

illegal saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) skin imports from Thailand laundered through Singapore were uncovered and documented in 1989 before that species reservation was withdrawn.

The Japanese reptile industry imports turtle skins for belts, wallets, handbags, and shoes as well as other leather products. Next to crocodilian skin, olive ridley skin is the most valued by the industry for its fine grain and use in small leather products. During Japan's nine years as a CITES party the country imported 46,718 kilos of processed turtle leather which represents an estimated 156,000 olive ridley turtles (based on a conversion rate of 0.3 kilos per set of leather). About 98 percent or 45,952 kilos of these were from Mexico and are estimated to represent over 153,000 Mexican turtles. In addition, from 1981 to 1987 Japan imported 88,408 kilos of raw turtle skins from Ecuador and Panama, estimated to represent over 35,000 Latin American olive ridley turtles (based on a conversion rate of 2.5 kilos per set of skin.) (Japanese custom statistics were revised in 1988 and no longer list raw skins separately).

(TRAFFIC(Japan); Japanese Customs statistics)

Korean Rhino Horn Market is Still Cause for Concern

A TRAFFIC(Japan) survey of 111 oriental medicine clinics in South Korea has revealed that 64 percent or 71 shops had rhino horn or horn derivatives for sale, disproving a previous conclusion that demand for rhino horn was decreasing in that country. Based upon prices in these clinics, the real market value for raw horn is about U.S. \$4,410 per kilo (\$9,702 per pound) up from a 1986 estimate of \$1,771 per kilo (\$3,896 per pound). In view of the "sharp increase in the percentage of clinics dealing in rhino horn products" and a "remarkable" increase in value, TRAFFIC staff state that the Korean

market is still a cause for concern. There are only about 11,000 rhinos of all five species left in the wild.

Most rhino horn in South Korea is used in prescriptions of Uhwangchongshimwon or Chung Shim Won balls, used for the "treatment of high blood pressure, unstable mental conditions (such as hysteria), disorders of the autonomic nervous systems, and insomnia, as well as other ailments." Besides rhino horn, there are 29 other ingredients in Chung Shin Won balls, including two other CITES listed species: ginseng (*Panax ginseng*) and musk (*Moschus spp.*). The South Korean government has attempted to halt the flow of rhino horn in 1983 by prohibiting the import of rhino horn for medicinal purposes and eliminating the use of horn in patented medicinal products; in 1984 by prohibiting the import of rhino horn for purposes other than medicinal except with special permission; and in 1986 by totally prohibiting the importation of rhino horn for any purpose. There have been no official imports of horn in 1986 and 1987, but from 1970 to 1986 South Korea imported a reported 2,857 kilos of rhino horn from the following countries of origin: Burma (30 kilos), China (10 kilos), Hong Kong (37 kilos), India (69 kilos), Indonesia (1901 kilos), Japan (201 kilos), Kenya (35 kilos), Malaysia (51 kilos), Singapore (247 kilos), Thailand (256 kilos), and the United States (20 kilos).

Based upon evidence of demand for horn and the market, TRAFFIC(Japan) recommends that the government register all existing rhino horn stocks and set a deadline whereby all rhino horn use should be banned. In addition, between the registration and ban, the government should require periodic reporting of current inventories. TRAFFIC also recommends that appropriate substitutes for horn in traditional medicines be more vigorously investigated and that Korean monitoring of rhino horn trade be instigated.

A copy of TRAFFIC(Japan)'s 24-page report, "The Rhino Horn Trade in South Korea: Still Cause for Con-

cern" by C. Song and T. Milliken, is available from TRAFFIC(USA) or TRAFFIC(Japan).

Malaysia Extends Macaque Export Ban

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Peninsular Malaysia has advised TRAFFIC(USA) that the export ban of the crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) and the rhesus macaque (*M. nemestrina*), enacted under the Protection of Wildlife (Trade in Specimens of Species under Export Ban) Regulations of 1980, officially expired on 14 June 1989. However, the department says that the ban will be continued for an indefinite time and applies only to the export of these species, not to local consumption.

