crime: A guide to the use of forensic and specialist techniques in the investigation of wildlife crime. 40-43. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Groves, M. (2005). Additional Guidance Note for Timber importers and traders. Guidance Note 15, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. <http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/license/default.htm>.
- Groves, M. (2005). Can I see some identification? Magistrate. Volume 61 (4), 108-109.

The JNCC checklists:

Following the changes to the Appendices agreed at CoP13, the JNCC commissioned UNEP-WCMC to update the JNCC CITES checklists. The revised checklists were published in late 2005 and are available from the UK CITES website (http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites_species.htm). The checklists document all animal species listed on the CITES Appendices and species listed on the Annexes of the EC CITES regulations, and provide additional information on inclusion on the IUCN red list and lists the range states of the species concerned.

- UNEP-WCMC. (2005). Checklist of herpetofauna listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97. 10th edition. JNCC Report No. 378.
- UNEP-WCMC. (2005). Checklist of fish and invertebrates listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97. 7th edition. JNCC Report No. 379.
- UNEP-WCMC. (2005). Checklist of mammals listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97. 7th edition. JNCC Report No. 380.
- UNEP-WCMC. (2005). Checklist of birds listed in the CITES Appendices and in EC Regulation 338/97. 8th edition. JNCC Report No. 381.

The **United Kingdom** further reported on the following activities related to CITES relevant research:

The United Kingdom's MA has recently completed two basking shark research projects:

- A four-year research project on the seasonal movement and behaviour of basking sharks was completed in January 2005 and has produced results which will contribute to the better understanding and management of basking shark populations.
- A two-year research project on the conservation genetics of basking sharks was completed in June 2006. This project aimed 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. It also has provided the toolbox to enable genetic identification of different shark species to help with enforcement of CITES.

Effect of wild bird bans on illegal trade and livelihoods. Large numbers of live wild birds are imported into the EU annually. These birds are imported to satisfy the demand for exotic birds, but they present an unknown, but potentially significant source of income in developing countries, from which most birds originate.

The worldwide concern over the spread of avian influenza and the resulting temporary EU ban on the imports of wild birds has raised the public profile of the international trade in wild birds. This has led to calls for trade in birds to be banned permanently. The current impacts of the EU ban on imports of live wild birds and pet birds are as yet unknown, including with regards to levels of illegal trade, and the livelihood impacts on local people in range states.

Defra is letting a research project to investigate and update these impacts in order to inform future policy decisions and enforcement efforts, and propose mechanisms to monitor and address illegal trade in future.

Two particular issues will be examined: (1) How important is wild bird trade to the livelihoods of local people in the range states of these exotic species? (2) What is the impact when a ban is imposed (on livelihoods and levels of illegal trade). We are concerned about the lack of information concerning the correlation between livelihoods and the ban on such imports in developing countries. We are interested in the effects of such bans on income levels and livelihoods for developing countries.

The United Kingdom has commissioned research to develop a new and improved method for DNA fingerprinting. Fluorescent multiplexing allows the use of feathers as opposed to blood as the source material and provides accurate identity and parentage testing and could identify whether CITES specimens are captive-bred or wild-taken.

Bushmeat DNA testing. The United Kingdom has sponsored a study to assess the trade in CITES-listed bushmeat. The study takes the form of a species identification survey, based on DNA analysis of samples of seized meat entering the United Kingdom.

DNA timber project. The United Kingdom is sponsoring a showcase demonstration project on the use of an effective DNA-based method of identification method for CITES timber specimens. Enforcement of CITES timber regulations relies on the identification of individual tree species. Identification often requires a high level of botanical expertise, limiting the ability to investigate the illegal trade. The use of forensic DNA techniques in wildlife crime investigation is increasing. This proposal describes a pilot study to develop a novel DNA-based method for the forensic identification of tree species that can be readily applied by enforcement bodies globally.

Survey of the occurrence and relative abundance of diurnal raptors in Guinea subject to international trade. In collaboration with the CITES authorities of Guinea, the United Kingdom's MA and the SA (Fauna) have jointly commissioned Fauna & Flora International to undertake a survey of the status of diurnal raptors and owls subject to trade in Guinea. The project aims to enable the CITES authorities of Guinea and those of the European Community to share a common and improved understanding of the current status in Guinea of those raptors most likely to be in international trade and so aid the making of non-detriment findings. The project also combines an element of capacity building and training. The project should be completed by the end of July 2006.