

ty of live animal shipments, an inventory of crocodilian skin stocks, and stricter control of captive breeding of Appendix I and II species. Administrative measures taken by Italian authorities, as recommended by the CITES Secretariat, include reducing the number of wildlife ports from 38 to 12, production and distribution of a CITES procedure and implementation manual to all officials, establishment of a new Scientific Authority and new procedures for issuance of reexport certificates, and identification of authorities in each ministry authorized to sign CITES permits.

(CITES Notification No. 722, 19 February 1993; TRAFFIC Italy)

NEW EXPORT PROCEDURES IN AUSTRALIA

The management authority of Australia has informed the CITES Secretariat that export and re-export documents will no longer be countersigned by customs officials. This is effective 1 March 1993. It applies to all CITES and non-CITES plants and animals protected by the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act of 1982.

(CITES Notification 740, 7 May 1993)

IVORY AND RHINO HORN SEIZURE IN BELGIUM

Last February, a joint effort of the Belgian police and the Belgian customs investigation service resulted in the seizure of 22 rhino horns and approximately 400 pieces of ivory in Brussels. The rhino horns, weighing 51.2 kilos total, were confiscated on 11 February 1993 from the apartment of an elderly woman who acknowl-

edged that her home had served as a depository for a central Brussels antique shop owner. A subsequent police raid on the antique shop the next day resulted in the seizure of approximately 400 ivory items, 373 worked ivory objects, and 20-30 old ivory polished tusks. Two elephant-foot curios, one snakeskin and one crocodile-skin handbag, a long snakeskin, and one stuffed pangolin were also seized. None of the specimens were covered by documents proving their legal acquisition.

Dr. G. Evrard from the Belgian CITES management authority identified the rhino horns as those from the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*), with the exception of one horn believed to be from an unidentified Asian species. The age of the horns was not determined, but one specimen appeared to be very fresh with tissue still attached at the base. The horns varied in weight, with the heaviest weighing nearly 6 kilos.

Under Belgian law, the penal-

ties for violations range from 1 in prison and a fine U.S.\$300,000.

PARROT TRADE SUSPENDED IN GHANA

The CITES Secretariat recommended that Côte d'Ivoire immediately suspend trade in African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) and *P. erithacus* d'Ivoire. According to the population estimates in that country are low, and large numbers of birds may have been poached in Ghana, which has many of the species. This was based on a confidential report from a governmental organization in Ghana government in grey parrots. The CITES Secretariat recommended that Côte d'Ivoire immediately suspend trade in grey parrots. The CITES Secretariat recommended that Côte d'Ivoire immediately suspend trade in African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) and *P. erithacus* d'Ivoire. According to the population estimates in that country are low, and large numbers of birds may have been poached in Ghana, which has many of the species. This was based on a confidential report from a governmental organization in Ghana government in grey parrots. The CITES Secretariat recommended that Côte d'Ivoire immediately suspend trade in African grey parrots.



Belgian authorities seized 22 horns from black (*Diceros bicornis*) and white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) in February. (WWF)