

TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

Number 21 November 2003

Putting CITES to work for Big-leaf Mahogany

by Ximena Buitrón, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC South America

CITES Parties reached a landmark decision to regulate international trade of Big-leaf Mahogany in November 2002, during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP 12). The listing of Big-leaf Mahogany in CITES Appendix II was a major step towards sustainable management of this valuable Latin American timber species. As of 15 November 2003, when the listing takes effect, international trade in logs, sawn logs, veneer and plywood will all be subject to CITES trade controls.

However, the CITES listing alone will not secure conservation of Big-leaf Mahogany, which for many years has been subject to illegal and unsustainable harvests, mostly to supply international markets. Unless strong action is taken to implement the listing effectively, and to address illegal logging and trade to supply domestic markets, this species, like the other American mahoganies before it, faces an uncertain future.

TRAFFIC South America, with support from WWF, began assisting range States with their efforts to implement the CITES listing virtually as soon as the listing was agreed, by providing advice on what actions will be required to implement the listing. TRAFFIC subsequently surveyed all range States to assess the capacity and needs related to implementation, as a starting point for deciding where to focus future efforts.

Work to address concerns regarding sustainable forestry and implementation of the Appendix II listing received a critical boost from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which provided funding enabling TRAFFIC to monitor and strengthen local capacities to implement CITES controls and complementary sustainable forestry national measures in Peru. This work is scheduled for completion in two years time. TRAFFIC has also received support from the World Bank for wider research into the role of CITES in addressing illegal logging, a significant threat to mahogany populations.

The CITES Secretariat relied on TRAFFIC's expertise during the second meeting of the CITES Mahogany Working Group, held in Belem, Brazil in October 2003, and involving the majority of Big-leaf Mahogany range States as well as key importing countries. On behalf of the Secretariat, TRAFFIC prepared and presented a review of the international trade, trade controls and existing capacity for CITES implementation. Among the other issues covered was the development of *non-detriment findings* - the decisions exporting governments need to make to verify that export levels will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. The meeting concluded by recommending a series of actions needed to ensure effective management of the international trade in this species.



Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*
Manu National Park, Peru.

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Like the timber itself, such actions won't come cheap, with a significant investment required to develop the scientific foundation necessary to establish sustainable harvesting regimes and to prevent illegal logging and trade from undercutting management efforts. TRAFFIC, WWF and IUCN will be meeting later this year to agree a plan of action identifying how best to support CITES and other mechanisms, e.g. certification, aimed at securing a sustainable future for Big-leaf Mahogany. The challenge ahead is to ensure that all stakeholders work together to make sure that range States are adequately equipped and assisted in this regard. Actions taken now, a year on from CITES CoP 12, will determine whether CITES can help prevent Big-leaf Mahogany from suffering the same declines as the other American mahoganies, for which CITES listing came too late.

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Threatened by trade - Snow Leopard

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TRAFFIC to support the UK National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit



TRAFFIC International, with support from WWF-UK and the UK CITES Management Authority (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Defra), has been working towards direct participation in the UK National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit (NWCIU). In October 2003 this goal was achieved with a part time secondment of a member of TRAFFIC International staff, who will be working in the Unit at the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) two days a week.

NCIS provides leadership and excellence in criminal intelligence in the UK and works on behalf of all UK law enforcement agencies in the fight against serious and organised crime. NCIS has several specialised units for a range of issues that generate strategic and tactical

intelligence, nationally and internationally.

The NWCIU is the national focal point for the collation, analysis and development of strategic assessments on the most serious offenders in wildlife crime. It identifies trends and patterns in wildlife crime and the links to other serious crime. The Unit develops sources to gather intelligence, provides a nucleus of expertise and knowledge on the subject and establishes links with domestic and international agencies dealing with wildlife crime.

Through this secondment, initially for a period of six months, TRAFFIC will support the Unit's work by focussing on the priority targets of NWCIU. The priorities are focussed largely on illegal trade in wildlife such as caviar, parrots, reptiles, traditional Asian medicines and

commodities such as elephant ivory and shahtoosh shawls. TRAFFIC's expertise in wildlife trade, its contacts and wealth of information generated by its global network will be invaluable in ensuring that intelligence analysis is based upon the best information available.

"The trust that has been built up over 15 years of TRAFFIC support to UK law enforcement agencies, with funding from WWF-UK and Defra, has been the foundation upon which this new and exciting chapter in our enforcement support work is based. With this partnership TRAFFIC has come of age in its efforts to seriously combat illegal wildlife trade, we hope this precedent will bring about a significant impact.", said Crawford Allan from TRAFFIC International.

Staff news

Congratulations

Roland Melisch, of TRAFFIC Europe-Germany has started in a new position as the Deputy Director for Conservation at WWF Germany in May 2003 and continues his work as the National Representative of TRAFFIC Europe-Germany on a part-time basis.

Welcome

October 2003

Dr Izawa Arata joined TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan office as the Fisheries Officer.

Liz McLellan started as Programme Development Officer in TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina/Cambodia office.

August 2003

Jonathan Evans joined TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - South Africa office as a new Programme Officer.

July 2003

Angie Woo joined TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina as the Project Assistant working part-time until December 2003.

April 2003

Julia Ng Su-Chen started as a new Programme Officer in TRAFFIC Southeast Asia regional office.

Nguyen Dao Ngoc Van commenced her work as National projects Co-ordinator at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina.

Tran Thanh Quang joined TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina as the Adviser on Government Affairs (part time).

March 2003

Fausto Paramo joined TRAFFIC South America regional office as a new Secretary & Finance Officer.

Christine Simiyu started as a new Finance Officer of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa.

Goodbye

Sue Kang, Korea Representative left TRAFFIC East Asia in May 2003.

Karin Berkhoudt, Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC Europe in May 2003.

Shoko Kameoka, XX?, left TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan in March 2003.

Vincent Chen, Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei Office in March 2003.

Nguyen Tri Man, Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC-Indochina office in March 2003.

Daniel Ndanyi, Research Officer, left TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Kenya office in March 2003.

Rob Barnet, Senior Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Kenya office in March 2003.

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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IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Fisheries news around the globe

by Anna Willock, Senior Fisheries Advisor, TRAFFIC Oceania

Conservation measures for Patagonian Toothfish again under scrutiny

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) meets from 27 October to 7 November in Hobart, Tasmania. The Commission will again consider measures to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which continues to pose an immediate threat to the long-term sustainability of Patagonian Toothfish and Antarctic Toothfish stocks as well as to the survival of several seabird species. The continuing threat posed by IUU fishing was recently highlighted internationally with the 3900 nautical mile chase and eventual arrest of the Uruguayan-flagged vessel 'Viarsa 1' for alleged illegal fishing inside the Australian Fishing Zone.

