



Official Newsletter of the Parties

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

Issue Number 6 – December 2000

Letter from the Editor

CITES World celebrates with this issue its third anniversary. We want to take this opportunity to remind Parties that it is their newsletter and that therefore the articles they provide about their activities are always more than welcome. The other anniversary to celebrate on this occasion is that of CITES which entered into force 25 years ago!

You will notice in this issue that, after the two weeks of intense work at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties have now recovered and continue to implement CITES-related activities in the areas of capacity building, enforcement, etc. At the Secretariat, the past months have also been a period of intense work with the production of the amended CITES Appendices, as agreed at the 11th meeting, as well as the new issues of Resolutions and Decisions.

We want to thank the large number of readers who wrote to us mentioning that they had appreciated the summary of decisions on the proposals to amend the CITES Appendices at CoP11. Your feedback is essential to us.

The Secretariat

Global wildlife treaty celebrates 25 years of saving endangered species

Geneva, 1 July 2000

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is celebrating 25 years of effective action today, marking the day in 1975 that it entered into force and became legally binding on governments. This occurred just two years after the text of the CITES agreement was

adopted at a meeting in Washington DC in 1973.

“During its first quarter century of activity, CITES has become a major focus of international efforts to conserve endangered species such as tigers, rhinoceroses, turtles, and thousands of other animals and plants,” said Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, which administers the CITES Secretariat.

“With its recently adopted strategic programme for the years 2000-2005, CITES has shown that it can adapt to the rapidly changing conditions of modern times,” said Toepfer.

Continued on page 2

In this issue

Letter from the Editor	1
Global wildlife treaty celebrates 25 years of saving endangered species	1, 2
Southern African MIKE training workshop	1, 3
CITES workshop for the countries of the north Andean region	4
Demanding too much – the shahtoosh trade in London	5
CITES training seminar for Management Authorities and Customs agencies of Eastern European countries	7
Development and application of forensic analysis for CITES implementation and enforcement: sharing the burden	8
New publication: Conservation and Sustainable Use of <i>Adonis vernalis</i> , a Medicinal Plant in International Trade	10
A delegation from Kazakhstan visited the Secretariat on 30 October	11
Forthcoming CITES and other environmental events	12

Southern African MIKE training workshop

Mopane Camp, Kruger National Park, 12-14 September 2000

Background

This workshop was aimed at reviewing the implementation of the system known as MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) in the southern African sub-region (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe), and in ensuring full

implementation in the region, by involving Mozambique and Zambia. Following on from a meeting held in November 1999, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe began implementation of MIKE at the selected sites at the beginning of the year 2000. In total there were 40 participants from the six different countries and one representative from the CITES Secretariat.

Programme

The meeting was officially opened by Dr P. Botha of the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and

Continued on page 3

Global wildlife treaty celebrates 25 years of saving endangered species

Continued from page 1

“The main environmental challenges of the early 21st century will be driven by dramatic economic and population growth, which together will place unprecedented pressure on wild nature.”

The text of the treaty states that: “Wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come” and CITES recognizes that “peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora”.

Over the past 25 years CITES has been setting up rules and procedures for conservation and sustainable use. The most recent example was the 11th Conference of the Parties to CITES, held at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters, in Nairobi, Kenya (April 2000). During this meeting, 62 proposals dealing with 50 species were discussed among the 151 Parties to CITES (now 152). These proposals included for instance, a deep revision of the list of plants, the African elephant, the minke whale, the hawksbill turtles of the Caribbean, etc.

The Conference of the Parties to CITES is an important forum that brings together States, UN organizations, NGOs, and attracts the interest of the general public. In the last conference, a big inflatable whale from a certain NGO could be seen as the symbol of the presence of the NGOs at the CITES meetings.

This dynamic process of constantly reviewing the CITES list of species alongside a strategic vision are one of the key factors of the success of CITES: it is a constantly evolving convention, adapting to new challenges to improve conservation and sustainable use of CITES listed species.

