

# TRAFFIC *DISPATCHES*

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## Nowhere to hide: The trade in Sumatran Tiger

by Chris R. Shepherd, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

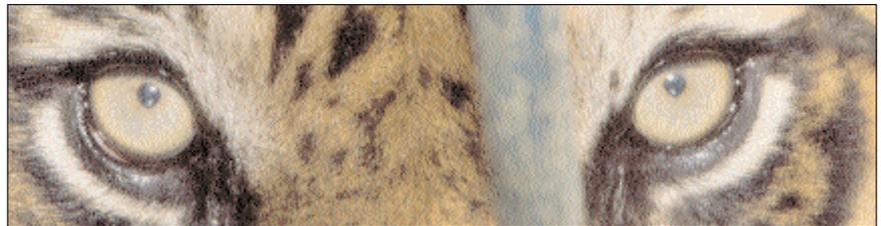
Indonesia is set to lose its last remaining Tiger species - the Sumatran Tiger - if the widespread illegal trade in Tiger parts and rampant habitat loss is not stopped.

A new report released by TRAFFIC and WWF in March 2004 on trade in the Sumatran Tiger reveals that as many as 50 Sumatran Tigers were poached per year between 1998 and 2002. The latest available figures show that there are between 400 and 500 tigers left in the wild in Sumatra.

The report exposes the relentless killing of a critically endangered species by professional and semi-professional hunters. This is being driven by a substantial domestic Indonesian market for tiger skins and other parts, especially claws and teeth for trophies, charms and souvenirs. Tiger parts are readily available from dealers, within Sumatra, many of these openly displayed for sale.

TRAFFIC's investigators found tiger products in 17 of the 24 towns surveyed and 20 per cent of 453 shops visited. The report also reveals illegal international trade in Sumatran Tiger parts sold to other parts of Asia.

Improved enforcement is critical to saving Sumatran tigers. As a first step, action should be taken against the markets, trade hubs and retail outlets highlighted in the report, especially in northern Sumatra. More specialised anti-poaching units also need to be urgently established.



Chris Shepherd /  
TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Loss of habitat is also a major threat to the Sumatran Tiger. The clearing of Sumatra's lowland forests, prime Tiger territory has resulted in the Tigers roaming into local villages, where they are sometimes captured and killed.

With only a few hundred Sumatran Tigers remaining, there is a fear that they will suffer the same fate as two other Indonesian Tiger subspecies, the Bali and Javan Tigers which became extinct in the 1940s and 1980's respectively.

Indonesia's efforts to address the trade threats to the Sumatran Tiger were under scrutiny also at a meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in March 2004. The Committee agreed that it would report at CoP13 about progress made by the range and consumer States that were earlier subject to CITES Technical and Political Tiger Missions, especially with regard to the implementation on the recommendations made by these Missions. The report may contain recommendations regarding appropriate measures where no progress has been made.

TRAFFIC highlighted its concerns

regarding a lack of progress in implementing CITES recommendations such as the establishment of specialised Tiger enforcement units in many Southeast and East Asian Tiger countries. Many of the governments in the countries reviewed by the CITES Tiger Missions may not be in a position to implement all recommendations and undertake activities unless long-term funding support and technical assistance from the international community is provided.

The findings of the TRAFFIC report show the structure and extent of the trade in Sumatra and add to the extensive work of TRAFFIC on Tiger trade to date, which help guide conservation efforts regarding this highly endangered big cat.

For copies of the report *Nowhere to hide: The trade in Sumatran Tiger*, please contact TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (for contact details see page 16) or visit <http://www.traffic.org/sumatrantigers.pdf>. The research and report were generously funded by 21st Century Tiger and WWF UK.

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# Promoting better CITES-CBD synergies

by Teresa Mulliken, Research and Policy Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have a lot in common. Both are designed to tackle issues related to the use and trade of wild species, both count the majority of the world's countries as members, and neither works very much with the other. Concerned about the low levels of co-operation in the implementation of the two Conventions at both the national and international levels, TRAFFIC, IUCN - The World Conservation Union and Flora & Fauna International (FFI) decided to organise an experts workshop to explore ways to increase synergies in their operation.

Thanks to critical support from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ), the Division of Environmental Conventions of the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), and the UK Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs

(Defra), the workshop "Promoting CITES-CBD Co-operation and Synergy" was held from 20-24 April at BfN's International Academy for Nature Conservation, on the Isle of Vilm, Germany. The workshop's organisation also owed a great deal to the efforts of individual workshop Steering Committee members and those of the CITES and CBD Secretariats, who collaborated in the shaping of the workshop agenda and participation.

Participants from over 20 countries and a variety of backgrounds considered CITES-CBD implementation in the context of issues including sustainable use of wildlife resources, linking site and species based approaches to conservation, and access and benefit sharing.

Discussions in working groups and plenary sessions led to the identification of a number of recommendations for achieving greater synergies at the national and international national levels. These include mechanisms to achieve greater co-operation among national CITES and CBD implementing agencies and

Convention decision making bodies such as Committees and CoPs, and to increase sharing of information and lessons learned with regard to the use and trade of wild species.

The challenge now is to ensure that the learning and momentum gained in Vilm will not be lost. The government of Ireland, on behalf of the Member States of European Community, has already taken a major step toward meeting this challenge by submitting the workshop report for consideration during CITES CoP 13. Hopefully a similar effort will be made to put the report before the next meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the CBD CoP that follows. A message from one of the participants confirms that efforts are also already being made to put the workshop outcomes to work at the national level. TRAFFIC, which chaired the workshop Steering Committee, will continue to support these and other efforts aimed at enhancing better CITES-CBD synergies.

## Staff news

### Welcome

*Angie Woo* has started her work for the TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Regional Office as the Co-ordinator for the Southeast Asia Wildlife Trade Advocacy Initiative in March 2004. Angie is based in Pathumthani, Thailand c/o WWF International Thailand Programme.

*Lazaro Linjano* has commenced his work as the new Research Officer in TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania in April 2004.

*Vera John* has joined TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania as the Administrative Assistant in April 2004.

### Goodbye

*Sware Semesi*, Research Officer, left TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Tanzania in December 2003.

*Wolfgang Kathe*, Senior Research Officer, left TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office in December 2003.

*Kim Davis*, Fisheries Officer, left TRAFFIC North America in January 2004.

*Liz McLellan*, Cambodia Programme Development Officer left TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina/Cambodia in January 2004.

*Angela Barden*, CITES Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC International in April 2004.

*Laurie Kint*, Communications and Administration Officer, left TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office in June 2004.

*Katalin Kecse-Nagy*, Communications Assistant, left TRAFFIC Europe - Candidate Countries office in June 2004.

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### TRAFFIC Dispatches

219a Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge UK, CB3 0DL  
Tel. +44 (0)1223 277427  
Fax +44 (0)1223 277237  
E-mail: [traffic@trafficint.org](mailto:traffic@trafficint.org)  
Web site: [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)

Editor: **Maija Sirola**  
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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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The World Conservation Union

# South Asia Wildlife Trade Workshops - finding the way forward for regional co-operation

by Crawford Allan, Regulation & Enforcement Support Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

In late April 2004, delegates from six South Asian countries identified priority actions to be taken at national and regional levels to mitigate illegal wildlife trade and to enhance wildlife trade regulations, particularly CITES, in a region where trade is threatening the long-term survival of some of the world's rarest species, such as Great Indian Rhinoceros, Tiger, and Tibetan Antelope. Two workshops were held in Kathmandu, Nepal, a three day "Diagnostic Workshop" (26-28 April) to identify key issues and seek solutions and a two day "Enforcement Workshop" (29-30 April) to provide training, raise awareness and develop co-operative approaches to enforcement problems.

TRAFFIC brought together 70 representatives from government departments, law enforcement and non-governmental organisations from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and key neighbouring countries of China and Myanmar. The participants sought to understand each other's concerns, needs and constraints to find ways that the region can move forward through collaborative efforts towards common set of goals. The key themes of the workshops were co-ordination, co-operation and communication between countries in South Asia, and the region's neighbours.