TRAFFIC will again attend the CCAMLR meeting as part of the IUCN delegation and is urging Members to adopt various initiatives to combat IUU fishing, including a centralised vessel monitoring system. In particular, TRAFFIC will be urging CCAMLR to adopt an approach to co-operation with CITES that will ensure that the respective expertise of both organisations is used in a way that maximises the contribution of each to combating IUU fishing. CCAMLR has also previously recognised that analysis of trade data has an important role in assessing and reviewing the operation of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish. TRAFFIC is calling for the data collected under the CDS to be made publicly available in a form that will enable analytical comparison with available trade information. Failure by CCAMLR to adopt strong measures at this meeting to combat IUU fishing will undoubtedly result in renewed calls for toothfish to be listed in Appendix II of CITES at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



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Effective management of the world's largest tuna fishery a step closer

The potential for effective conservation and management of the world's largest tuna fishery is a step closer to being realised with the imminent entry into force of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Twelve countries have now ratified the Convention with only one more required for the Convention to enter into force.

The tuna fishery of the western and central Pacific Ocean is worth around USD2 billion annually and covers an area in excess of 30 million square kilometres. Yearly landings exceed two million tonnes and catch from the fishery represents around one third of all tuna landed worldwide; 60 % of all tuna for canning and 30 % of the sashimi grade tuna imported into Japan. Around 70 % of the catch is taken in the zones of Pacific island countries and territories with proceeds from that catch representing a significant portion of many countries' gross domestic product. The size of the fishery, the dynamic nature of the pelagic ecosystem on which it is based, and its economic

Focus on deep-sea fisheries resources

TRAFFIC Oceania and WWF's Endangered Seas Programme have prepared a joint report highlighting issues relating to the exploitation of deep-sea fisheries resources, using the experience of Orange Roughy *Hoplostethus atlanticus* fisheries world-wide to illustrate some of these issues. The report will be presented at the 'Deep Sea 2003' Conference, to be held from 1 to 5 December in Queenstown, New Zealand. The Conference will focus on issues concerning the conservation and management of marine fisheries below 400 metres.

The relatively recent history of deep-sea fisheries has demonstrated the fragility of deep-sea species, their habitats and their consequent vulnerability to overfishing. The experience of fisheries for Orange Roughy aptly illustrates these traits. Orange Roughy live to around 120 years,



Bluefin and Yellowfin tuna being processed for sale at the Tokyo fishmarket in Japan.

© WWF-Cannon / Jason DEWEY

importance to the Pacific region make the task of the new Convention both critical and complex.

TRAFFIC has participated in the negotiations to develop the new Convention since 1997 and continues to engage in the development of conservation and management measures to be considered by the new Commission once the Convention enters into force.

at depths between 500 and 2000 metres, and aggregate to spawn and feed on deep-sea seamounts. Fishing for these aggregations causes significant damage to the fragile seamount communities and has resulted in the commercial extinction of some individual stocks of Orange Roughy. The pattern of Orange Roughy fisheries worldwide has been one of rapid expansion and then collapse after a few intense years of high catches. The TRAFFIC / WWF paper attempts to critique from an ecosystem-based perspective the management of these marine fisheries and make recommendations that can be applied to the future development of deep-sea fisheries.

The report will be available on the TRAFFIC website in early December. The study was generously funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

First results of CITES Review of Significant Trade in Queen Conch, but still a long way to go

by Stephanie Theile, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

The CITES review of significant trade in Queen Conch, undertaken by TRAFFIC Europe, has shown its first results: The Dominican Republic and Honduras suspended exports of Queen Conch *Strombus gigas* in late September 2003 in response to recommendations made by the CITES Animals Committee based on the report prepared by TRAFFIC Europe. After many years of concern about ongoing population decline and alleged high levels of illegal fishing and trade, this development is the critical first step in a series of measures needed in bringing the Queen Conch fishery and trade to sustainable levels. Technical and financial assistance is now urgently needed to support range States in their efforts to ensure the long-term future of this important resource.

After many years of concern about population declines and alleged high levels of illegal fishing and trade, this development is the critical first step in a series of measures needed in bringing the Queen Conch fishery and trade to sustainable levels. Technical and financial assistance is now urgently needed to support range States in their efforts to ensure the long-term future of this important resource.

Haiti, a third Queen Conch range State that was also categorised as being of 'urgent concern', has not implemented the recommendation of the Animals Committee to suspend exports of Queen Conch. Consequently, the CITES Standing Committee recommended that all CITES Parties suspend imports of Queen Conch from Haiti.

This temporary suspension of international trade in Queen Conch has significant consequences for the three countries, especially for the hundreds of fishermen involved.

However, after years of reports about increasing levels of illegal fishing and unsustainable harvesting practices involving these three countries, the measures taken seem unavoidable in bringing the countries' Queen Conch fisheries to sustainable levels and to end the continuous illegal harvesting in foreign waters.

The commitment demonstrated by the Dominican Republic and Honduras is a positive signal and an important first step to implement a comprehensive set of short and long-term recommendations made by the CITES Animals Committee.

Country-specific recommendations have also been made for most of the remaining Queen Conch range States, including the Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, all of which export Queen Conch meat for commercial purposes, some in significant quantities. Similar to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Honduras, these countries are requested to establish catch and export quotas that are based on stock assessments and are supported by data collection and population monitoring programmes. In addition, all Queen Conch range States are asked by the Animals Committee to commit and actively participate in any regional actions and efforts resulting from the CITES Review of Significant Trade. These actions may include the development of a regional management regime, strengthening law enforcement capacity and effectiveness, and improving population assessment methods and other research relating to the management of Queen Conch.

However, in order to implement the comprehensive set of recommendations, range States, in particular those above identified as being of 'urgent concern' are in immediate need of technical and financial support. Therefore, Queen Conch range States are encouraged by the decision made by CITES to seek assistance from international and regional fisheries expert organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), or the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). Additionally, major importing nations, such as the USA and France, are urged to assist range States, for example in designing and undertaking stock assessments and establishing monitoring programmes.

It will be essential to evaluate the progress made by the range States in



Queen conch fishing vessel in Jamaica.

Next page: Processed conch meat at a processing plant in Jamaica.

Science in CITES: workshops provide missing link

by James Compton, Director, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

implementing the recommendations and to monitor the impact these measures might have on harvest and trade patterns in the wider Caribbean region and on the status of the conch populations concerned. There has been concern that the closure of some countries' fisheries will not effectively halt illegal harvesting, but may instead lead to illegally harvested conch being landed and exported from other countries. Therefore, it will be necessary to monitor any potential changes in future export levels of some of the other major exporting nations, such as the Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Nicaragua and the Turks and Caicos Islands. This underlines the importance of a regional strategy for managing the Queen Conch fishery, as actions and measures taken in one country, may directly impact the fishery in another.

TRAFFIC Europe has been working on the Queen Conch fishery and its management since 2000. For further background information, a full copy of the Significant Trade Review report on Queen Conch and the outcomes of the first phase of the CITES Secretariat project developing a model management strategy for the Queen Conch undertaken by TRAFFIC Europe in 2001, see TRAFFIC Dispatches 19, March 2002 and visit the TRAFFIC website at http://www.traffic.org/news/dom_honduras.html.



