

Furthermore, there is concern that the large nets used may be destroying the sea grass beds and their associated benthic life.

There is little concern over the shellcraft industry at present, since stocks seem adequate but thought should be given to the future survival of the trade. At Bolinao, the local Museum was attempting to instil a strong feeling for conservation into the local community, largely as a result of the efforts of a US Peace Corps Worker. The Curator of the Museum was continuing this work; a science club had been set up and slide shows had been given with speakers coming from Manila. Attempts had been made to explain to shell collectors that the present rate of exploitation and methods in use could well be damaging to the long term survival of the shellcraft industry. The NRM and the Ministry of Human Settlements are producing an inventory of local handicrafts produced in the Philippines in line with encouraging cottage industries. In theory, they should be interested in ensuring a sustainable yield of the species involved.

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## Rhino Horn Smuggling Operation Uncovered

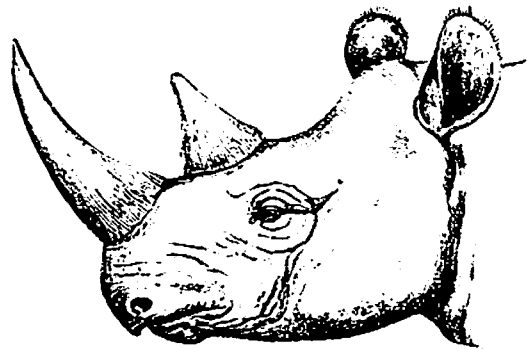
Police investigations are being carried out after reports of a rhino horn smuggling operation from the Hluhluwe and Umfolozi game reserves.

Investigations have been going on for several months since it was discovered that large stocks of rhino horn in the Board's possession were missing.

A spokesman for the Natal Parks Board, when asked what had prompted the investigation, said "We were aware that some trafficking in rhino horn was taking place from Zululand". There has since been an internal investigation but whether an employee is involved is a matter for conjecture and no charges have yet been made. The man in charge of the Natal Parks Board, Mr Dering Stainbank MEC gave the assurance that there would be no cover-up and added that the Committee and Board fully backed the prosecution of anyone involved in the smuggling "no matter who they are". Whether or not a board

employee is involved, it appears that the mastermind behind the operation may well have escaped detection after police investigations into the matter were 'leaked'.

Meanwhile, a game guard is standing trial on charges of shooting four rhino and five buffalo in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. During the trial it was revealed that the horn had been cut from the rhino and two were given to one Mary Xulu, who in a separate trial was fined R250 (or six months imprisonment) with an additional R250 (or six months imprisonment) for her dealings with rhino horn. This is the first evidence of poaching in rhino horn in Zululand. With prices for rhino horn having risen about 2000 per cent over the last 5 years in the Far and Middle East, poaching has become a highly lucrative business and poachers much more daring and aggressive in their methods. Armed not only with traditional weapons, gangs of poachers are now accompanied by packs of dogs and frequently use firearms to attack armed guards. It was recently reported that poachers in Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda were using AK-47 assault rifles and even RPG-7 rockets to slaughter the rhino.



Source: Natal Daily News & Natal Mercury.

## UK Acts for Tortoise Welfare

Anyone in the UK purchasing a 'pet' tortoise of European origin will in future have to sign an undertaking to look after it properly. This Direction has been made by the Secretary of State for the Environment in exercise of his powers under Section 6 of the Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act 1976. A purchaser must undertake to keep the animals at a specified address where they may be inspected at any time by the Department of the Environment and where the accommodation is of a suitable size and temperature. These last requirements, together with details of food to be supplied, are specified in the document which the purchaser must sign. Anyone convicted of breaking the terms of this Direction is liable to a fine not exceeding £400.

## Japanese Timber Imports

Relatively little has been published in the conservation press concerning the species of timber involved in trade and their countries of origin. Such data are often difficult to obtain since a large number of dealers are involved and they rarely divulge their sources, for commercial reasons. A recent paper, Browne (1980), which gives a list of Bark and Ambrosia Beetles collected at Japanese ports, also gives data on the tree species involved, together with the countries of origin, and the table below summarises this information.

Millettia stuhlmanii  
Guibourtia ehie  
Tieghemella africana  
Tieghemella sp.  
Pinus insularis  
Dipterocarpus

Tectona grandis  
Agathis sp.

