

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared by Mr Carlos Ibero, Dr Thomas Althaus and Dr Katalin Rodics in their capacity as Regional Representatives (Alternate for the first one) for Europe.

General information

2. AC Members: Dr Thomas Althaus (Switzerland) and Dr Katalin Rodics (Hungary); Alternates: Mr Carlos Ibero Solana (Spain) and Dr Alexander G. Sorokin (Russian Federation).
3. Number of Parties in the region: 44

Communication with Parties in the region since AC21 (Geneva, May 2005)

4. European Representatives, Dr Thomas Althaus and Dr Katalin Rodics, addressed Parties in the region to inform them about the agenda of AC22 and requested information to elaborate the present report. Fourteen Parties answered: Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
5. Mrs Katalin Rodics as European regional representative participated in the European Union Scientific Review Group meetings and informed them about the works and decisions of the Animals Committee.

CITES activities in the region in respect to selected items of the Animals Committee

Regional communication

Spain: The Spanish CITES Scientific Authority (Ministry for the Environment) supported the duties developed by Carlos Ibero as chair of the "E.mail PC-AC Working Group for the elaboration of the Manual for Regional Representatives". A "draft for discussion" has been submitted to the consideration of both Plants and Animals Committees to be discussed in Lima in July 2006.

Review of Significant Trade

General

Switzerland: a dissertation which aims to analyse the effectiveness of the Review of Significant Trade is co-financed by Switzerland.

Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and falconry

Austria: The CITES Secretariat has raised possible concerns over the sustainability of trade in *Falco cherrug* in Austria [see Annex 1 of document AC21 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1)]. Accordingly, Austria submitted a report (by Dr. Andreas Ranner) to the Secretariat on the sustainability of trade in *Falco cherrug* in this country. The mentioned report points out the fact that (1) Austrian trade in *F. cherrug* is restricted to captive-bred specimens, and (2) 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.

Hungary: Hungary has the strongest population of this species in Europe thus it is highly involved in and concerned by this topic. Hungary is the only country having a stable and significant population where the population has been slowly increasing. This species is strictly protected in Hungary, and trade in and possession of (both wild-caught and captive-bred) specimens is strictly prohibited. A new project has been submitted to LIFE Nature funding for the conservation of the saker falcon in Hungary.

Regarding the distinct attention concerning the conservation status of birds of prey used for falconry across Europe, the United Kingdom in collaboration with Hungary, has prepared an outline risk assessment questionnaire on the review of concerns of Member States of the European Union on the illegal trade in birds of prey. The aim of this review is to consider the issue of illegal trade and to outline steps to be taken in the future work of the European Commission CITES Enforcement Group.

Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices

Czech Republic: The Czech CITES Scientific Authority prepared a short report on the status of the *Lynx lynx* population in the Czech Republic in the context of the review of Felidae (undertaken by the United States of America) and expressed the view that the Appendix-II listing of *Lynx lynx* is adequate for the Czech Republic.

Spain: The Spanish Scientific Authority reviewed *Hirudo medicinalis* and *Ornithoptera alexandrae*.

The same Authority also prepared a reply to the consultation made by United States on the review of Felidae, and more specifically concerning *Lynx pardinus*, endemic to the Iberian Peninsula.

Conservation and Management of Sharks

The Intersessional Shark Working Group of the Animals Committee held a Technical Workshop on the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Slimbridge, United Kingdom, in April 2006. From the European Region, Germany and Spain attended this workshop.

Regional priorities and activities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES

Research projects

Hungary: The LIFE Nature funded project for the conservation of the Hungarian great bustard (*Otis tarda*) population, in collaboration of the Ministry of Environment and Water, national park directorates, BirdLife Hungary and the University of West Hungary, has continued. Two other LIFE Nature funded projects with similar partner organizations (national park directorates, BirdLife Hungary) have started in 2005 for the conservation of the Hungarian and West Romanian red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) population and imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) population in Hungary.

Another LIFE Nature project on the conservation of a critically endangered reptile species, the meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii*) has also been carried out. The project contains an activity on the semi-captive breeding operation of the species – exclusively for the benefit of nature conservation.

There is a considerable project carried out by the Hungarian Natural History Museum. In the context of the project – besides non-CITES listed species – research has been taking place on the genetic and ecological status of the Hungarian populations of the imperial eagle and the great bustard.

The brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) population is vulnerable in Romania. In response to the initiative of Hungary, the necessity of the preparation and the later implementation of a national action plan concerning the species was proposed by the European Union SRG. Afterwards Hungary has contributed in helping nature conservation aspects to be included in the plan. As a result an action plan has been prepared by the Romanian Government to safeguard this population adequately.

Slovakia:

“Conservation of *Aquila heliaca* in the Slovak part of Carpathian basin” - solve by Raptor protection of Slovakia in partnership with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (LIFE).

“Conservation of *Otis tarda* in Slovakia” - solve by The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, The Society for the Protection of Birds in Slovakia, Raptor Protection of Slovakia, Municipality Lehnice, Hunting Association Lehnice (LIFE).

Genetic diversity and differentiation in population of selected wildlife and protected species” (CITES species in project - *Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx*) - solve by Technical University in Zvolen in partnership with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

Switzerland: Funding of projects aiming to study the possibilities of sustainable use of Caiman populations and the status and management schemes for various parrot species in Argentina.

United Kingdom: *Cetorhinus maximus* – population genetics.

Research into the population genetics of *Cetorhinus maximus*, commissioned by the CITES Management Authority of the United Kingdom, continues (<http://www.cefas.co.uk/sharks/>). This project, which aims to investigate evidence for stock separation and population dynamics of basking sharks throughout the Northeast Atlantic and further afield, is due to be completed in April 2006. The results of an earlier project on satellite tracking of *C. maximus* would be published shortly.

“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 CITES Management Authority and the Scientific Authority (Fauna) of the United Kingdom 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 June 2006.

CITES Identification Manual and checklists

Switzerland: Support to the Identification Manual by financing identification sheets for various taxa of freshwater turtles and parrots.

United Kingdom: JNCC checklists:

- Following the changes to the Appendices agreed at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2004, Bangkok), JNCC (the CITES Scientific Authority of the United Kingdom for fauna) commissioned UNEP-WCMC to update the JNCC CITES checklists. The revised checklists were published in late 2005 and are available from the CITES website of the United Kingdom (http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/intro/cites_species.htm). The checklists document all species listed on the CITES Appendices and species listed on the Annexes of the European Community 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.](#)

Legislation

Hungary: An intergovernmental meeting was held on 27 April 2006, where the necessary changes in the EU regulations were discussed. The meeting participants were delegates from Management and Scientific Authorities of the Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Hungary. The workshop was organized by the CITES Management Authority and financed by the Species Survival Network.

Switzerland: Due to changes in different legal regulations which are related to the Swiss legislation concerning CITES implementation, the Swiss Endangered Species Ordinance is in the process of a revision. The revised Ordinance is planned to enter into force towards the end of 2006.

Others

Czech Republic: A regional priority is the regulation of commercial use of offspring of *Testudo hermanni*, *Testudo graeca* and *Testudo marginata* within the European Union and proof of origin of parental stock as well as marking methods according to article 36 (European Union Commission Regulation 1808/2001). Other topic issues deal with ways of proof of legal acquisition in the context of the EU wildlife trade regulation.

Ireland: Ireland is currently funding the review of trade in Appendix-I species being undertaken by UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Spain: The Spanish Scientific Authority supports the activity of Carlos Ibero as alternate regional representative providing all needs to develop the duties involved in the position.

Promotion of CITES in the region and activities to strengthen basis of the implementation of CITES

Capacity-building activities and awareness campaigns

Austria: Austria contributed to capacity building in the region by supporting a joint WWF-TRAFFIC Hungary project to prepare candidate and new member countries for CITES implementation and enforcement.

The Austrian CITES Management Authority has continued to fund public awareness campaigns carried out by WWF Austria and aimed primarily at incoming and outgoing passengers at the Vienna International Airport, visitors to zoos and botanical gardens, and dealers/traders and holders of live CITES specimens, especially reptiles and parrots.

Czech Republic: An information brochure on CITES in the Czech Republic after its accession to the European Union has been published in Czech (for breeders and applicants for trade), as well as a brochure in Czech and English – Do you know CITES? (for broad public). A poster in Czech named “Do you know their price?” focused on most often traded species was published for the public as well.

Estonia: A training seminar on identification of plants and animals and on CITES-related legislation for enforcement officers was held in Estonia from 5 to 6 December 2005, organized by the Ministry of Environment.

