



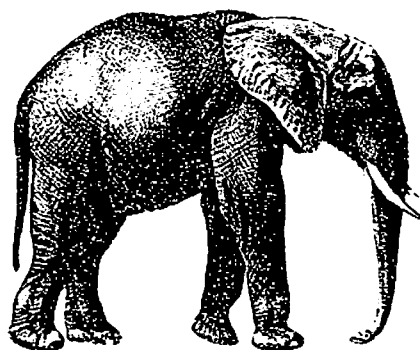
WILDLIFE TRADE MONITORING UNIT

Traffic Bulletin

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Netherlands Ratify CITES

Netherlands has become the 87th Party to CITES, ratifying the Convention on 19 April 1984; this becomes effective on 18 July 1984.

US Refuses Gorillas . . .

Applications by three zoos to import seven Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla*) into the USA from Cameroon (see Bulletin VI(1)) were denied by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on 9 April 1984. The reasons for the denial were conveyed to Mr Richard Parsons of Meyers, Marshall and Meyers, the agent acting for the three zoos, in a four-page letter from R.K. Robinson of the FWS, the US Management Authority for CITES. In summary, Robinson said that the Service was unable to ascertain positively either that the proposed import would not be likely to jeopardize the survival of the species (as required under the US Endangered Species Act) or that the import is for purposes not detrimental to its survival (as required by CITES).

. . . Netherlands Accepts Them

All seven Gorillas arrived in Netherlands on 8 June 1984. They were bought from the Roys in Cameroon, by the Foundation Netherlands National IUCN Committee, and have been deposited on breeding loan at the Burgers Zoological Garden, Arnhem. It was under these circumstances that the CITES Management Authority for Netherlands agreed to issue the import permit, but the following conditions were also specified:

- the Gorillas will only be used for educational and breeding purposes;
- the Roys will only be paid for certain specified expenses; and
- the Gorillas will remain available for an educational project to be started in Cameroon or, if such is not possible, for a breeding programme within the framework of the international studbook.

IUCN Netherlands Committee has paid the Roys 31 US\$27 000 for the seven Gorillas (compared with \$70 000 each reportedly offered by Matthew Block in the USA). However, the Roys are paying approximately half of the money in licensing fees to the Cameroon Government.

Wildlife Export Ban Enforced in Bolivia

Over 18 400 parrots and macaws and over 1500 primates were exported from Bolivia before the total ban on export of live animals came into force for one year on 1 May 1984 (see Traffic Bulletin VI(1):13 and Stop Press). It is believed that most of the birds were destined for the USA. The ban had been postponed from 1 April in order to allow traders to dispose of their stocks. However, more animals had been held in stock than was previously

thought, apparently including some 6000 psittacines that had constituted an illegal shipment and were confiscated as a result of information supplied via WTMU (see Bulletin V(3/4):49).

According to Prodena Bolivia, about 900 parrots and 30 primates were left behind as a result of a dawn raid on the dealers' compound by a youth action group, and were taken for temporary housing to Santa Cruz Zoo, causing overcrowding there. A representative of Prodena Bolivia, Robin Clarke, offered to alleviate this problem by converting a garage in his back garden into a quarantine and rehabilitation centre for the four months it is expected to take before the remaining animals can be returned to the wild. 600 birds have already been released, but due to an unusual, long, cold spell, a number of the remaining parrots died. This was alleviated by the provision of better heating and there are now 72 parrots left. Neither the garage nor the Zoo is able to house the 401 larger macaws; so these have been moved to Buenavista, an estancia on the edge of Amoro, where it is hoped the 72 smaller parrots will go when weather conditions improve. A thatched shelter has been built and food, labour and guards are being provided by the owners. A complete inventory of the specimens is still to be made but there are known to be 25 Green-winged Macaws (*Ara chloroptera*), 20 Scarlet Macaws (*A. macao*), 193 Blue-and-yellow Macaws (*A. ararauna*), 27 Yellow-collared Macaws (*A. auricollis*), 97 Chestnut-fronted Macaws (*A. severa*), and two CITES Appendix I species - a Red-fronted Macaw (*A. rubrogenys*) and a Blue-throated Macaw (*A. glaucogularis*). The overall condition of these parrots has improved after receiving veterinary treatment, although some 11 have already died and a few others are unlikely to recover. Several birds have already been released: about 40 have since returned to the forest and a further 140 remain in trees in the vicinity of the shelter receiving regular feeding while they recover condition. It is hoped that the remaining birds will be rehabilitated within two months.

The primates are still being housed at the Zoo and also await better weather before being moved to Buenavista for release. The International Primate Protection League has provided US\$500 for returning the monkeys to the wild. It is believed, but not confirmed, that these include one Golden Lion Tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*).

The US\$2000 requested to fund the psittacine rehabilitation has been granted by the New York Zoological Society (NYZS), but more funds are still urgently needed.

