



# Traffic Bulletin

The journal of the international TRAFFIC Network

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## New Zealand and Vanuatu Join CITES

New Zealand acceded to CITES on 10 May 1989 (effective 8 August 1989) and becomes the 102nd Party to the Convention.

Vanuatu acceded to CITES on 17 July (effective 15 October 1989) and becomes the 103rd Party.

## Africa's Elephant Dilemma

Concern over the international trade in ivory is not new, and it has occupied a large part of the agenda of most of the recent CITES conferences. In 1987, at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ottawa, Canada, the Parties commissioned an African Elephant Working Group (AEWG) to prepare a report prior to the seventh conference. The first meeting of AEWG took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 1988, and was presented with depressing predictions about the future of the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* if nothing were done to slow the rate at which they were being killed.

In the realisation that a thorough review of the ivory trade was needed, IUCN's African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group brought together a group of specialists from a wide variety of disciplines, the Ivory Trade Review Group (ITRG), to assess the volume and nature of the ivory trade and its effect on the remaining Elephant populations and to recommend what remedial measures needed to be taken. The Group made its interim report to the second meeting of the AEWG, held in Gaborone, Botswana, early in July, and concluded that the problems facing the Elephant were, if anything, worse than had previously been feared. World trade in raw ivory reached a peak of over 1000 tonnes in 1983, before falling to 600 t in 1986 and some 370 t in 1987, although the data for recent years are less complete and may later require upward revision. ITRG estimated that the ivory traded in 1986 resulted from the deaths of 11% of all of the Elephants alive in Africa at the time, and that if this rate of mortality were to continue it could result in the halving of Elephant populations over much of the continent every five years. To be sustainable, the hunting mortality would need to be reduced to around 2-4%. Consequently they recommended that the African Elephant be transferred to CITES Appendix I, although they recognised that this alone would not stop further killing of Elephants unless local protection measures were also improved.

Against the background of this review, the AEWG was poised to consider proposals to transfer the Elephant to Appendix I submitted by seven countries, amongst which were four African states, Gambia, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania. Opposition to such an amendment of the Appendices was not slow in being voiced by Zimbabwe, whose 50 000-strong Elephant herd is still growing, in spite of an annual cull which brings in much needed foreign exchange from ivory trade and trophy fees. South Africa allied itself with the Zimbabwean position as did Botswana which, although it does not yet permit Elephant hunting, is considering adopting this into its wildlife management strategy. Representatives of the ivory carving industries in Hong Kong and Japan also argued against a total trade ban, on the grounds that they would lose their livelihoods, and their governments presented proposals for strengthening the trade controls, which they hoped would avert such a necessity. Zimbabwe avowed that, irrespective of what the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties decided for the rest of Africa, it would continue to export ivory either by retaining its population in Appendix II or by taking a reservation.

Faced with the possibility of some countries taking reservations against an Appendix I listing, and fearing that this would result in a weakening of the control on

ivory trade, Kenya agreed to modify its proposal so as to leave the Elephant populations of certain southern African countries in Appendix II. Discussion then centred on which countries should be included in such an exemption. Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana were obvious candidates, but the Zimbabwean delegation suggested also including the populations of Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and possibly Angola. Representatives of several central African countries, including Zaire, Congo and Cameroon, indicated that they too might wish to be allowed to carry on exporting ivory. Tanzania continued to adhere to its demand for a total ban on the ivory trade, and the prospect of several countries whose Elephant populations might be declining being included in an Appendix II exemption caused concern amongst many of the delegates who otherwise favoured the compromise solution. As a result, it was obvious that further discussion at the meeting was unlikely to resolve the conflict, and the AEWG decided to appoint a co-ordinator to reconcile the conflicting opinions amongst African range states. Cameroon was appointed to fulfil this role, and was asked to report back to the chairman of AEWG with a proposed solution by 31 August 1989.

The other major topic of discussion was the disposal of existing stocks of ivory in the event of the Elephant being transferred to Appendix I. Currently, under the terms of CITES Resolution Conf. 5.11, any ivory acquired after the African Elephant was included in Appendix III (i.e. 1976) would then be treated as Appendix I material and therefore not be available for trade. Several countries expressed concern that such a requirement was retrospective in its effect, and therefore unfair. Hong Kong would be particularly affected as it is estimated that its stocks of raw ivory amount to some 500 tonnes. The possibility of introducing a new resolution to modify the effect of Conf. 5.11 was therefore discussed.

