

# CITES WORLD

## *Official Newsletter of the Parties* *Convention on International Trade* *in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*

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### Letter from the Editor

#### CITES is successful

The world of CITES is full of success stories, but these are rarely seen in the popular media. Instead we hear of the 'failures' of the Convention, in which CITES is all too often blamed for circumstances outside its control or influence. Much attention has also focused on the biennial meetings of the COP and amendments to the Appendices, but there is still only limited appreciation of how CITES works on a day-to-day basis and the worldwide impact the Convention has on conservation, trade and sustainable use. More attention needs to be paid to the many successes of CITES.

The 'CITES permit' is one such conservation and sustainable use success story. For over 25 years permits have been used to help ensure that no species of wild fauna or flora is unsustainably exploited because of international trade. The use of standardized permit forms has facilitated widespread international cooperation in conservation and trade monitoring, and the transaction data contained in them have created an unparalleled body of information on the management and use of species worldwide.

The time is approaching where exporting nations, importing nations and consumers will recognize CITES export permits as a type of "green certification" of non-detrimental and sustainable use of Appendix II-listed species. The Parties have added a number of safeguards against detrimental and unsustainable use through the significant trade review process and the work of the Animals and Plants Committees, and through adoption of

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### Report of the Chairman of the Plants Committee

At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the following persons were elected as Regional Representatives to the Plants Committee: Dr J. Donaldson from South Africa (Africa), Dr Q. Luke from Kenya (Africa), Mr Z. Shaari from Malaysia (Asia), Dr N. P. Singh from India (Asia), Dr E. Forero from Colombia (Central and South

America and the Caribbean), Dr M. Werkhoven from Surinam (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Dr M. Clemente from Spain (Europe), Dr J. de Koning from the Netherlands (Europe), Mr B. von Arx from Canada (North America) and Dr G. Leach from Australia (Oceania). Dr M. Clemente was re-elected as Chairman, Mr B. von Arx as Vice-Chairman.

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### A new Animals Committee

Just after closure of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, the newly elected members and alternate members of the Animals

Committee (AC) met in order to get to know each other and to elect a Chairman for the coming period, as Hank Jenkins was no longer representing Oceania and the position of Chairman had become vacant. The new composition of the AC is as follows:

#### • Africa

Members: Prof. Dr Kim Howell (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr Michael Griffin (Namibia), alternates: Dr Edson Chidzwa (Zimbabwe) and Dr Richard Kiome Bagine (Kenya);

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## Letter from the Editor

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Resolutions and Decisions aimed at ensuring implementation of the provisions of CITES.

The conditions, consultations and inspections under which permits are issued and accepted are at the core of how CITES regulates commercial trade. Properly issued permits should represent the end result of a chain of legal verifications, biological and ecological considerations, sustainability and management issues, and health and welfare issues that have to be made within a framework of institutional responsibility before a permit is issued.

The Management Authority of the State of export is the only authority that can issue a CITES export permit, and for the export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II, it must decide whether a permit shall be issued or not. To issue the permit it must first ensure that the Scientific Authority has advised that the proposed export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species. The Management Authority must also be satisfied that the specimen was legally obtained according to national laws for the protection of fauna and flora, and that living specimens will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment. The Scientific Authority in turn monitors exports, and is required to limit trade within a level that maintains that species

## Staff at the Secretariat

### Arrivals

Ms Alice Burke joined the Secretariat as the Senior Capacity Building Officer (Projects) on 2 February 2001.

Mr Juan Carlos Vasquez joined the Secretariat as the Legal and Trade Policy Officer on 27 February 2001.

Ms Virginia Rothenbühler joined the Secretariat on 1 March 2001 as the Research Assistant of the Capacity Building Unit.

Mr Stephen Nash joined the Secretariat on 2 April 2001 as the Chief of the Capacity Building Unit.

Mr Tom De Meulenaer, the new Senior Scientific Officer (Animals), started working with the Secretariat on 2 April 2001.

Mr Liu Yuan, the new Regional Assistance Officer started working with the Secretariat on 22 April 2001.



*The people in the photograph are, from left to right: Liu Yuan, Stephen Nash, Virginia Rothenbühler, Tom de Meulenaer, Alice Burke, Juan Carlos Vasquez*

throughout its range at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystems where it occurs, and well above any level that could threaten the species with extinction.