A TRAFFIC overview study of the wildlife trade in South Asia was provided to advise the workshops on the current situation and this had been undertaken through field visits to several countries in the region, questionnaires and correspondence directly with the key stakeholders, as well as desk based research. Participants discussed how wildlife trade brings with it many potential benefits and threats through the use of species for purposes ranging from ornaments and luxury items to medicine, food and shelter. Ensuring that trade regulation addresses the balance between the needs of wildlife and those of human populations is a huge challenge. Although each country in the region has already established national laws and programmes to protect wildlife species and manage wildlife trade, it was generally acknowledged that these policies could be further improved and streamlined.

Steven Broad, the Executive Director of TRAFFIC International, who facilitated

the Diagnostic Workshop stated "This was the first event of its kind in South Asia, bringing the governments, IGOs, NGOs and donors to work together to seek consensus on the future of wildlife trade regulation and enforcement through improved co-ordination, co-operation and communication. The realisation that there was so much potential for improvement was overwhelming, the hope is now that this realisation catalyses change."

Establishing active networks for communication and information sharing on wildlife trade was identified as a priority issue that needs to be overcome both at regional level, and between agencies in each country. Participants emphasised that active exchange regarding such matters as enforcement, scientific data, and legislation, would enable development of best-practice models to combat the variety of challenges facing government wildlife agencies in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations from the Diagnostic Workshop fed directly into the Enforcement Workshop, and this looked specifically at the challenges of law enforcement to protect wildlife from the ongoing illegal trade at national, regional and international levels.

The responsibility now lies with the participants to report back to their respective governments and organisations to ensure follow up on the recommended

actions from the workshop. The important discussions at this workshop catalyse some measurable change on the ground - for the benefit of both wildlife and human communities in this region - and that can only happen with political support from individual countries and effective engagement from civil society.

The partners working with TRAFFIC to help implement and direct the workshops were WWF Nepal, IUCN Nepal, the United States Embassy, Kathmandu, and the CITES Secretariat. The workshops were assisted by international facilitators from the CITES Secretariat, the Canadian Wildlife Service and TRAFFIC. The overview study and workshops were supported by a grant from the United States Department of State. WWF-US also kindly provided additional resources to bring a wider representation to the workshops, including participants from important neighbouring countries. Additional funding from WWF-UK also ensured that the workshops had the greatest impact and follow up and facilitation by TRAFFIC after the workshops is possible.

For more information on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Enforcement Workshops contact: Crawford Allan, Regulation & Enforcement Support Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International. For contact details see page 16.

Opening ceremony, with speaker Dr. Tirtha Man Maskey, Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal.



Samuel Lee / TRAFFIC East Asia

# CITES CoP 13 frames fresh opportunities in Southeast Asia

by Angie Woo, the Co-ordinator of the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and James Compton, Regional Director, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Thailand's hosting of the 13th Conference of the Parties to CITES in October 2004 will undoubtedly bring added attention to the wildlife trade challenges facing Southeast Asia as a region. While the international spotlight is likely to focus on the conservation problems facing charismatic megafauna such as elephants, Asian Big Cats and the continuing prevalence of illegal trade, there are several opportunities for the region to demonstrate commitment and leadership in addressing wildlife trade management.

Following Lao PDR's accession to CITES in early March, all 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are now Parties to the Convention, and so for the first time have a common basis upon which to conduct legal and sustainable wildlife trade. Capacity building and training, along with information exchange and inter-agency co-operation, remain the major constraints to effective implementation across the ASEAN block. Availability of funding and human resources, also, often proves decisive in enabling countries to act upon management and scientific requirements of the Convention.

In 2003, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia worked with the Capacity Building Unit of the CITES Secretariat to hold two regional workshops that trained relevant government officers from the 10 ASEAN member countries, as well as China, in implementation of the Convention. At the conclusion of these workshops, which focused particularly on the importance of increasing the use of scientific approaches to guide CITES management decisions, national delegates listed their priorities for follow-up action at both national and international levels. From this needs assessment, TRAFFIC has established an informed basis upon which to build support for activities within the region.

Preparations to capitalize on the first-

ever CITES CoP in Southeast Asia are already well underway. With the support of WWF Thailand, WWF Netherlands, WWF UK, WWF International's Species Programme and TRAFFIC International, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia is working with the WWF colleagues in the region to implement an ASEAN-wide advocacy and communications initiative.

This TRAFFIC/WWF joint initiative aims to build synergies and co-operation around the CITES CoP 13 event, as well as to create appropriate frameworks for further regional-level actions. Approaches have already been made to the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry regarding how to leverage the joint engagement of ASEAN member nations - and ideally, to develop a regional action plan on wildlife trade.

Economic growth, expansion of infrastructure, free trade agendas and a general push for development are all factors that are contributing to a rapidly changing socio-economic dynamic within the ASEAN grouping and its trading partners. Under an increasingly liberalised trade policy environment, it is all too easy to treat wildlife as just another commodity rather than paying heed to the management needs of natural production systems. Bangkok's hosting of the CITES CoP will provide a chance to remind the main importers of Southeast Asia's wildlife

products (East Asia, Europe and North America), of their responsibility as consumer countries; that the maintenance of sustainable trade depends on supporting, and investing in, management systems in producer countries.

This project highlights that national-level initiatives must be linked to achieve more effective management of trade in wild species of flora and fauna, and that the connectivity of trade chains makes this indeed an ASEAN-wide regional set of issues. It is hoped that by fostering collaboration between countries, external support can be identified to help counter the common shortfalls in financial and human resources, technical capacity and information sharing.

The TRAFFIC/WWF ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative is already working to level the information playing field via a monthly e-Bulletin that highlights inter alia relevant events and developments in the region. This is being sent to CITES authorities, as well as other relevant officials in each country whose work is relevant to wildlife trade in Southeast Asia.

*For more information on the Initiative, please contact Angie Woo on [angie.woo@myjaring.net](mailto:angie.woo@myjaring.net) or via TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. The e-Bulletin and other resources will be available online in June: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network9/asean>.*



From left:  
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# Hawksbill turtle trade management and enforcement efforts needed urgently

Urgent and effective management and enforcement efforts are needed in Indonesia and Viet Nam in order to secure a future for the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtles in the region. Two TRAFFIC Southeast Asia reports released in March 2004 highlighted continuing illegal trade in bekko - products made from the shell of the Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* - in the major source countries of Southeast Asia.

TRAFFIC investigators surveyed localities in Indonesia and Viet Nam in 2001 and 2002, known in the past to have exported bekko to Japan, historically the main demand country for worked and unworked products. According to the findings of the survey, the bekko trade continues, but has now largely shifted underground in Indonesia, hindering law enforcement and management efforts. In Viet Nam, the trade in turtle products continues openly. The size of it, with almost 30 000 items found on offer during TRAFFIC's survey carried out for the Government of Viet Nam in mid 2002, demonstrates that despite new legislation prohibiting exploitation and trade of marine turtles and their products, the law is being ignored by traders.

"It is impossible to estimate the exact amount of illegal bekko for sale," said Chris Shepherd, of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and lead researcher for both reports. "Based on our findings, the trend in Indonesia is on the decline but it is still vital for Indonesia to seize all illegal bekko stocks in the country in order to help prevent further illegal export and improve the management of any remaining legal stocks."

In Viet Nam, relevant enforcement agencies should target marine turtle trade

hotspots - the main locations, such as Ha Tien, Ho Chi Minh City, and Vung Tau, found in the studies still producing or selling bekko items openly. "The challenge now will be to implement the recommendations of Viet Nam's national action plan for marine turtles, which is due to be launched later this month," said Julie Thomson, the Viet Nam-based Deputy Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

The results of the reports demonstrate that it has become imperative for both Indonesian and Vietnamese governments to step up their management and enforcement efforts and bring the illegal trade activities to a halt. Also, both governments and NGOs need to continue monitoring of the regional management efforts and report on the developments.

At the 2nd Meeting of Signatory States of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA), TRAFFIC presented the results of its reports to the participants, which consisted of representatives of 14 member States, including Viet Nam, and a number of observer countries, including Indonesia. Although two additional countries, Jordan and Oman, signed the Agreement at the meeting, as did Thailand in early May, it is TRAFFIC's hope that Indonesia will also become a signatory to the IOSEA Memorandum of Understanding soon. The IOSEA is a vital forum, which works to conserve and recover marine turtle populations and their habitats within the Southeast Asia region and beyond.