During the April meeting, Governments confirmed the need to complement conservation efforts and trade controls with stronger support for the sustainable use of wildlife. Sustainable use is key to building support for conservation among local communities while directly raising funds for protecting endangered species. There is also an increasing recognition that developing countries need more capacity-building in order to monitor and control both wildlife trade and wildlife populations. The need to increase and improve the implementation and enforcement of the Convention was also highlighted.

CITES has significantly grown during these 25 years, from a small number of Parties in 1975 to 152 members today. CITES has largely contributed to conservation. Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General of CITES says: “Although

CITES is one of the oldest Conventions in the area of wildlife conservation, it has proven to be flexible and able to cope with new global environmental challenges. It has in fact evolved into a major tool for sustainable development and to fully involve local communities in wildlife conservation. The Strategic vision through 2005 should further enhance positive results for both of these aims now also working in partnership with other related Conventions”.

Background

CITES is a treaty that regulates international trade in certain protected species. It is an international agreement that monitors global trade in many species of wildlife and plants. 152 countries cooperate through a system of permits and certificates, similar to ‘eco-labels’, to confirm that trade in listed wildlife and plants, including parts and derived products, is legal and does not threaten their survival in the wild. CITES is designed to prevent further decline of wild populations and ensure that trade is based on sustainable use and management of wild and captive populations.

When the treaty entered into force, 25 years ago, the Parties to the Convention were primarily concerned with the effects of increased international trade on certain species of wild fauna and flora. Since then CITES has been evolving and adapting to new environmental challenges.

The Convention has been the largest and by some accounts, the most effective international wildlife conservation agreement. The treaty’s strength lies in the basic principle of strictly limiting commercial international trade in species in need of protection while allowing a controlled international trade that ensures sustainable use in other species that, if managed adequately, are capable of supporting some level of exploitation providing economical incentives for their conservation.

Since its beginning CITES has been promoting the use of scientific data and information as the basis for all decisions. In 1994, the Conference of the Parties (CoP) adopted new criteria for listing species in Appendices I and II. This criteria provides specific scientific guidance to the Parties. It has been developed in close partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and individual scientists, CITES includes in this criteria for listing species, practical yet precautionary provisions for reviewing the status of species that are affected or potentially affected by international commercial trade. This scientifically based classification of species ensures that traded species are appropriately protected.

Recently, the Parties to the Convention endorsed a strategic plan. This plan will guide CITES through to the year 2005.

The Secretariat

Southern African MIKE Training Workshop

Continued from page 1

Tourism, who also chaired and facilitated the venue of the workshop. The programme covered the background on MIKE and the specific requirements for full implementation. Each form required by the MIKE system was presented by different delegates. All presentations lead to lively and detailed discussions by participants on problems experienced or clarifications needed. It was pleasing to note the active participation from many of the delegates in these discussions.

The need to customize the forms to be better suited to the southern African situation was identified, and an evening and early morning session of the MIKE National and Site Coordinators was held to address this issue. The proposed changes to the forms were then presented to the entire group, and further discussion took place until agreement was reached.



Practical sessions

Mr N. Nuulimba from IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation) in Namibia presented a practical session on the use of GPSs (Global Positioning Systems) and Cyber-trackers to facilitate data collection during patrols. The IRDNC has developed these devices in the Caprivi



region where they have been used successfully by community game guards during ground patrols.

Although this equipment is by no means essential for conducting patrols, the technology can greatly enhance the collection of information.

On the second afternoon, all delegates were driven out to an elephant carcass to discuss in a more practical way the completion of the elephant carcass report.

The workshop was officially closed by Mr T. Erkana, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, on the afternoon of Thursday 14th September.

Outcomes

National and Site Coordinators were identified for all six countries.



A steering committee comprised of the six National Site Coordinators was established to coordinate the implementation of MIKE in the sub-region. The National Site Coordinators are I. Theophilus (Botswana),

S. Bonito (Mozambique), P. Lindeque (Namibia), P. Botha (South Africa), F. Chisangano (Zambia) and E. Chidziya (Zimbabwe).

A strategy for data flow within the sub-region was developed.

Forms were customized to reflect local conditions.