Stephanie Theile / TRAFFIC Europe

Thirty years after the historic signing of CITES, the lack of science in wildlife trade decision making continues to hamper the effectiveness of the Convention. But in Southeast Asia, a new training initiative may hold the key to unlocking new opportunities for countries to better manage trade in their wildlife resources.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia's partnership with the CITES Secretariat on developing a regional action plan for increasing the use of "Science in CITES" began in May 2003 with the first of two 5-day workshops planned for the region. More than 50 representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand gathered in Sabah, Malaysia, to learn more about how conservation and sustainable use of wildlife can have a lasting benefit when built on a solid platform of science-based management.

TRAFFIC's work with the CITES Secretariat on capacity building comes at a critical time in this region. A lot of work is still needed to redress the impact of over-exploitation on long-term conservation as well counter mis-perceptions that remain among some stakeholders about CITES being a global trade ban, rather than a tool to contribute to the long-term prosperity of countries wishing to exploit their resources with appropriately sustainable management frameworks.

As well as being a source for wild animals and plants, and their derivatives and by-products, Southeast Asia is a major hub for trade in wildlife, functioning as supplier, consumer and a general import-export emporium of plants, animals and their derivatives. Nearly all the major taxonomic groups of plants and animals found in Southeast Asia are traded, both legally and illegally, including elephants and ivory, reptile skins, bears, orchids, timber, freshwater and marine turtles, tiger products, endemic birds, and the high value aromatic and medicinal forest product, agarwood.

In Sabah, workshop delegates were presented with a series of examples focusing on the need to set precautionary limits on the legal exploitation of wildlife species listed in Appendix II of CITES, and how to develop appropriate checks and balances to allow this to happen.

Trainers from the CITES Secretariat set tasks for the trainees to conduct 'risk assessments' of harvest regimes for taxa as diverse as corals, snakes and butterflies.

The setting and monitoring of annual quotas for harvest and export was also dealt with during the workshop, again using real examples of species occurring in trade in large volumes such as the Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*.

At the completion of the workshop, each national delegation identified a set of priorities for follow-up action at national and regional level.

By listening to what the government authorities are dealing with in the region, a better understanding can be achieved in terms of how to systematically address the problems of managing wildlife trade in the region. The feedback received from the participants also indicate that the workshop's practical focus showed that CITES could be a useful component of the 'conservation toolbox'.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia will facilitate a second workshop in Southeast Asia in 17-21 November 2003 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This workshop will bring together representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Of the 11 countries in the region, only Lao PDR and the new nation of Timor Leste (East Timor) are non-Parties to CITES.

For further information on the workshops organized in Southeast Asia, please contact TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Regional Office.

Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*



Chris R Shepherd / TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Tighter controls needed to curb increasing threats to snow leopards

The Snow Leopard, one of the most endangered big cats in the world, is being severely threatened by illegal killing throughout its range. According to the results of a new TRAFFIC report, action is now urgently needed by the range States to address the root causes of illegal killing and continuing trade in Snow Leopards and their parts, to ensure survival of this highly endangered species.

A large part of the findings of the report released in August 2003 in collaboration with WWF and International Snow Leopard Trust (ISLT) is based on literature searches and web-based information gathering. First-hand information was also received through a TRAFFIC questionnaire survey of experts and government personnel in Snow Leopard range States and other countries. In summer 2002, first-hand surveys were undertaken in Mongolia and Pakistan.

The results of the report clearly show that Snow Leopards and their parts are traded in all 12 range States (with the possible exception of Bhutan). This is despite the fact that killing and trade is prohibited in most of the range States and the species is listed in CITES Appendix I, which prohibits all commercial international trade of the animal. Today, there are only an estimated 4000-7000 Snow Leopards left in the world.

The results of the report also show that threats posed to snow leopards may vary among the different regions: killing for trade is the biggest threat for snow leopards in the central Asian region and the Russian Federation. In the Himalayan region, the main threat identified in the report is conflict between snow leopards and herders, who kill Snow Leopards to protect their livestock, but the parts then often end up in trade.

National demand in the range States continues to drive some trade but part of the goods on offer also end up in non-range regions, such as Europe and the Middle East. Foreign visitors, including tourists and military personnel, form another distinct group that purchases Snow Leopard parts.

The main products in demand are pelts. Prices for skins range from just tens of US dollars as reported by hunters in Nepal, to thousands of US dollars, as reported on the black market in Kazakhstan.

The report further indicates that illegal trade occurs in live Snow Leopards and in other body parts such as teeth, nails, meat, as well as bone, which is feeding into traditional Asian medicine markets, but on a much smaller scale.

"There is an urgent need for range States to address the gaps in their legislation for snow leopards and increase their enforcement efforts. For example, by enhancing anti-poaching activities in the range States where trade is the most prominent threat," said Stephanie Theile, the author of the report from TRAFFIC Europe. "It is also vital to provide economic incentives for snow leopard conservation to the herders who live in Snow Leopard range, for example by developing livestock insurance schemes, and recover the natural prey base of Snow Leopards to prevent conflict situations between the local communities and Snow Leopards in the first place."

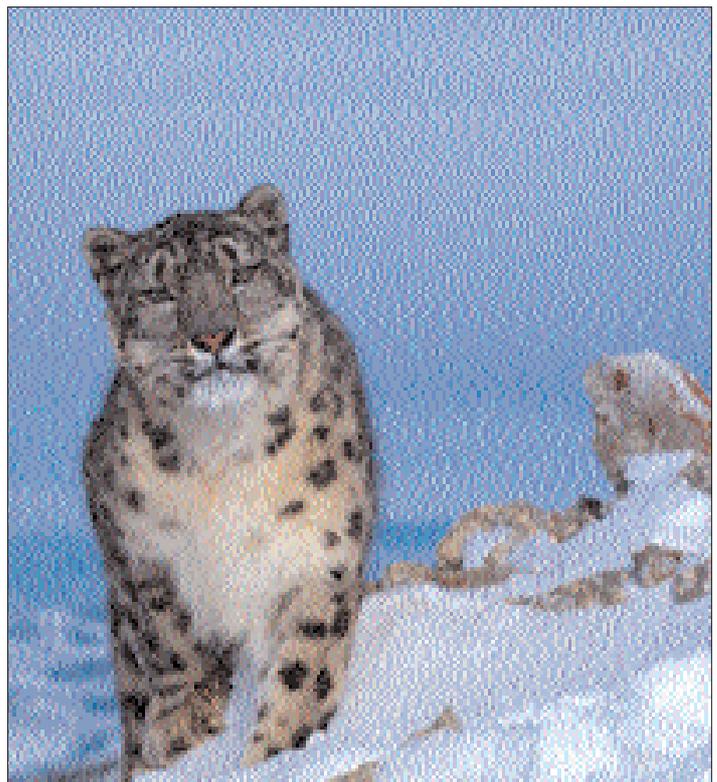
Coinciding with the release of the TRAFFIC report, concerted efforts to improve Snow Leopard conservation were strengthened in August by completion of a global Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, an initiative co-ordinated by ISLT, which

drew upon acknowledged snow leopard experts, conservation biologists and development specialists, including TRAFFIC among others.