Ireland: Ireland provided a speaker for the Fifth Master's course in 'Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International framework', held in Spain in October-December 2005.

Germany: The German Scientific Authority (Fauna) participated in three CITES Capacity-Building Seminars in Turkey in 2005, financed by the European Commission and organized by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Hungary: The officers of the environment, nature conservation and water inspectorates, which are responsible for regional enforcement issues, such as keeping registration, inspections and issuing domestic CITES documents. have been trained several times – about CITES the European Union and national provisions concerning animal and plant trade.

In January 2006, the Hungarian CITES Management Authority launched a training programme for Customs, border police, veterinary and phytosanitary officers on CITES and European Union wildlife trade regulations. In the context of the project, colleagues from the Management Authority visited 14 places and trained 578 officers until April 20. The Ministry of Environment and Water signed bilateral cooperation agreements with Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard and with 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 three different authorities had never been organized before. This project was a good example of the cooperation of four different ministries for the protection of endangered species.

From 7 to 9 June, a three-day training seminar was organized for police officers in Hungary. The course was financed by RSPCA and coorganized by the CITES Management Authority and RSPCA. Participants were criminal investigators from the 19 county headquarters, from 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 Germany, 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.

From 16 to 17 June 2005, a regional workshop was held in Budapest on EU Wildlife Trade regulations in Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop was organized by RSPCA International and its aim was developing regional collaboration in fighting against wildlife crime. Participants were police and Customs officers, wildlife inspectors and members of CITES Management Authorities from 13 countries. The representatives of the CITES Secretariat and EU Commission participated, too.

A member of the Hungarian CITES Management Authority got a full scholarship from the International University of Andalusia and attended the fifth Master's Degree Course on “Management, Access, Conservation and Trade in Species: The International Framework”.

Poland: In 2005 and 2006 the cooperation between NGOs working on CITES issues in Central and Eastern Europe started to be active. Those NGOs include some from Poland and they organize common workshops, develop common monitoring, prepare common publications and so on. This cooperation is organized mainly by the CITES Working Group of CEEWEB, which started to be the most important platform of exchange of experience and capacity building for NGOs dealing with CITES activities in this part of Europe.

Portugal: A training seminar for CITES Enforcement staff was held on the Madeira Region from 13 to 17 February 2006 (dedicated to species identification and other enforcement matters).

This seminar was promoted by the regional Management Authority with the support of the CITES national authorities.

Slovakia: A training seminar was held on CITES legislation in Slovakia in cooperation with the Slovak Environmental Agency (Twinning project SK03/IB/EN/01: Institutional and Capacity Building in the Environmental Sector).

A new CITES leaflet focused on EU legislation is in preparation – cooperation with the Slovak Environmental Agency (Twinning project SK03/IB/EN/01: Institutional and Capacity Building in the Environmental Sector).

Spain: The Management and Scientific Authorities of Spain collaborated in the organization and development of the Fifth Master's course in 'Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International framework' with the International University of Andalusia from 3 October to 16 December 2005. This Master's course provided participants with the tools for understanding how CITES works. Twenty-four participants from 19 Parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, United States, Viet Nam and Zambia) attended the Master's course which was directed by Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz.

United Kingdom: The Scientific Authority (fauna) contributed to the Fifth Master's course in 'Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of species: The International framework' held in Baeza, Spain, in October-December 2005.

CITES implementation

Germany: Germany took part in the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (Geneva, 30 November - 2 December 2005) which concentrated on the more technical implementation problems with regard to marine species.

Czech Republic: The Enforcement Authority (Czech Environmental Inspectorate), with support from the Scientific Authority (Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic), was involved in a project for development of DNA analysis for paternity tests of some species of the family Testudinidae.

Cooperation with Polish Scientific Authority, Management Authority and WWF in searching for the origin of hundreds of specimens of *Testudo horsfieldii* declared as captive bred in Poland and sold to the Czech Republic - so far without any specific results.

Hungary: In February 2006, investigators of the 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 European Union without the necessary documents. The shipment was seized and the criminal investigation is in process.

In April, 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 against the offender is in process.

The scientific community in the region and CITES

The Scientific Authorities of 25 European countries, constituted as the Scientific Review Group of the European Commission of the European Union, meet regularly (normally four times a year) to discuss and take decisions on CITES scientific issues. Furthermore, both formal and informal contacts and consultations are permanently open to share information and views and so inform the common decision-making processes.