Although the meeting boasted representatives from the wildlife management authorities of at least 16 African countries, it is likely that much of the lobbying between now and October will take place at higher government levels. The survival of Elephants attracts more international attention than almost any other conservation topic in Africa, and the governments will inevitably consider their public positions with this in mind.

*Richard Luxmoore*

## Ivory Trade Bans

### AUSTRALIA

On 22 August 1989, Australia announced a ban on the import of all ivory, with the exception of antique products.

### CANADA

Canada effected a ban on all commercial ivory trade on 24 July 1989, exceptions being made for hunting trophies, heirlooms, etc.

### DUBAI

Dubai, which has been a major entrepot for illegal ivory from Africa to Hong Kong, is reported to have prohibited all trade in ivory and rhino horn, effective 3 May 1989.

### EEC

On 14 June, Member States ceased issuing import permits for raw and worked ivory.

## Ivory Trade Bans ctd.

### HONG KONG

Hong Kong, the world's largest importer of ivory, suspended the issuance of new import permits for raw ivory on 16 June, pending the outcome of the CITES Conference in October. Licences for import orders already placed were exempted.

### JAPAN

On 19 June 1989, Japan suspended all imports of raw ivory and scraps from non-producer countries, and all imports of worked ivory. The move, according to Japanese officials, will cut raw ivory imports, about 110 tonnes a year, by about 85%. Ivory products from non-African states were recently in the range of 30 tonnes a year.

### USA

On 9 June 1989, the USA banned all ivory imports under provisions of the African Elephant Conservation Act. Elephant ivory obtained abroad is subject to seizure upon entering the USA and violators may be subject to a US\$5000 penalty. The ban includes ivory contained in shipments of household goods. However, it does not affect shipments of ivory that were "in the mail, in the air or at sea" prior to 9 June, or legally taken sport-hunting trophies with proper documentation.

### ZAIRE

The CITES Secretariat has informed the CITES Management Authority of Zaire of significant quantities of illegal raw ivory originating from that country.

In view of this and of unresolved questions about Zaire's ivory export quota, the CITES Secretariat has recommended to all Parties that shipments of raw ivory from Zaire no longer be accepted, until further notice. This measure is being taken to assist Zaire to combat the serious problem of illegal trade in ivory.

Subsequent to this recommendation, Zaire advised the Secretariat that it had suspended the issuance of permits for raw ivory from 30 May, apart from permits for transactions in the process of completion. Notwithstanding this information, the Secretariat's recommendation applies until further notice.

*Sources: CITES Secretariat; Straits Times (Singapore) 19 June 1989; New York Times 17 June 1989; US Dept. of the Interior news release, 8 June 1989; CITES Ivory Notification No. 37, 27 June 1989*

## Kenyan Ivory Becomes a Burning Issue

Approximately 12 tonnes of raw ivory recovered by the Kenya Government from poachers over the past five years were ceremonially burned in Nairobi National Park on 17 July 1989, in an effort to eliminate commercial trade in ivory and prevent stockpiling.

President Daniel arap Moi, who personally ignited the pile, worth about £1.5 million (US\$2.5M), said, 'Kenya cannot appeal to the world to stop buying ivory if at the same moment we are selling the very same commodity.'

*Source: New York Times, 19 July 1989*

## Burundi's Ivory Sale Thwarted

In the wake of recent ivory trade bans, efforts to sell by tender 28 tonnes of poached ivory in Burundi have failed.

In February 1989, the CITES Standing Committee decided that the ivory confiscated by the Burundi Government, a country which has no Elephant population, could be exported on condition that all proceeds from the sale were used for specific conservation projects in Burundi.

The CITES Secretariat was instructed to draw up the tender document and to screen potential buyers for the ivory. Initial interest from a number of sources soon diminished in the light of the ivory bans and, by 17 June, the deadline for receipt of tender, no bids had been made.

Tanzania, which claims most of the ivory was smuggled by poachers operating in Tanzania, is demanding the return of the contraband, and a further 40 tonnes that is being held in Burundi.

*Source: CITES Secretariat*

## Ivory Quota Update

The following countries have submitted export quotas for raw ivory tusks in 1989. This updates the list of quotas in *Traffic Bulletin* 10(3/4):38: Kenya 2000; Nigeria 50; Senegal 28; Somalia 1653 (carried over from its 1988 submission) and Tanzania 12000.

The CITES Secretariat has also received an export quota submission for 1989 from Côte d'Ivoire, a non-Party state which has agreed to comply with the provisions of CITES Resolution Conf. 5.12, the conditions under which raw ivory may be traded.