The co-ordinated snow leopard strategy and the TRAFFIC study provide strong incentives for all stakeholders involved to achieve long-term solutions for sustainable livelihoods of local communities in the range States and to help save the endangered Snow Leopard before it is too late.

For hard copies of the report contact TRAFFIC International, a soft copy can be downloaded from TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_intl.

The report was generously funded by la Societa Zoologica la Torbiera, the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, WWF Belgium, WWF Italy, WWF Netherlands and WWF UK.



Snow
Leopard
Uncia uncia

WWF-Caron / Klein and Hibert

Recent study shows ivory use and trade shift underground in India

Illicit trade in elephant ivory persists in India despite national ban since the 1970s according to TRAFFIC report released in June 2003. Domestic ivory trade continues to be widespread in the country, but has now largely shifted underground, hindering law enforcement efforts. However, as a result of the report's findings enforcement action has been taken to impact on the individuals and networks involved. Further, a land mark decision passed by the Supreme Court in August 2003 indicates strong will by the government to put an end to this prevailing, unregulated trade.

The TRAFFIC report released in June 2003 in collaboration with WWF India examines the ivory trade in 2000 and 2001 and shows that hundreds of Indian craftsmen were still using ivory.

The study found that both foreign and Indian nationals purchase ivory artifacts such as carvings, jewelry and, even occasionally, name seals. It also identified a continuing link between Indian demand and cultural traditions unique to India that produce religious carvings of Hindu gods, ivory and wood inlay pieces and miniature Mogul paintings on ivory.

The most active production and collection areas for raw ivory are Orissa, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, and the most active markets for worked ivory were found to be Murshidabad in West Bengal, Jaipur and Udaipur in Rajasthan, and Kochi and Thiruvana-

thapuram in the southern state of Kerala. Nepal also stands out as an international destination for Indian ivory carvings.

According to the study, the four main sources of raw ivory were locally-poached Asian Elephants, domesticated elephants in India, smuggled African Elephant ivory, as well as pre-ban ivory stocks in India.

Between 1996 and 2001, an annual average of at least 270kg of raw ivory was seized in India, indicating that national law enforcement efforts were meeting with some success, but also that a large, continuing domestic market still prevails.

As for India's pre-ban stock, there is little consolidated information on its volume or locations. Some stocks continue to remain in possession of dealers with no ongoing monitoring system to ensure they are not leaking onto the marketplace.

The existence of a potent domestic ivory market in India is especially worrying in the face of a documented increasing global trend in international smuggling of ivory. India, together with Kenya, has consistently opposed moves to re-open limited conditional ivory trade at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES since the 1990 ban.

Statistical analysis under Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) by TRAFFIC tabled at the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES last year indicates that international, illegal trade in ivory is directly correlated to the presence of large-scale, unregulated domestic ivory markets. Located in both Africa and Asia these markets have become increasingly more active since 1996 and account for the greatest volume of ivory being seized throughout the world.

TRAFFIC's information leads to enforcement action and a land mark decision

Information stemming from the TRAFFIC investigation, including the identification of the traders and premises dealing in illicit ivory, were passed in confidence to the Government of India. The response was immediate with

initiation of enforcement authority investigations. A number of seizures and arrests have since resulted and further investigations are ongoing.

The TRAFFIC report urged the Government of India to take immediate action to establish why the ban, which also prohibits any trade in pre-ban ivory stocks in the country, has been breached to date with apparent ease and regularity.

To this end, TRAFFIC lauded a landmark decision in August 2003, as the Supreme Court dismissed the traders' demands which began in 1991 to be allowed to clear the stocks they held following a 1986 ban on sale, import and export of ivory. The Supreme Court also ordered the Indian Government to take possession of all ivory stock including products such as idols and images of God.

The decision taken by the Supreme Court and the enforcement response demonstrates rigorous and important action by the government in its efforts to halt the ongoing domestic commerce and addressing the root causes of this trade

*To download a copy of the full TRAFFIC Online report **An Assessment of the Domestic Ivory Carving Industry and Trade Controls in India**, please visit <http://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/eries.html>. The publication of the report was generously funded by the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation and WWF-UK.*

Retail markets for ivory still persist in West Africa

To gain a better understanding of the current situation of domestic ivory markets in West African region, TRAFFIC conducted market surveys in Nigeria, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire during the summer of 2002. The results to be released later this year in the TRAFFIC Online report series hosted at www.traffic.org show that similarly to Asian surveys, the domestic trade in ivory continues in an unregulated fashion in all three countries.

For future updates on the report, see www.traffic.org.



Ivory statues of Lord Krishna were found to be available in a number of locations during the surveys.

TRAFFIC India

UK Wildlife Trade Campaign results are arresting

Crawford Allan, UK Wildlife Trade Campaign Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

As the UK Wildlife Trade Campaign of WWF-UK and TRAFFIC International, launched in January 2002, ends, the aims and achievements of the campaign to bring about changes to legislation, raise awareness and affect resource allocation to enforce trade laws, are being assessed.

The main goals of the campaign were to ensure parity in laws related to protection of native and exotic species, particularly with respect to penalties for offences and the powers available to the police. The need for increased awareness of the judiciary was also a priority. A secondary goal was to evaluate the impact of the UK on the global trade in wildlife and ensure such activities were not detrimental. The campaign was extended by six months until July 2003 to be certain that the main goals were met. This article looks at what the campaign has achieved, how it has made a difference and the challenges it faced.

Why a UK wildlife trade campaign?

A number of elements contributed to the recognition of the need for more effective implementation and enforcement of wildlife trade laws in the UK. The main problem identified by law enforcers was the lack of powers available to the police under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulation (COTES). The government had been due to undertake a review of COTES and the campaign was initiated to call for changes through the review, to make sure that the powers and penalties available were proportionate and appropriate. Concerns were also being voiced about the need for more information and guidance for the judiciary about wildlife trade crime. A series of disparate judgements in recent years had meant that balanced information about the seriousness of offences and their impact on endangered species was required. The EU is one of the world's largest consumers of wildlife and, as a key player in this regard, there was very little awareness of the UK's impact on the international trade and how it fares in sustaining or exhausting wildlife resources.

The need for increased powers and penalties

COTES covers domestic sales and purchases of species regulated or prohibited in trade, according to a list of species contained in the Annexes of the EU Regulations that implement the CITES treaty. Violation of COTES is not an arrestable offence and therefore this

impedes the investigation and potential for prosecution of offenders. Under the laws relating to native species however, the offences are arrestable. As was highlighted during the campaign, "offenders can be arrested in the UK for selling a common frog but not a Tiger skin or rhino horn". One way to make offences arrestable was to increase custodial penalties from two years to five years. The campaign aimed to ensure that the government had committed to introduce new primary legislation to increase sentences by November 2003.

