



WILDLIFE TRADE MONITORING UNIT

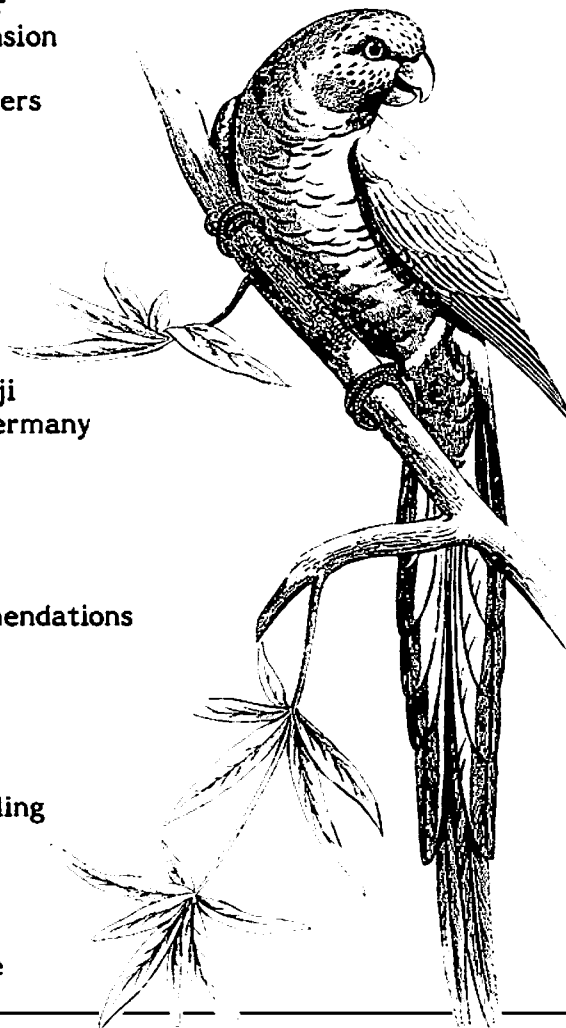
Traffic Bulletin

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Belize in CITES

Belize has sent to the CITES Secretariat a declaration of succession, stating that they consider themselves as bound by the Convention since the date of their accession to independence (21 September 1981). Before that date, Belize implemented CITES under the ratification of the UK. This brings the total number of CITES Parties to ninety-three.

Singapore Halts Rhino Horn Trade

On 24 October 1986, the Singapore Government gazetted a Prohibition Order on the import and export of rhino horn, with immediate effect, thus effectively stopping further international trade in rhino horn through Singapore.

Source: CITES Secretariat

CITES Urges a Halt to Trade with El Salvador

El Salvador, a country whose wildlife is very depleted, has become one of the main problem countries in Central America with regard to control of trade in wildlife. In spite of repeated efforts by the CITES Secretariat to establish direct contact with the competent authorities about the trade problems in that country, the situation has not significantly changed.

At the CITES Technical Committee meeting in June 1986, a Secretariat proposal that all Parties be asked to prohibit immediately any trade in CITES specimens with El Salvador, was fully supported. At the same time, the Secretariat committed itself to write to the President of that country to ask him to intervene in order to accelerate the process of accession to CITES. Consequently, in a Notification dated 4 July 1986, the Secretariat urged all Parties to take immediately all possible measures in order to prevent and prohibit any trade in specimens of species listed in CITES Appendices from or through El Salvador, until the Secretariat is satisfied that this country has taken the necessary measures to remedy the situation.

Source: CITES Secretariat

Japan Sends Tamarins Home

The three-year deadlock, which has prevented the Japanese-held Golden-headed Lion Tamarins *Leontopithecus rosalia chrysomelas* from being returned to their native Brazil, was finally resolved through the intervention of World Wildlife Fund-Japan. In a ceremony at Tokyo's Narita Airport on 11 September, the twelve animals in question were officially presented by WWF to representatives of the Brazilian Government for the 24-hour journey back to their homeland.

The Appendix I Tamarins became an international focal point for the quality of CITES implementation in Japan. They were originally imported, with the approval of the Japanese CITES Management Authority, in the autumn of 1983, on the basis of Guyana permits stating that they had been 'captive-bred' there. The permits were subsequently confirmed to have been forgeries and not to have been authorized by the Guyana CITES

authorities. Brazil, the country from which this endemic species originates requested the return of the animals under the provisions of the Convention. However, deficiencies in Japanese domestic law prevented the Government from seizing the animals which remained in the hands of the Nihon Daira Zoo in Shizuoka, the Japan Monkey Center in Inuyama, and at an animal dealer's compound in Okinawa. While the Japanese Government attempted to resolve the issue through lengthy negotiations, concern for the endangered animals mounted. In late 1985, an expert in the species, Dr Coimbra Filho of the Rio de Janeiro Primatology Center, viewed the pair at the Japan Monkey Center and pronounced the animals, particularly the female, to be in poor health due to improper diet, caging, and lack of sunlight.