On the basis of information gathered in recent weeks, however, the Secretariat has concluded that Côte d'Ivoire has not been able to honour its commitment to adhere to Resolution Conf. 5.12 and to apply to the provisions of the Ivory Trade Control Procedures Manual properly with respect to imports or exports of raw ivory.

The Secretariat has therefore refrained from communicating to the Parties an export quota for Côte d'Ivoire in 1989, pending the resolution of this problem.

## Large Ivory Shipment Seized in South Africa

South African police have seized a large shipment of ivory.

On 3 August 1989, during an undercover operation by the newly formed Endangered Species Protection Unit, a Taiwanese businessman, Michael Shen, was arrested as the shipment of 106 Elephant tusks and a rhino horn were being delivered to his residence in Cape Town.

Shen, employed in South Africa in the fish export business for the past seven years, was immediately charged in court with illegal possession of Elephant tusks and rhino horn and released on 5000-rand (US\$1850) bail, pending trial later this month.

The ivory weighed a total of 673 kg, with an estimated value of 473 450 rand (US\$164 000).

Conservation officials said that the Elephants killed to obtain the tusks had most likely been shot outside South Africa.

*Source: China News, 5 August 1989*

## Orchid Collector Gaoled and Released

After a surprising decision by the Court of Appeal, described by the *New Scientist* as having "set the cause of conservation back decades", an orchid trader, recently convicted in the UK for illegal plant trading, has had his sentence significantly reduced.

Henry Azadehdel, of Nottingham, who has a considerable knowledge of orchids, particularly slipper orchids, has, over a number of years, imported, kept and sold wild-collected orchids worth many tens of thousands of pounds. The author of a number of learned articles on orchids, and with a species *Paphiopedilum henryanum* named after him, Azadehdel had been known to some botanists for years after presenting himself as an amateur orchid grower and conservationist.

His persistent enquiries about the exact location of some rare orchids, particularly *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* - the location of which was a closely guarded secret at the request of the Malaysian Government - eventually caused botanists to suspect his motives and inform the UK Department of the Environment who warned Customs of his movements.

On 8 December 1987, Azadehdel was arrested at Heathrow airport, on his return from Ecuador, in possession of a Jaguar *Panthera onca* skin and 15 plant specimens wrapped in newspaper in his luggage. Azadehdel told Customs officers that he had purchased the plants for the equivalent of £1.30 (US\$2), unaware that they were orchids or protected species. Experts from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, identified the specimens as slipper orchids, altogether worth more than £3000 (US\$5000). His home was later searched and over 350 orchids were seized from greenhouses in his garden; 333 of these were later identified as wild-grown and almost certainly obtained in contravention of CITES controls. The estimated black market value of the seized plants was £42 000.

Customs investigators spent over 18 months collecting evidence about Azadehdel's activities. He repeatedly claimed that he was an orchid adviser rather than a dealer, but entries found in a notebook kept by him, indicated that he had sold plants in the UK, USA and F.R. Germany. One witness interviewed stated that he had paid Azadehdel US\$30 000 for 20 specimens of *P. sanderianum*, the species about which Azadehdel had often questioned plant authorities. The witness believed that the plants he bought from Azadehdel had been collected within the previous six weeks.

On 6 June 1989, Azadehdel was charged at the Old Bailey on six counts, which included: offering for sale and selling restricted specimens contrary to Regulation 3(2) of the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1985; being knowingly concerned in the harbouring, keeping or concealing of or dealing with restricted goods contrary to Section 170(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 (CEMA); and being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the restrictions on the importation of goods, contrary to Section 170(2) of CEMA. After pleading guilty, he was sentenced to 12-months imprisonment, eight months suspended, and fined £10 000, plus £10 000 costs.

However, on 14 July, the Court of Appeal reduced Azadehdel's sentence to six-months imprisonment, the remainder suspended, and he was immediately released after having served only six weeks in gaol. Furthermore, his fine was reduced to £2500 and the order to pay costs was waived (a £200 fine for failing to declare the Jaguar skin to Customs Officers was upheld). Mr Justice Gatehouse of the Court of Appeal agreed with the defence submission that Azadehdel was a mere amateur who had used authorities to glean information for his criminal activities. He said that many countries banned the export of rare plants but that Azadehdel, 'unlike ivory hunters, did not destroy what he had taken'.



Slipper orchid  
*Paphiopedilum papuanum*

© Bentham-Moxon Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1987

This judgement directly contradicts Judge Clarkson's statement, when sentencing Azadehdel at the original hearing, that the latter was not merely an adviser, but had clearly made a profit of thousands of pounds by deliberately and cynically exploiting the market for rare orchids.

