

TRAFFIC

DISPATCHES

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25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

by Steven Broad, Executive Director, TRAFFIC International

This special issue of *TRAFFIC Dispatches* marks the passing of 25 years of conservation action by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. It provides an opportunity to look back at TRAFFIC's development from a single UK-based office in the late-1970s to today's global network and presents some basic facts about the nature and extent of trade in wild animals and plants and its relationship with the conservation of nature. The anniversary also presents a good opportunity to look to the future.

At sustainable levels and sensitive to the integrity of ecological systems, wildlife trade can make a significant contribution to human needs, support local and national economies and help to motivate commitments to the conservation of wild species and their habitats. However, although there is no doubt that significant financial benefit currently derives from this multi-billion dollar trade, it is also undeniable that its historical conservation impacts have been chiefly negative. This complex and evolving trade still poses a major challenge to conservation of biological diversity today, directly, through over-exploitation or indirectly, through impacts such as by-catch of non-target species and

introduction of invasive species.

Despite the considerable progress made under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and national conservation initiatives, this challenge remains substantial. In many parts of the world, laws and management measures remain weak, poorly communicated and just as poorly implemented and enforced. The globalisation of world trade, creation of common markets and advances in technology all add further complications to this already difficult task.

Looking ahead, two important observations play a prominent role in shaping TRAFFIC's future response to this challenge. First, it is clear that international wildlife trade is only a small percentage of the world's commercial consumptive use of wild animals and plants. The majority of the wildlife goods produced are consumed in the country where they originate, as food, medicine, industrial materials and for ornamental purposes. Even for products such as mahogany and caviar, national consumption within some producer countries far exceeds the more visible export trade. Second, the regulatory response to wildlife trade problems that has dominated



conservation action over the past century, cannot succeed without equal attention to the human needs, economic incentives and consumer perceptions that influence supply, demand and society's commitment to pursuing conservation goals.

TRAFFIC will continue work with a wide range of collaborators to inform, support and promote actions to address wildlife trade concerns. Fundamentally, the success of such actions will depend on the involvement of people with a vested interest, whether those communities local to any particular resource, regulators, businesses, or final consumers of wildlife goods. This task remains formidable, not least because it vies for attention in a labyrinth of environmental, development and security challenges faced by societies today. Nevertheless, solutions are within reach and TRAFFIC is committed to building on its experience so far to play a strong role in ensuring that wildlife trade 25 years from now is not as great a conservation concern as it is today.

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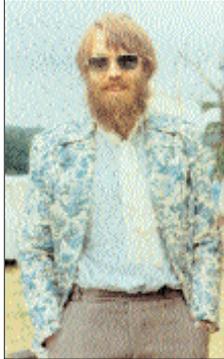
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TRAFFIC staff at the 17th Network meeting in May 2001, Hong Kong.

DIRECTING TRAFFIC

Sara Oldfield



John A. Burton, off duty, around 1981/82.



TRAFFIC International launched the TRAFFIC Network website in November 1997.

Today, an average of 12,000 visitors per day visit www.traffic.org.

In July 1999, TRAFFIC International became a UK Registered Charity. This gives the office a strong legal base in the UK and allows TRAFFIC International to seek funds from a range of new sources.

To help meet the clear need to monitor wildlife trade, especially following the founding of CITES, the IUCN Survival Service Commission (SSC) established in 1976 a UK-based IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC group of volunteer experts to gather and analyse wildlife trade data and identify illegal trade. John Burton was appointed its chairman and realising that the monitoring of trade in wildlife needed more than part-time research, John set about raising funds and assembling staff.

After its first two to three years' in operation, TRAFFIC described itself as "gradually becoming known [having] dealt with a number of enquiries from both government agencies and NGOs from various parts of the world." It regarded itself "primarily as a data bank" without the facilities to follow up its research, but the present-day close relationship between TRAFFIC and CITES had already been established.

In 1979, to distinguish the headquarters from other offices in the emergent TRAFFIC network, the original TRAFFIC office now took on the name TRAFFIC International and Tim Inskipp briefly became the Director. In 1980 the office moved to Cambridge and the following year TRAFFIC International changed its name again, this time to the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU), working as part of the emerging IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. TRAFFIC's overall operating budget was now more than ten times the humble £2500 five years previously.

Shortly after the move to Cambridge, John Burton resigned as Chairman of the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group, which as a result ceased to function. The post of head of WTMU, until this point never officially designated was filled in May 1982 by Chris Huxley. Chris stayed just over a year with WTMU before moving to CITES Secretariat. He was succeeded by Jonathan Barzdo, who by now had a seven-year association with TRAFFIC.

During Jonathan's tenure (1983-90), the network and the demands on its co-ordinating office grew. The number of full-time WTMU staff almost doubled within the first year of Jonathan's arrival. Managing and co-ordinating the network became a full-time occupation in its own right, so the name and function of "TRAFFIC International" was formally reinstated in WTMU in the late 1980s.

When Jørgen Thomsen took up the job of Director of TRAFFIC International in 1990, TRAFFIC began to operate independently of WTMU. For the first time in years, the Director of TRAFFIC International could concentrate solely on TRAFFIC matters. During the six years of Jørgen's directorship, the network again expanded both geographically and in terms of the range of work it undertook. Reflecting this, TRAFFIC's purpose had been re-evaluated and redefined as part of a thorough review of TRAFFIC's aims and structure undertaken in 1993. No longer "primarily a data bank", its objective was now much more ambitious - "To help ensure that wildlife trade is at sustainable levels and in accordance with domestic and international laws and agreements". With this in mind, TRAFFIC's activities diversified to address such complex resource issues as medicinal trade in wildlife, timber trade and fisheries.

Fortunately for TRAFFIC, Jørgen had a natural successor in the person of Steven Broad who has been with TRAFFIC almost continuously since September 1983. A living repository of TRAFFIC-related knowledge, Steven stepped into the role of directorship in 1996 and now leads a Network of over 90 members of staff working in 22 countries.