Finally, the Japanese Government turned to WWF-Japan to help cover the financial costs of obtaining the animals from their present holders. A total of ¥10 million (US\$64 500) was raised to cover the expenses, including the airfare of the animals back to Brazil, where the animals will be held at a newly constructed facility at the Aso Paulo Zoo. It seems that Brazilian wildlife authorities will develop a captive-breeding programme for the species.

In the meantime, voices within Japan continue to call for the creation of domestic legislation with which to implement CITES. "This purchase does not resolve the essential issue," said Professor Hideo Obara, speaking to the press on behalf of WWF-Japan. "These funds are our investment towards changing Japanese law so the Government can properly meet its international obligations as a Party to CITES."

Source: TRAFFIC (Japan)

USA Bans Imports from Singapore

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has banned all wildlife imports from Singapore, as from 25 September 1986.

The US Federal Register Notice states that, "despite requests made by the US Fish & Wildlife Service through the Department of State, the Government of Singapore fails to provide authenticating documents or supporting information for wildlife shipments alleged to be captive-bred or re-exported from Singapore. No information establishing country of origin for re-exported wildlife is supplied either on re-export certificates or in response to requests for information subsequent to importation into the USA."

"Export permits fail to state the effect of export or re-export upon wild populations of the wildlife. Based upon its inability to authenticate information provided by Singapore on export and re-export documents submitted in compliance with requirements for non-Parties to CITES, the Singapore export and re-export documents can no longer be accepted by the US as a CITES Party in good faith compliance with CITES. It is impossible for the US to establish legal export for re-exported wildlife or status of captive-bred or of exported wildlife in compliance with its own laws and with CITES without proper authenticating documentation from Singapore. Since the information is not available through the Government of Singapore, effective immediately and until further notice, no shipments of wildlife or of wildlife products exported or re-exported from Singapore or which declare Singapore as country of origin may be imported legally into the USA."

This ban has been implemented through the US Lacey Act which prohibits the import into the USA of wildlife exported illegally from the country of origin.

*Sources: US Federal Register Notice
TRAFFIC (USA)*

Changes to CITES Appendices

The Nile Crocodile Crocodylus niloticus population of Botswana will be transferred from CITES Appendix I to II on 3 January 1987, subject to an annual export quota of 2000 specimens. This transfer has been agreed through CITES postal procedures. The CITES Secretariat distributed the proposal, from the Republic of Botswana, to the Parties on 12 February 1986 and also sought comments from other sources. All comments received were transmitted to the Parties on 5 September and within the thirty-day period available for objections none was received.

The Government of Malaysia has submitted to the Secretariat a list of ten species of birds for inclusion in Appendix III. These are as follows:

GALLIFORMES

Phasianidae

<u>Arborophila brunneopectus</u> =385	Bar-backed Partridge
<u>Arborophila charltonii</u>	Chestnut-necklaced Partridge
<u>Caloperdix ocella</u>	Ferruginous Wood-Partridge
<u>Lophura erythrophthalma</u>	Crestless Fireback Pheasant
<u>Lophura ignita</u>	Crested Fireback Pheasant
<u>Melanoperdix nigra</u>	Black Wood-Partridge
<u>Polyplectron inopinatum</u>	Mountain Peacock-Pheasant
<u>Rheinartia ocellata</u>	Crested Argus Pheasant
<u>Rhizothera longirostris</u>	Long-billed Partridge
<u>Rollulus rouloul</u>	Crested Wood-Partridge

(= 385 means: includes synonym Arborophila orientalis).

The listing of these species becomes effective on 13 November 1986.

Source: CITES Secretariat

Austria Imports Chimps

On 31 July 1986, twenty infant Chimpanzees Pan troglodytes (CITES Appendix I) arrived at Vienna Airport, Austria, on a flight from Sierra Leone. The plane had been chartered by the Austrian pharmaceutical company IMMUNO AG.