TRAFFIC is urging all ASEAN Member States to ratify the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU and fully implement the actions identified in their Conservation and Management Plans.

The TRAFFIC Southeast Asia report *Shelled Out? A Snapshot of Bekko Trade in Selected Locations in Southeast Asia* was supported by WWF Netherlands, WWF UK, and The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation. The TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina report *The Trade in Marine Turtle Products in Viet Nam*, was supported by Royal Danish Embassy, Hanoi.

For copies of the reports, please contact TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Regional and Indochina office respectively (for contact details see page 16) or visit TRAFFIC website at [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org).

## Viet Nam to launch national action plan to strengthen wildlife trade controls

After months of surveys, field research, and input from conservation experts with Vietnamese agencies and international non-governmental organizations, Viet Nam's National Action Plan to Strengthen Trade Controls of Wild Species of Fauna and Flora from 2004 to 2010 will officially be launched later this month.

With a diversity of habitats, Viet Nam supports a vast array of wild plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else. As the country's population continues to grow, however, wild species are literally losing ground. And whilst natural habitats are being increasingly degraded, many of the animals and plants themselves are being harvested for domestic consumption or to meet international trade demands, despite laws prohibiting or severely curtailing the exploitation of "rare and precious species," and forbidding the export of wild terrestrial mammals.

In response to Viet Nam's trade in wild species, in 2002 TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina received funding from the Danish Aid Agency (DANIDA) to work with the Vietnamese government in strengthening the implementation and enforcement of CITES. In addition to on-the-ground activities, such as wildlife law enforcement training for Viet Nam's enforcement agencies and airport personnel, enforcement guidelines for captive breeding and production of CITES resource materials among others, this included the development of a national action plan to strengthen wildlife trade controls.

With the aim of facilitating a strategic approach to addressing illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, development of the action plan entailed assembling national research teams to investigate the key themes pertaining to wildlife trade: government capacity, economics, awareness, research, legislation, and international co-operation. The research teams, comprised of national experts from universities, government ministries and research institutions, were led by a former government official from Viet Nam's Forest Protection Department and TRAFFIC's National Projects Coordinator for Viet Nam, and were tasked with making an assessment of each of the six themes as they related to wildlife trade and making recommendations for future action. *...continued on page 9*

Live Hawksbill Turtle, speared by local fishermen, coast of the Kepala Irian Jaya, Indonesia.



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# Providing ETIS training support to regulators in China

by Dr. Xu Hongfa, TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade Programme Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC East Asia-China

TRAFFIC East Asia and the Government of China are working on efforts to strengthen the implementation of the CITES Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) in the country. In April 2004, two national enforcement training workshops were convened in Henan and Shanghai. TRAFFIC attended both and provided training on ETIS using the training modules, which have now been translated into the Chinese language.

ETIS, developed and maintained by TRAFFIC, is one of the two monitoring systems operating under the auspices of CITES, to track illegal trade in elephant products. The ETIS Action Toolkit, a special training package developed by TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa in 2001 provides detailed guidelines to the government authorities on how to ensure that information arising from elephant product seizures and investigations becomes part of the database through a co-ordinated national approach. Training on how to fill out the special ETIS reporting form ensure smooth data entry and helps to facilitate sound statistical analysis of patterns and trends of the illegal trade later on.

Today, ETIS contains nearly 9000 records of elephant product seizures which have taken place throughout the world since 1989. These data implicate over 150 countries in the illicit trade in ivory. The first in-depth statistical analysis of ETIS, reported to the twelfth meeting of the Conference to Parties to CITES (CoP12) in 2002, demonstrates that illegal trade in

ivory is directly correlated to the presence of large-scale domestic ivory markets and poor law enforcement effort. Located in both African and Asian countries, these markets have become increasingly more active since 1996 and account for the greatest volume of ivory being seized throughout the world today.

China was also identified in the ETIS analysis to CoP12 as being a country of major concern. It is very encouraging to note that the Chinese Government has responded by ensuring that legislative and regulatory measures are in place and properly enforced to control domestic trade in ivory in China. The Chinese Government has since supplied ETIS with information relating to significant numbers of elephant product seizures in recent times, and continues its efforts to interdict the flow of ivory coming into country.

TRAFFIC recognizes that countries may need support and assistance to implement legislative and regulatory measures effectively. TRAFFIC continues its close collaboration with governments

in their capacity building programmes by facilitating the provision of training and tools where needed and appropriate. In this regard, TRAFFIC East Asia and China's CITES Management Authority have worked together to produce a Chinese version of the ETIS training toolkit and to incorporate an ETIS component into the national enforcement training workshops.

On 7 April 2004, more than 70 people from 31 provinces and 17 branch offices of CITES and the Forest Department, among them some high-ranking Chinese officials, came together for a three-day workshop held in Henan. This was the first out of a series of three events to be held in 2004 in China in collaboration with TRAFFIC. TRAFFIC gave a presentation as well as provided practical training on ETIS. At the end of the training session, many of the participants provided feedback indicating firm recognition of the value and importance of strengthening CITES implementation in the country, and reporting relevant elephant trade information back to ETIS on a regular and systematic basis.

On 13 April, the second ETIS workshop was held in Shanghai, a known ivory trade "hotspot" in China, together with participants from the neighbouring cities of Suzhou and Nanjing, and the provinces of Anhui, Jiangshu and Zhijiang. The majority of the participants were Customs officers, but also other relevant departments, including anti-smuggling units from a number of provinces, participated. Copies of the Chinese version of the ETIS tool kit, which has been produced in a CD format with generous support received from the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, were distributed to the participants at both workshops. The third ETIS training course will be held in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority and the General Customs of China sometime before October 2004.

For further information on ETIS in China, please contact TRAFFIC East Asia. For contact details see page 16.



TRAFFIC East Asia

Dr. Xu Hongfa, TRAFFIC Wildlife Trade Programme Co-ordinator, from TRAFFIC East Asia-China office in Beijing giving an ETIS presentation at the workshop in Xiang, China in April 2004.

# More ivory than elephants in three West African countries

There is more illegal ivory than elephants in three key ivory trading countries in West Africa, according to a new report released by TRAFFIC and WWF in December 2003. TRAFFIC investigators visited nine cities in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal and found more than 4000 kg of ivory on public display, a volume that represents the ivory of more than 760 elephants. According to the latest status report from the IUCN/SSC's African Elephant Database, there may not be any more than 543 elephants left in these countries, with a top estimate reaching some 2250 elephants, when more 'speculative' data is included to the total population figure.

"These studies show just a snapshot of the problem," said Tom Milliken, director of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa and co-author of the report. "When we factor in all of the uncontrolled manufacturing, buying and selling over a year, these numbers climb to frightening dimensions."

The TRAFFIC Online report *More Ivory than Elephants: Domestic Ivory Markets in Three West African Countries* highlights that these unregulated markets are the principal forces driving elephant poaching. Much of the ivory found on sale came from the war torn Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon. These countries make up Africa's most troubled region for elephant conservation.

The principal buyers of this ivory are ex-patriots, tourists and business people from Europe (France and Italy), the East Asia (China and South Korea), the USA, and even diplomatic staff in some instances.

The report also found that inadequate legislation and poor law enforcement in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal are threatening the survival of elephants in these countries and Central Africa.

All three governments appeared to be in breach of ivory market control requirements under international regulations governing the trade in endangered wildlife species (CITES).

Furthermore, the wildlife authorities responsible for implementing CITES are systematically barred from the ports of entry and exit. Not only is there a lack of political will to implement CITES, allowing traders to act with immunity from prosecution, corruption is preventing effective controls on the ivory trade. The report says the situation in Nigeria is the most alarming, with higher volumes of

ivory identified than in a previous undercover survey carried out in 1999.

TRAFFIC and WWF hope that the findings of the surveys serve as positive incentives to bring the domestic ivory trade under control in these West African countries.