TRAFFIC International, and therefore TRAFFIC as a whole, has seen enormous and continual changes in the course of the past 25 years. *Plus ça change*, one might say - TRAFFIC was, and still is, a group of specialists in wildlife trade. Its official statement of purpose has been redrafted following each of three major strategic planning exercises (1987, 1993 and 2000) to maintain accuracy and effectiveness, while re-evaluation of activities and goals take place on a continual basis. What has never changed is its focus on ensuring that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. In short, the foresight, wisdom and energy of TRAFFIC's founders and of those responsible for it since have ensured that TRAFFIC's relevance has never subsided.

SOME MILESTONES OVER THE YEARS

1970s

TRAFFIC is established as a specialist group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission in 1976 chaired from the UK. The first TRAFFIC International office and TRAFFIC USA are established in 1979.

*

In 1977, the entire *Rhinocerotidae* family, all Caribbean Marine Turtles species and all subspecies of Tiger are included in CITES Appendix I with the exception of Siberian Tiger which is included ten years later, in 1987.

*

In 1978 TRAFFIC completes a major study of trade in seal products.

Concerns from a series of “tests” of wildlife trade controls at UK ports of entry are presented.

*

In 1979, Musk deer *Moschus moschiferus* populations of Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan are included in Appendix I of CITES. All other populations of musk deer are listed in CITES Appendix II.

TRAFFIC research results on trade in skins of wild cats provoke intense discussions at the 2nd meeting of the CITES Parties in Costa Rica.

International trade in shahtoosh is prohibited under CITES. Domestic trade is also banned within many countries, including China and India. The notable exception is the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is where chiru wool is woven into shahtoosh shawls and scarves.

TRAFFIC staff compile a first comprehensive overview of research and experience to date in “International trade in wildlife” by Tim Inskipp and Sue Wells, published by Earthscan in 1979.

TRAFFIC Bulletin, the only international journal devoted exclusively to the wildlife trade issues, is launched in January 1979.

In 1985, the TRAFFIC Committee as the network’s governing body is established and its first meeting is held in Argentina.

*

1980s

TRAFFIC offices established: UK (1980), East Africa (1980-82), Germany (1981), Japan (1982), Australia (1984), Netherlands (1984), Belgium (1984), Austria (1986-1990), Italy (1986) and France (1987), TRAFFIC South America regional office established in 1985 and TRAFFIC Oceania established in 1987.

In 1982, International Whaling Commission (IWC) adopts a moratorium on commercial whaling.

*

In 1983-84 TRAFFIC Bulletin includes results of major studies on Indian bird trade; elephant ivory trade, European seal skin trade and reptile skin trade, produced by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU), then the co-ordinating office of the TRAFFIC network.

*

In 1986 all baleen whales are listed in CITES Appendix I (exempt are West Greenland population of the Minke Whale and the Sperm Whale).

From 1986-88 an extensive review of the implementation of EU wildlife trade regulation is undertaken by TRAFFIC. This leads ultimately to the emergence of a new EU law which is considered one of the most comprehensive in the world.

1986-88 Major areas of research for the TRAFFIC network included trade in elephant ivory, live birds, spotted cat skins, reptile skins, cacti and marine turtle products.

In 1987, the TRAFFIC Committee agrees the TRAFFIC Network’s first strategic plan, setting ambitious goals for development of new regional programmes.

*

In 1989 the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* is listed in CITES Appendix I.

*

1990s

TRAFFIC offices established: TRAFFIC Europe (1990), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (1991), TRAFFIC India (1991), South Africa (1992), Taipei (1992), Tanzania (1992), Kenya (1996), TRAFFIC East Asia (1994), Russia (1995), Canada (1998), TRAFFIC South America (1999). TRAFFIC North America evolves into regional TRAFFIC North America office (1998), TRAFFIC South America re-opens after a four year closure 1999).

In 1992, TRAFFIC develops the Bad Ivory Database System (BIDS) to hold records of ivory seizures and confiscations that have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989.



Simon Milledge / TRAFFIC



Vincent Y. Chen / TRAFFIC

1992- A comprehensive report on international live bird trade (Perceptions, conservation and management of wild birds in trade) plays a major role in shaping major producer and consumer government policies through 1990s.

*

In 1993, TRAFFIC's second strategic plan is introduced, providing a new governance system and new organisational goals.

Publication of a review of European medicinal plant trade heralds a new trend of TRAFFIC turning its attention to the "tiger" of the plant world and launches a series of medicinal plant projects to assess the impact of this trade on both wild plant populations and local health care systems.

The largest seizure of Tiger bones ever recorded is made in India, following an investigation by TRAFFIC. Authorities seize 283kg Tiger bones, 8 Tiger skins and 60 Leopard *Panthera pardus* skins from a Tibetan refugee, who had been allegedly smuggling wildlife articles, including Tiger bones, to Tibet for many years.

TRAFFIC surveys on trade in Southeast Asian Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles are initiated, later revealing that the pattern of exploitation has shifted from domestic consumption to international trade, primarily to East Asia.

*

In 1994 a TRAFFIC report '*Killed For A Cure: A Review of the Worldwide Trade in Tiger Bone*', becomes the leading reference for those in the conservation community seeking to understand the trade in tigers.

The CITES Parties recognise TRAFFIC's BIDS as "the appropriate instrument for measuring the pattern and scale of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products".

*

In 1995, the London Metropolitan Police seizes several hundred traditional Chinese medicines purporting to contain endangered species (such as tiger bone, rhinoceros horn, Saiga Antelope horn, pangolin and tortoise shell) from a warehouse in west London. The UK seizure is part of an ongoing, multi-agency initiative, code named Operation Charm, to stop the trade in medicines containing endangered species in the UK

This initiative is in response to an undercover TRAFFIC investigation on the illegal trade in these medicines in 1994.

Following research on Agarwood trade by TRAFFIC India, *A. malaccensis* is listed in CITES Appendix II.