Sources: Portcullis, H.M. Customs & Excise, July 1989; *The Guardian* (UK), 14 July 1989; *New Scientist*, 24 June 1989/22 July 1989

## Orchids in Hong Kong

More than 6600 rare Chinese slipper orchids *Paphiopedilum* spp., destined for sale to botanists in F.R. Germany, have been seized in Hong Kong.

The plants were seized following information received from authorities in F.R. Germany that a Hong Kong trader was advertising the orchids for sale in a newspaper. It is believed that the flowers had been brought in from China, one of only three known localities where the plants grow in the wild. The trader was unable to provide documentary proof of their origin or a valid possession licence. He appeared in Sha Tin Magistracy on 21 April 1989 and was fined HK\$3000 (US\$380). The estimated market value of the shipment was HK\$350 000.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department in Hong Kong will attempt to cultivate the specimens under glass.

Source: *South China Morning Post*, 22 April 1989

## Zimbabwe Law Supports Anti-Poaching Units

The Protection of Wild Life (Indemnity) Act was passed by the Zimbabwe Parliament on 13 July 1989.

It seeks to protect anti-poaching personnel from facing criminal proceedings in their efforts to protect wildlife from poachers, by guaranteeing the indemnification of officers from criminal liability for acts committed while protecting wildlife.

Recently a senior warden was arrested on charges (subsequently withdrawn) of murdering an alleged poacher, leading to concern amongst wildlife protection patrols that they ran the risk of arrest and detention if a poacher was killed during operations.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, The Hon. Mrs Victoria Chitepo said the Bill was designed to protect the rhino population and also to cover other forms of wildlife. 'The Bill contains safeguards in that an indemnified person must be acting in good faith in order to receive protection. Those not acting within the parameters of this Bill will face the full consequences of the law.'

She said that, since 1980, five members of the anti-poaching unit had been killed by poachers.

Sources: *Zimbabwe Parliamentary Debates, The Senate, Vol. 14, No. 4, 13 July 1989; The Herald (Zimbabwe), 1 June 1989*

## TRADE BANS

### Colombia:

The Management Authority of Colombia has imposed a ban on trade in Colombian wild animals, except a certain amount of pre-Convention skins of Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*, Tegus *Lizards Tupinambis* spp., Boa Constrictor *Boa constrictor* and other vertebrates.

All CITES Parties have been urged not to accept any Colombian documents without prior consultation with the CITES Secretariat regarding their validity.

### India:

The Government of India has banned the export of all specimens of Appendix II and III species for commercial purposes, except the following:

#### Appendix II

- worked ivory of the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*;
- artificially propagated orchids;
- Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*, Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*, Moustached Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri fasciata* and Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana himalayana*.

#### Appendix III

- products made of snake skins (exported by the Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd. only).

Sources: *CITES Notification to Parties Nos. 534/535*

## Specific Reservations

The Depositary Government informed the CITES Secretariat on 20 March 1989 of the withdrawal of the specific reservations entered by Japan with regard to Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* listed in Appendices I and II. The withdrawal became effective on 1 April 1989.

The Depositary Government also informed the Secretariat, at various dates, of the entering of specific reservations with regard to all or some of the species included in Appendix III at the request of India, by Denmark (DK) (effective 16 March 1989), F.R. Germany (DE) (16 March 1989), Italy (IT) (16 March 1989), Liechtenstein (LI) (21 March 1989), Switzerland (CH) (21 March 1989) and Luxembourg (LU) (30 March 1989) as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Country</u>
Long-tailed Marmot <i>Marmota caudata</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Himalayan Marmot <i>Marmota himalayana</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Golden Jackal <i>Canis aureus</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Indian Fox <i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
<i>Vulpes vulpes griffithi</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
<i>Vulpes vulpes montana</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
<i>Vulpes vulpes pusilla</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Yellow-throated Marten <i>Martes flavigula</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Central Asian Stone Marten <i>Martes foina intermedia</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Mountain Weasel <i>Mustela altaica</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Yellow-bellied Weasel <i>Mustela kathiah</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Siberian Weasel <i>Mustela sibirica</i>	CH, DE, DK, IT, LI, LU
Binturong <i>Arctictis binturong</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Masked Palm Civet <i>Paguma larvata</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Common Palm Civet <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Jerdon's Palm Civet <i>Paradoxurus jerdoni</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Large-spotted Civet <i>Viverra megaspila</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Large Indian Civet <i>Viverra zibetha</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Small Indian Civet <i>Viverricula indica</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Small Indian Mongoose <i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Indian Grey Mongoose <i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Indian Brown Mongoose <i>Herpestes fuscus</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Ruddy Mongoose <i>Herpestes smithii</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Crab-eating Mongoose <i>Herpestes urva</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU
Stripe-necked Mongoose <i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>	DE, DK, IT, LU

Source: *CITES Notification to Parties No. 537*

## CITES Appendices Amendment Proposals

The following proposals to amend the CITES Appendices have been communicated to the CITES Secretariat by Parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article XV, paragraph 1(a), of CITES.