In the case of Appendix-I listed species, import for primarily commercial purposes is generally not allowed, and the import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I requires the prior grant and presentation of an import permit. This import permit can only be granted when the Scientific Authority of the State of import has advised that the import is for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved and that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it, and the Management Authority of the State of import is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes. In such cases the CITES permits (export and import) serve as proof of the agreement and cooperation between nations over the legal source of the specimens, the conservation impact of the trade and the well being of the specimens.

Starting in the December 2001 edition, *CITES World* will be exploring in greater detail the many successes of CITES, using your examples of where the conservation and sustainable use of species have been enhanced by the Convention.

*The Editor*

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## Report of the Chairman of the Plants Committee

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The Plants Committee held its 10th meeting in Shepherdstown, United States of America, from 11 to 15 December 2000. All members were present at that meeting. A total of 23 Parties were represented as well as one United Nations agency, one inter-governmental organization and 10 non-governmental organizations.

The Plants Committee wishes to express its deep gratitude to the Management and Scientific Authorities of the United States of America for their generous invitation and for the superb organization of the 10th meeting.

Concerning the regional reports, special mention should be made of the presentation on CD-ROM of the updated version of the regional directory for Europe produced by Spain and the presentation of the directories for Oceania and North America, produced by Australia and Canada respectively. At the present time the directories for Asia, Africa and Central and South America and the Caribbean are in the process of being created.

The Committee reviewed the decisions made at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and set in motion the work dealing with *Harpagophytum spp.*, *Guaiacum sanctum* and *Aquilaria spp.*

The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare documentation relating to the definition of the term “artificially propagated” in relation to timber, and standard exemptions. In order to cover the topic of the definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations and the annotations for medicinal plants, a working group was set up comprising China, Colombia as the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean, France, Germany, the United States of America, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat.

The subject of *Araucaria araucana* was covered in depth. From the data provided, and especially those given by the Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee, who explained clearly the origin and genesis of a population, it became clear that there is only one population of *Araucaria araucana*, namely that found in Chile and Argentina. The Committee prepared a letter for the Chairman to send on behalf of the Plants Committee to the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

With respect to the topic of significant trade in plants, the Plants Committee supported the priorities given in the document prepared by the coordinator, giving high priority to the project in Madagascar.

The Plants Committee also set up a working group to determine how to move forward with the review of the Appendices, and in particular how to proceed in the review of the family Orchidaceae. The group is expected to present its conclusions at the next meeting of the Committee.

With respect to the checklists, Austria offered CHF 5'000 to start the work relating to *Bulbophyllum*, and the representative of South and Central America and the Caribbean (Colombia) offered cooperation in the work on the genus *Masdevallia*. The Plants Committee expressed its sincere gratitude for these contributions to its work.

Various nomenclature problems were covered, having to do with *Cactaceae*, *Aquilaria spp.*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa* and *Taxus wallichiana*. All of them were passed to the Vice-Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee so that the appropriate documentation could be prepared for the 11th meeting of the Committee.

The CITES Strategic Vision and the implementation of the actions directed to the Plants Committee were given special attention in that Committee. Actions were analysed and priorities established. Finally, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were entrusted with producing a series of proposals for circulation to the members of the Committee and subsequently, once the proposals had been selected, submitting them to the United States of America in order to seek its approval for application of a part of its donation to finance some of the proposals. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman have already held a working meeting in March, in Canada, to discuss the preparation of those proposals.

The United Kingdom reported to the Plants Committee on the very favourable reception given to the standard slide

package on CITES and Plants. This work had been produced with the financial assistance of the CITES Management Authority of the United Kingdom and the CITES Secretariat, together with assistance from the Scientific Authorities of the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands and Italy. About 600 copies of the set had been distributed and already the stocks of copies in English and Spanish were exhausted. However, more would be printed in the current year. It was also reported that the Management Authority of the United Kingdom had confirmed the offer of a new round of financing of GBP 100,000 over four years for the production of new packages of slides. The new titles which it has envisaged to produce are: CITES and Orchids; CITES and Succulents; Training Exercises for use by the Parties to CITES.

One could cite many examples in which the work of the members of the Plants Committee has made a significant contribution to progress. For instance there is the process and procedures of the review of the Appendices, with some 300 species reviewed for the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; the Strategic Vision; the operating procedures of the Committee; the holding of regular regional meetings in certain regions; procedures and work on significant trade; and training and information activities. The systematic and well-executed work of the Plants Committee was warmly acknowledged by the Parties during the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is due to the constant efforts of the representatives where, both in my previous term as Chairman and in the present one, I have noted their outstanding personal capabilities and commitment to the Convention, and to the efforts of the Parties and non-governmental organizations which cooperate actively and enthusiastically with the Committee which I have the honour to chair.