A permit for the import had been issued by the Austrian Ministry of Trade on 15 November 1985. However, under pressure from TRAFFIC (Austria) and other conservation organisations, the import permit for IMMUNO AG was withdrawn in early 1986. But on 16 July 1986 it was revalidated, in spite of a CITES Secretariat statement that they could not recommend in favour of allowing the importation which appeared to be for commercial purposes.

The shipment of Chimpanzees was accompanied by a CITES import permit which had been signed by an employee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone banned the export of Chimpanzees in 1978. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Forestry has confirmed that "this Ministry and Government have stopped issuing licences and permits for dealing in and export of endangered primate species (chimpanzees included) since that date" (H.A. Johnson in litt. to D. Slama, 27.8.86).

WWF Austria has requested the Viennese Government to confiscate the twenty chimpanzees which are now being held at IMMUNO's laboratory in Vienna.

Source: TRAFFIC (Austria)

Snow Leopard Skins on Sale

Snow Leopard Panthera uncia skins have long been reported on sale in the People's Republic of China. Two World Wildlife Fund-UK correspondents were there very recently and have drawn attention to the sales of this Endangered, CITES Appendix I species.

One correspondent, who visited the bazaar in La-sa (Lhasa), Tibet, saw two Snow Leopard skins on sale (described as "fairly fresh") for Y180 (about US\$56) each. He also reported other leopard skins on sale at about Y1800.

The second correspondent had visited Su-fu (Kashgar), Sinkiang Province. There she saw about twenty Snow Leopard pelts, of both cubs and adults. She reports that the recent opening of the border with Pakistan had led to an influx of tourists, both Pakistani and European, and that the skins were very popular with the Pakistani visitors.

Snow Leopard Fabric Seized

The Australian Customs Service has seized a quantity of woven fabric, believed to contain one per cent Snow Leopard Panthera uncia hair, from the Australian department store, Fletcher Jones and Staff Pty Ltd, in the State of Victoria. The fabric, woven by Taylor & Lodge of Huddersfield, UK, had been advertised as "a unique combination of Summer Kid Mohair, Lumb's Super 100's, Cashmere and Snow Leopard". Taylor & Lodge have stated that the Snow Leopard hair was contained in a small amount of old stock yarn inherited by them when they purchased the company from the official receiver in 1980. Both Taylor & Lodge and Fletcher Jones stated that they were unaware of the 'endangered' status of the Snow Leopard. Taylor & Lodge has expressed deep regret at its oversight and says it will not be involved in the use of Snow Leopard hair again. Fletcher Jones immediately withdrew the fabric from sale after numerous complaints from the public. No charges have been laid, although the case is still under Customs investigation.

Source: TRAFFIC (Australia)

Queensland Convicts Reptile Importer

On 25 August 1986, Ivan Mountford of Toonpan, near Townsville, Queensland, Australia, was prosecuted and convicted for offences, under the Queensland Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1984, involving illegal importation of reptiles through the mail and possession of native Australian reptiles without a permit. On 25 July 1986, officers of the Queensland National Parks & Wildlife Service and the State Police had discovered three Boa Constrictors Boa constrictor and a number of native reptiles in Mountford's possession. The Boa Constrictors had been imported by post, allegedly from Switzerland, in April 1985 and May 1986. Mountford was fined A\$750 (US\$475) and A\$1500 on two counts of importation of the exotic snakes, contrary to Section 64(3) of the Act. The first Boa was allegedly imported concealed inside a chocolate Easter egg, the other two being imported this year in a padded envelope. He was further fined A\$500, plus A\$540 royalties, for possession of native reptiles contrary to Section 54(1)(A): a total of A\$3290.

Source: TRAFFIC (Australia)

Australia Lifts Export Permits Suspension

The suspension on processing of Australian export permits for wildlife products subject to management programmes, which was imposed on 18 June 1986 (see Traffic Bulletin VIII(2):24), was lifted by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, on 10 July 1986. The Minister, in a press release, stated that "the matter of management programs approved under the Wildlife Protection Act was considered at a meeting of Commonwealth and State Conservation Ministers in Adelaide on 26 June and subsequently by senior representatives of Commonwealth and State conservation authorities in Canberra on 1 July. The States have confirmed that the approved management programs are being implemented and have agreed to provide the Commonwealth with reports on a regular basis."

Meanwhile, the Fund for Animals has lodged an application with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the Minister's decision to approve Queensland's 1986 kangaroo management programme. Another Sydney-based animal welfare group, Australians for Animals, has lodged an application for review concerning New South Wales' 1986 kangaroo management programme. Additionally, the Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation recently resolved to apply for review of the kangaroo management programmes operating in Tasmania and Western Australia.