The campaign process and tools

The campaign approach used a range of processes and tools to achieve its aims - from engaging the public to sign a petition, to discussions with the Environment Minister:

Parliamentary approach: involved working with Members of Parliament who tabled bills, gave supporting speeches and asked Parliamentary Questions. The main vehicle for showing Parliament's support for the campaign aims was through a parliamentary pledge, which 344 MPs signed in support of the motion.

Government review: influencing the COTES review process undertaken by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) was a vital element and the campaign provided a well-researched response, as well as attempting

to make others aware of the key issues. The required changes to COTES were made through an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, which is passing through the final stages of the parliamentary process.

Research reports: the campaign published five research reports on themes related to wildlife trade and the UK. These included studies on the scale and scope of the legal and illegal trade, the enforcement and legal systems for dealing with wildlife trade crimes, the trade routes to the UK, the involvement of organized crime, and the impact of the UK on wildlife through trade.

Public engagement: the public was engaged in the campaign through a petition supporting the main campaign goal. The petition comprised 120 000 signatures and was presented to the Nature Protection Minister in April 2003. Letter-writing kits were produced to enable members of the public to write to their MPs in support of the parliamentary pledge.

Media engagement: the campaign was supported throughout by excellent media coverage that was generated and based largely around the release of the campaign reports. Press releases were used at various stages and timed to certain events.

A petition of over 120,000 signature in support of the main goal of the campaign was handed over to the Nature Protection Minister, Elliot Morley (in the middle) in April 2003



Guidance for the judiciary

The campaign worked towards encouraging the preparation of sentencing guidelines to help magistrates and judges determine the appropriate penalties for wildlife trade offences. The Minister for the Environment, on behalf of the Magistrates' Association, launched the sentencing guidance notes in November 2002. This was part of an information toolkit covering many aspects of environmental crime.

Influencing the UK's impact on wildlife through trade

A research study looked at the broad impact of the UK on wildlife through consumer demand and subsidiary effects, such as associated environmental damage and invasive species. The report included case studies on the impact of the horticultural trade and the live reptile trade. The main findings and recommendations were publicized through the media, linked to the Chelsea Flower Show. The high level of media coverage significantly raised the profile of the issues and the campaign.

The achievements

All of the main aims of the campaign were achieved, as were most of the lesser objectives. It is almost certain that the law will be changed as called for by the campaign. Although the process of the review may have achieved the same result without the campaign, it is very unlikely that it would have been achieved so quickly. The campaign kept up the momentum and interest in the issue to ensure a timely result. The magistrate's guidance was the first of its kind in the UK and it was thought that this would not have been possible due to sensitivities about influencing the judiciary. Wildlife trade issues in the UK have never received such a high profile. The likely benefits for continued support for wildlife trade law enforcement and positive government policies have been greatly increased.

The challenges

The campaign was also subject to some challenges, particularly at the outset. After some initial suspicion that the campaign was critical of the government, misunderstandings were resolved and quite quickly the campaign and the government departments and agencies started to work together. The campaign was also a challenge for TRAFFIC, which had not been so closely involved in this type of operation before.

The future

While this is the end of the campaign, it has set some precedents with increased enforcement powers and sentences and greater awareness. It is now up to WWF-UK and TRAFFIC to make sure that this legacy is borne out, through continued work on the issues in the UK and engagement of all parties involved.

CITES enforcement gets a boost in the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories

by Stephanie Pendry, UK Enforcement Support Officer, TRAFFIC International

As a result of a week long workshop held in Anguilla, enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (OTs) in the Caribbean are now better equipped with the knowledge to combat illegal wildlife trade in the region. Awareness of wildlife trade issues and the importance of CITES within the Overseas Territories has been greatly enhanced. In July 2003, 24 participants attended the UK Caribbean OTs Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Workshop, which was funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The workshop was organised by the FCO and TRAFFIC International in partnership with the Governor's Office in Anguilla, and brought together Police, Customs and CITES authority representatives (or equivalent) from the five OTs in the Caribbean. This was the first time that Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands had met to discuss and be trained on enforcement of CITES, and their domestic laws to protect native wildlife from illegal collection and trade.

A five-day programme was successfully delivered by a number of agencies, and was well received by the participants. The hard working trainers were from Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the CITES Secretariat and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and TRAFFIC. The workshop was also facilitated by the CITES Secretariat.

The training on how to enforce CITES was delivered through a series of presentations and exercises that allowed hands-on practice by the participants. In addition, all participants received a training manual and CD-ROM containing comprehensive information on the course contents as well as detailed background and reference materials.

The OTs have many rare and internationally important species, some of which are protected under CITES, such as marine turtles, endemic iguanas, queen conch and black coral. As tourism greatly influences all issues in the region, there is growing pressure on the natural resources, both through habitat destruction and the demand for exotic gifts for visitors or souvenirs to take home to remind them of their stay. There is also the ever-present threat from wildlife collectors who prize the localised and often-endemic species found in the Caribbean islands. In 2000, three German nationals were caught trying to fly out from Grand Cayman airport. Hidden in their luggage were over 1,250 wildlife specimens including live lizards, frogs and orchids.

If the OTs are to safeguard their natural environment for future generations it is essential that the trade in protected species be controlled. Trade in queen conch meat and shells, black coral ornaments, endemic reptiles and marine turtle products are a few examples of common issues facing the OTs regarding CITES regulation. Better CITES enforcement or greater protection of native species will not damage the tourism industry but will ensure that it is enhanced through a sustainable trade that will not threaten the survival of these important plants and animals.

One of the main aims of the workshop was to train those attending so that they may take their newly acquired knowledge back to their territories, and using the materials provided, train others in their agencies and departments. This aim is already being realised as the Turks and Caicos Islands have held their own enforcement training workshop based on the knowledge gained and materials received by the participants at the Anguilla workshop. The Cayman Islands are also organizing their own workshop

For more information on the workshop, contact TRAFFIC International.

Participants at the Anguilla workshop.



Stephanie Pendry / TRAFFIC International

TRAFFIC sets course to meet its targets

by Sabri Zain, Campaigns and Advocacy Director, TRAFFIC International



TRAFFIC staff at the network meeting

Staff from 7 regional programmes met at the Annual TRAFFIC Network Meeting in Ithala Game Reserve, South Africa, to set its course for meeting the targets of its current conservation programme and lay the foundation for a new programme beginning June 2004. The meeting was also attended by representatives from TRAFFIC's partner organisations, IUCN and WWF.

The aim of the meeting was for TRAFFIC to map its course for the future - not just in terms of specific priorities and actions for the coming year, but also to review progress and lessons learned in

past years and set the blueprint for the new TRAFFIC programme to be implemented during 2004-2008. Various aspects of TRAFFIC's programme were discussed, including programme design and priorities, global and regional balance, focal point roles in the TRAFFIC network and the organisation's global support structure.