Agathis philippinensis  
Santiria  
Alstoria

Diospyros

Red Chacata  
Cyathea sp.  
Pinus sp.  
Intsia sp.  
Pterocarpus

Dalbergia sp.  
Shorea sp.

Nauclea sp.  
Triplochiton scleroxylon  
Antiaris africana  
Copaifera

Paulownia  
Anisoptera glabra  
Rubber wood

Dyera  
Pterocymbium  
Carpinus betulus  
Alnus  
Pinus radiata

Khaya  
Copaifera

Mimusops djave

Anisoptera  
Gardenia  
Afromosja  
Pinus merkusii

Sandal wood  
Pterocarpus angolensis

Tanzania  
Ivory Coast  
Congo  
Cameroon  
Vietnam  
Cambodia  
Sumatra &  
Mentawai Is.  
Philippines  
Thailand  
Borneo  
Moluccas  
Philippines  
Borneo  
Sumatra &  
Mentawai Is.  
Celebes  
Celebes  
Java  
Mozambique  
Formosa  
Vietnam  
Thailand  
Sumatra  
Thailand  
Gabon  
Cameroon  
India  
Philippines  
Borneo  
Moluccas  
Celebes  
Sumatra &  
Mentawai Is.  
Borneo  
Ivory Coast  
Ghana  
Gabon  
Cameroon  
China  
Cambodia  
Malaya  
Singapore  
Sumatra  
New Britain  
Iran  
Iran  
New Zealand  
Chile  
Africa  
Africa  
Cameroon  
Gabon  
Africa  
Ivory Coast  
Cameroon  
Congo  
Thailand  
Thailand  
Congo  
Sumatra &  
Mentawai Is.  
Java  
Mozambique  
Tanzania

Pometia  
Diospyros  
Palaquium

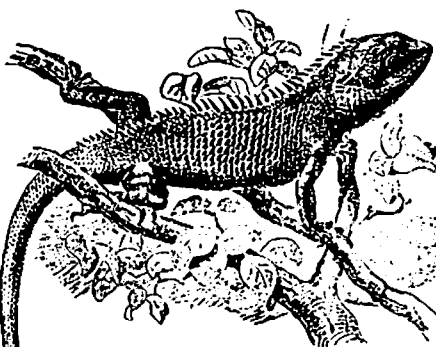
Cratozylon

Unident.

Pterocymbium  
Dillenia

Borneo  
Celebes  
Celebes  
New Guinea  
Sumatra &  
Mentawai Is.  
Malaya  
Ceylon  
Solomon Is.  
New Guinea  
New Britain  
Borneo  
Liberia  
Formosa  
Cameroon  
Ivory Coast  
New Britain  
Solomon Is.

Reference: Browne, F.G. 1980, Bark Beetles and Ambrosia Beetles (Coleoptera, Scolytidae and Platypodidae) Intercepted at Japanese Ports, with descriptions of new species. Kontyu, Vol. 48, 370-389, 482-500.



## Lizard Skin Smuggling Foiled

An attempt at smuggling lizard skin worth 1½ cr taka (approx. US\$558,000) out of Khulna District, Bangladesh has been foiled. The haul, stowed on a private ship, was detected (and apparently seized) by a duty officer on 11 January '82. It is believed that the Clearing Officer of the exporter - Wheat bran export - and some customs officials were involved. On 16 February '82, another 2,200 lizard skins were seized in the same area.

Source: Bull. Soc. for Conservation of Nature and Environment No. 5., 1982.

## Zambia Bans Ivory and Rhino Horn Exports

On 23 January 1982, the Government of Zambia prohibited the hunting of elephant and rhinoceros under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (Elephant and Rhinoceros) Regulations 1982. The Regulations also revoked immediately all outstanding hunting licences and prohibited the non-governmental export of elephant ivory, except manufactured articles, and the import, export or possession of rhinoceros horn in any shape or form.



# TRAFFIC BULLETIN

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## New Secretary-General for CITES

Following the departure from the CITES Secretariat last year of Peter Sand to become Assistant Director-General of IUCN, Jaques Berney (Executive Secretary) has been Acting Secretary-General. After a lengthy selection and recruitment process, the name of the new Secretary-General of CITES was announced on 22 March 1982 - Eugene Lapointe from Canada, who took up his duties from 15 April 1982. Mr Lapointe was formerly legal officer with the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa where, since 1974, he was responsible for CITES enforcement matters.