These proposals will be considered at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 9 to 20 October 1989.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Proponent</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Proponent</u>
<b>MAMMALIA</b>			<b>AVES ctd</b>		
<u>Acerodon spp.</u> Flying-foxes	incl. App. II	US	<u>Francolinus ochropectus</u> Djibouti Francolin	del. App. II	CH
<u>Pteropus insularis</u> Truk Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Francolinus swierstrai</u> Swierstra's Francolin	del. App. II	CH
<u>Pteropus mariannus</u> Mariana Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Agapornis cana</u> Grey-headed Lovebird	del. App. II <sup>3</sup>	MG
<u>Pteropus molossinus</u> Pohnpei Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Amazona tucumana</u> Tucuman Amazon	tr. App. II-I	DK
<u>Pteropus phaeocephalus</u> Mortlock Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Ara maracana</u> Illiger's Macaw	tr. App. II-I	PY
<u>Pteropus pilosus</u> Large Palau Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Cacatua moluccensis</u> Salmon-crested Cockatoo	tr. App. II-I	CH
<u>Pteropus samoensis</u> Samoan Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	US/SE	<u>Buceros spp.</u> Hornbills	incl. App. II	CH
<u>Pteropus tokudae</u> Little Mariana Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	SE	<u>Buceros bicornis homrai</u> Great Hornbill	tr. App. I-II	CH
<u>Pteropus tonganus</u> Insular Flying-fox	tr. App. II-I	SE	<u>Buceros rhinoceros</u> Rhinoceros Hornbill	incl. App. II	BE
<u>Pteropus spp.</u> Flying-foxes	incl. App. II	US	<u>Pitta guajana</u> Banded Pitta	incl. App. II	TH
<u>Melursus ursinus</u> Sloth Bear	incl. App. I	DE/IN	<u>Pitta gurneyi</u> Gurney's Pitta	incl. App. I	TH
<u>Ursus americanus</u> American Black Bear	incl. App. II	JP	<u>Pseudocheilidon sirintarae</u> White-eyed River Martin	tr. App. II-I	TH
<u>Ursus arctos</u> Brown Bear	incl. App. I/II <sup>1</sup>	DK	<b>REPTILIA</b>		
<u>Ursus arctos ssp.</u> Brown Bear	incl. App. II	JP	<u>Chelonia mydas</u> Green Turtle	tr. App. I-II <sup>4</sup>	ID
<u>Aonyx cinerea</u> Asian Small-clawed Otter	tr. App. II-I	IN	<u>Eretmochelys imbricata</u> Hawksbill Turtle	App. I-II <sup>4</sup>	ID
<u>Lutra perspicillata</u> Smooth-coated Otter	tr. App. II-I	IN	<u>Crocodylus niloticus</u> Nile Crocodile	App. II <sup>5</sup>	BW
<u>Felis pardalis</u> Ocelot	tr. App. II-I	DE	"	App. I-II <sup>6</sup>	ZW
<u>Felis pardina</u> Iberian Lynx	tr. App. II-I	DE/PT	"	App. II <sup>5</sup>	KE
<u>Felis tigrina</u> Little Spotted Cat	tr. App. II-I	DE	"	App. II <sup>5</sup>	MG
<u>Felis wiedii</u> Margay	tr. App. II-I	DE	"	App. II <sup>5</sup>	MW
<u>Callorhinus ursinus</u> Northern Pacific Fur Seal	incl. App. II	US	"	App. I-II <sup>7</sup>	SO
<u>Loxodonta africana</u> African Elephant	tr. App. II-I	AT/GM HU/KE SO/TZ US	"	App. II <sup>5</sup>	TZ
<u>Cephalophus jentinki</u> Jentink's Duiker	tr. App. II-I	DE	<u>Crocodylus porosus</u> Saltwater Crocodile	App. II <sup>8</sup>	ID
<b>AVES</b>			<u>Dracaena paraguayensis</u> Caiman Lizard	incl. App. II	PY
<u>Rhea americana</u> Greater Rhea	incl. App. II <sup>2</sup>	JP	<u>Shinisaurus crocodilurus</u> Chinese Crocodile Lizard	incl. App. II	DE
<u>Rhynchotus rufescens ssp.</u> Rufous Tinamou	del. App. II	UY	<u>Varanus bengalensis</u> Bengal Monitor	tr. App. I-II	JP
<u>Ciconia ciconia</u> White Stork	incl. App. II	DE	<u>Varanus grayi</u> Gray's Monitor	tr. App. II-I	DE
			<u>Varanus griseus</u> Desert Monitor	tr. App. I-II	JP
			<u>Ptyas mucosus</u> Oriental Rat Snake	incl. App. II	IN
			<u>Naja naja</u> Asiatic Cobra	incl. App. II	IN
			<u>Ophiophagus hannah</u> King Cobra	incl. App. II	IN
			<b>PISCES</b>		
			<u>Latimeria chalumnae</u> Coelacanth	tr. App. II-I	DE
			<u>Scleropages formosus</u> Asian Bonytongue	tr. App. I-II <sup>9</sup>	ID
			<u>Cynolebias spp.</u> Pearlfishes	del. App. II	CH