The 11th meeting of the Plants Committee will be held in the first week of September in Langkawi, Malaysia.

### Other meetings

For the first meeting of the Criteria Working Group (CWG), held on 2-4 August 2000 in Canberra, Australia, the following experts from the Plants Committee had been nominated by the Chairman: Dr John Donaldson (Africa), Mr Zulmukshar Shaari (Asia), Dr Marga Wqerkhoven (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Dr Jan de Koning (Europe), Dr Patricia Davila Aranda (North America) and Dr Greg Leach (Oceania). The results of that meeting were sent to the Parties and studied at the second joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees, held in Shepherdstown, United States of America, on 7-9 December 2000. All members of the Committee took part in this joint meeting that discussed the results achieved by the first meeting of the CWG. It was agreed that it was necessary to hold a second meeting of the CWG to deal with Annex 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 referring to definitions.

*Dr M. A. Clemente*

## A new Animals Committee

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- **Asia**

Members: Mr Tonny R. Soehartono (Indonesia) and Dr Schwann Tunhikorn (Thailand), alternates: Mr Muzammel Hussain (Bangladesh) and Dr. Choo-Hoo Giam (Singapore);

- **Central and South America and the Caribbean**

Members: Mr Sixto J. Incháustegui (Dominican Republic) and Dr Marco Polo Micheletti Bain (Honduras), alternates: Mr Roberto Ramos Tagarona (Cuba) and Ms Magaly M. Ojeda (Venezuela);

- **Europe**

Members: Dr Marinus S. Hoogmoed (Netherlands) and Dr Katalin Rodics (Hungary), alternates: Dr Vin Fleming (United Kingdom) and Dr T. Althaus (Switzerland);

- **North America**

Members: Dr Susan S. Lieberman (United States of America) and Dr Rodrigo Medellín Legorretta (Mexico);

- **Oceania**

Members: Dr Rod Hay (New Zealand), alternate: Dr Richard John Watling (Fiji).

At this meeting Dr Malan Lindeque represented the Secretariat. There was a quorum and I, as the regional representative of Europe, was elected as Chairman.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a museum herpetologist with 40 years of experience at the Dutch National Museum of Natural History, where I am curator of reptiles and amphibians. My research interests have been mainly with the taxonomy and zoogeography of reptiles and amphibians from the Amazon, with field experience in most other South American countries, Europe and some African countries. I have been involved in CITES since 1975 and, since the Netherlands ratified CITES in 1984, I have been the specialist for all invertebrates and lower vertebrates for the Dutch Scientific Authority for CITES. As a Dutch representative I attend the meetings of the European Union Scientific Review Group for CITES, which are regularly held in Brussels, to discuss CITES matters and reach common positions.

Since 1992 I have been attending all meetings of the AC and in 1997 I was elected European representative to the AC and on behalf of the EU part of Europe. Although I consider myself a regional representative for Europe, for practical reasons Katalin Rodics and I have divided Europe into an EU and a non-EU part, and we maintain contacts in our respective 'sub-regions'. My main interests clearly are reptiles and amphibians, but I have also had the opportunity to widen my field of work to other groups and to a lot of very different issues.

Upon return to the Netherlands from Nairobi last year, I pondered the matters that had been dealt with at CoP11, and what consequences these would have for the AC. It was evident that a number of issues would be addressed in Resolutions and Decisions that would have consequences for the work of this Committee, as would the new Action Plan of the Convention. Going over the issues at hand it soon became evident that these could be divided into three groups: biological issues, implementation and legal issues, and issues with elements of both. With the permission of the AC it was proposed to the Chairman of the Standing Committee (SC) to look into the possibility of establishing a technical committee composed of experts on implementation and legal matters to deal with these questions more efficiently. This proposal was received positively by the Chairman of the SC and it will be discussed at the next meeting of the SC in Paris. I hope that in this way the non-scientific elements of discussions can be eliminated as much as possible from the time-limited meetings of the AC and that its working basis will concentrate on scientific issues. It is my firm conviction that the AC should focus on zoological matters, which after all form its field of expertise, and try to reach conclusions and make decisions based on scientific evidence only.