Costa Rica lists Big-leafed mahogany in CITES Appendix III. Honduran and Caribbean Mahogany are already considered commercially extinct.

TRAFFIC co-hosts a ground-breaking forum between traditional Chinese medicine user groups and wildlife conservationists in Hong Kong to discuss the use of endangered species in TCM.

*

In 1996, the TRAFFIC network's comprehensive research on shark fisheries and trade around the world is published in a report, *An Overview of World Trade in Sharks and Other Cartilaginous Fisheries*.

TRAFFIC researchers in India assist in investigations that lead to arrests and two seizures of ivory and shahtoosh shawls, the shahtoosh seizure being the first of its kind in India.

TRAFFIC publishes a comprehensive review of the caviar trade from the Caspian Sea leading to listing of all sturgeon species in the CITES Appendices a year later.

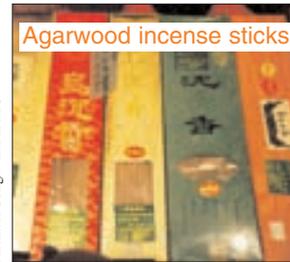
*

In 1997, TRAFFIC adopts a new programme strategy for 1997-2000, focusing its work on fisheries, medicinals and timber trade together with support to effective implementation of CITES.

TRAFFIC reviews rhinoceros trade control legislation, and related conservation activities in 14 range States and 18 consumer States presenting the results to CITES CoP10.

TRAFFIC hosts an international symposium on traditional Chinese medicine in Australia, and another symposium later the same year on the use of substitutes for Tiger bone and musk deer in traditional East Asian medicine in Hong Kong.

Following a tip-off from TRAFFIC, law enforcement officials seize 140 shawls in one of Hong Kong's top hotels. The



dealer is fined with the highest financial penalty ever for a single charge of violating Hong Kong's Animal and Plants Ordinance. This case sets an important precedent in Hong Kong as this is the first successful prosecution based on the use of forensic identification techniques to prove the wool in question came from the Tibetan Antelope - a method recognized as reliable by the court.

The African Elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are downlisted to Appendix II and allowing a one-off experimental trade of ivory, which takes place in 1999.

*

In 1998, a refined version of BIDS is developed into ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System) which is the designated system in CITES to monitor illegal trade in ivory and elephant products.

*

Following TRAFFIC research on medicines claiming to contain Tiger and rhinoceros ingredients that are readily available for sale in Canada and the USA, the US Congress passes Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act.

Network-wide medicinal plant work is initiated through a grant from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

During the same year two comprehensive reports on medicinal wildlife resources in Europe and East/Southern Africa are published.

TRAFFIC releases a study on Ginseng that reveals that America's favourite "pick-me-up" herb, could quickly become over-picked.

By Hook or By Crook, the definitive reference manual on illegal wildlife trade and prosecution in the UK is published, with assistance from TRAFFIC International.



Crawford Allan / TRAFFIC

The same year a report on consumer attitudes toward traditional Chinese medicine and endangered species in Hong Kong and the United States is jointly published by TRAFFIC East Asia and North America.

Explosive growth in US live reptile trade becomes evident through studies carried out by TRAFFIC. The study shows that between 1983 and 1992, US trade in live reptiles increased nearly twentyfold.

*

In 1999, celebrities join in call to end shahtoosh trade as TRAFFIC releases a report entitled *Fashion Statement Spells Death for Tibetan Antelope*. The report summarizes the latest information about an illicit trade that drives large-scale poaching on the high-desert plateaux of China to supply the finest of wools to the rich, famous and fashionable around the world. TRAFFIC's informants say that socialites in France, Italy, Spain and Hong Kong are among the most voracious consumers.

A report *Conserving Musk Deer - The Uses of Musk and Europe's Role in its Trade* by TRAFFIC Europe, documents how 52 countries participate in the trade. Russia acts as a major world supplier of raw musk, while European countries such as France, Germany and Switzerland are significant importers. Germany and Switzerland are suppliers of raw musk mainly from the former Soviet Union and Russia to Hong Kong, South Korea and other destinations.

The Third International Symposium on Trade in Bear Parts is co-organised by TRAFFIC in South Korea. More than 100 stakeholders come together and conclude that Asian bear species are still in serious trouble in the wild, demand for gall bladders of wild bears for use as medicine remains a threat to the survival of Asian bear species, and all sides - including traditional medicine communities - wish to work together to solve these problems and conserve bears in the wild. The proceedings of the symposium are published by TRAFFIC in 2001.

TRAFFIC reports that Sea cucumbers in the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador continue to be illegally fished, posing a threat to local sea cucumber populations and threatening to affect the unique ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands.

TRAFFIC, WWF and The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), bring together 40 regional turtle experts from 16 countries, primarily within East Southeast Asia, to discuss the problem of trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Asia at a workshop held in Cambodia.

*

2000

TRAFFIC offices established: Mexico (2000), Viet Nam office evolves into a sub-regional Indochina office (2001).

In 2000, TRAFFIC's strategic plan for 2000-2010 is adopted by the TRAFFIC Committee, establishing new programme priorities addressing trade in threatened species, priority ecoregions, resource security and supporting international co-operation efforts.

TRAFFIC releases a report *Heart of the matter: Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for Aquilaria malaccensis* after being contracted by the CITES Secretariat to undertake a review of the species.

In March 2000 the *Species in Danger* report *Far From A Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited* examines the tiger trade in the late 1990s and reveals that tiger parts in traditional Asian medicine continues to be a threat to wild tigers.

The importance of effective enforcement is highlighted when one of the largest seizures in recent times, a raid at Khaga, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, results in the recovery of four tiger, 70 leopard and 221 blackbuck skins, and 18,000 leopard nails. The seizure and subsequent arrests are the result of the support provided through the informer network set up by TRAFFIC India's Enforcement Assistance Unit.

All species of Asian box turtles *Cuora* spp. are listed in CITES Appendix II.