The participants recognized the need for a standard database, which is to be developed within six weeks of the meeting.

All countries committed themselves to continue the implementation of MIKE at the selected sites.

Each country identified new sites to be considered for MIKE implementation.

A meeting of the National and Site Coordinators will be convened within six weeks to discuss any problems with implementation, to discuss and finalize the database and to fine-tune the sub-regional coordination.

Sponsors

The Game Products Trust Fund of Namibia kindly sponsored the delegates of Mozambique and Zambia, as well as Mr N. Nuulimba from the IRDNC, covering their travelling, accommodation and meals.

The Governments of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe covered the costs of their delegates. Discover





Delegates examining an elephant carcass

Africa sponsored the airfares of all Namibian Official delegates, with other costs covered by the Government of Namibia. The CITES Secretariat covered the costs of its participant.

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism paid for the conference facilities, and provided the transport to and from Johannesburg.

The South African National Parks Board is thanked for making the venue available.

The workshop is regarded as a great success, with substantial progress made towards full implementation of MIKE in the sub-region. It provided a unique and much appreciated opportunity for staff members from the six countries to liaise and share their experiences.

Compiled by P. Lindeque, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia

CITES workshop for the countries of the north Andean region

La Paz, Bolivia, 25-29 September 2000

Arriving in La Paz, Bolivia, even the most frequent traveller is taken by surprise. Landing at an altitude of 4,200m is a unique experience. One immediately notices the difference between foreign visitors and locals: the former walk slowly from the aircraft, pausing continually to take deep breaths, while the latter run with their luggage to catch one of the taxis to the city centre before anyone else.

Because of the altitude, the sky is a deep blue. All around La Paz one sees the splendour of the snow-capped Andes, where some of the nearby mountain ranges reach 6,000m.

Of the group that took part in the CITES workshop in La Paz, only one of our colleagues from Peru had slight problems adjusting, since Lima lies at sea level. The others – as mentioned at the start of this article – walked with measured

steps, pausing frequently to take great gasps of air.

The workshop was organized at the initiative of the Ministry of Sustainable Development with the cooperation of the Secretariat. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru took part. Venezuela was invited but attendance by its two representatives was unfortunately cancelled at the last moment owing to circumstances beyond its control. This seminar had originally been scheduled to begin at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in La Paz and then transfer to the tropical zone, where accommodation at a holiday resort had been reserved for the 40 participants. However, as roads were blocked around La Paz by demonstrations, it was decided that the workshop would be held entirely in the capital.

The opening ceremony was held in an elegant reception room at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with short, concise speeches being made by a high-level representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mario Baudoin of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and Mr Mario Hernández of the Secretariat.

It was a week of intense activity that passed very quickly. The workshop was conducted with presentations on all the main areas of the Convention and working groups led by the Secretariat. It was extremely interesting to have the



*North Andean landscape
(photo courtesy of Nicolas Ray)*

police, Customs, the army and environmental lawyers participating. That interesting group, together with employees from the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities, was the focal point of work for Bolivia. In parallel with that work, the representatives of Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador, the ambassadors of the countries present, TRAFFIC and the Secretariat held working meetings to identify problems common to the region and to propose an appropriate action plan.

Some of the issues identified are described below.

The countries present advised Ecuador, which is a regional representative on the Standing Committee, of how they would like such regional representation to be carried out. This involves consulting the countries on the issues to be raised at meetings of the Standing Committee and securing a common position to be discussed with the other two regional representatives, namely Panama and Santa Lucia.

The countries present discussed whether another regional meeting should be organised for Central and South America and the Caribbean prior to the 12th Conference of the Parties. Before a decision can be made in this regard, all the countries in the region must be consulted through the regional representatives on the Standing Committee.

The countries present propose to exchange information on the various CITES activities taking place on their territory. This could be the first step towards establishing a system for exchanging information that could then be extended to the region as a whole.

There was discussion of the need to train Customs and police officers, and national park rangers in CITES issues. It is proposed that existing material in Colombia and Peru should be used, making it generally available in other countries.