Key issues affecting the development of the network were also examined, including the organisation's profile, advocacy and campaigning opportunities, fundraising challenges and how TRAFFIC's organisational structure could most effectively deliver positive conservation outcomes.

A number of key strategic themes were discussed in special workshops. A special workshop was held on the theme of wildlife trade and development, and how TRAFFIC could best engage in work related to development, poverty eradication and livelihoods. Discussions focussed on how to ensure conservation recommendations do not result in negative livelihood impacts that would in turn have

negative impacts on conservation. The meeting also identified an urgent need to work with appropriate partners to maximise positive impacts of development on conservation objectives and minimise negative impacts on conservation objectives.

Another workshop on timber trade exchanged views and information on progress made on this issue by TRAFFIC at the regional and global level and explored linkages and synergies between diverse network activities. These ranged from worked focussed on species such as mahogany, and ecoregions such as the Miombo Woodlands, to timber certification, law enforcement and governance issues

With the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES taking place in October next year, discussion also focussed on a number of key advocacy pushes in the run-up to the Conference. These ranged from promoting stricter domestic ivory trade controls, to enhancing regulation of musk deer products.

TRAFFIC Europe in search of responsible wildlife traders

by Laurie Kint, Communications Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

The first international website providing information on wildlife trade controls in the European Union (EU) was launched in June 2003. The website designed to raise the awareness of those involved in wildlife

trade; from importers, wholesalers and retailers to consumers and travellers alike, by informing them about their legal responsibilities under the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

This, initially planned as a year-long targeted campaign in 11 EU languages, is an initiative of and financed by the European Commission. The website was developed and is managed by TRAFFIC Europe with support from the CITES Management Authorities of all EU Member States.

The website is especially important because of the impact wildlife consumer markets have on the conservation of biodiversity around the world. Millions of live animals and plants are imported into the European Union every year, including parrots from South America, chameleons from Africa and orchids from Southeast Asia. Further, a large variety of wildlife products such as shoes or bags made of reptile skin, timber products such as furniture or dried plants used as medicines are in high demand by EU consumers.



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Growing passion for exotic pets in France

by Alexandre Affre, Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

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CITES, EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and national laws constitute a comprehensive set of legal texts that regulate trade in wildlife around the world. This legislation also addresses related matters such as holding and keeping of live animals and plants.

A new EU Wildlife Trade regulation was adopted in 1997, which was promoted by an EU-wide public awareness campaign financed by the European Commission. Compliance with and effective implementation of all its provisions can still be improved through better understanding among stakeholders.

According to the initial feasibility study undertaken by TRAFFIC Europe in several EU Member States in 2002, traders experience difficulties in obtaining clear and up-to-date information on the legal provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

In response to a need for more structured and accessible information, the European Commission contracted TRAFFIC Europe to develop and manage the website, which now in a user-friendly fashion provides extensive amount of information and links to about 600 other useful documents, pages and sites available on the web.

Since its launch in June 2003, visitors, including importers, breeders and other individuals, have started to respond to the interactive facilities of the website and provide encouraging feedback. Stakeholders have showed interest also to promote the website further within their network of contacts in order to increase better knowledge on the implementation of CITES in the EU among their peer groups too.

Thanks to feedback by the website visitors, TRAFFIC Europe will be able to continuously develop, improve and amend the website and strive to serve different stakeholders with most up-to-date information regarding implementation of CITES in EU.

For further information on the new website, please visit the website at www.eu-wildlifetrade.org or contact TRAFFIC Europe Regional office.

In 2001, TRAFFIC Europe - France initiated a study to examine imports and re-exports of CITES-listed mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates listed by CITES in France, 1990 - 1999. This study looked exclusively at live animals traded and compiled information on trade volume, trends, species traded, the countries of origin, as well as the purpose and source of trade at a species-by-species level.

The study, which is now nearing completion and will be published later this year, is the first global analysis of French trade in live CITES-listed animals at an international level. It provides a first step towards better understanding of different conservation priorities related to the live animal trade in France.

Like other European Union countries, France demonstrates an increasing fascination with new and unusual pet species: frogs, lizards, snakes, spiders and scorpions. Also, new bird and mammal species are also appearing in pet shops, markets, fairs and exhibitions. Marine ornamentals such as corals and giant clams which can be kept in an aquarium, are also increasingly popular in France. The two-day "Animal Expo" (Paris, September 2002), visited by over 45 000 people and providing an opportunity to buy chameleons, snakes, scorpions, parrots and rodents, further demonstrates France's keen interest in this trade.

Some of the study key findings included the discovery that live reptile imports increased by over 120% during the 1990s: that lizards accounted for 52% of the imports, followed by snakes (27%), turtles and tortoises (20%) and crocodylians (1%); that 93% of African Grey Parrots *Psittacus erithacus* and Senegal Parrots *Poicephalus senegalus* (CITES II) were taken from the wild; and that Viet Nam, the Solomon Islands and Fiji to be the main countries supplying the giant clams imported to France.

TRAFFIC hopes that the new study will serve as a basis for further examination of various aspects of the wildlife trade in France. Areas needing further examination, to name only a few, are preferences and prices of certain species, the nature of national demand, the extent of captive breeding practices and of illegal activities. In addition more detailed information about different stakeholders and trading partners will be needed in order to form a comprehensive picture of the status of the wildlife trade in France.

For future updates on the report, contact TRAFFIC Europe-France and see TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org. The study was generously supported by WWF France.

Ninety-three per cent of African Grey Parrots *Psittacus erithacus* (right) and Senegal Parrots *Poicephalus senegalus* (CITES II) imported to France in 1990-1999 were taken from the wild.



Crawford Allan / TRAFFIC International

Wildlife conservation becomes a matter of attitude in South Korea

The use of pangolin scales and musk is on the increase among traditional medicine practitioners in South Korea, according to a new report by TRAFFIC. Coming on the heels of the 10th anniversary of South Korea's ratification of CITES in July 2003, the results of the report are also encouraging, indicating a decline in use of Tiger, rhinoceros and bear in traditional medicine in the country.

TRAFFIC East Asia documented the attitudes of traditional Korean medicine practitioners towards use and conservation of wildlife species of medicinal value based on a postal survey conducted in 2001. All trade in the five species covered by the survey is either banned (Tiger and rhinoceros) or highly restricted (musk deer, bear, and pangolin) under South Korea's laws and CITES.

The survey found that a significant proportion of the more established practitioners acknowledge the need to regulate the trade and are well aware of wildlife regulations. A marked gap in knowledge regarding wildlife regulations exists only among the practitioners with less than five years work experience. However, almost a third of the respondents also stated their intention to continue to use banned or restricted medicinal ingredients, mainly because of the perceived lack of effective substitutes or their conviction about the medical efficacy of the ingredient.

To address these contradictory results, the health and conservation authorities should work together to test the efficacy of substitutes, and promote the use of alternatives to banned and restricted medicinal ingredients.