Species	Proposal	Proponent
<b>CNIDARIA</b>		
<i>Scleractinia</i> spp.	incl. App. II <sup>10</sup>	IL
<i>Athecata</i> spp.	incl. App. II <sup>10</sup>	IL
<i>Coenothecalia</i> spp.	incl. App. II <sup>10</sup>	IL
<i>Stolonifera</i> spp.	incl. App. II <sup>10</sup>	IL
<b>FLORA</b>		
<i>Galanthus</i> spp.	incl. App. II	US
<i>Sternbergia</i> spp.	incl. App. II	GB
<i>Pachypodium baronii</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Pachypodium brevicaula</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Pachypodium decaryi</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>	incl. App. I	IN
<i>Alocasia zebrina</i>	del. App. II	US
<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	incl. App. II	IN
<i>Caryocar costaricense</i>	del. App. I	US
<i>Drosera</i> spp.	incl. App. II <sup>11</sup>	IN
<i>Euphorbia ambovombensis</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia cylindrifolia</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia decaryi</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia francoisii</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia moratii</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia parvicyathopora</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia primulifolia</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia quartziticola</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Euphorbia tulearensis</i>	tr. App. II-I	US
<i>Quercus copeyensis</i>	del. App. II	CH
<i>Gentiana kurroo</i>	incl. App. II	IN
<i>Prepusa hookeriana</i>	del. App. I	US
<i>Vantanea barbourii</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Engelhardtia pterocarpa</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Cynometra hemitomophylla</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Platymiscium pleiostachyum</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Tachigalia versicolor</i>	tr. App. I-II	US
	del. App. I	CH
<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	incl. App. II	IN
<i>Lavoisiera itambana</i>	del. App. I	US
<i>Guarea longipetiola</i>	del. App. I	US
<i>Batocarpus costaricensis</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Eriopsis biloba</i> (GT pop.)	tr. App. II-I	GT
<i>Lemboglossum majale</i>	tr. App. II-I	GT
<i>Lemboglossum uroskinneri</i>	tr. App. II-I	GT
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp.	tr. App. II-I	NL
<i>Phragmipedium</i> spp.	tr. App. II-I	DE
<i>Rossioglossum williamsianum</i>	tr. App. II-I	GT
<i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea ferruginea</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea glaucifolia</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea klotzschiana</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea metallica</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea montana</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea oreophila</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea radicalis</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea stolonifera</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea tenella</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea amabilis</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea pulchra</i>	incl. App. I	US
<i>Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti</i>	incl. App. II	US
<i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	incl. App. II	US
<i>Chamaedorea rojasiana</i>	incl. App. II	US
<i>Chamaedorea simplex</i>	incl. App. II	US
<i>Chamaedorea tuerkheimii</i>	incl. App. II	US
<i>Phoenix hanceana</i>	del. App. I	US
var. <i>philippinensis</i>		
<i>Salacca clemensiana</i>	del. App. I	US
<i>Podocarpus costalis</i>	del. App. I	CH
<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>	incl. App. I	IN
<i>Aconitum deinorrhizum</i>	incl. App. II	IN
<i>Pterygota excelsa</i>	del. App. II	CH
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>	incl. App. I	IN
<i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i>	tr. App. I-II	US
<i>Chigua</i> spp.	incl. App. I <sup>12</sup>	US