## The 50th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

At the time of the launch of the TRAFFIC report on West Africa, control of internal ivory trade was already on the agenda of the 50th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, scheduled for 15-19 March 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the meeting, the Committee agreed to continue to place particular attention on those countries which had earlier been identified in the ETIS analysis as having large-scale unregulated ivory markets, namely Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, and Nigeria. Under decisions taken at CoP12, these countries face trade sanctions if they fail to implement the measures required to control internal trade in ivory as outlined in Resolution Conf. 10.10.

As TRAFFIC's West African surveys demonstrated, a number of other countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire and

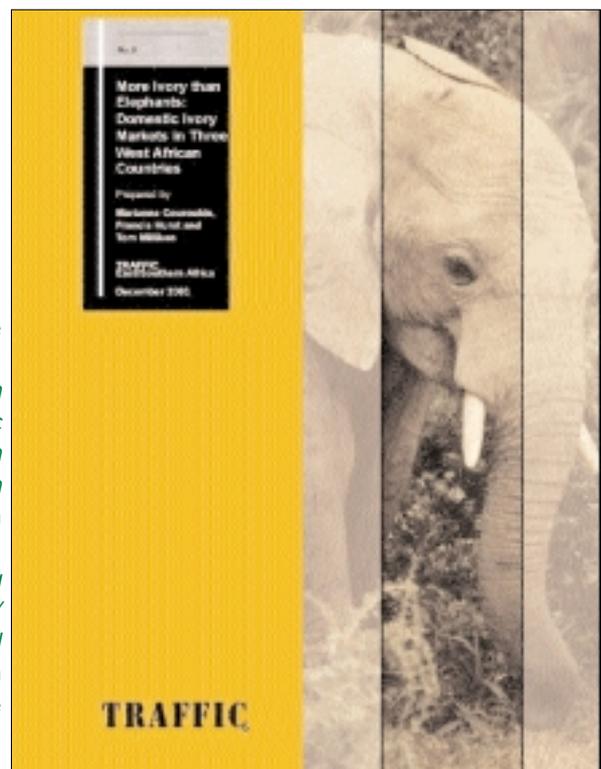
Senegal, have ivory control problems, but were not included in the list of ten problem countries agreed at the CoP12 (Chile, November 2002).

The Standing Committee agreed that the scope of the ivory trade review should be broadened to all countries that allow domestic ivory trade in the African continent. TRAFFIC welcomed the move to take a continent-wide approach to the issue of uncontrolled domestic ivory markets. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting of the African Elephant Range States Dialogue convening prior to CoP13 at the end of September 2004, and the results will be reported to CoP13 as a formal agenda item.

The task at hand now is to develop a series of country-specific workplans to halt the illegal trade in ivory across the African continent. TRAFFIC also shared concerns expressed by other countries at the meeting that similar attention is needed for elephant conservation in Asia, but it should be noted that at CoP12 China, Japan and Thailand were all identified as requiring priority attention. Action plans to better regulate domestic ivory markets in these countries are expected soon.

TRAFFIC will continue monitoring the situation in Asian and African countries and assist the CITES Secretariat efforts where possible.

The TRAFFIC Online report No8 *More Ivory than Elephants: Domestic Ivory Markets in Three West African Countries* is hosted on TRAFFIC website: <http://www.traffic.org/publications/reportseries.html> The WWF African Elephant Programme kindly sponsored this project.



# Tri-National task force set to improve Ramin timber trade controls

by James Compton, Regional Director, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

The search for a solution to the illegal trade in Ramin timber has moved a step closer with focused consultation between the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. At a workshop facilitated by TRAFFIC in Kuala Lumpur in April 2004, representatives of the three governments committed to work together to control the illegal trade in this valuable commercial timber species.

After two days of productive discussions, participants agreed that the issue of illegal trade could be best dealt with by forming a Tri-National Taskforce to increase law enforcement co-operation on combating illegal ramin trade and to enhance effective implementation of CITES to manage legal trade.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Widodo S. Ramono, representing the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia, said that he hoped the three nations can work together in an "amicable manner and in the spirit of mutual understanding in combating our common problems". This was echoed by Mr Chin Yue Mun, opening the workshop on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, who added that Malaysia desired to "show regional leadership in solving this issue, and thereby demonstrate its commitment to CITES". Likewise, Mr. Bobby Lee Fook On, from the Singapore CITES Management Authority, noted that Singapore does not produce Ramin but said: "However, as an entrepot, we believe we have and can play our part to ensure that the trade in Ramin is properly regulated in the region, as a substantial amount of the timber also passes through our ports."

In a separate development in May 2004, Indonesia submitted a proposal for

consideration at CITES CoP13 to uplist the entire genus of Ramin *Gonystylus* spp. to Appendix II. Indonesia hopes that such a listing would add additional criteria of legality and sustainability to the current Appendix III regulation of all international trade in Ramin.

Indonesia's listing of Ramin in Appendix III of CITES in 2001 set a precedent for the regulation of trade in Asian commercial timber species. Indonesia's main concern at the time of the listing was to ask its fellow CITES Parties to assist with controlling illegal cargoes coming out of Indonesia, as well as helping to verify the country of origin of other Ramin shipments. Since then there have been numerous allegations regarding ramin being smuggled out of Indonesia via Malaysia and Singapore. Several seizures of illegal cargo, along with the lack of clarity as to national legal frameworks and import/export procedures, have caused concern in the international community (including importing nations in the EU and the US) about the legality of the entire Ramin trade. At the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES in March 2004 the CITES Secretariat was asked to participate in the TRAFFIC-convened workshop to provide technical advice to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The

Secretariat is now preparing a report on the current Ramin trade situation for submission to the 51st Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, which will be held immediately prior to CITES CoP13 in Bangkok later this year.

TRAFFIC will continue its efforts to support ongoing dialogue begun at the tri-national workshop and will be producing a report analysing the effectiveness of the current Appendix III listing for Ramin.

The workshop was supported by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Environment Fund, which has generously funded TRAFFIC Southeast Asia's work on Ramin over the past 12 months.

[Ramin case study featured in ITTO project undertaken by TRAFFIC](#)

In addition to its Ramin work, TRAFFIC also updated the 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee regarding a case study on ramin trade in Malaysia as part of an International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) project in Malaysia. TRAFFIC is undertaking to review forest law enforcement and governance. TRAFFIC hopes that this research would contribute to constructive dialogue, engagement and co-operation between all parties concerned. The project is assessing the present implementation of the policies, legislation and administration of forestry systems and mechanisms in Malaysia and gathering data on the dichotomy between the economic aspirations of Malaysians and the government development policies, as well as conservation of the forest resources. The project is to be completed in the coming months.

For more information on ITTO project, and TRAFFIC's timber work, contact Chen Hin Keong, TRAFFIC's Senior Forest Trade Advisor, based in TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Regional Office. For contact details see page 16.



Policing small boats carrying mixed cargoes of hardwood logs, often including Ramin, present the biggest challenge for CITES enforcement agencies between the three countries.

# How can wild living resources be used sustainably?

by Thomasina Oldfield, IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme

**S**ustainable use of wild living resources can play a vital role in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future. Over-exploitation of these resources not only threatens the people that depend on them but biodiversity itself. A new project on sustainable use of wild living resources (WLR) was launched in September with seed funding from the IUCN 3I-C Fund, established to promote innovation, integration, information and communication across its component programmes and commissions. Further funding is currently being sought in order to complete the project, which is envisaged to finish in May 2007.

The project implemented by a partnership including TRAFFIC with IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Wildlife Trade Programme, SSC Sustainable Use Specialist Group, IUCN South American Regional Office, IUCN Asia Regional Office, and the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) will provide a quantitative analysis leading to a better understanding of factors that influence sustainability and the way these interact. The project aims to assist policy-makers and managers how to manage living resources more sustainably, so that they continue to contribute to long-term livelihood needs, to the benefit of both development and conservation.

It is vital that use of natural resources is brought within biologically sustainable limits to maintain biodiversity's "potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations". The term "sustainable use" is also used to describe 'incentive-driven conservation' where use of a resource can create positive incentives to conserve biological resources. Sustainable use of biodiversity is now recognised by the major multilateral environmental agreements as central to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

There have been many attempts to identify factors that contribute to the likelihood of sustainability, for example IUCN's work assessing factors that influence sustainability of uses of wild living natural resources, the development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

It is now widely accepted by the conservation community that sustainable

use of wild species depends on economic, social and biological factors. Yet there has been little quantitative research showing the relative importance of these factors, or investigation of the links between them.