There was discussion of the issue of CITES legislation and the current status of legislation in the participating countries. It is proposed that experiences should be exchanged in order to provide mutual assistance.

It is proposed that funding should be sought in order to carry out a detailed study of illegal trade in the region, with a view to determining which species are being traded, where they come from and where they go to, etc.

At the same time, Bolivia set out an action plan identifying various issues specific to this country: reinforcement of the current CITES structure, promotion of meetings with Customs and the police, development of materials to raise public awareness of CITES, etc.

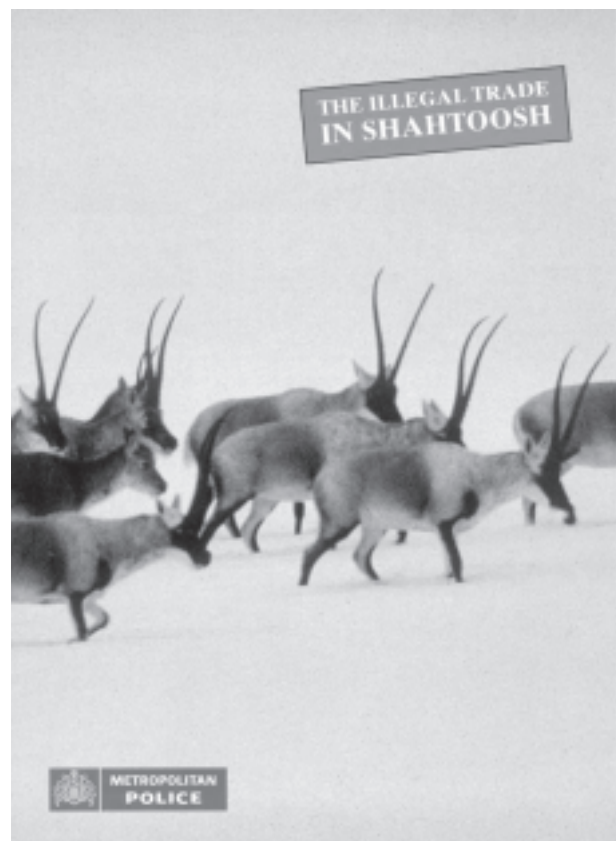
Overall, the workshop was quite a success. The CITES authorities of Bolivia thank the Secretariat for its attendance, cooperation and contribution to the workshop.

CITES Bolivia

Demanding too much – the shahtoosh trade in London

In 1997, the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime unit seized 138 shahtoosh shawls from a London shop owned by the Renaissance Corporation, a dealer in high quality Indian artefacts. The total value on the price tags on the shawls was GBP 353,000 (approximately USD 500,000). We launched Operation Charm, the Metropolitan Police initiative against the illegal trade in endangered species, in London in 1995, and it has led to the seizure of thousands of endangered species. This was our first experience of shahtoosh.

The Renaissance Corporation seizure showed that the demand which is threatening the future of the Tibetan antelope is as active in the United Kingdom as it is in other western consumer countries. Obviously, it is the demand for shahtoosh in places like London which is the reason for the poaching in China, and we thought it was important to take action to reduce the demand by increasing public awareness of the true nature of the shahtoosh trade. Our experience in Operation Charm has been that most people in the United Kingdom will not buy products which they know are made from endangered species, but there are so many different stories to explain the origin of shahtoosh, that many consumers would be unaware of the true nature of the trade in this product.



Illegal Trade in Shatoosh leaflet published by the Metropolitan Police

Operation Charm works by using a combination of enforcement, education initiatives for traders and operations to increase public awareness of endangered species issues. This approach has been successful in dealing with other endangered-species issues in London, such as traditional Chinese medicines. However, while it is not difficult to persuade people to be concerned about animals like tigers, we thought it might not be so simple with the Chiru, which few people in Europe would have ever heard of.