## COUNTRY CODES

AT Austria	MG Madagascar
BE Belgium	MW Malawi
BW Botswana	MZ Mozambique
CH Switzerland	NL Netherlands
DE F.R. Germany	PT Portugal
DK Denmark	PY Paraguay
GB United Kingdom	SE Sweden
GM Gambia	SO Somalia
GT Guatemala	TH Thailand
HU Hungary	TZ Tanzania
ID Indonesia	US United States
IL Israel	UY Uruguay
IN India	ZM Zambia
JP Japan	ZW Zimbabwe
KE Kenya	

del. = delete incl. = include tr. = transfer

## Notes

1. Populations of Afghanistan, India, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan in App. I; all other populations in App. II.
2. All remaining subspecies.
3. Proposal submitted with the intention that, if accepted, Madagascar will list the species in App. III.
4. Proposal submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21 for Indonesian population, with export quota of 3000.
5. Some of the proposals relating to *C. niloticus* are confusing; the proposals of Kenya and Tanzania are for quota revisions or continuations, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, for 5000 and 3500 specimens respectively. The proposals of Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia are all submitted apparently pursuant to Resolution Conf. 3.15 on ranching, although this Resolution deals with transfers to App. II, and these populations are already in App. II. However, the evident intention is to trade in specimens from ranching operations and perhaps to remove the present constraint of export quotas, although Madagascar and Malawi both propose continued quota restrictions.
6. Proposal submitted by Zimbabwe on behalf of Ethiopia, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, for Ethiopian population; quota of 2845 in 1989, 6870 in 1990, 8870 in 1991 (as number of ranched specimens increases).
7. Proposal submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, for population of Somalia, export quota of 2000.
8. Proposal submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, for Indonesian population, revision of export quota to 5000.
9. Proposal submitted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, for Indonesian population, with export quota of 2500 specimens.
10. Proposal to include all remaining taxa in these orders.
11. The supporting document for this proposal refers only to the inclusion in App. II of *Drosera burmannii*, *Drosera peltata* and *Drosera indica*.
12. New Colombian genus; family Zamiaceae, order Cycadaceae.

## Swedish Dealer Expelled From Malaysia

A Swedish animal dealer, Ingemar Forss, has been expelled from Malaysia for illegal wildlife smuggling.

Forss had reportedly been involved in shipping Douc Langurs Pygathrix nemaeus, tapirs Tapirus spp. and other species, to Polish zoos, which then re-shipped the animals to Western and Japanese zoos using forged 'captive-bred' papers.

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) obtained a list which had been circulated by Forss, in which he offered a number of Appendix-I primates and other South East Asian species for sale. IPPL expressed its concern to the Malaysian authorities whose investigation culminated in the decision to deport Forss.

In addition, Thai Airways has informed IPPL that it has placed an immediate embargo on all live animal traffic from Vientiane airport, Laos, and Ho Chi Minh City airport, Viet Nam, and has placed all cargo handling staff at these two airports on full alert against any possible smuggling. Thai Airways had been responsible for carrying some of the animals from these airports, to Bangkok, for onward shipment.

*Source: International Primate Protection League*

## Lion Tamarin Repatriated

In March 1989, a Golden-headed Lion Tamarin Leontopithecus rosalia chrysomelas, confiscated from a trader in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was returned to Brazil.

In October 1988, two specimens of this CITES Appendix-I-listed species had been seized from a pet shop, "Parrot SRL", in Buenos Aires, but owing to a problem over legal powers, were returned to the trader.

A judicial resolution was later granted to TRAFFIC(South America) and the Brazilian Embassy to seize the animals; by this time, however, only one specimen had survived.

The animal was returned to Brazil and placed in a breeding group at Sao Paulo Zoo, where about 40 tamarins are being housed.

The trader has not yet been sentenced.

*Source: TRAFFIC(South America)*

## Reptile-Collecting in Baluchistan

by Brian Groombridge

Among reptile-keepers, restricted supply leads to increased demand and, for some enthusiasts, a rare species that is also visually attractive and highly venomous is particularly desirable.

McMahon's Viper Eristicophis macmahonii is such a species. Largely restricted to areas of sand desert in the north-west of Baluchistan Province, Pakistan, isolated records also exist for adjacent parts of Iran and Afghanistan. Morphologically unique among viperid snakes, and ecologically highly distinct, this monotypic genus remains poorly known scientifically. Demand is such, however, that Jogis travel 300-400 miles from their home bases around Hyderabad, in Sind Province, mainly to collect Eristicophis for the live animal trade. The Jogis are a tribal group, operating as snake charmers and reptile collectors, and itinerant parties range widely over the country. One group of a dozen Jogis was recently encountered inside the boundary of the important Zangi Nawar Game Reserve in the Chagai District of Baluchistan.