"It is vital to learn what traditional Korean medicine practitioners think are the feasible solutions so that we can ensure both the future development of traditional Korean medicine and the conservation of

medicinal species," said Sue Kang, co-author of the report. "The will to change practices and find sustainable solutions clearly exists – and we need to ensure that means to achieve such change are available."

The report calls for market research to be carried out on the use of species with increasing demand and species with apparently more stable demand. This is essential to understanding the dynamics of the illegal trade in endangered species used as medicine. Also, review of South Korea's existing system for implementation of CITES and its domestic controls is needed. Prompt action is of great importance as South Korea's population is increasingly elderly with chronic conditions that traditional Korean medicine treatments are well suited to. As a result, the demand for traditional Korean medicine is likely to increase in future.

The success of actions taken will depend on the involvement of all those with a vested interest in traditional Korean medicine, from users to practitioners to traders to regulators alike. TRAFFIC hopes that the report which is the result of a collaborative effort between TRAFFIC and the traditional Korean medicine community, will serve as an incentive to step up efforts to achieve long-term solutions for the future development of traditional Korean medicine as well as for the survival of endangered species.

*For a copy of the report *A Question of Attitude: South Korea's Traditional Medicine Practitioners and Wildlife Conservation* contact TRAFFIC East Asia, or visit www.traffic.org. The report was generously funded by WWF-US.*

Joint efforts underway to ensure the sustainability of medicinal plants in the Balkans

Stocks of many medicinal plant species in the Balkan countries have declined in the past decades with some species becoming rare or endangered due to habitat loss, habitat modification and over-exploitation, among other reasons. A study released in September 2003 by The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and carried out by WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Europe reveals that action is now needed to fix and implement measures to avert the further depletion of medicinal plant populations in the Balkan countries, most of which are preparing for accession to the European Union.

The new study looks into the current volumes of medicinal plant trade, the sourcing of medicinal plants from protected areas and the legal situation in

five selected Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania. It also analyses several
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Certifying certification for medicinal plants in India

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

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current projects aiming at a sustainable use of medicinal plants in protected areas in the region and evaluates the potential for using protected areas to effectively link nature and species conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Western Europe's herbal industry, especially in Germany, which is the largest European medicinal plant importer, relies on medicinal plant supplies taken from the wild in the Balkans. In those countries, which supply them, medicinal plants are a controversial topic. The livelihoods of many people in rural areas depend to a considerable extent on the wild collection of such plants, but over-harvesting has depleted wild populations of many medicinal plant species in areas, where they were abundant only some 10 to 15 years ago.

The study found that the medicinal and aromatic plant species wild-collected in the largest quantities in the region are presently sage in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina, juniper in Bosnia-Herzegovina, dog-rose in Bulgaria, nettle in Croatia, Field Shave-grass *Equisetum arvense* in Croatia, as well as bilberry and raspberry in Romania. Species like Yellow Gentian *Gentiana lutea* and Mountain Tea *Sideritis raeseri* have become threatened almost throughout their natural range in the Balkans.

Most medicinal plants in the Balkans are collected from the wild by the local population. As a rule, one or more intermediate traders and wholesalers are involved in the chain-of-custody of the trade; direct marketing by individual collectors or collectors' co-operatives is uncommon. As a consequence, the share of the export price being earned by individual collectors is usually low. At the same time, all five countries have developed a comprehensive system of laws and other regulations related to environmental issues and the conservation of natural resources. With the exception of Bulgaria, however, the implementation and enforcement of legal instruments has been so far relatively ineffective.

In December 2002, a seminar convened by BfN, WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Europe in the Isle of Vilm, Germany, brought together medicinal plant experts from the Balkans and Germany to discuss ecological, social and financial implications of medicinal plant sourcing and trade in the Balkans and at the same

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The results of a TRAFFIC study examining whether certification can be used to secure a sustainable future for India's medicinal plants, harvesters and consumers will be published in the *TRAFFIC Online Report* series in mid-November. The resulting report, produced by TRAFFIC consultant Pushp Jain, builds on earlier TRAFFIC research documenting the overexploitation of medicinal plant species in India to supply the huge demand for ayurvedic and other traditional medicines in that country. Research was initiated in 2002 to see if independent (third party) certification schemes, such as that implemented by the Forest Stewardship Council, could reduce unsustainable harvests and bring greater returns to those adopting sustainable practices.

TRAFFIC's research included interviews with a range of stakeholders, from certification organizations, to industry, to NGOs. Information gathered from interviews was complemented by findings from internet and library searches and from the specially convened *Consultation on the Certification of Medicinal Plants*, held in August 2003.

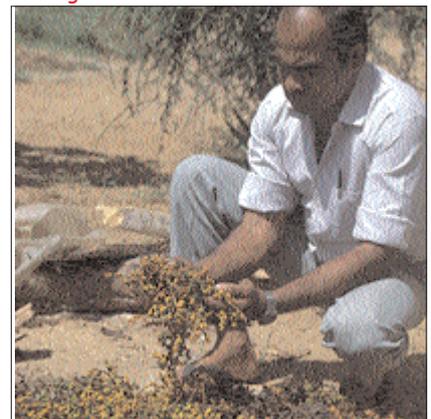
The study documents the various types of certification in use in India that might apply to medicinal plants. These include independent certification schemes aimed at promoting sustainable production, setting and confirming adherence to organic and fair trade standards, and at setting quality standards, both of raw material and of production methods. Government schemes such as 'ECOMARK' and those of the International Standards Organization (ISO) were also reviewed.

Despite the large number of schemes in operation in India, none currently applies to plants traded for medicinal use within Indian markets, although there is excitement among stakeholders, particularly within government agencies, about the idea of exploring the use of certification. It appears that consumers in India are likely to be less excited, however, as they are not well aware of the ecological and social aspects of medicinal plant harvest and trade, let alone inclined to seek out products certified as produced in a sustainable and socially responsible manner. The lack of a domestic market for certified medicinal plant products, combined with the widely dispersed and unstructured nature of medicinal plant

harvests and trade channels, suggest that certification systems relying on consumer demand are not a viable option for medicinal plant conservation in India at present. The study therefore recommends other approaches to addressing overexploitation, including the development of 'good sourcing practices' for industry. As well as distributing the report to key decision makers in India, TRAFFIC will be seeking funding to act on its results. The future of India's medicinal plants, medicinal systems and medicinal plant harvesters may depend on it.

For further updates on the report, please visit TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org. The report was generously funded by The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation.

Medicinal plants in an ayurvedic hospital herb garden.



© WWF-Canon / Manu Raatikari

North America sturgeon and paddlefish stocks at risk

In May 2003, TRAFFIC North America released a report *Caviar and Conservation: Status, Management, and Trade of North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish*. This report provides the most comprehensive assessment done of North American sturgeon and paddlefish management since the dramatic decline of the Caspian Sea industry in the past decade. The report examines also other threats to sturgeon and paddlefish in North America, including pollution, damming of rivers and unregulated commercial fishing.