Forgery of Bolivian Export Permits

The CITES Secretariat has recently discovered that several forged Bolivian export/re-export permits have been issued for shipments destined for France, Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The forged permits (which are possibly part of a series) are virtually identical to the authentic permits, a specimen copy of which was distributed with Notification No. 243 of 6 January 1983, informing Parties of the new Bolivian permits. However, it is obvious when comparing the two certificates that the forged one is of a paler green colour and the permit number placed more to the right than on the authentic one. In addition, the design on the reverse side is more visible and the design on the border at the foot of the permit is quite different on the forged one.

The Secretariat requests that extra care be taken with regard to this matter and asks that all new Bolivian permits already accepted, be examined and copied to them should any forged permits be discovered.

T. tajacu and 1 091 452 skins of *T. pecari* were exported (Smith, 1977). The export of many wildlife products, including peccary skins, from Brazil is now banned but it is probable that they are smuggled out and that a number of skins from Brazil leave South America via other countries where there are no restrictions on their export or where restrictions are less tight.

The total volume of peccary skin exports from South and Central America is not known. Two dealers, one Japanese and the other West German, stated that they had been importing reasonably constant numbers of skins from South America over the past 25 years (Pacific Leather Inc. 1984, *in litt.*; Paul Fehns GmbH. 1984, *in litt.*). The German dealer reported that there had been a small decline in German imports recently and that he expected this to continue. Peru is probably the major exporter although very few comparative data are available. Between 1969 and 1979 Peru is reported to have exported 1 492 963 *T. tajacu* skins and 821 895 *T. pecari* skins (Mack, 1982). Paraguay, despite a ban on commercial wildlife trade since 1981, is another major exporter. A Paraguayan trader estimated that as many as 96 000 Peccary skins are exported from the country every year. The bulk of these were from *T. tajacu* but all three species were included to some extent. Bolivia also exports significant numbers and is known to have sent large shipments to the USA in recent years (Duplaix, 1981). There are no reports of peccary skin exports from Central America.

The Federal Republic of Germany seems to be the major importing country and in 1969 accounted for 81% of *T. tajacu* exports and 82% of *T. pecari* exports from Iquitos, Peru (Hvidberg-Hansen, 1970). The Verband der Deutschen Leder-Industrie, is reported as stating that during the period 1980-81 approximately 120 000 - 150 000 peccary skins had been imported (Frädrieh, 1982). Paul Fehns GmbH. reported that most peccary skins imported into the F.R. Germany were of *T. tajacu*, and that *T. pecari* probably only made up 5-10% of total imports. This dealer states (*in litt.*) that he imports 36 000 skins every year from Paraguay.

The other significant importing countries are Japan, Italy, France and the USA. In 1969 Japan and France accounted for 3% each of *T. tajacu* skin exports from Iquitos, Peru (Hvidberg-Hansen, 1970). Pacific Leather Inc. estimated that total imports of peccary skins into Japan were around 20 000 - 25 000 a year. This dealer has imported around 14 000 skins of *T. tajacu* every year for over 25 years. The United States imports raw peccary skins and finished peccary skin products and in 1969 accounted for 13% of exports of *T. tajacu* skins and 18% of *T. pecari* skins from Iquitos, Peru (Hvidberg-Hansen, 1970). Italy imports a number of peccary skins, and has been known to import from Bolivia and re-export finished goods to the USA.

Conclusions

It appears that, at present, the only source countries from which legal exports of peccary skins may continue are Argentina, Bolivia, Peru and possibly Venezuela. It is certain that a large number of peccary skins are traded, and it is believed that peccary populations are decreasing in some areas, especially *Catagonus wagneri*, which is rapidly losing its restricted habitat. However there is little evidence that the skin trade is a major contributory factor to population decline on any more than a local scale near exporting locations and human population centres. The low prices which are reported to be paid to hunters for the skins seem to be a strong restriction on the development of commercial hunting. The threat of the skin trade could be better assessed if the trade were documented more fully to provide a better picture of trends in volume and source countries.

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Rhino Horn Imports into Korea

Rhino horn imported into the Republic of Korea during 1983 was valued at US\$162 000, an increase on the 1982 figure of 26 000 for a quantity of 236 kg of horn (see Traffic Bulletin VI(1):3-4). The quantity imported in 1983, however, was not available.

National Bureau of Statistics, Economic Planning Board, Republic of Korea.

Namibia Abides by Convention

South West Africa is not a Party to CITES. However, its Department of Agriculture & Nature Conservation has stated in a letter dated 20 January 1984 to the CITES Secretariat, that Namibia will abide by the decision of the Convention not to allow any commercial trade in, or export of, rhino products until such trade is again permitted.

Exceptions will be made, however, in cases where persons who are in legal possession of rhino products emigrate to other countries or in cases where animals have been bred in captivity and were hunted by trophy hunters.