Meetings of the AC are in fact meetings of the 10 elected regional representatives, all experts in zoological matters, who are responsible for preparing recommendations to be discussed by either the SC or the Conference of the Parties. All other participants are observers who do not have a formal responsibility in this Committee. In order to ensure that the representatives of the AC benefit from the presence of the observers from NGOs, it was decided in agreement with the Chairman of the Plants Committee that admission of NGO observers should occur through a regulated procedure that identified the expertise of the organizations and the individuals representing them. To keep numbers to a manageable level, only one person per NGO can now be registered for a meeting.

During the latest meeting of the AC, working groups were established under the chairmanship of a member or alternate member of the AC, with some exceptions. Participation of NGOs in the working groups was by invitation of the Chairman and based on their expertise on the subject to be discussed. The working groups produced either final or interim reports and some have to continue their work between meetings of the AC.

One matter of utmost importance is the Review of Significant Trade. This review tries to verify whether significant levels of trade in selected species are in conformity with Article IV, paragraph 2(a) and 3, of the Convention. During the recent meeting in Shepherdstown, United States, it soon became evident that there are some problems with the practical application of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.), on Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species taken from the wild, which provides the legal basis for the

Review. For instance it became clear very early on in the discussions that biological status and management status of a species should not be confused, and that a species in dire circumstances everywhere, but under completely different management systems in neighbouring countries, cannot simply be squeezed into a single category. Yet that is exactly what Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) forces us to do: to put species subject to different management regimes into one category which is supposed to relate to both management and implementation. I am afraid that when these categories in Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) were drawn up, the biological status and the management regimes a species is subject to were not clearly separated. As long as the Review of Significant Trade is dealing with species that are endemic to one country, or are traded only from one country, matters are simple and straightforward. However, when several countries share a species and are all exploiting it under different management regimes, matters become very complex and so does the Review of Significant Trade.

One of the objectives of the AC will be to present at CoP12 a new draft resolution on Significant Trade, that will address these issues and at the same time try to streamline the whole process and make it more transparent to everyone. This should also include a simplified guide to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.).

It is my hope that in the remaining part of my term as Chairman, the AC will be able to deal with the many complicated issues concerning CITES-listed species, and some non-CITES-listed species, that have been referred to us by the Conference of the Parties. I trust that with the cooperation of the AC members, alternates, Party observers and observer NGOs, we can accomplish our tasks and live up to our newly adopted mission statement: to provide the Conference of the Parties, Parties, other Committees and working groups, and the Secretariat with reliable scientific information and advice on biological matters (including the listing criteria and their application) concerning international trade in animal species included in the Appendices as well as, when applicable, animal species subject to international trade that may be considered for inclusion in the Appendices.

*Dr Marinus S. Hoogmoed*



## **Report on the CITES workshop on mega-biodiversity exporters (with the assistance of the European Commission)**

*Held in Brussels, Belgium 29 January - 2 February 2001*

The CITES Secretariat, with financial assistance from the European Commission, organized a capacity-building workshop for countries that are engaged in exporting significant numbers of specimens of a large variety of CITES-listed species, and that face certain challenges implementing the Convention.

The workshop was a forum to exchange experiences on, for example, legislation, the methodology used to make non-detriment findings and to establish quotas, and the type of assistance needed to improve implementation. Countries invited to participate were: Benin, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Colombia, the European Commission, TRAFFIC and the United States Agency for International Development attended as observers.

South Africa was invited to attend the workshop to present a case study of CITES implementation in a major exporting and re-exporting country. South Africa thus shared with the other participants its experience of the implementation of the Convention and of how CITES contributes to its national conservation objectives.

The outcome was very positive since participants were open and communicated easily with each other on common issues. The main challenges were identified under the following headings:

### **Administration**

Trade monitoring, recording and reporting in terms of permits; quotas and annual reports; capacity-building issues; decentralization; Management Authority (MA) and Scientific Authority (SA) institutional and working relationship; national legislation; MA resource base, infrastructure and equipment.

### **Science and resource management**

Production systems and source codes; SA capacity building; implementation of Article IV and quotas; species-specific guidelines; monitoring of trade and use of trade data; standardization of trade summaries; inventory; population surveys and species identification; lack of appropriate scientific capacity; lack of published scientific data; conservation value of species listings; recommendations and decisions; ecologically damaging species in trade; impacts of reintroduction and release into the wild and preparation and coordination of listing proposals.