In 2001, a report by TRAFFIC North America, *'Swimming Against The Tide,'* reviews the exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in 11 countries and territories in the Northern Caribbean. The report is released on the eve of the First CITES Wider Caribbean Hawksbill Turtle Dialogue Meeting.

A report on monitoring progress in Norway's development of a DNA register for its domestic management system for whale meat is published, together with a survey of the commercial trade in whale meat products in Japan carried out the previous year; and with a survey of whale meat markets along South Korea's coast also undertaken the previous year.

A study on Musk farming in China is completed by TRAFFIC showing that at present, captive breeding of musk deer is not viable means of meeting China's demand for musk but that captive breeding operations could serve as a 'genetic' safety net for wild populations providing that illegal hunting is also brought under control.

A review of Big-leafed Mahogany Appendix III implementation is undertaken by TRAFFIC at the request of the CITES Secretariat, the results of which are tabled during the October 2001 meeting of the CITES Mahogany Working Group. The Group is also directed to report on its findings and to provide recommendations for consideration at CoP 12 taking place in 2002 in Santiago, Chile.

The conservation status of the Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish come under scrutiny by TRAFFIC and concerns are raised as to the adequacy of management of these species. There are concerns regarding the status of Patagonian Toothfish stocks due to the level of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in recent years. Also, inconsistencies in the reporting of trade in Antarctic Toothfish were found, suggesting that actual catches are well in excess of the recorded catch by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

TRAFFIC thank our supporters for their contributions to our work in the past 25 years

1970's

TRAFFIC's funding history has always been diverse - a sure sign of the strength of feeling about the need for proactive monitoring of wildlife trade. At TRAFFIC's founding in the late 1970's, it was the RSPCA, the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WFPA) and the Fauna Protection Society (FPS) who supported the first TRAFFIC office in London and WWF-US who began to fund TRAFFIC work in the USA. In these early days the annual budget of TRAFFIC International was less than £2,500, but the challenge to raise funds was as critical as it is today.

1980's

TRAFFIC's funding developed considerably on several fronts. At the start of the decade, the CITES Secretariat provided support, as TRAFFIC worked to assist the implementation of the Convention. In the mid 1980's, to reflect the considerable growth of TRAFFIC during these years, WWF and IUCN came together to form the TRAFFIC Committee. This led to both organisations supporting TRAFFIC financially and since then, WWF and IUCN have been two of TRAFFIC's main donors, and have regularly invested in TRAFFIC's work, through both core and project funds.

During the 1980's TRAFFIC's multi-faceted role began to emerge and so too, TRAFFIC's funding base began to diversify, with new donors such as Greenpeace funding an investigations project, the Fund for Animals Australia funding TRAFFIC Australia, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species funding the *TRAFFIC Bulletin* and the European Commission supporting work by TRAFFIC Europe.

A TRAFFIC online donation facility has been launched on the 27th of November as a part of the 25th Anniversary Special Section at www.traffic.org

1990's

The 1990's saw the whole conservation movement mature and expand quite considerably. Government investment in conservation efforts increased: UK and Taiwan invested considerably in TRAFFIC's work to support regulation and enforcement. For TRAFFIC's offices around the world, this move was echoed, as other developed world governments invested in TRAFFIC's work in developing regions such as East/Southern Africa, Oceania and India.

TRAFFIC began to build partnerships with new donor groups, including foundations, companies and individuals. Over the course of the 1990's, TRAFFIC's annual income grew to a great deal more than the level of those early years, amounting to CHF7.4 million (USD 4.9 million) in FY1998-99.

2000 and beyond

The TRAFFIC Network now receives financial support from a wide range of sources. Our relationship with WWF and IUCN continues to be flexible, responding to conservation needs. Similarly, we still work closely with the CITES Secretariat providing technical expertise on a range of priority issues. A funding development strategy has been engaged to guide future efforts to increase support to the programme and to maximise the efficiency of fund management. These new directions have already seen considerable success, with TRAFFIC receiving funding for multi-regional programmes and not just individual projects. These recent relationships include BMZ (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung) funds for medicinal plants work and a grant from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation for international fisheries work.

TRAFFIC's overall programme growth continues, but it still faces serious challenges in striving to secure reliable sources of the flexible funds that are essential for risk management and maintaining strategic programme direction.

Donors during July - November 2001:

Action Aid Malawi
 AGF Management Limited
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong
 Association of Korean Oriental Medicine
 AusAID
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
 Belgian Government
 Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany
 Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), Germany
 Caviar Petrossian
 CITES Secretariat
 The Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition
 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 Dept. of National Parks & Wildlife, Malawi
 Dieckmann & Hansen Caviar, GmbH
 Endangered Wildlife Trust
 European Commission, Directorates General VIII & XI
 EU Yan Sang Limited, Hong Kong
 Exxon Corporation
 Mr James Fairfax
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 Green Trust
 Ion Fund
 IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office
 IUCN - The World Conservation Union
 IUCN Mozambique Country Office
 IUCN - Species Survival Commission
 IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
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 Marine Leadership Council
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 Ministerium fu Umwelt und Forsten - Rheinland-Pfalz
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 Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
 Ministry of Tourism and National Parks, Malawi
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, USA
 National Geographic Channel Asia
 Natural Heritage Trust
 Nautilus TV
 Netherlands Government
 New Horizons Computer Learning Centre
 Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation (NORAD)
 Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
 The Rufford Foundation
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 Save the Tiger Fund, USA
 Society for Wildlife and Nature
 Southern Africa Wildlife College
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 Taiwan Council of Agriculture
 Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation
 Tiger's Eye Retail
 UK Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
 UK Department for International Development, Botswana Office
 UNESCO
 United World Chinese Commercial Bank
 US Agency for International Development
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 US Information Service Programme, Development Office, South Africa
 US National Marine Fisheries Service
 US State Department
 The Walt Disney Company Foundation
 Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
 WWF Australia
 WWF Belgium
 WWF Biodiversity Support Programme
 WWF Canada
 WWF Coordination Office-Zambia
 WWF East African Marine Ecoregion Programme
 WWF East Africa Regional Programme Office
 WWF Endangered Seas Campaign
 WWF France
 WWF Gabon Programme
 WWF Germany
 WWF Hong Kong
 WWF International
 WWF Italy
 WWF Japan
 WWF Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe
 WWF Latin America-Caribbean Programme
 WWF Netherlands
 WWF New Zealand
 WWF South Africa
 WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office
 WWF Sweden
 WWF Switzerland
 WWF Tanzania Programme Office
 WWF Tiger Conservation Programme
 WWF-UK
 WWF-US