In October 2003, the Sustainable use project held a workshop with experts attending from around the World to extract "Lessons Learnt" from existing reviews of sustainable use case studies. This workshop highlighted the findings, problems and successes of previous studies of resource use and has been valuable in guiding and developing this project. The report from the workshop can be viewed at <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/sug/LessonsLearntWorkshop.htm>.

A trial analysis is being initiated to test the project methodology and inclusion of appropriate groups of species for this are currently being considered. The trial analysis will be carried out in the next few months, which will allow the project to refine the methodology and provide some initial results before the longer-term data collection and main analysis is undertaken.

The project aims to assist in implementing the concept of sustainable use and help in the development of the necessary tools for policy-makers and managers to turn over-exploitation into sustainable resource use.

For more information, please contact the project co-ordinator *Thomasina Oldfield* (e-mail: [Thomasina.Oldfield@ssc-uk.org](mailto:Thomasina.Oldfield@ssc-uk.org)) or TRAFFIC International. For contact details, see page 16.

The skins of Indochinese tiger and other rare cats openly displayed for sale in Cholon District, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, October 2002.

...Viet Nam National Action Plan, continued from page 5

Among the research teams' findings were that poverty is not the primary factor fuelling the illegal trade, and that domestic consumption for wildlife will continue to grow as economic conditions improve. In fact, 73% of decision-makers and government field personnel surveyed said that the domestic wildlife meat trade is at levels requiring the most urgent attention.

The reasons identified for Viet Nam's extensive trade in wild species include weak law enforcement due to a lack of training and equipment, as well as conflicting or inappropriate jurisdictional powers. Indeed, research of Viet Nam's legislation revealed that in some instances, laws actually discourage enforcement agencies from apprehending offenders and confiscating illegal wildlife cargoes.

Among the key recommendations made by the research teams is the establishment of a centralized information system that will enable the government authorities responsible for enforcing wildlife trade laws to share information and to better co-ordinate their activities. Additional recommendations include awareness building amongst government officials of the threats facing Viet Nam's wild species, and amongst the general population to recognize and appreciate the benefits of the country's biodiversity. Strengthening the capacity of both the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities was also recommended as well as the establishment of a steering committee of 16 relevant government ministries and agencies to help co-ordinate the implementation of the action plan.

The action plan is being launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with endorsement by the Prime Minister expected later in 2004.

Currently TRAFFIC together with Forest Protection Department, are looking to raise the funds needed to begin implementing the action plan's most urgent recommendations.

For more information and updates visit TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina website at <http://www.trafficindo.org/> and TRAFFIC network website at [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org).



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# EU enlargement and wildlife trade

by Caroline Raymakers, Regional Director of TRAFFIC Europe

Since early 2004, TRAFFIC Europe has been leading an initiative to help strengthen co-operation and co-ordination of the EU Member States with regard to the enforcement of wildlife trade controls in the enlarged EU. TRAFFIC and WWF are calling for governments and policy makers to work jointly to combat illegal wildlife trade in the EU single market through better understanding of their responsibilities in the enlarged EU. TRAFFIC and WWF urge EU Member States to establish a EU Wildlife Trade Task Force to work under the mandate of the EU Enforcement Group. Improved enforcement efforts and co-ordination by all 25 Member States are vital in order to ensure that wildlife trade in the EU is well regulated and not a threat to wild populations.

Until 1 May 2004, with their high standard of living and a total population of more than 370 million people, the 15 Member States of the European Union (EU) represented one of the largest and most diverse markets for wildlife products in the world. On the accession date, another 75 million potential consumers were added to the Union when 10 countries joined the Union (see map below). The enlargement shifted the EU external borders further east overnight,

placing the new Member States on the front line of responsibility to control the introduction of exotic wildlife to supply the demand of the EU internal market.

In this new situation, government agencies, the European Commission, as well as commercial stakeholders and consumers need to act together to ensure tight enforcement at the external EU borders for a well-controlled trade in wild animals and plants in the enlarged EU. Since the fall of the iron curtain, the

neighbouring EU consumer market created an increasingly attractive power. Several of the 10 Candidate Countries have thereby become significant global transit points for trade in species destined to the EU from Africa, Asia and South America. A large portion of this trade was driven by demand from western European countries. For example, around 70% of the live reptiles legally exported by the Acceding States between 1996 and 2002 were imported by the original EU Member



On 1 May 2004, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined the European Union.

States. Conversely, the EU also exported significant volumes of CITES-listed specimens to the Candidate Countries: for example, almost one-third of all parrots imported legally by the 10 countries between 1996 and 2002 came from the EU.

Effective control of the EU external borders is a crucial component in ensuring that the single EU wildlife trade market is legal and well regulated. This is of primary importance in the EU, where an important principle is the free movement of people and products inside the European Community. Once they have received clearance from a Customs officer at a port of entry to the EU, the majority of animal and plant species will have entered the single EU market and can thereby be legally transported around and sold freely without being subject to further systematic controls.

Through the establishment of a programme based in the Candidate Countries since October 2002, by consulting the 10 new EU Member States on progress made during the past two years and following a study on the trends of wildlife trade in those countries, TRAFFIC Europe compiled the information needed to support EU decision makers in their struggle against smuggling of wild fauna and flora.

Since 1 May 2004, the 10 new EU Member States have had to implement and enforce the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations that implement CITES in the EU and which are stricter than CITES in several ways. All of the 10 countries are Parties to CITES and some had started to apply the EU provisions before the date of accession. Unfortunately, in some EU countries, specific provisions for the marking of captive-bred specimens, availability of forensic techniques for species and specimens identification and adequate sanctions in case of violation of the Wildlife Trade Regulations are either lacking or not being implemented.

Overall in the EU, the lack of formal linkages and a systematic exchange of information on illegal wildlife trade between enforcement agencies, the absence of a designated national focal point for wildlife trade enforcement (i.e. border inspections and internal inspections) for each EU Member State and the insufficient co-operation between CITES Management Authorities, Customs and police services are among the common challenges of the 25 EU Member States.

Of particular concern are the structural changes the accession has brought to the Customs services. For example the number of border control staff has been greatly reduced due to the elimination or reduction of certain Member States' external EU borders (e.g. in Austria,

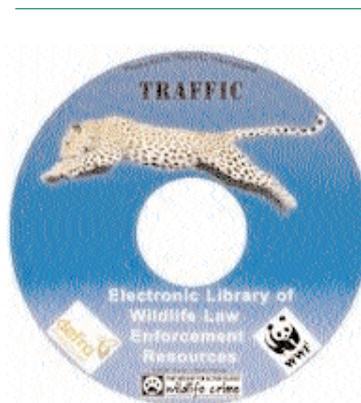
Germany and the Czech Republic).

On 27 April 2004, TRAFFIC Europe launched a report titled *Expanding borders: New challenges for wildlife trade controls in the European Union* issuing a number of recommendations and noting the need for immediate action by all Member States. Letters were posted to ministers of the EU Member States, all 10 Candidate Countries as well to the EU Commissioner for the Environment, accompanied with copies of the report. To date, the feedback received from a number of Member States has been very encouraging.

Another opportunity to further discuss the challenges EU Member States are facing presented itself in a format of a workshop, funded under the European Commission's Phare budget. TRAFFIC Europe convened this workshop in Hungary in early June 2004 with an aim to strengthen the judiciary's role in implementing and enforcing the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the new EU Member States.

TRAFFIC and WWF continue their efforts to ensure that the recommendations issued in the report, including the establishment of the Wildlife Trade Task Force, are followed through and adopted by the EU and specifically by the EU Enforcement Group, which will be meeting in September 2004.

For further information on the TRAFFIC Europe EU Accession initiative, please visit the EU Accession and Wildlife Trade webpage on TRAFFIC website at <http://www.traffic.org/25/network4/eu.html> or contact TRAFFIC Europe, for contact details see page 16. Generous support towards this initiative has been received from WWF Species Programme, WWF Netherlands, WWF UK, and WWF Germany.