(Director General, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia)

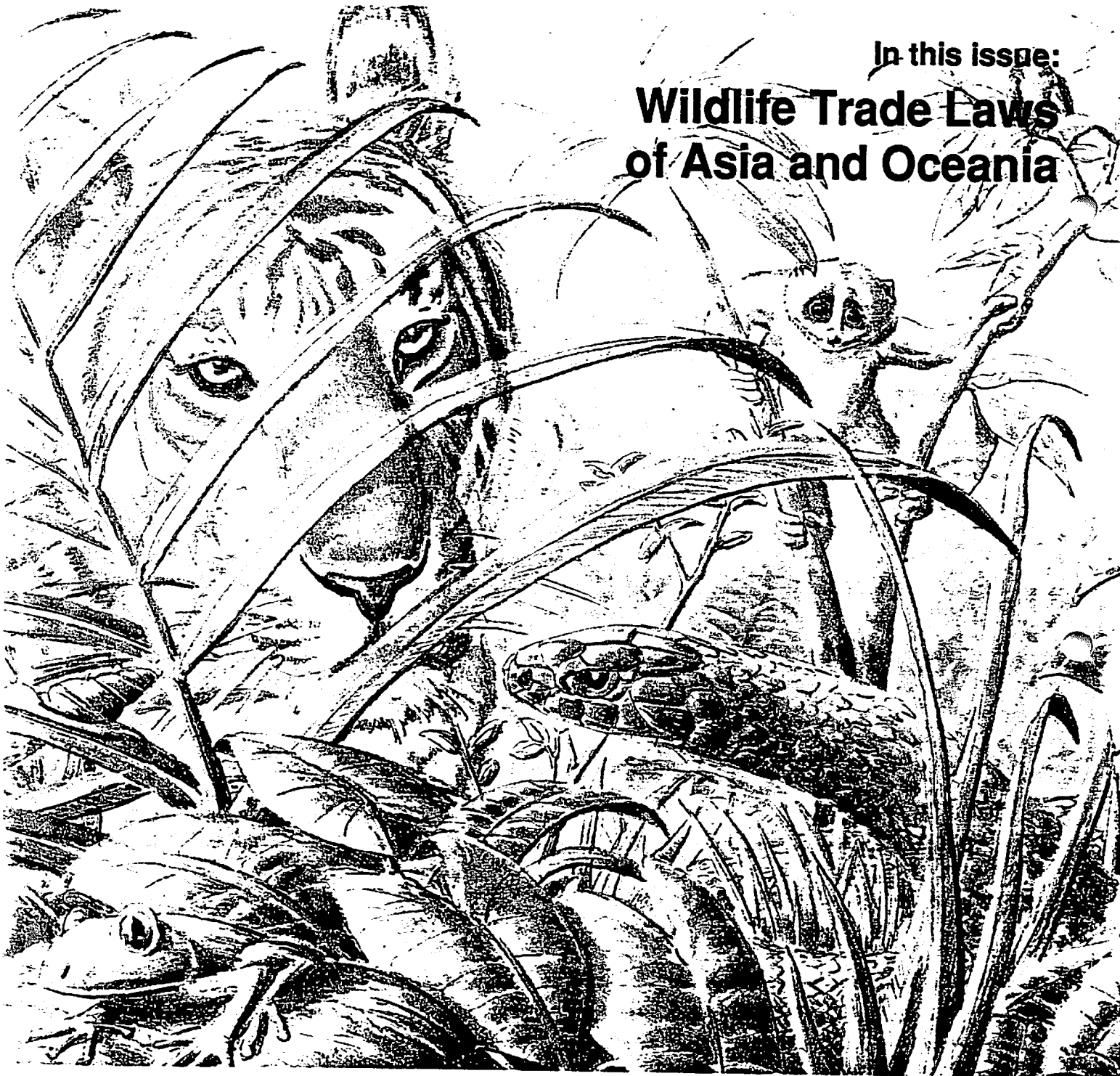
Sudan Bans Wildlife Trade

The director general of the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Forces of Sudan issued a three-year notice, effective 1 January 1989, banning the hunting and capture of mammals, birds, and reptiles in the Republic of Sudan. The notice, adopted in accordance with Article 4 of the Preservation of Wildlife and National Parks Law of 1986, states that the issuance of all licenses for hunting or approvals for export of live animals, parts, or "ornaments" made of animals and parts will cease immediately. Those persons in possession of live animals, parts, or ornaments made thereof should present these possessions, along with documents supporting legal ownership, to the administration within two weeks of the notice. The notice also granted a one-year grace period to those persons who have been established as legal owners of these wildlife parts or ornaments to allow for disposition of them during

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