The New Australian Wildlife Act

by Frank Antram, TRAFFIC (Australia)

The Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982 was finally proclaimed by the Commonwealth of Australia, after a lengthy delay, and came into operation on 1 May 1984. The Act replaces the various Regulations under the Customs Act 1901 which enabled Australia's ratification of CITES in 1976. However, permits issued under the Customs (Endangered Species) Regulations and which are still current, remain valid. The object of the new Act is to enforce the obligations of Australia under CITES and also to further the protection and conservation of the wild fauna and flora of Australia and of other countries by regulating the import and export of wildlife. There are 8 Schedules to the Act; all except Schedules 5 and 8 may be amended from time to time by the Minister of State for Home Affairs and Environment by instrument published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

Schedule 1 lists those taxa on Appendix I to CITES, except Cetacea, plus the official list of Australian endangered vertebrate fauna endorsed by the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) and the bird species covered by the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction, and their Environment.

Schedule 2 lists those taxa on Appendix II to CITES, except Cetacea.

Schedule 3 lists all species of the order Cetacea.

Schedule 4 lists native Australian species, the export of which is not controlled under the Act. These are marine fish, Barramundi (Lates calcarifer), certain specified invertebrates, seeds and spores, fruit not attached to any part of a plant, timber and articles derived from timber, and oil from a plant of the genus Eucalyptus.*

Schedule 5 lists live animals and plants, the import of which is not controlled under the Act. This Schedule refers largely to domesticated animals and animals and plants that are biological control agents of a kind approved for general release under the Quarantine Act 1908.

Schedule 6, like Schedule 5, lists live animals and plants the import of which is not controlled under the Act. This Schedule differs from the previous in that it may be altered by the Minister by instrument published in the Gazette. Currently the Schedule lists certain species of freshwater and marine fish and live plants, the introduction of which into Australia is in accordance with the Quarantine Act 1908.

Schedule 7 lists species of native Australian animals eligible to be treated as household pets. Three species of parrot, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita), Galah (Eolophus roseicapillus) and the Budgerigar (Melopsittacus undulatus), are the only animals listed.

Schedule 8 comprises the text of CITES.

Strict import and export controls apply to taxa on Schedules 1, 2 and 3. Permits for Schedule 3 species will only be issued under exceptional circumstances. Export controls apply to all live animals and plants except those on Schedule 4. Import controls apply to all live animals and plants except those listed on Schedules 5 and 6. Permits will only be issued for Schedule 1 specimens for zoo or scientific research purposes, or if the specimen is captive-bred or artificially propagated. Permits for export of native Australian wildlife and import or export of Schedule 2 species taken from the wild, will only be issued if the specimen was taken in accordance with an

approved management programme. At the time of writing, the following management programmes have been approved:-

The Macropod Conservation Programme in South Australia, Part A. (for Macropus rufus, M. fuliginosus, M. robustus).

Kangaroo Conservation and Management in Queensland (for M. rufus, M. giganteus, M. robustus, M. parryi).

Kangaroo Management in New South Wales (for M. rufus, M. giganteus, M. fuliginosus, M. robustus).

The Status and Management of Bennett's Wallaby M. rufogriseus and Rufous Wallaby Thylogale billardierii in Tasmania.

Western Australia Kangaroo Management Programmes (for M. rufus, M. fuliginosus, M. robustus).

The Status and Management of the Brush Possum Trichosurus vulpecula in Tasmania.

Management of the Short-tailed Shearwater Puffinus tenuirostris in Tasmania.

Western Australia Management of Commercial Harvesting of Protected Plants other than Gazetted Rare Plants.

The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS) is responsible for administering the Act while enforcement is the responsibility of the Australian Customs Service and the Australian Federal Police. Under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Regulations, fees ranging from A\$5 to A\$50 may be charged for permits granted. Penalties, under the Act, for not having a permit include a fine of up to A\$100 000 and a maximum of five years in prison. An Inspector under the Act may arrest, without warrant, any person that he suspects, on reasonable grounds, of committing or having committed an offence under the Act.

The Act allows for public scrutiny of permits by requiring particulars of applications, permits granted and refused and specimens imported and exported to be published in the Gazette. Applications for review of decisions on permits may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, under the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975, by persons whose interests are affected.

The Commonwealth of Australia is to be congratulated on producing a tough piece of legislation for the control of wildlife trade but, as with any legislation, its effectiveness will depend on how well it is administered and enforced.

* a later amendment to the Schedule included honey; faeces; and specimens, other than live animals, of seven species of Macropodidae which are the personal property of persons departing from Australia and are not for commercial purposes.

Australian Parrots Seized

Australian Customs officers seized 17 Major Mitchell's Cockatoos Cacatua leadbeateri in January 1984 at Sydney Airport. The birds were en route for Bangkok, Thailand, which would appear to be one of the major 'clearing houses' for smuggled Australian birds. The courier was fined A\$3000 and there is a conspiracy prosecution pending. During February, another courier was apprehended at Sydney Airport attempting to take 15 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos Calyptorhynchus f. funereus out of the country and was fined A\$1000. The destination was again Thailand.

TRAFFIC (Australia)