For more information on PAW see [www.defra.gov.uk/paw](http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw) and for inquiries on the CD-ROM, please contact TRAFFIC International. For contact details see page 16.

## Electronic library of wildlife law enforcement resources

by Stephanie Pendry,  
UK Enforcement Support Officer,  
TRAFFIC International

A new CD-ROM has been produced by TRAFFIC International, with funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and WWF-UK. Wildlife law enforcers often require specialist knowledge and access to a wide range of materials and resources. Even with the use of the internet, not all the most important resources are held in one place for ease of reference. Many enforcers do not have easy access to the internet and it takes time to find and download resources. This CD-ROM has put all of these relevant materials, information and resources together in a menu driven system that can be accessed, searched and read by anyone with a computer. It is expected that this will be of particular relevance for officers operating in the field with access to a laptop computer, such as during search warrants.

The CD-ROM acts as a rapid information resource for wildlife law enforcers in the UK, and contains pertinent reference materials, national and international legislation, species identification guides such as the CITES identification guides produced by the Canadian Wildlife Service, reports, newsletters, guidance notes and other resources.

The information on the CD-ROM has been obtained from a number of different sources, including many members of the UK Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW), in particular Defra and the UK Scientific Authorities, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

The CD-ROM was launched at the PAW Open Seminar in February 2004. This CD-ROM is being distributed free of charge to all UK wildlife crime officers in Police and Customs and the UK Wildlife Inspectors.

Requests for copies of the CD-Rom have been high, both within the UK and overseas. TRAFFIC has received positive feedback from a number of agencies including the CITES Secretariat, who said "this CD is excellent and will be of great benefit to enforcement agencies - very impressive" and the Metropolitan Police Service who said "the CD is excellent and will be extremely useful to anyone in enforcement working against wildlife crime. Congratulations on an excellent initiative".

# Identification guide to support international protection of seahorses

At the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES in November 2002, the Parties voted to include all 33 species of seahorses (genus *Hippocampus*) in Appendix II of the Convention. To allow countries time to put in place policies to enforce the decision, the listing was deferred to come into effect in May 2004 – making seahorses one of the first commercially valuable marine species to be managed by CITES. To mark the occasion on 15 May 2004, TRAFFIC and Project Seahorse produced an ID manual to support the seahorse trade regulations efforts around the globe.

A number of the world's species of seahorses are threatened because of overfishing and unsustainable trade. The trade involves both live and dead specimens. In some regions the live trade is the dominant pressure on seahorse populations, but the great majority of the seahorses in international trade are dried and destined for use in traditional Chinese medicine and its derivatives (e.g. Japanese and Korean medicines). Trade in recent years appears to be increasing, with demand particularly high in China for use in traditional medicine.

A total of an estimated 24 million seahorses are taken from the wild every year, dried and sold for use in traditional Chinese medicine. Treatments including seahorses are considered to address a range of conditions, including asthma and other respiratory disorders, sexual dysfunction such as impotence, and general lethargy and pain.

Hundreds of thousands more are sold live for the aquarium trade. Survival rates for seahorses in captivity are low, meaning almost all seahorses in aquariums are wild-caught. Seahorses are traded internationally also as curios and souvenirs.

In addition, the biology of seahorses may make them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Because most species of seahorses are monogamous, for example, widowed animals don't reproduce until they find a new partner, and lost partners are not quickly replaced. And small home ranges in many species may restrict recolonization of depleted areas.

The ID Manual has been developed to help countries ensure that commercial trade of seahorses is not detrimental to wild populations. The aim of the guide is to provide technically accurate information that is useful to specialists and non-specialists alike. This is especially

considered helpful given that many species are similar in appearance and that their identification can therefore be challenging.

Copies of the ID Manual are made available to Customs agents and law enforcement officials in all 166 countries, which are Parties to CITES in order to help their efforts in identifying the different species of seahorses in trade.

To obtain a copy of the manual available also in CD-ROM format, contact TRAFFIC North America. For contact details see page 16. The manual was supported by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program and the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation.



Samuel Lee / TRAFFIC East Asia

## CITES sea cucumber workshop held in Malaysia

At its 12th meeting, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted Decisions 12.60 and 12.61 related to sea cucumbers within the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae. The CITES Secretariat was mandated through Decision 12.61 to convene a technical workshop on the conservation of sea cucumbers in co-operation with relevant bodies.

In March 2004 the workshop was convened in Malaysia with approximately 50 participants from a great range of governments, regional organisations and industry participating, among participants also TRAFFIC.

The workshop prioritised regions and species highlighting their need as a priority for action. In addition fundamental management actions were outlined as a basis for the sustainable management of sea cucumbers. Some interesting points regarding sea cucumber trade were discussed including the fact that there is only in the order of 20-30 species of commercial interest in trade and the industry present provided information clarifying it is easy to identify these species once they have been processed.

Among the documents provided by participants, TRAFFIC presented a background paper to the workshop and highlighted issues of relevance to the workshop with regard to the differences between and implementation of

Appendices II and III of CITES, the inclusion of *Isostichopus fuscus* in Appendix III by Ecuador and non-CITES related institutional measures.

The Animals Committee reviewed the outcomes of the workshop at its March 2004 meeting. Ecuador has submitted for consideration at CoP13 a paper and draft Decision on the completion of Decision 12.60 - Sea Cucumbers. The paper raises concerns as to the timeliness of the workshop and the consideration by participants of its background papers, the late production of a workshop report for the consideration of the Animals Committee and hence the inability of the Animals Committee and Parties to be able to address the issues raised by Decision 12.60. Ecuador would like to see CITES attention to the issue continue.

by Glenn Sant, Regional Director,  
TRAFFIC Oceania

For more information on the workshop and the background document prepared by TRAFFIC, contact the CITES Secretariat or Glenn Sant at TRAFFIC Oceania. For contact details see page 16.



TRAFFIC South America

# Tale of two cities: traditional Chinese medicine markets surveyed in the USA

In May 2004, TRAFFIC North America released a comparative study of traditional markets and pharmacies in New York City and San Francisco. The survey carried out in 2003 by TRAFFIC investigators found illegal products widely available made from endangered species, including Tigers, rhinos, Leopards and musk deer. Most of the 60 stores visited offered at least one product containing an endangered species. The availability of Tiger and rhino products has decreased significantly in San Francisco in recent years, but availability remains high in New York City.

The survey documented the availability of both raw parts and manufactured medicines labelled as containing Tiger, rhino, Leopard, musk deer, and bear. The investigators mirrored as closely as possible the methodology and shops visited during earlier TRAFFIC surveys carried out in 1996-97 and 1999.

Furthermore, the survey was designed to gauge changes since the 1996-97 survey, which led to the enactment of the federal *Rhino and Tiger Product Labelling Act* in 1998. After this, WWF with the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) launched a public awareness campaign in San Francisco, and has to date received widespread support from the Chinese community.

The results of the 2003 survey show that, for example, in 2003 only 3% of the shops surveyed in San Francisco sold products claiming to contain Tiger bone

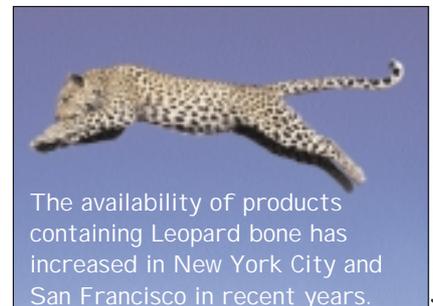
while in 1997, as many as 42 % did. The equivalent figures in New York City were 41% in 2003 as opposed to 83% in 1997. Furthermore, 5 % of San Francisco shops surveyed in 1997 sold products claiming to contain rhino horn but in 2003, no shops did. Equally, in 1997, 8 % of New York City shops surveyed sold products claiming to contain rhino horn and in 2003, 7 % did.

"Our findings indicate that illegal wildlife sales remain a serious problem in New York City," said Craig Hoover of TRAFFIC North America. "The results were encouraging, though, because they show that outreach to traditional medicine users, like we've done in San Francisco in the past few years, can reduce demand."