We began by publishing a leaflet entitled “The Illegal Trade in Shahtoosh”, which was intended for both traders and potential buyers of shahtoosh shawls, and explained the law and the true nature of the shahtoosh trade. Those who deal in shahtoosh know that western consumers are usually concerned about wildlife and want to know what they are buying. Consequently, a number of different stories have been created to explain how shahtoosh is obtained. For example the Renaissance Corporation published a glossy brochure which explained that shahtoosh is made by “collecting tiny strands of wool from a special wild goat”, whilst the parent company, the Indian giant Cottage Industries Exposition, states in its brochure that shahtoosh comes “from the chin of the Ibex goat”. Obviously, unless they are told otherwise, there is no reason for consumers in the United Kingdom to doubt these stories, so one of the main reasons for producing the Metropolitan Police leaflet was to tell the truth about the origins of shahtoosh.

One of the other ways in which we tell the public about the endangered species trade in the United Kingdom is by publishing a series of postcards, each one depicting an endangered species which we have found being sold illegally in London. We published a Chiru postcard which, like the others, is widely distributed to members of the public and wildlife organizations.

Our work to increase public awareness has been greatly helped by the very high level of media interest in shahtoosh in the time since we made the seizure. This shows no sign

of abating yet and has brought the issue to the attention of many people who would otherwise be unaware of it.

As a result of all this we now find that shahtoosh shawls have disappeared from the shops in London, albeit the demand continues. I have met many retailers who do not sell shahtoosh but are frequently asked for it by customers.

Last year’s Xining Conference on Conservation and Trade in Tibetan Antelope identified reducing demand in shahtoosh consuming countries as one of the main actions which could be done to protect the species, and earlier this year we took part in a joint campaign with WWF-UK which was intended to increase the awareness of sales staff in department stores and other shops selling cashmere and other high quality woollen goods.

As a first step we sent a joint letter from the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit and WWF to 80 stores in the London area, inviting them to order copies of a shahtoosh information pack, which our two organizations had produced specifically to educate their staff about shahtoosh and to explain why the trade in it is illegal. The response to this exceeded our expectations, and over 100 information packs were distributed within the first two weeks. Copies of the pack have gone to the most prestigious shops in London, whilst others have gone to fashion houses.

We intend to repeat this exercise in London soon. However, we are also anxious to see this initiative adopted in other parts of the United Kingdom and, as we do not have a national police service, we have approached the Government’s Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) with a view to the campaign being extended to other parts of the country.

The efforts which we are making, together with the extensive media coverage, are bringing the illegal trade in shahtoosh to the attention of more and more people in the United Kingdom all the time. We believe that this is having an impact on the trade here and indeed shahtoosh shawls are



becoming hard to find, which is good news for the Chiru, but it is important that we do not slacken our efforts. As somebody once said, everybody has heard of Coca Cola, but they still advertise it! There is no such thing as too much public awareness.

The media interest in shahtoosh continues, and we expect to see much more coverage of it in future, but we are also working with London Zoo on plans for an exhibition on the shahtoosh trade in the zoo’s new Web of Life Education Centre. All of this will help to keep the illegal trade in shahtoosh in people’s minds, which makes it difficult for the illegal traders to sell their products. However, we are realistic enough to know that all of these measures will not completely stop the illegal trade. Where a demand exists and substantial profits can be made there will always be those who will break the law, but we intend to make it as

difficult as possible for the shahtoosh trade in London to carry on.

We have no Tibetan Antelope to protect in London, but by making as many people as possible aware that the only reason these animals are threatened with extinction in China is because people in cities like ours want to buy a shawl, we can significantly reduce the demand for shahtoosh.

Most of my work to help endangered species is done in an office block in central London. In every sense it is a very long way from here to the remote mountain home of the Chiru, but the actions of people here can influence what happens there, for good or bad. We, in the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit, will be trying to ensure that the influence of people in London is a positive one in future.

Andy Fisher, Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit

CITES training seminar for Management Authorities and Customs agencies of Eastern European countries

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (FANC) held on 21-25 August 2000 a CITES training seminar for CITES Management Authorities and Customs agencies of Eastern European countries for the second consecutive year. The seminar was hosted by the International Nature Conservation Academy of the FANC on the Isle of Vilm and supported by the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC-Europe and the Botanic Garden of Darmstadt.