## ... and staff changes at WTMU

Chris Huxley joined WTMU on 10 May as head of the Unit, in effect filling the position which had been vacant for more than a year, since the departure of John Burton. Chris, whom a number of readers will know personally, has wide experience of CITES matters and wildlife trade in general. Previous to his appointment to WTMU he spent five months with the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland and three months in eight African countries on a WWF/IUCN CITES contract. Before that he spent some years in Hong Kong where he was responsible for CITES enforcement.

Readers of this Bulletin will be disappointed to hear of the departure of Clare McCormack. The present standard and style of the Bulletin owe much to Clare's initiative and enthusiasm. She is much missed by the staff of WTMU. However, we welcome Kim Lochen to WTMU; Kim takes over responsibility for the production of the Bulletin.

## Animals Seized At Gatwick

On 15 May 1982, two pygmy marmosets Cebuella pygmaea, four tamarins, one baby red-billed (or red-backed) toucan Ramphastidae spp., and three acuchi Myoprocta pratti, were discovered in a hidden compartment of a crate containing wild birds which were being shipped under licence via Gatwick from Ecuador to Belgium. The tamarins, first thought to be moustached tamarins Saguinus mystax are now believed to be juvenile male black-mantled tamarins Saguinus nigricollis, although this is not yet certain. The primates, which had been confined to a space just  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 27$  inches, are now recovering in Edinburgh Zoo though one tamarin died soon after its arrival at the zoo. The importer, a Mr Frank Vercammen from Belgium, states that he had received permission from the Belgian government, but UK Customs officials are planning to initiate an international prosecution.

Source: The Mail on Sunday (16.5.82)  
RSPCA

## Malawi Accedes to CITES

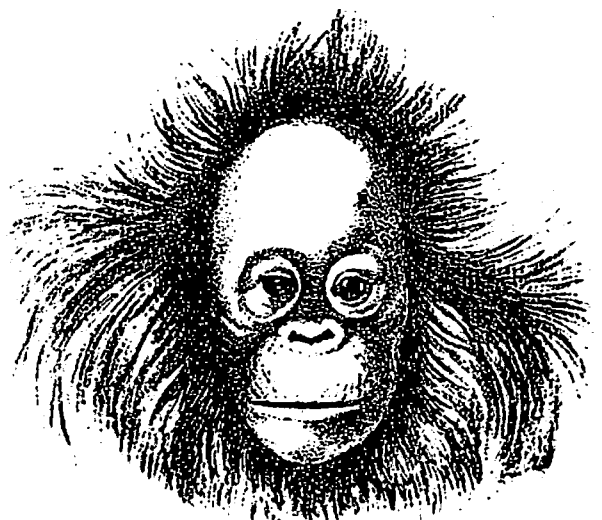
On 5 February 1982, Malawi acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, thus becoming the 77th member country. Malawi's accession becomes effective as of 6 May 1982.

## Argentina Protects its Cats

Argentina has banned exports of all skins of all indigenous Argentinian felids, excluding the puma, Felis concolor. This ban came into effect from 12 Jan 1982 according to a notification from the CITES Secretariat dated 22 March 1982. The ban also covers hunting and trading of the maned wolf Chrysocyon brachyurus.

## Taiwan Seizes Smuggled Orang-utans

Five orang-utans (Pongo pygmaeus), one gibbon (Hylobates sp.) and a bear (probably Helarctos malayanus) were recently seized by Taiwanese customs officials. According to Taiwan's Central Daily News (22.2.82), they had been smuggled out of Indonesia by Taiwanese seamen. Yet according to an American conservationist, the designation of Indonesia as a health risk area by WHO, meant that the animals could be destroyed for health reasons. If they passed quarantine requirements, said the Daily News (23.2.82), they would be sent to zoos. The concerned American has been campaigning for the animals to be rehabilitated in Indonesia, but WTMU has yet to receive news of his success.



## Apology

We apologise for the omission of the date and number in our last issue, headlined CITES Appendices. This should have been Vol. III No. 6.