In San Francisco, although the public education effort and enforcement of the federal law appear to have had an effect resulting into Tiger bone products becoming scarce, there has been a troubling increase in products containing Leopard bone: In 1997, 5% of San Francisco shops surveyed sold products claiming to contain Leopard bone but in 2003 this had increased to 27%. In New York City the increase was steeper, from 17 to 63% respectively.

Also musk deer and bear bile products were surveyed to be widely available.

At the press conference marking the release of the findings of the TRAFFIC survey on 19 May 2004, the New York City Council announced that the New York City will introduce legislation to



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make the sale of endangered species a violation of City law.

Based on the findings of the surveys, the most effective strategy appears to be to bolster law enforcement by engaging leadership within the traditional medicine community. The next steps for TRAFFIC and WWF include extension of the public awareness campaign from San Francisco to New York, again in collaboration with the ACTCM and at the same time, promotion of numerous herbal alternatives to the use of wildlife in traditional Chinese medicine, among other efforts.

A copy of the TRAFFIC North America report *A Tale of Two Cities, A Comparative Study of Traditional Chinese Medicine Markets in San Francisco and New York City* can be downloaded from [http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/tale\\_stories.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/tale_stories.pdf). TRAFFIC thanks the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save the Tiger Fund and the Species Program of WWF US for their generous support of this project.

## Chihuahuan Desert Cacti trade revisited in Spanish

by Simon Habel, Regional Director, TRAFFIC North America

TRAFFIC North America's study of the harvest, status and management of cacti and other succulents native to the Chihuahuan Desert will be published in Spanish later this year. The report was released in English in January 2003 (see *TRAFFIC Dispatches* No.20). The report concluded that some species and localities affected by harvest for the landscaping trade or collectors' market require closer conservation attention. In Mexico, cactus species new to science or restricted to a few known populations are susceptible to foreign hobbyists who have been known to collect and export cactus specimens in violation of Mexican and international law (CITES).

Mexico contains about 85% of the Chihuahuan Desert and harbors the richest diversity of rare, endemic and recently discovered cactus species, yet ranks fifth in terms of number of Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion (CDE) species sold in countries worldwide. The variety of commercially available CDE species within Mexico is modest relative to other countries because the majority of cactus collectors and purveyors reside outside of that country, particularly in Europe and North America. The USA is far and away the leading market for CDE cactus species, with 315 species advertised by U.S. vendors and 54 identified for sale exclusively in the USA.

The UK was the second largest market

for CDE species (197), followed by Germany (185), Sweden (115), Mexico (81), Spain (86), Italy (80) and Canada (5).

TRAFFIC identified several localities in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico that are high priorities for cactus conservation. These 'high priority' localities were selected on the basis of having the highest concentration of species documented in commerce. The significance of these localities as once a source of germplasm for the trade suggests that they may be more prone to collection pressure than areas from which fewer species in trade were originally gathered. In addition, 40 species were highlighted for conservation

*continued on next page...*

# Planning for one global programme

Set in the verdant tropical greenery of the Mindo Cloud Forest Reserve in Ecuador, 36 participants from TRAFFIC International and TRAFFIC's seven regional offices set the foundation for its new four-year programme with the convening of the 20th TRAFFIC Network Meeting from May 2nd-8th, 2004.

In the months leading up to the meeting, TRAFFIC offices conducted problem analyses for a number of globally important wildlife trade themes in order to identify priorities for action. Offices also began discussions on potential regional components for the new programme, addressing both global themes and any additional regional programme priorities.

"The aim of this process was to ensure that we would then be able to integrate regional targets and priority global themes into one global programme," said TRAFFIC International Executive Director Steven Broad. "This meant aiming for a more focussed programme, with targets that were specific, measurable and achievable. The meeting looked at how we could strategically prioritise our work so that we knew exactly what, how and especially where we needed to focus. Ultimately, we want to see even more tangible conservation change - and positive impacts - coming out of delivery of our programme"

Another consideration in the development of the new programme for the network was the lessons learned from the External Review of TRAFFIC's programme commissioned by the TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC staff at the 20th network meeting, in Mindo, Ecuador in May 2004.



TRAFFIC

Committee in 2003. The review was driven by two main purposes: the need for accountability to TRAFFIC's partners and supporters and desire for learning and improvement in TRAFFIC's programme and operations. (The Executive Summary and Management response to the External Review is available on TRAFFIC website at [http://www.traffic.org/publications/External\\_Review\\_2003.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/publications/External_Review_2003.pdf).)

The network meeting discussed also new issues of high priority that TRAFFIC should engage, as well as new approaches on existing issues. "We wanted to identify the current wildlife trade hotspots in the TRAFFIC regions, as well as ways in which TRAFFIC could catalyse effective conservation action in response to emerging wildlife trade-related threats," Broad added.

Emphasis was also placed on strengthening synergy with the WWF and IUCN

programmes, and the discussions attempted to identify explicit links with WWF and IUCN. "We needed to ensure that the WWF and IUCN programme interests lie at the heart of the TRAFFIC programme," Broad stressed. Miguel Pellerano, IUCN's regional director for South America, gave a presentation at the meeting on the IUCN Programme and potential areas for co-operation with TRAFFIC in South America. The meeting was attended by representatives from the WWF International Species Programme and WWF Netherlands and the WWF Guianas Programme.

The meeting also discussed priorities for the remainder of 2004, including planning and preparations for key events such as the 13th meeting of the Conference of the CITES CoP13 Parties to CITES and the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress - both taking place in Bangkok, Thailand later this year.

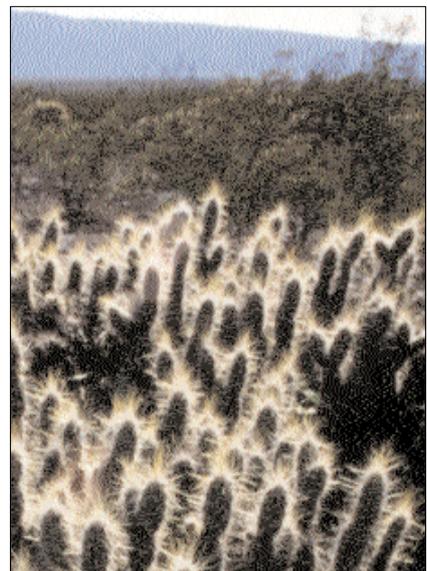
...*Chihuahuan cacti revisited in Spanish, continued from previous page*

attention given their precarious biological status, potentially high commercial demand or vulnerability to illegal trade.

The Spanish edition of the *Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti* report makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving the conservation of CDE species that are vulnerable to trade or could become so if certain concerns are left unaddressed. In Mexico, for instance, there is an urgent need to reduce demand for wild specimens of endemic, rare or otherwise highly collectable species by increasing the availability of plants grown by nurseries. To this end, the Mexican government could streamline the process by which nurseries apply for licenses to grow, sell and export cactus specimens and facilitate the exchange of technical

assistance and technology from university greenhouses to local nurseries. The current system for licensing growers in Mexico is financially and administratively burdensome, creating disincentives among nurseries to breed plants or seeds for domestic or international markets. In the CDE of the United States, public and private landowners should consider the ecological and economic benefits of conserving cactus species and populations through sustainable harvest.

For further information and copies of the forthcoming Spanish edition of the report *Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti*, contact TRAFFIC North America. For contact details see page 16.



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## New foundation support

In May 2004 TRAFFIC received confirmation of generous funding support of EUR50 000 from the Manfred Hermsen Foundation towards its work on marine turtle trade. This is a first grant to TRAFFIC from Manfred Hermsen Foundation and hopefully the start of a productive relationship for the future.

### The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation

TRAFFIC was extremely grateful to receive a grant of GBP100 000 from The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation in May 2004 towards a range of activities planned for 2004/2005. The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation has been a key supporter of innovation and achievement in TRAFFIC's programme for over ten years.