### **Enforcement**

Species identification; marking and forensic techniques; production of manuals; training initiatives; communication of stricter national measures; coordination of enforcement efforts between agencies at national, regional and international levels; bilateral and regional enforcement dialogue, regional or issue specific Enforcement Task Force; lack of intelligence data for law enforcement; promotion and routine use of Ecomessage; alerts, strategic analysis and feedback to Parties; disposal of confiscated specimens; lack of CITES-trained enforcement officers and transit trade.

### **Coordination and cooperation**

Dialogue between wildlife producing countries; dialogue between exporting and importing countries; two-way liaison with the Secretariat; misunderstanding by Parties of the role of the Secretariat; role of civil society, stakeholders, private sector and NGOs; participation in CITES fora; addressing general wildlife issues and practical and political difficulties to collaborate with neighbouring countries on wildlife trade issues.

### **Education and awareness**

National and international information campaigns; improving dissemination of and access to information using the Internet.

### **External issues**

Stricter domestic measures; Gaborone amendment; external influences such as civil strife and political change; transport breakdowns; lack of political will to support CITES processes and pressures against trade in, and use of wildlife.

### **Economics and development**

Revenues; valuation of wildlife versus other land uses; non payments; understanding market evolutions; reinvestment into management and control and promote and demonstrate the use of revenues for conservation and monitoring.

The workshop was not only a successful gathering where experiences were shared and challenges identified, but was used as an opportunity to meet and talk to officials from other countries, irrespective of the differences in language. We as South Africans even learned that we can address the officials from Suriname in our mother tongue.

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the European Commission for the opportunity that we, as officials from countries that are engaged in exporting significant quantities of CITES-listed specimens, had to share our experiences in the implementation of CITES. We are looking forward to a follow-up workshop where we can tackle the challenges identified head-on.

*CITES Management Authority of South Africa*

## The third Master's Course successfully completed

The 3rd Master's Course on "Management, conservation and control of species in international trade" was held from 3 October to 15 December 2000 in Spain.

The course was given at the International University of Andalusia (at the Antonio Machado campus, in Baeza), simultaneously in Spanish and English, and amounted to 500 hours of tuition. Thirty-four people took the course, from Scientific and Management Authorities as well as non-governmental organizations of 25 countries: Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Slovakia, Slovenia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Thailand, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. The participants were given a grant which fully covered their tuition and accommodation. In addition, nine inspectors from the Spanish Management Authority attended various weekly modules.

The 3rd Master's Course was given by 57 experts from 10 countries. Together with the experts from the Spanish Scientific Authority (Ministry of the Environment) and Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy), representatives from the Scientific or Management Authorities of Argentina, Australia, Cuba, France, the



*Dr M. A. Clemente*

Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the CITES Secretariat, the Commission of the European Union, the Phytogenetic Resources Secretariat of the FAO, the University of Granada, the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA), the Spanish Customs authorities, the Forensic Laboratory of the USA, IUCN, African Resources Trust, Adena-WWF and others also participated.



*Dr M. A. Clemente*

Participants of the third Master's Course



*Dr M. A. Clemente*

Holding of the 3rd Master's Course was made possible by the International University of Andalusia which organized it, by the generous sponsorship of the Fundación Biodiversidad and by the assistance of the University of Córdoba, the Spanish Ministries of the Environment and the Economy, the CITES Secretariat, the Botanical Gardens of Córdoba and the zoos of Barcelona and Jerez. The contribution made by Spain in the year 2000 to finance the course amounted to USD 170,000.

Over three consecutive years (1998, 1999 and 2000) this course has been given under the direction of Dr M. A. Clemente to 87 participants. It provides a solid training for the implementation of CITES and for future work and communication among countries. The participants have come from 35 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe). Additionally, there have been a further 50 participants from the Management Authority of Spain who over the three years have attended various weekly modules to enhance their training.