TRAFFIC East Asia



David Lawson / WWF-UK

The TRAFFIC East Asia regional office was established in 1994 in Hong Kong. The first Regional Director based in Hong Kong was Judy Mills, followed by a period in 2000 with Marcus Phipps as Acting Director. Today, lead by Craig Kirkpatrick, TRAFFIC East Asia, with 12 members of staff, and offices in place also in Japan and Taipei, covers eight countries and territories in the region.

TRAFFIC Japan was the first office to be established in the region in 1982. Led by Tom Milliken until 1991, it undertook numerous studies in Japan and the Asia region such as Japan's trade in psittacines, Asian arowana, bears, cactus, and live reptiles to name a few. Field research outside of Japan produced studies such as the South Korean rhino horn trade and the Indonesian sea turtle trade in 1988. Coinciding with the establishment of the

TRAFFIC Taipei office, a report on the trade in rhinoceros horn, in Taiwan area was published in 1992, followed by a study on rhinoceros horn trade in South Korea in 1994. The same year, the Species in Danger report on worldwide trade in tiger bone became the leading reference for those in the conservation community seeking to understand the trade in tigers. Another report on Tigers followed in 2000, and examined the tiger trade in the late 1990s.

The use of bears in medicinal products was studied in 1995 and in 1999 TRAFFIC East Asia co-hosted The Third International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts in the Republic of South Korea.

In 1997, TRAFFIC East Asia produced a review of the current ivory trade in the region documenting serious weaknesses that persist in the domestic ivory trade controls of several Asian countries and territories, including Japan. Similarly, inadequacies have been highlighted with respect to the regulation of whale meat trade in East Asia.

In 1998 a report on consumers attitudes toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and endangered species in Hong Kong and the United States were published and the

following year the the summary report on Tibetan Antelope saw the daylight.

Throughout the years, TRAFFIC has assisted governments in identifying and implementing adequate controls on wildlife trade in the region and. provided technical expertise to the governments during the strengthening of national wildlife legislation in Japan and Taiwan.

The development of a registration system for slipper orchid nurseries was established in Taiwan in the recent years with assistance from TRAFFIC, allowing for the verification of orchids as being artificially-propagated and nurseries to be inspected. It was modelled on an effective system in place in Thailand.

Since 1995, TRAFFIC East Asia has been actively contributing to traditional medicine-related activities in a number of roles. Today, TRAFFIC East Asia seeks not only to maintain its existing co-operative relationship with the traditional medicine communities, but also to move this relationship to an even higher level. The aim of outreach activities is to engage the traditional medicine community in the dialogue over conservation issues surrounding wildlife used in medicines.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa



M Rautkari / WWF-UK

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa was established in 1991 with the opening of a regional office in Malawi by its first - and current - director Tom Milliken. This move effectively re-established a full-time TRAFFIC presence on the African continent after a decade's absence. (As early as 1980, a TRAFFIC office had briefly opened in Nairobi but, sadly, closed after the death of its director, Ted Norris.) The TRAFFIC programme covers 18 countries in the region. By 1995, the regional programme office was supported by three other offices in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

TRAFFIC's first major work in Africa in 1993 looked at the decline of the Black Rhino in Zimbabwe and its implications for future rhino conservation. Since 1998, TESA started to document worldwide legal stocks of rhinoceros horn and other products,

and the Rhino Horn and Product Database currently stores stock information from a total of 54 countries.

African Elephants, perhaps the continent's most charismatic flagship species, have always been an important focus of TRAFFIC's work in Africa. TRAFFIC's expertise on elephant trade issues has resulted in it playing a leading role in various initiatives under the CITES Secretariat, the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, the European Union and others to find solutions to many divisive issues. In 1992, TRAFFIC created the Bad Ivory Database System (BIDS) to hold records of ivory seizures which have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989. Today BIDS has evolved into the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). The first major analytical report from ETIS will be ready for consideration at COP12 in 2002.

The trade in medicinal plants and animals has also been an important focus of TRAFFIC's work, as most Africans rely on traditional medicines as their primary source of health care. Another natural resource, wild meat, is also a valuable source of protein and income for many people in

Africa struggling for survival amidst endemic poverty and frequent famine.

In 1997, as a major contribution to the broader TRAFFIC Network initiative to assess the growing global trade in sharks, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa documented the status of shark fisheries in the region. TRAFFIC has examined the trade in other valuable marine taxa, completing an assessment of the trade in sea cucumbers, lobsters and shells, as well as Bluefin Tuna. More recently, TRAFFIC has received funds to undertake a major review of swordfish fisheries in the region.

TRAFFIC staff have played vital roles in helping national governments and law enforcement authorities to become more effective in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

Overall, TRAFFIC has charted ten years of dynamic progress in the region and, with a dedicated staff and a clear programmatic vision, there is certainly more success to come. To give Africa the full treatment it deserves, however, the challenge remains to establish a complementary TRAFFIC programme for Western and Central Africa.

TRAFFIC Europe

TRAFFIC Europe, under Tom De Meulenaer, was formed in 1990 but evolved from several earlier national offices. TRAFFIC UK (1980, closed in 1982); TRAFFIC Germany (1981); TRAFFIC Netherlands (1984); TRAFFIC Belgium, (1984); TRAFFIC Austria, (1986, closed in 1990); TRAFFIC Italy (1986) and TRAFFIC France (1987). After the establishment of TRAFFIC Europe, a Russian National office was established in Moscow in 1995. These offices had worked collaboratively on projects such as the ivory trade in Europe and an assessment in the mid-1980s of CITES implementation in what is now the European Union.