## TRAFFIC reports on the horizon for the coming months:

*'Certifying Certification: Can Certification Secure a Sustainable Future for Medicinal Plants, Harvesters and Consumers in India?'* TRAFFIC Online report (No.9)

*No licence to kill: The population and harvest of musk deer and trade in musk in the Russian Federation and Mongolia,* TRAFFIC Europe report

*Shark product trade in Hong Kong and mainland China and implementation of the CITES shark listings,* TRAFFIC East Asia report

*Collection, trade, and regulation of reptiles and amphibians of the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion,* TRAFFIC North America report

*Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti,* Spanish edition, TRAFFIC North America report

*First Choice or Fallback? An examination of issues relating to the application of Appendix III of CITES to marine species,* TRAFFIC Online report

*The Trade of Indian Star Tortoises Geochelone elegans in Peninsular Malaysia,* TRAFFIC Southeast Asia report

*Evaluation of Ramin Gonystylus spp. CITES Appendix III implementation in Southeast Asia,* TRAFFIC Southeast Asia report

*Exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in the Southern Caribbean,* TRAFFIC report

TRAFFIC staff thank the following supporters for their contributions to our work during December 2003 - May 2004:

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Conservation International  
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The Taiwan Council of Agriculture  
Tiger's Eye Retail  
Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation  
Toraya Confectionery Co. Ltd. Marubeni Corporation  
UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
UK High Commission, Malaysia  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Environment Programme  
USAID  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
US - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs  
US State Department  
US - State of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
Wildlife and Environment Society of South

Africa  
The Wildlife Conservation Society  
The World Association for Zoos and Aquariums  
The World Bank  
WWF Africa Madagascar Programme  
WWF African Rhino Programme  
WWF Australia  
WWF Austria  
WWF Belgium  
WWF Canada  
WWF China Programme  
WWF East Africa Regional Programme Office  
WWF France  
WWF Germany  
WWF The Green Trust (ZA)  
WWF Hong Kong  
WWF Indochina  
WWF International  
WWF Italy  
WWF Japan  
WWF Malaysia  
WWF Netherlands  
WWF New Zealand  
WWF South Africa  
WWF South Pacific Programme  
WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office  
WWF Sweden  
WWF Switzerland  
WWF Tanzania Programme Office  
WWF-UK  
WWF-US

# TRAFFIC

the wildlife trade monitoring network

## TRAFFIC International

219a Huntingdon Rd  
Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK  
Tel: (44) 1223 277427; Fax: (44) 1223 277237  
E-mail: traffic@trafficint.org

## TRAFFIC East Asia - Regional Office

Room 2001, Double Building, 22 Stanley Street  
Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2 530 0587; Fax (852) 2 530 0864  
E-mail: tea@pccw.imsbiz.com

## TRAFFIC East Asia - China

c/o WWF China Programme Office, Wen Hua  
Gong, (Laodong Renmin Wenhua Gong Dongmen)  
Beijing Working People's Culture Palace  
Beijing 100006, People's Republic of China  
Tel: (86) 10 65227100 (Ext. 213)  
Fax: (86) 10 65227300  
E-mail: teachina@wwfchina.org

## TRAFFIC East Asia - Japan

6th Fl. Nihonseimei Akabanebashi Bldg.  
3-1-14, Shiba, Minato-ku  
105-0014 Tokyo, Japan  
Tel: (81) 3 3769 1716; Fax: (81) 3 3769 1304  
E-mail: trafficj@twics.com

## TRAFFIC East Asia - Taipei

PO Box 7-476  
Taipei 106, Taiwan  
Tel: (886) 2 2362 9787; Fax: (886) 2 2362 9799  
E-mail: treatai@msl.hinet.net

## TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Regional Office

c/o WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme  
10, Lanark Road, Belgravia, PO Box CY 1409  
Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: (263) 4 252533/ 252534; Fax: (263) 4 703902  
E-mail: traffic@wwf.org.zw

## TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - South Africa

c/o Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag x11  
Parkview 2122, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tel: (27) 11 486 1102; Fax: (27) 11 486 1506  
E-mail: trafficza@uskonet.com

## TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Tanzania

PO Box 106060, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: (255-22) 2701676 / 2700077 / 272455  
Fax: (255-22) 2775535  
E-mail: traffictz@raha.com

## TRAFFIC Europe - Regional Office

Bd. Emile Jacquain 90  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: (32) 2 343 8258; Fax: (32) 2 343 2565  
E-mail: traffic@traffic-europe.com

## TRAFFIC Europe - France

c/o WWF France  
188, rue de la Roquette, F 75011 Paris, France  
Tel: (33) 1 55 25 84 84; Fax: (33) 1 55 25 84 74  
E-mail: sringuet@wwf.fr

## TRAFFIC Europe - Germany

c/o Umweltstiftung WWF Germany  
Rebstöcker Str. 55  
60326 Frankfurt a.M., Germany  
Tel: (49) 69 79144 180; Fax: (49) 69 617221  
E-mail: melisch@wwf.de

## TRAFFIC Europe - Italy

c/o WWF Italia, Via Po, 25/c  
00198 Rome, Italy  
Tel: (39) 06 84497357; Fax: (39) 06 84497356  
E-mail: traffic.italy@tiscalinet.it

## TRAFFIC Europe - Russia

c/o WWF Russia Programme Office  
Nikoloyamskaya str.19, building 3,  
109240 Moscow, Russia  
Tel: (007) 095 727 09 39  
Fax: (007) 095 727 09 38  
E-mail: ashestakov@wwf.ru

## TRAFFIC Europe - Sweden

c/o WWF-Sweden, Ulriksdals Slott  
S-17081 Solna, Sweden  
Tel: (46) 8 624 7400; Fax: (46) 8 85 1329  
Email: mforslund@wwf.se

## TRAFFIC Europe - Candidate Countries

c/o WWF-Hungary, Németsvölgyi út 78/b  
1124 Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: (36) 1 214 5554; Fax: (36) 1 212 9353  
E-mail: attila.steiner@wwf.hu

## TRAFFIC North America - Regional office

1250 24th Street, NW  
Washington DC 20037, USA  
Tel: (1) 202 293 4800; Fax: (1) 202 775 8287  
E-mail: tna@wwfus.org

## TRAFFIC North America - Canada

5612 - 47A Avenue, Delta, BC V4K 3Y2,  
Canada  
Tel: (1) 604-940-7010  
E-mail: traffic@wwfcanada.org

## TRAFFIC North America - Mexico

c/o WWF Mexico Programme Office  
Ave. Mexico No. 51  
Col. Hipodromo Condesa  
06100 Mexico, D.F., Mexico  
Tel: (525) 286 5631/34; Fax: (525) 286 5637  
E-mail: areuterwwfmex@mexis.com

## TRAFFIC Oceania - Regional Office

GPO Box 528  
Sydney NSW 2001, Australia  
Tel: (61) 2 9280 1671; Fax: (61) 2 9212 1794  
E-mail: traffic@traffic.org

## TRAFFIC South America - Regional Office

Av. De los Shyris 2680 y Gaspar de Villaroel  
Edificio MITA COBADELSA, Penthouse (PH),  
Quito, Ecuador  
Tel: (5932) 226 1075 (ext.400)  
Fax: (5932) 226 1075 (ext.230)  
E-mail: tsam@traffic.sur.iucn.org

## TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Regional Office

Unit 9-3A, 3rd Floor,  
Jalan SS23/11, Taman SEA  
47400 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor, Malaysia  
Tel: (603) 7880 3940; Fax: (603) 7882 0171  
E-mail: tsea@po.jaring.my

## TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina

c/o WWF Indochina Programme Office  
53 Tran Phu Street, Ba Dinh District  
IPO Box:151  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tel: (84) 4 733 8387 & (84) 4 733 8386  
Fax: (84) 4 822 0642  
E-mail: trafficindochina@yahoo.co.uk



■ TRAFFIC International ▲ regional TRAFFIC office ● other TRAFFIC office

## TRAFFIC on the World Wide Web:

TRAFFIC network - [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org) (in English)  
TRAFFIC East Asia:  
China - <http://www.wwfchina.org/traffic/> (in Chinese)  
Japan - [www.trafficj.org](http://www.trafficj.org) (in Japanese)  
Taiwan - [www.wow.org.tw](http://www.wow.org.tw) (in Chinese)  
TRAFFIC Europe:  
Russia - [www.wwf.ru/traffic](http://www.wwf.ru/traffic) (in Russian)  
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Indochina - <http://www.trafficindo.org> (in English)