The focus of the report is on the performance of US and Canadian management bodies, current trends in legal and illegal trade, implementation of recent listings and resolutions adopted by the parties to the CITES and the state of commercial aquaculture and sustainable production from the wild.

The results of the study show an increase in both legal and illegal catch and trade of paddlefish and sturgeon in North America in recent years, apparently coinciding with the dramatic decline of beluga sturgeon and other traditional caviar-producing fisheries around the Caspian Sea. Today, North American sturgeon and paddlefish are the largest alternative fisheries to the Caspian Sea for caviar production. The harvest of sturgeon and paddlefish eggs for caviar could have a significant impact on several North American species, including those already considered endangered or threatened.

However, the results of the report show that North American fisheries alone

cannot supply global demand, potentially jeopardizing fish management and trade in the USA and Canada. Demand in major caviar-consuming countries, primarily in the European Union, Japan and the United States, far outstrips what North American wild stocks and commercial aquaculture are currently producing. The fledgling aquaculture industry is years away from being able to supplant production from wild sources.

In North America, caviar can be a profitable industry, but only if states with healthy paddlefish and sturgeon populations manage the resource carefully. There are still some serious regulatory gaps that need to be filled.

TRAFFIC's hope is that the new report provides information to continue the dialogue among state and federal biologists, fisheries managers, policy makers, the caviar industry, fishermen, and commercial aquaculture interests that began at the *Symposium on Harvest, Trade and Conservation of North American Paddlefish and Sturgeon*, which was held in May 1998 Chattanooga, Tennessee.

For more information on the report and a copy of the full report, please visit www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_tna or contact TRAFFIC North America.

The production of this report was generously funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Fisheries trade measures - WTO compatible?

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

Among the debates surrounding the World Trade Organization (WTO) are issues of whether WTO trade rules should outweigh those established by inter-national environmental agreements. TRAFFIC has tackled this question head on in the case of trade measures used by regional fisheries organisations (RFOs), and in September published the report *Regional Fisheries Organizations and the World Trade Organization: Compatibility or Conflict?*

The report assesses the RFO/WTO relationship by identifying the types of trade measures used or potentially used by RFOs in conjunction with agreements such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). It then examines the relevant WTO rules and jurisprudence in a search for the potential for conflict between RFOs and WTO, and provides possible scenarios involving WTO challenges of RFO measures.

Trade measures used, or potentially used, by RFOs aim to achieve various purposes, the most important of which is to ensure compliance with their conservation and management regimes. As such, most trade measures are aimed at combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. These measures include requiring specified documentation on catches, prohibiting landings and transshipments from particular vessels, trade-restrictive measures as well as certification and labelling schemes.

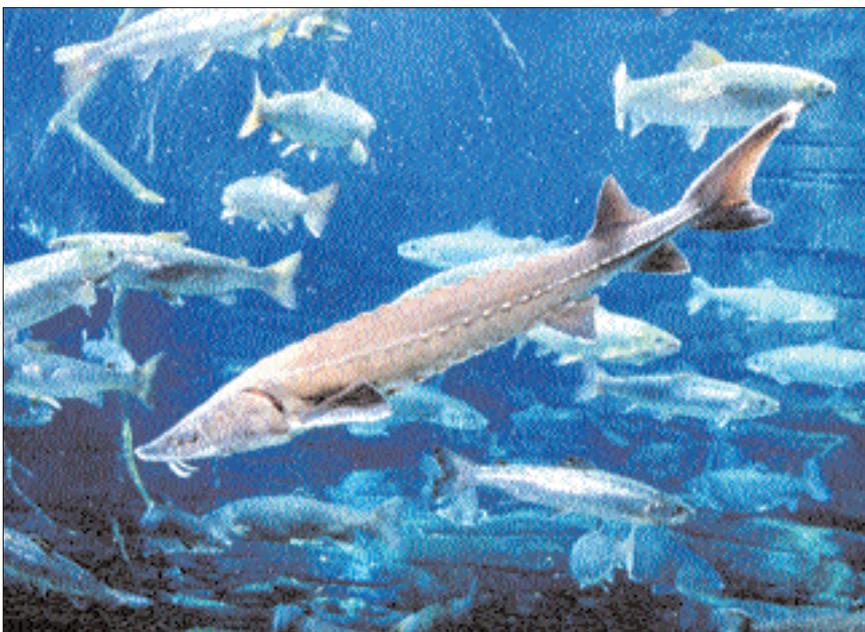
The report proposes the most likely outcomes, and concludes with recommendations for avoiding future conflicts between WTO and RFOs. Recommendations are also provided with regard to reducing the potential for conflicts between WTO and trade measures used in multilateral environmental agreements more generally.

For more information and a copy of the full report, please contact TRAFFIC International or visit the website at www.traffic.org/news/fisheries_trade.html

The production of this report was generously funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

*

Richard T. Bryant, courtesy of the Tennessee Aquarium



(Balkans) continued from page 13...

time served as one of the main incentives to develop the study.

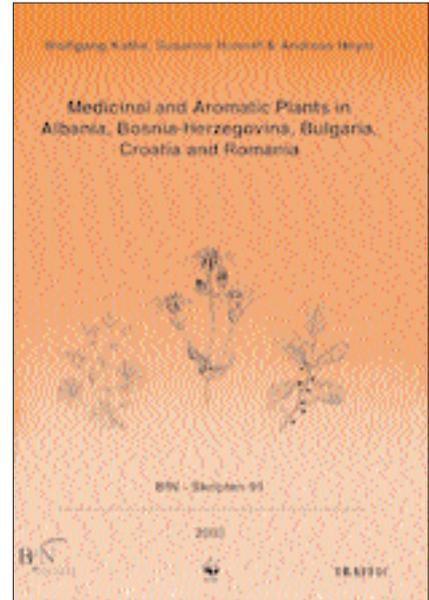
Based on the results of the study and the seminar, action at several levels is urgently needed in most areas in the Balkans. Among other things, medicinal and aromatic plant populations and wild collection activities have to be assessed and species-specific and geographic harvest limits for wild-collection need to be determined.

Effective control and monitoring mechanisms must be established and a comprehensive management plan has to be developed for every protected area, which should guarantee that medicinal and aromatic plant sourcing does not exceed sustainable levels.

In addition, collectors must – over the long term – be guaranteed a certain income level. It may be possible to achieve higher market prices if the raw material is processed in the region and products are sold on the national and international markets.

BfN, WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Germany continue their joint efforts to make the use of natural resources, such as medicinal and aromatic plants, from which nature conservation, local farmers and collectors, traders and producers of herbal products and the consumers of these products will all have a long-term benefit.

For more information, please visit the TRAFFIC network website at http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/balkan_plant.html or contact TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office.



Report title:
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania by Wolfgang Kathe, Susanne Honnef and Andreas Heym. (BfN, 2003)

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