Participants from altogether 11 countries – Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and Yugoslavia – attended this one week course.

The emphasis of the seminar was slightly changed based on the previous year’s experience. In particular, the presence of a representative from the Secretariat had



Participants in the CITES training seminar for Management Authorities and Customs agencies of Eastern European countries

proven to be extremely helpful and it was invited again. This gave the participants ample opportunity to discuss in what ways the Secretariat can provide assistance to the Parties to implement the Convention more effectively at the national and international levels.



Examples of specimens seized by the Customs

Other issues which were addressed during the seminar included:

- provisions of the Convention;
- basic biological knowledge of the species covered under CITES;
- issuance and verification of permits and certificates;
- role of Customs in the implementation of the Convention;
- specific exemptions under the Convention; and
- illegal trade.

At the end of the seminar all attendants stressed again the importance of such meetings not only to improve the implementation of the Convention but also to find solutions to specific common problems. Even more importantly, they help strengthen enforcement through regional cooperation in accordance with the goals of the CITES Strategic Plan.

Dr. D. Jelden, Head CITES Management Authority, Federal Agency of Nature Conservation, Germany.

Development and application of forensic analysis for CITES implementation and enforcement: sharing the burden

Among the many problems that CITES Parties have to deal with is identifying a specimen or forensic sample as a species or unique individual. It may also be important to determine its origins, or to link the specimen or sample to a particular place, object or person. However, the rapid expansion of research, development and application of wildlife forensic analysis techniques and protocols are providing solutions to these problems.

Forensic analysis covers a broad spectrum of technology and applications, ranging from the most sophisticated and emerging DNA testing, through to the well-known fingerprint analysis. Typical examples of its application include identifying a part or derivative to species level, to confirm that it matches the accompanying CITES permit and whether a specimen originated from the wild, rather than being captive bred. The box opposite provides only a few examples of different techniques that can be used today to assist with selected issues of species identification or origin determination.

The use of forensic analysis is often closely linked to identification of CITES specimens or investigation of criminal cases. Law enforcement officials and CITES authorities are faced with several dilemmas when considering application of forensic or development of new techniques. They need to know if a test is already available to meet their needs. If so, reputable experts who can undertake the work need to be identified.

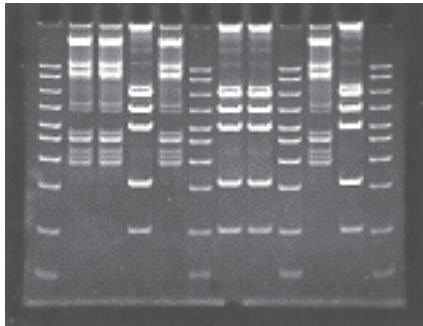
If no test or expertise is readily available, they have to consider developing a test and/or building capacity to perform it, which can be very costly and time consuming. In many cases CITES Parties have done just that – investing in lengthy and costly research to develop a new test or technique – to solve a problem they regularly have to deal with. While highly commendable, in some cases this has resulted in duplication of effort around the world.



Examination of a radiography

Some Parties also offer to assist others by undertaking forensic work for law enforcement cases. One such example is the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Laboratory, which generously assists Parties in this way. While unilateral assistance may not meet the long-term needs of Parties, it does provide a short-term result. It is also often an important catalyst towards building the confidence and ability of the Parties to undertake such work themselves.

There is certainly a need for greater awareness and information exchange among the Parties. Law enforcement officials in particular should be aware of the potential use of forensic science for CITES cases, as well as the range of techniques already available or under development that could support their work. The sharing of data and technology would enable Parties to assist each other in



Electrophoresis gel - DNA testing

developing a greater range of techniques and expertise to apply within their own countries – to suit local needs and to achieve greater self-reliance.