*Dr M. A. Clemente*

## **Wider Caribbean region hawksbill turtle range States dialogue meeting, 15-17 May 2001**

A first dialogue meeting of the wider Caribbean hawksbill turtle range States was convened on 15-17 May 2001 in Mexico City, Mexico, with over 100 officials, including government representatives from 34 States and territories in the wider Caribbean. This first meeting was organized by the Secretariat because the status of the species has generated extensive discussion at recent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, and because the range States of the species in the wider Caribbean reached consensus on the need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on issues of common concern. Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and World Wildlife Fund US provided the necessary funding. IUCN-The World Conservation Union and the CITES Secretariat served as facilitators for this meeting. Ms Diana Ponce Nava of Mexico chaired the meeting. The meeting reviewed and discussed the biology, conservation of and trade in hawksbill turtles in the wider Caribbean region, multilateral agreements for conservation of hawksbill turtles, and management programmes and policies.

Countries reported on national legislation, recovery plans, conservation programmes, problems encountered and results of their scientific research. The participants agreed that critical knowledge gaps should be identified and standardized monitoring protocols developed for key parameters to monitor population trends and status; that monitoring of harvest and trade (legal and illegal, domestic and international) and their impacts on hawksbill populations should be improved in the region; different existing hawksbill turtle management programmes and policies in region should be reviewed to assess their conservation impacts and relative benefits for hawksbill turtle population recovery; and an effective hawksbill turtle conservation strategy and management plan should be established at a regional level taking into account the full range of national conservation objectives and development needs in the wider Caribbean. A draft resolution will be proposed for adoption at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2002, to facilitate government commitment to implement these conservation management recommendations. While acknowledging that considerable progress had been achieved in strengthening the regional dialogue, the delegates agreed that further meetings should be held and the Government of the United Kingdom offered to host the next meeting in April or May 2002 in one of its territories in the region.

The following States and territories participated in this first dialogue meeting: Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Martinique, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles,

Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the US Virgin Islands and Venezuela.

*The Secretariat*

## Notes on a training visit

A training programme on the implementation of CITES was arranged for me, with the help of the CITES Secretariat. It included visits to the CITES Secretariat and to the CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and Customs of Germany and the Netherlands.

On a warm and sunny day in February, I arrived at Geneva and the training programme started with the CITES Secretariat. Through discussions with the Deputy Secretary General, Dr Jim Armstrong, Unit Heads and colleagues of the Secretariat, I learnt about a variety of topics ranging from organization structure, enforcement issues and scientific matters, to the production of the identification manual and preparation of the new CITES website. Not only did I share the challenges and difficulties that the Secretariat faces, but also the strong commitment held by colleagues in the Secretariat in implementing the Convention.

My contacts in Germany and the Netherlands were with the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Department of Nature Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, respectively. The visits to Germany and the Netherlands were very comprehensive and covered all aspects of CITES work, including licensing, legislation and law enforcement, inspection at airports and the functions of Management and Scientific Authorities. As far as trade in endangered species is concerned, a CITES Scientific Authority is responsible for advising on the possible impact of a proposed trade and a CITES Management Authority is responsible for, in the light of advice from a Scientific Authority, the issue of permits for legal trade.

During the visit with the Management Authorities of Germany and the Netherlands, I was introduced to the different sections of the offices to see the actual daily operations, ranging from checking and verifying of application for CITES permits or the computer system of licensing to the implementation of EU regulations and the domestic legislation in Germany and the Netherlands respectively on the control over the import, export and possessions of endangered animals and plants.

As a person working in a Management Authority myself, the visit to the Scientific Authorities of these two countries allowed me to have a better understanding of their role and the problems they face in determining the detrimental impact of a proposed trade.

Arrangements were also made for me to visit Customs at Frankfurt International Airport, Germany and then Schiphol and the General Inspection Service in the Netherlands. I was shown the work programmes and procedures for inspecting passengers, cargoes and parcels for controlled wildlife products.

The training programme has proved to be a valuable experience and training for a person like me who is new to CITES. It has enriched my experience in the Convention by allowing me to observe in person the different systems implemented by different Parties in order to implement CITES, to compare the differences and similarity in the systems between Hong Kong, Germany and the Netherlands and to learn from these two countries. I am sure that it will help improve my work in the implementation of CITES in Hong Kong.



Finally, I would like to thank Mr Liu Yuan, from the CITES Secretariat, Mr Franz Boehmer, of the CITES Management Authority for Germany and Mr Henk Eggink, of the Division of International Nature Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Netherlands, for their help in organizing the visit. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the people who spent their precious time with me.

*Phoebe Sze  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Hong Kong CITES Management Authority  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*

## Public awareness on traditional Chinese medicine issues in New Zealand

The New Zealand CITES Management Authority –the Department of Conservation– has recently produced a new brochure to deal with the increase in illegally imported traditional medicines containing CITES-listed ingredients.