TRAFFIC Europe's first regional projects concentrated on the plant trade; the tropical timber trade; eastern Europe; legislation; and the reptile skin trade. Several of these remain important themes of TRAFFIC Europe's work.

One of its first plant trade studies investigated wild plants traded in European horticultural outlets. This was followed by a survey of Europe's medicinal and aromatic plants in 1996, which identified between 1200-1300 native medicinal and aromatic plants used commercially, with the vast

majority still taken directly from the wild.

Recognising the problem of uncontrolled wildlife trade in the former Soviet Union resulting from the political changes of the 1980s, TRAFFIC Europe carried out a survey of this trade from 1994-1995. Since then, TRAFFIC work in the region has looked at trade in Saiga Antelope, hunting trophies, wild sheep and goats, caviar, birds of prey and fisheries. Russia is also a major supplier of musk and a TRAFFIC Europe-Germany report on Musk Deer documented how 52 countries participate in the trade.

In the area of EU legislation, TRAFFIC had been aware for years of the inadequate implementation of CITES by some Member States of the EU. In 1990, it examined three of the most serious offenders - Italy, Spain and Greece. A study on Greece documented widespread unregulated trade, including sales of cat furs, ivory and sea turtle items, and helped bring about Greece's accession to CITES in 1993. Italy's inadequate implementation led to CITES recommending Parties to cease wildlife trade with Italy in 1992. TRAFFIC Europe assisted the Government of Italy in overhauling its structures, legislation and penalties for

implementing CITES.

TRAFFIC Europe participated in the drafting of new EU wildlife trade legislation which came into force in 1997. Today, the wildlife trade regulation represent some of the most comprehensive wildlife trade legislation in existence to implement CITES.

Fisheries is another important component of TRAFFIC Europe's work and it conducted a review of shark fisheries of the north-east Atlantic and the Mediterranean, trade in sharks and shark products in Europe and related European regulations. More recent work examined bluefin tuna and Swordfish catches in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as the fishing industry in the Russian part of the Bering Sea.

Similarly, TRAFFIC Europe's sturgeon conservation efforts have been widely recognised and assisted in the adoption of CITES trade controls for all sturgeons and their products in international trade in 1988. With sturgeon coming under CITES Appendix II in 1997, TRAFFIC is working with governments, the caviar industry, consumers and specialists to ensure the effectiveness of the controls now in place.

TRAFFIC India



George Schaller

TRAFFIC India was established in 1992, with Ashok Kumar as its first Director and Manoj Misra succeeding him in 1996. Its broad goal was to monitor wildlife trade and other forms of utilisation of animals and plants and their derivatives in India.

At the time TRAFFIC India was established, no single agency had overall responsibility for monitoring wildlife trade and enforcement in India. One of TRAFFIC's first tasks was to assist in that co-ordination and help develop and maintain computerized databases of wildlife trade-related statistics. Today the computerised library of facts and figures is used to cross-reference wildlife trade activities, with the database on permits issued for wildlife trade alone including more than 10 000 entries.

In 1994, TRAFFIC India published a wildlife trade handbook for enforcement staff on the entire range of wildlife

threatened by trade, as well as the laws, regulations and treaties that protect this resource. A practical guide to wildlife trade monitoring, it proved to be a useful resource for wildlife and non-wildlife agencies in training and re-orientating new officers.

TRAFFIC India played a key role in the setting up the National Co-ordination Committee of Enforcement Agencies for greater interaction and better exchange of information among the different agencies. Under its auspices, thirteen training workshops for staff of enforcement agencies were facilitated between 1996-1997 alone. During that same period, TRAFFIC India also assisted in numerous court cases involving illegal wildlife trade and contributed to the seizure of eight consignments of illegal wildlife.

Also, a national network of informers in India has been established in recent years by TRAFFIC, to support investigations and provide valuable intelligence information to the authorities. This also illustrates how government agencies can develop a working relationship of trust with NGOs, working in close collaboration on sensitive issues as intelligence exchange and criminal activities.

Trade monitoring on key species has also been a priority. In 1994, TRAFFIC India used the findings of research on the trade in Agarwood to assist the Indian Government draft a successful proposal for international trade in Agarwood to be regulated under CITES the next year.

Attention was also turned to the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, among the most endangered of India's wild species, with numbers remaining in the wild totalling less than estimates for either tigers or elephants.

Sharks were the focus of a number of studies, with a preliminary survey in Trade in Sharks and Shark Products in India being conducted in 1997 and, more recently, a report on India's Whale Shark Fishery, which was published in 2001.

Creating awareness among decision-makers and enforcement officers of the nature of the trade and the need for CITES enforcement has always been important in India. TRAFFIC India was at the forefront of an international campaign launched by TRAFFIC, WWF and the government of India in 1999, to raise awareness of the problems of illegal trade in shahtoosh shawls, made from the wool of the highly endangered Tibetan Antelope.

TRAFFIC North America



Mary Rose/WWF-UK

The TRAFFIC North America regional programme was established in 1998. However, its predecessor, the TRAFFIC USA national office was opened in 1979 as a programme office of WWF-US - making it the second oldest office in the TRAFFIC Network. Today, national offices in Canada and Mexico provide additional support to the regional programme. Former directors of TRAFFIC USA, in chronological order, have been Nicole Duplaix, Linda McMahan, Kathryn Fuller, Ginette Hemley and Gina DeFerrari. Under its current director, Simon Habel, TRAFFIC North America now covers a region that includes Canada, Mexico, United States, as well as the US Territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

TRAFFIC has over the years undertaken a number of projects to assess the impacts of trade on native North American species that enter world markets. For example, TRAFFIC USA conducted extensive research on the

Canadian and US trade of American Black Bear. TRAFFIC USA also co-hosted two international symposia on the trade of bear parts, in 1994 and 1997.