In the United Kingdom, the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime established the DNA and Forensic Analysis Working Group to explore and promote the development and application of forensic to combat wildlife crime. The Working Group recognised the need to compile a national directory of DNA testing and forensic techniques, research

underway and expertise available. The directory has been used successfully for several years to raise awareness and in particular assist law enforcers in finding the experts or techniques that they need for particular cases. Looking beyond the national boundary was the next step proposed by the Working Group. The CITES Management Authority of the United Kingdom took this step on board and is implementing a research project to develop an international directory of DNA research and expertise for key CITES species. The aim is to ensure that any future DNA research projects do not duplicate effort, to explore partnerships between Parties to exchange techniques and to formulate a list of target species for which DNA tests are urgently required. The CITES Management Authority of the United Kingdom would be grateful to receive any information to help support this research project. It is also keen to collaborate with other Parties that may have a body with a similar focus or are considering establishing one.

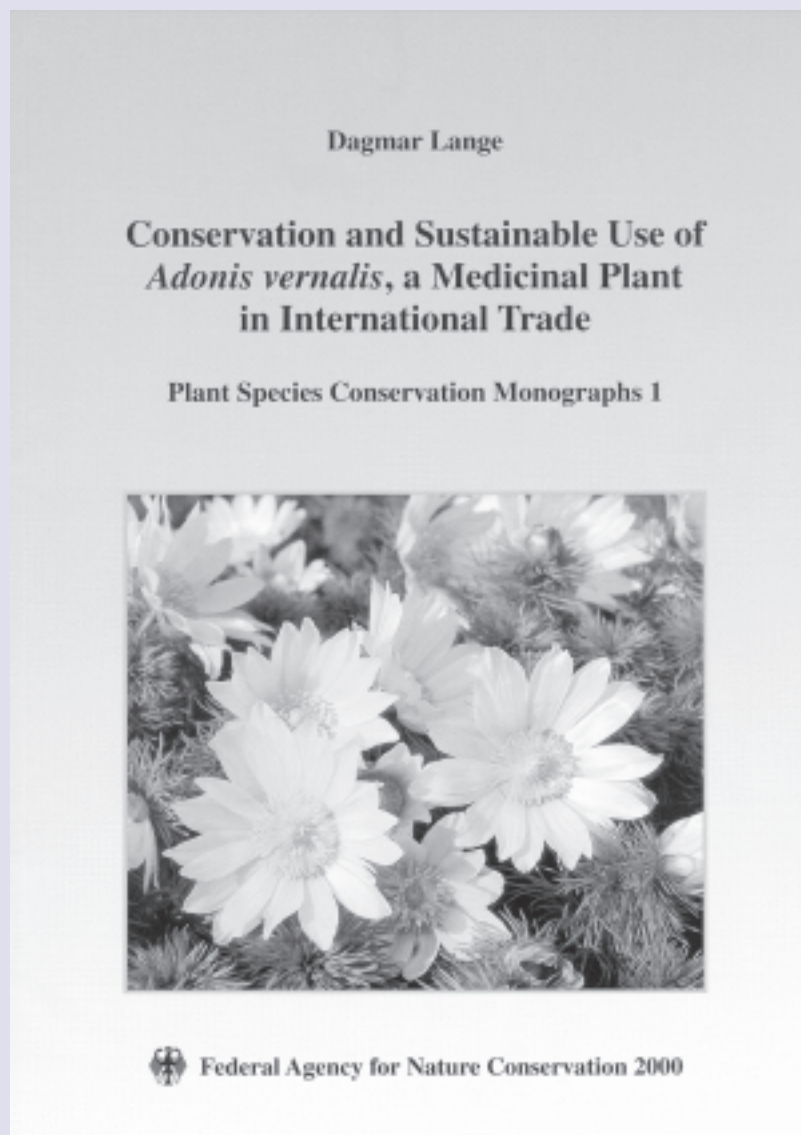
The CITES Secretariat is also encouraging a greater exchange of information between the Parties on the latest developments and research underway. They could also contribute to each other's work by providing samples, technology, data, expertise and resources. It would also be useful to keep the Secretariat informed of developments in these activities. We will all still be facing problems in implementing and enforcing CITES, but a more collaborative approach to the exchange of information and the development and use of forensic tools may well help lighten that burden.

Allan Crawford (TRAFFIC International). Coordinator of the DNA and Forensic Analysis Working Group, UK Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime.