The brochure (written in Chinese) was produced after consultation with the Chinese community, and the Register of NZ Traditional Chinese Medicines Practitioners Inc. Launched at a series of public meetings held in May, the brochure is an integral part of the Department’s urban conservation awareness programme.

The brochure outlines New Zealand’s legislative requirements for the import of CITES-listed medicines, and information on how and where to obtain the correct permits. General information is provided, as well as a more in-depth look at the ingredients commonly being seized on entry to New Zealand.

Public response to the brochure has been very positive, with overwhelming feedback from the Chinese community. The brochure will be distributed through channels designed to target both commercial and personal importers. A Mandarin- and Cantonese-language “hotline” has also been set up, to provide information to members of the public on traditional medicines and CITES. The Department of Conservation hope to raise general awareness of CITES and the requirements for the import of TCMs. Any overseas agencies interested in obtaining copies of the brochure for distribution, can feel free to contact the New Zealand CITES Management Authority at [cites@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cites@doc.govt.nz).

*CITES Management Authority of New Zealand*

## Scientific support for CITES Parties

In January 2001, the head of the Laboratory for Conservation Biology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, provided an overview of the work of this new research unit to staff of the CITES Secretariat.

The laboratory has conducted forensic analysis for the purpose of molecular identification of animal and plant samples, which may not be possible with conventional, morphological study. It is also engaged in research into natural population management.

The laboratory is particularly keen to work on CITES issues and seeks enquiries from Parties, at which point it could discuss the relevant fees for its services. It is also anxious to improve its collection of reference samples and thus expand its capability to conduct DNA profiling and identification of a wide range of species.

Further information can be obtained from the laboratory’s website at: [www.unil.ch/lbc](http://www.unil.ch/lbc)

or

Dr L. Fumagalli, Institut d’Ecologie, Laboratoire de Biologie de la Conservation, Bâtiment de Biologie, CH-1015 Lausanne, Suisse, Tel: +41 (21) 692 41 72, Fax: +41 (21) 692 41 65

## Contributions by Regions – Scale of contributions for the biennium 2001-2002

The Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting approved budgets of CHF 7,594,800 for the year 2001 and CHF 8,921,000 for the year 2002 for maintaining the Secretariat, financing the programme of work and funding its 12th meeting, scheduled for 2002. The average annual budget for the biennium 2001-2002 represents a 26.53% increase over that of the triennium 1998-2000. This increase is covered by adjusting the contributions of the Parties by 6.1% and by drawing the remaining deficit from the balance of the CITES Trust Fund at the end of each year provided that it is not reduced below CHF 1 million at the start of any year.

The table below provides information on the annual contributions to the CITES Trust Fund by regions for the biennium 2001-2002.

**CITES Trust Fund. Contributions by region in the biennium 2001-2002**

Region	Number of Parties	Annual Contributions in Swiss Francs	Contributions by region
Africa	49	51'881.00	0.78%
Asia	27	1'674'131.00	25.02%
Central & South America & the Caribbean	30	221'556.00	3.31%
Europe	39	2'717'169.00	40.60%
North America	3	1'912'998.00	28.59%
Oceania	5	114'272.00	1.71%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>6'692'007.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Associated meetings

• **Thirteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region**

9-13 July 2001 in San Jose, Costa Rica

*For further information please contact*

UNEP-CAR/RCU

Tel: +1 (876) 922 92 67 Fax: +1 (876) 922 92 92

Email: tj.k.unepcuja@cwjamaica.com

Internet: www.cep.unep.org

• **ECCAS Regional Preparatory meeting to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development**

9-13 July 2001 in Libreville, Gabon

*For further information please contact*

Mr S. Toure DRC (ROA)

Tel: +254 (2) 62 42 84 Fax: +254 (2) 62 39 28

Email: sekou.toure@unep.org

• **Fourth Governing Council meeting of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora**

9-10 July 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya

*For further information please contact*

Mr Donald Kaniaru, UNEP DEPI

Tel: +254 (2) 62 35 07 Fax: +254 (2) 62 42 49

Email: donald.kaniaru@unep.org

• **COMESA/GAD regional preparatory meeting for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development**

16-19 July 2001 in Djibouti

*For further information please contact*

Mr S. Toure DRC (ROA)