Source: *TRAFFIC (Australia)*

Falcon Dealers Fined

Thomas Cullen, a falconer from New York, USA, was sentenced on 29 July to five years probation and fined a total of US\$13 000 for the illegal possession and exportation of eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk Buteo jamaicensis. He was also sentenced to perform 200 hours community service.

Cullen was charged with transporting the eggs from New York to Wolverhampton, UK, where a contact, Phillip Dugmore (see Traffic Bulletin VIII(2):24) hatched and sold the live birds, in violation of the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the US Endangered Species Act. Correspondence between Cullen and Dugmore had been seized in 1984 and indicated that the two had engaged in a series of transactions involving birds of prey eggs from 1979 to 1981. Cullen was previously convicted in Western Australia (see Traffic Bulletin VIII(1):11).

* * * *

Ceri Griffiths of the Welsh Hawking Centre, Barry, south Glamorgan, UK, has been fined £900 (US\$1350) for smuggling twenty-seven eggs of the Lannar Falcon Falco biarmicus (CITES Appendix II) into Britain from Morocco. The eggs were smuggled into Manchester Airport, UK, concealed in secret pockets in the defendant's T-shirt. Griffiths also pleaded guilty to smuggling eggs of the Northern Goshawk Accipiter gentilis (Appendix II) from Germany and illegally exporting a Harris' Hawk Parabuteo unicinctus (Appendix II) to the Irish Republic. He was ordered to pay £120 costs.

David Martin of Bridgend, mid-Glamorgan, was convicted of importing twenty-seven Lannar Falcon eggs from Morocco and was fined £300 and ordered to pay £1000 costs.

Sources: *US Department of Justice Press Release, 29.7.86*

*Department of the Environment, UK
Daily Telegraph, 18.10.86*

Zimbabwe Hits Rhino/Elephant Poachers

Zimbabwe has introduced tough penalties for rhinoceros poaching and for illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn. Under the Parks and Wild Life Amendment Act, 1985, offenders are liable on a first conviction to a fine of not less than Z\$15 000 (US\$9168) or imprisonment for not less than five years, or both. On a second or subsequent conviction the penalty will be not less than Z\$35 000 fine or not less than seven years in gaol, or both.

In September 1986, Eusibio Ngirazi was sentenced to pay a fine of Z\$15 000 or to five years imprisonment, for the possession of two tusks. The accused was arrested when he unwittingly tried to sell the tusks to policemen and game rangers who had set up a trap. The two tusks were valued at Z\$587.

In another incident, Amadeo Matioli was gaoled for two years for hunting illegally in Gonarezhou Game Reserve. On four occasions between April and July 1983, Matioli, dressed as a game warden, had entered the reserve and killed two elephants, two hartebeests and two buffalos. Mateoli was additionally fined Z\$1400 for the death of the elephants, Z\$400 and Z\$750 respectively for the death of the hartebeests and the buffalos.

Sources: *Zimbabwe Dept. of National Parks & Wild Life Management; The Herald (Zimbabwe) 19.9.86*

Ethiopia Sets Ivory Quota

Ethiopia has announced that its export quota for raw African Elephant ivory in 1986 will be 700 tusks, including its currently held stock of 436 tusks.

This updates the list of quotas in Traffic Bulletin VIII(1) and brings the total number of countries setting quotas to seventeen.

Source: *CITES Secretariat*

Cacti Collectors Fined

Six US cacti collectors, arrested following seizures of illegally-held cacti from their premises, have been prosecuted and fined.

Further to our report in Vol. VIII(1):32, Wendell S. Minnich of Cactus Data Plants, Littlerock, California has been fined US\$2500, put on supervised probation for five years and had his car confiscated. Edward G. Gay from The Cactus Ranchito, Tarzana, California, was fined \$2000, put on one year's unsupervised probation and forfeited his car. Steven Franklin Sobel of Van Nuys, California was fined \$1000 and put on one year's supervised probation.

Three others, Walter Fitz-Maurice of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Steven C. Southwell of San José, California and John K. Wakamatsu of Marina del Ray, California, were fined a total of \$6500, and received up to five years' probation sentences. All defendants were found guilty of misdemeanour charges of conspiracy and unlawful importation of plants listed in CITES Appendix I and protected by the US Endangered Species Act. A total of 248 live cacti were ordered forfeited to the US Government. The specimens have been donated to the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Berkeley Botanical Gardens for research and educational purposes.

Source: *US Fish & Wildlife Service*