Traditional Chinese medicine is another important focus of TRAFFIC North America's work. In 1994 a report *Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade*, quickly became an important reference work on patented Oriental medicines.

In 1998, TRAFFIC found that certain TCM products were more readily available in North America than in China. Later that year, the US Congress passed the Rhino and Tiger Product Labelling Act, significantly assisting enforcement authorities in taking action against the continuing US trade in tiger and rhinoceros products, such as medicines. TRAFFIC North America and WWF US had been working with Congress for nearly two years to pass the Act. Furthermore, in 1998 TRAFFIC North America (jointly with TRAFFIC East Asia) released a report featuring research into the attitudes of consumers toward traditional Chinese medicine.

The USA is one of the world's largest traders of live reptiles and in 1996 a TRAFFIC report on the role of the US in the

world live reptile trade urged for research to be stepped up and action taken to address a trade that is impacting some of the world's wild reptile populations.

Due to declines of sturgeon elsewhere caviar from sturgeon and paddlefish species in North America is increasingly entering world markets today. On this note, TRAFFIC North America co-hosted a symposium on its harvest and trade in 1998 and following on the results of that meeting, TRAFFIC North America will soon be releasing a report on the harvest, trade and management of paddlefish and sturgeon.

TRAFFIC North America also produced a compilation of shark fisheries and trade data and information in the Americas and in 1998, released the first volume of TRAFFIC's global study of shark fisheries and trade.

A report on the trade in big-leafed mahogany in 2000 included an exhaustive analysis of global trade data along with a survey of mahogany importers, indicating the major role US plays as an importer of the species. Earlier this year, a report by TRAFFIC North America reviewed the exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in 11 countries and territories in the Northern Caribbean.

TRAFFIC Oceania



IUCN Shark Specialist Group

TRAFFIC Oceania was initially established as TRAFFIC Australia in 1984, expanding to become the regional office, TRAFFIC Oceania, in 1987. The first regional director was Frank Antram followed by Debra Callister in 1989 and Simon Habel in 1994. Today, TRAFFIC Oceania is led by Glenn Sant, covering an area of responsibility of 24 countries and territories in the Pacific.

TRAFFIC Oceania's earlier studies included a review on the collection and trade of Australian insects to Europe in the late 1980s. In 1991, an international trade review on Australian parrots was published, followed by a timber trade overview in 1992 of the Illegal Tropical Timber Trade in the Asia-Pacific. In the mid-1990s Australia's native wildlife trade, its scale, trends and impacts was examined.

One of TRAFFIC Oceania's first major marine studies was an examination of the trade in Marine Invertebrates of the South

Pacific in 1995. TRAFFIC Oceania is continuing to work on this issue and plans to complement its existing work with a focus on giant clams and corals in the near future.

In the Australian and New Zealand context, TRAFFIC Oceania is recognised as a leading conservation voice on fisheries issues and has been consistently invited to participate in high-level policy development and management forums over the years.

In relation to offshore fisheries, TRAFFIC Oceania has produced a number of significant reports including those on Southern bluefin tuna in 1997 and, more recently, on Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish.

TRAFFIC Oceania hosted one of the coordinators of the TRAFFIC network's worldwide review on shark fisheries and as part of it, produced an overview of the Oceania region's harvest, trade and management of sharks and other cartilaginous fish in 1996.

Alongside fisheries, timber is another important area of work for TRAFFIC Oceania. The Oceania region has a disproportionate share of the world's threatened tree species. While containing less than three percent of the world's forests, Oceania holds over nine percent of the

world's threatened trees. Over 200 are critically endangered and endangered tree species, and 11 species have already become extinct. Many endemic timber species in Oceania have a range smaller than 26 square kilometres and so are easily threatened by timber extraction.

TRAFFIC Oceania's recent pioneering initiative to work on Agarwood with WWF's South Pacific Programme in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has built effective links with government authorities that are involved in regulating not only Agarwood but also other threatened species of flora and fauna in PNG.

The issue of traditional Chinese medicines in trade was the focus of symposia organised by TRAFFIC Oceania in August 1997 in Sydney and March 1999 in Melbourne. More recently, TRAFFIC Oceania co-conducted a review of Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Wildlife Protection) Bill 2001.

In the future, TRAFFIC Oceania intends to continue its focus on fisheries and timber work in support of the key wildlife trade issues facing the region and is hoping to expand its ability to provide assistance at a national level to Pacific island countries.

TRAFFIC South America



WWF / Andre Bartschi

TRAFFIC South America was first established in Uruguay. Led by Juan Villalba-Macias, the office started its operation in 1985. In 1991 a national office was opened in Argentina, but closed soon again in 1993 after facing financial difficulties. The same met the regional office in 1995. Work on plant trade issues continued from 1996 in a project office hosted by IUCN, Quito. In 1999 the South America regional office was re-opened at the same location. Led by Bernardo Ortiz, TRAFFIC South America today has four staff members and operates through a network of consultants covering 12 countries.

The early work of South America examined the trade in psittacines (parrots and parakeets) and reptile skins, looked at the management of the wildlife resources in Argentina and assisted in enforcement work

that led to several seizures of illegal wildlife shipments.

Major recent work in TRAFFIC South America has examined the trade in Big-leaved Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*. Today it is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods in the international timber trade. At the CITES Mahogany Working Group meeting this year, TRAFFIC South America presented briefings that review legislation and harvest and trade controls in three key countries, as well as the role of CITES. TRAFFIC will continue to be an integral part of the dialogue and exchange of information between CITES authorities and other stakeholders to ensure better implementation of CITES in the future for the species.