Examples of techniques used to assist species identification or origin determination

Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Parts, derivatives	DNA testing, morphological identification, immunoassay
Tibetan Antelope	<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>	Shahtoosh	Microscopic fibre analysis, DNA testing
Bears	<i>Ursidae</i>	Parts, derivatives	Chemical analysis, morphology, DNA testing
Musk Deer	<i>Moschus spp.</i>	Musk, pods, grains	Chromatography, morphology
Elephants	<i>Elephantidae</i>	Ivory	DNA testing, isotope analysis, morphology
Rhinoceroses	<i>Rhinocerotidae</i>	Horn	Morphology, infrared spectroscopy
Birds	<i>Aves</i>	Feathers	DNA testing, morphology
Marine turtles	<i>Cheloniidae</i>	Shell, meat, oil	DNA testing, morphology
Sturgeons	<i>Acipenseriformes</i>	Caviar, meat	DNA testing
Plants	<i>Flora</i>	Parts, derivatives	Morphology, DNA testing

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announces the first publication of a new series of monographs: *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Adonis vernalis, a Medicinal Plant in International Trade.*



At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, *Adonis vernalis* was included in Appendix II of the Convention owing to its over-utilization for medicinal purposes.

In August 2000, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation published the first of a new series of monographs focussing on the conservation status of plant taxa threatened by exploitation. The publication by Dagmar Lange is entitled *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Adonis vernalis, a Medicinal Plant in International Trade.*

Adonis vernalis has long been used for its medicinal properties in the treatment of heart diseases. The report summarizes available information on the species biology and use, resource management and legislation in the countries of export, and analyses its conservation status. Facing risk of extinction from both habitat loss and over-harvesting for international trade, the species may benefit from the recommendations presented by the author.

CITES Scientific and Management Authorities may receive a complimentary copy on request. Please send your order to Natalie Hofbauer, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Konstantinstraße 110, 53179 Bonn, Germany, Tel. +49 (228) 8491-106, Fax: +49 (228) 8491-119, E-mail: hofbaun@bfn.de.



A delegation from Kazakhstan visited the Secretariat on 30 October following the recent entry into force of the Convention in this country, with from left to right:

Mr Yerik Razakov, representative of the Scientific Authority of Kazakhstan

Mr Bulat Uzhkenov, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of Kazakhstan

Mr Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General (CITES Secretariat)

Ms Yuliya Kim, representative of the Scientific Authority of Kazakhstan

Mr Jim Armstrong, Deputy Secretary General (CITES Secretariat)

Mr Khairbek Mussabaev, Head of the Management Authority of Kazakhstan

Mr Jonathan Barzdo, Head of the Convention Servicing Unit (CITES Secretariat)

Ms Lyazzat Khussainova, interpreter

Forthcoming CITES and other environmental events

• **21st session of the UNEP Governing Council**

5-9 February 2001, Nairobi, Kenya
Office of the Secretary for Governing Bodies
(B. A. Miller)
e-mail: Tore.Brevik@unep.org

• **Meeting of experts from the Contracting Parties to the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**

Date and place not yet determined, March 2001
IUCN (F. Burhenne, W. Burhenne)
e-mail: mail@hq.iucn.org

• **Fifth meeting of the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy**

Date not yet determined, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2001
Council of Europe (M. Dejeant-Pons)
DRCR – Regional Office for Europe (A. Metelitsa)

• **Convention on Migratory Species Scientific Council**

Date and place not yet determined, April 2001
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
tel: +49 (228) 815-2401
fax: +49 (228) 815-2449
e-mail: cms@unep.de

• **Convention on Migratory Species Standing Committee**

Date and place not yet determined, April 2001
UNEP/CMS Secretariat
tel: +49 (228) 815-2401
fax: +49 (228) 815-2449
e-mail: cms@unep.de

• **45th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee**

4-8 June 2001 (tentative dates)
CITES Secretariat (Policy and Management Unit)
tel: +41 (22) 917-8139/40
fax: +41 (22) 917-3417
e-mail: cites@unep.ch

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