Tel: +254 (2) 62 42 84 Fax: +254 (2) 62 39 28

Email: sekou.toure@unep.org

• **Seventeenth meeting of the CITES Animal Committee**

July 30-3 August 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam

*For further information please contact*

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Tel: +41 (22) 917 81 39/40 Fax: +41 (22) 797 34 17

Email: cites@unep.ch

• **Africa's high-level preparatory meeting for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (regional conference)**

21-31 August 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*For further information please contact*

Mr S. Toure DRC (ROA)

Tel: +254 (2) 62 42 84 Fax: +254 (2) 62 39 28

Email: sekou.toure@unep.org

• **Eleventh meeting of the CITES Plants Committee**

3-7 September 2001 in Langkawi, Malaysia

*For further information please contact*

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Tel: +41 (22) 917 81 39/40 Fax: +41 (22) 797 34 17

Email: cites@unep.ch

• **First meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol and first meeting of the Parties to the SPAW Protocol**

24-29 September 2001 in Havana, Cuba

*For further information please contact*

UNEP-CAR/RCU

Tel: +1 (876) 922 92 67 Fax: +1 (876) 922 92 92

Email: unepcuja@cwjamaica.com

Internet: www.cep.unep.org

• **Fourth European regional meeting of the Ramsar Convention**

13-18 October 2001 in Bled, Slovenia

*For further information please contact*

The Ramsar Convention Bureau

Tel: +41 (22) 999 0170 Fax: +41 (22) 999 0169

Email: ramsar@ramsar.org

• **First intergovernmental meeting of experts to develop guidelines on compliance and enforcement of MEAs**

22-26 October 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya

*For further information please contact*

Mr D. Kaniaru UNEP DEPI

Tel: +254 (2) 62 35 07 Fax: +254 (2) 62 42 49

Email: donald.kaniaru@unep.org

• **Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-7)**

12-16 November 2001 in Montreal, Canada

*For further information please contact*

Mr H. Zedan Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Tel: +1 (514) 288 22 20 Fax: +1 (514) 288 65 88

Email: chm@biodiv.org

• **Fourth meeting of the Regional Seas Convention**

Late November (to be confirmed) in Montreal, Canada

*For further information please contact*

UNEP Regional Seas

C/o United Nations Environment Programme

Tel: +254 (2) 62 12 34 Fax: +254 (2) 62 44 89/90

Email: UNEP Webmaster

• **Open-ended intersessional meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

19-21 November 2001 in Montreal, Canada

*For further information please contact*

Mr H. Zedan, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Tel: +1 (514) 288 22 20 Fax: +1 (514) 288 65 88

Email: secretariat@biodiv.org

• **Twenty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention**

3-7 December 2001 in Gland, Switzerland

*For further information please contact*

The Ramsar Convention Bureau

Tel: +41 (22) 999 0170 Fax: +41 (22) 999 0169

Email: ramsar@ramsar.org

• **International Biodiversity Day**

From 29 December 2001, worldwide

*For further information please contact*

The Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Tel: +1 (514) 288 22 20 Fax: +1 (514) 288 65 88

Email: secretariat@biodiv.org

• **Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP6) to the CBD and first Meeting of the Parties (MoP1)**

8-26 April 2002 in The Hague, Netherlands

*For further information please contact*

Mr H. Zedan, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Tel: +1 (514) 288 22 20 Fax: +1 (514) 288 65 88

Email: chm@biodiv.org

• **World Summit on Sustainable Development**

2-11 September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa

*For further information please contact*

Mr Andrei Vasilyev, DESA-DSD

Tel: +1 (212) 963 31 70 Fax: +1 (212) 963 42 60

Email: dsd@un.org

• **CITES CoP12**

04-15 November 2002 in Santiago, Chile

*For further information please contact*

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Tel: +41 (22) 917 81 39/40 Fax: +41 (22) 797 34 17

Email: cites@unep.ch

• **Ramsar Convention CoP8**

16-26 November 2002 in Valencia, Spain

*For further information please contact*

The Ramsar Convention Bureau

Tel: +41 (22) 999 0170 Fax: +41 (22) 999 0169

Email: ramsar@ramsar.org

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CITES Secretariat  
15, chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 CHATELAINE  
Genève, Switzerland

Telephone: +41 (22) 917 81 39/40  
Fax number: +41 (22) 797 34 17  
Email: cites@unep.ch

If you would like to submit an article, or make suggestions or comments, please contact the Capacity Building Unit.

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