Medicinal plants is another important area of work for TRAFFIC South America. With many local communities depending upon these plants for their healthcare, increasing harvest from the wild and current trade patterns of these resources can create a negative impact that threatens not only the sustainability of the species but also the health of the population. In order to address this challenge, TRAFFIC South America has been examining the harvest and trade

patterns, trade legislation in the region and recommendations for future developments. Various activities have recently been undertaken, including studies on harvest, use of and trade in medicinal plants in selection of countries in the region. TRAFFIC has also organised workshops on medicinal plants and trade, with scientific experts, local communities, traders private companies as well as the governmental sector participating.

A study on the Galapagos sea cucumber fishery carried out in 1999 revealed that the harvesting of sea cucumbers is lucrative business and that local authorities are constantly under pressure from fishermen to keep fishing seasons open. The report encourages the search for mechanisms that allow the use of the resource without leading to its extinction and the degradation of precious ecosystem of the Galapagos.

Recently, TRAFFIC South America also conducted research on the status of the trade in Patagonian toothfish in Chile, as part of a larger study carried out by the network.

TRAFFIC South America works closely with key institutions, and governments in its aims to ensure the continued existence of biological diversity and its productivity - now and for future generations.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia



Peter Paul van Dijk / TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia was established in 1991 based in Malaysia. A Viet Nam office first set up in 1999, became a sub-regional office for Indochina in 2001. The first regional director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia was Stephen Nash, followed by Steven Broad in 1993 and Chen Hin Keong in 1995. The TRAFFIC Southeast Asia programme covers eleven countries in the region.

Its first studies in 1992 looked at the songbird trade in Southeast Asia, as well as the Red and Blue Lory in 1993. Three heavily traded bird species were subsequently listed under CITES Appendix II as a result of the former work in 1997 and the latter was listed in appendix I in 1994.

Marine species also received attention early on, with a study on Coral Trade in 1992, Hawksbill Turtle trade in Viet Nam two years later, a study on Shark Fisheries

and the Trade in Sharks and Shark Products of Southeast Asia in 1996 and the trade in live coral fish for food in 1997.

Freshwater turtles were also an important area of study, and in 1999; TRAFFIC co-organised a workshop held in Cambodia, bringing together experts from 16 countries. The recommendations from the workshop were adopted almost wholly by CITES at the 11th COP the next year.

Over the last few years, TRAFFIC has been researching the *Jamu* medicine system in Malaysia and Indonesia. Some rare species were found to be in use as ingredients, without any management systems in place to ensure their sustainability.

Another important research in the region is the fragrant wood, agarwood. In August 2000, a report *Heart of the Matter* revealed that over 700 tonnes of agarwood was reported in international trade in 1997, and the survival of the species is being increasingly threatened by over-harvesting.

Progress has been made in CITES implementation in the region and continued dialogue with governments of these countries have led to the accession of Vietnam to CITES in 1994, Myanmar and

Cambodia becoming members of this Convention in 1997.

In addition, TRAFFIC and Viet Nam's Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000. A CITES Legislation Working Group was established in Viet Nam and TRAFFIC was invited to provide technical assistance to the group. In early April 2001, draft CITES legislation was completed. After ratification, the legislation will provide for better implementation of CITES in the country.

All the countries in Southeast Asia still need to strictly enforce trade controls, improve anti-poaching capacity, develop specialised enforcement units for undercover investigations and provide incentives against unsustainable trade and harvest of their natural resources. Major illegal supplying markets still operate openly in many Southeast Asian countries. Much work has been done but the challenge of effective implementation remains daunting. Only through international co-operation can Southeast Asia conserve its unique natural heritage for future generations.

TRAFFIC STAFF NEWS

New post to boost timber work in the Network

Chen Hin Keong has taken up a new role within TRAFFIC as a Senior Forest Trade Advisor, the global focal point for activities related to trade in timber and other wood products. He will remain based in Malaysia though working as a part of TRAFFIC International team. From November 2001, the post of Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in which Chen provided leadership to the regional programme for six years, is vacant.

Other changes

Craig Hoover from TRAFFIC North America has been promoted from Senior Programme Officer to Deputy Director in October 2001.

Simon Milledge from TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania office: Senior Programme Officer.

Christopher Robbins from TRAFFIC North America: Senior Programme Officer.

Sue Vivian from TRAFFIC International: Information & Publications Officer.

Joyce Wu from TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei: Research Officer.

Office moves

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia moved offices in September 2001. The new address is Unit 9-3A, 3rd Floor, Jalan SS23/11, Taman SEA, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

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TRAFFIC Europe moved offices in October 2001. The new address is Bd. Emile Jacqmain 90, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

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TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Viet Nam office became a sub-regional office for Indochina in November 2001.

*

Welcome

Shoko Kameoka joined TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan office as Programme Officer in July 2001.

*

Karin Burkhardt started her work as the Research Officer at TRAFFIC Europe in July 2001.

*

Suon Phalla joined TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina sub-regional office as the Cambodia based Programme Officer in August 2001.

*

Monica Anton joined TRAFFIC Europe to undertake work related to European Union Wildlife Trade Regulation in August 2001.

*

Dang Linh Huong started her work as the Administrative Assistant at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Indochina office in November 2001.

*

Annick De Beukelaer joined TRAFFIC Europe regional office as the Administrative Officer in November 2001.

Goodbye

Marie-Veronique Ninassi left her position as the TRAFFIC Europe-France representative in July 2001.

*

Irene Bronlet, Administrative and Communications Officer left TRAFFIC Europe in October 2001.

*

Holly Reed, Senior Administrative Assistant left TRAFFIC North America in October 2001.

*

ON THE HORIZON

The Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12) takes place in November next year, in Santiago Chile. Much remains to be done to build upon the successes of the last meeting in Nairobi in 2000, with many many problems remaining unresolved and new challenges having emerged.

During 2002, TRAFFIC also hopes to produce a new and comprehensive overview of global wildlife trade trends, including coverage of key commodities such as timber, fisheries, medicinal products, wild meat, live animals, ornamental plants and non-wood forest products.

TRAFFIC Dispatches

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TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published to keep partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments.

TRAFFIC works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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TRAFFIC



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