In addition to possessing boxes of Eristicophis, a nocturnal species which is hunted at night with the aid of pressure-lamps and snake-grabs, these collectors had bags of Lytorhynchus maynardi (another Baluchistan endemic snake), and many boxes of geckos Gekkonidae, agamids Agamidae, and jerboas Dipodidae. They claimed to be unaware of the illegality of collecting inside a protected area, and of reptile export; they reportedly were organised by a trader based in Karachi who exports specimens mainly to North America and Europe. One lorry-load of containers, with some 3000 lizards, had recently left for Karachi. This group claimed to work in the Zangi Nawar area between May and September, and had been coming for nine years. Species identified among their collection were as follows: Tartary Sand Boa Eryx tataricus, Diadem Snake Spalerosophis diadema,

Maynard's Awl-headed Snake Lytorhynchus maynardi\*, Gamma Snake Boiga trigonata, McMahon's Viper Eristicophis macmahonii\*, Indian Cobra Naja naja, Sand Racer Coluber sp., Turkestan Plate-tailed Gecko Teratoscincus scincus, Baluch Plate-tailed Gecko T. microlepis\*, Whip-tailed Sand Gecko Stenodactylus maynardi\*, Fat-tailed Gecko Eublepharis macularius, Ground Agama Agama sp., Yellow-speckled Toad Agama Phrynocephalus luteoguttatus\* plus two further Phrynocephalus species. Five species restricted, or nearly restricted, to Baluchistan are marked by an asterisk.

Some of these species, Eristicophis in particular, are known to have very narrow habitat preferences and to be very locally distributed. It seems likely that heavy and sustained collection pressure will have had an adverse effect on population levels. Whether or not any depletion of wild populations can be demonstrated, both collecting (certainly in a protected area) and export, are contrary to current legislation.

Restrictions on the reptile skin trade may have led to greater concentration on live animals. Although export of live reptiles is just as illegal as export of lizard and snake skins, enforcement of controls on live animals may be more of a problem.

The Baluchistan Forest Department is aware of the situation and, with only meagre resources at its disposal, is making every effort to improve enforcement of protective legislation.

*Dr Groombridge is Senior Research Officer at the Species Conservation Monitoring Unit of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.*



## Utilization of Monitor Lizards in Pakistan

by Walter Auffenberg, Curator of Herpetology  
Florida State Museum, USA

### INTRODUCTION

Leather of considerable utility and value is produced from monitor lizards, *Varanus* spp., making them an attractive target for hunters. Their large size, the use of open habitat and shallow, conspicuous burrows, have together served to render them particularly vulnerable to persecution. As a result of both hunting and urbanisation, some populations of several species have been significantly reduced. Four species are listed in CITES Appendix I and others should probably be added, although some countries already ban the hunting and/or export of all species of monitor lizards. Those species with small geographic ranges and most specialised habitat requirements are giving the greatest cause for concern.

Three monitor species occur in Pakistan. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 below, two of these are widespread; the range of the third is geographically restricted (Fig. 3). Unfortunately, it is this species which is the most ardently sought after by leather dealers. In the most recent survey of the world trade in monitor lizard hides (Inskipp, 1984), none of the three Pakistan species was mentioned. In an earlier report on the reptile skin trade in India, Inskipp (1981) showed that at least two species comprised a significant amount of the total hide use in that country. It is to provide data on the use of these species in Pakistan and to consider their future prospects that the present report is written.

### METHODS

The information contained in this report is based on field work and interviews carried out in Pakistan during the period from mid-1986 to mid-1988. The research was concentrated in Sind and Punjab Provinces, though short excursions into Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) were also conducted. Sources for information included local government wildlife authorities, non-governmental conservation organisations, herpetologists, monitor leather dealers and professional reptile catchers.

The studies were carried out with the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and WCMC Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, under contract to the CITES Secretariat.

### SPECIES INVOLVED IN TRADE

The Bengal Monitor *Varanus bengalensis* is the most widely distributed monitor in Pakistan, being found in all parts below about 1218 m where water is permanent (Fig. 1). The form in Pakistan is *V.b. bengalensis* and is particularly abundant in the Indus Valley.

The Desert Monitor *Varanus griseus* (represented by two subspecies in Pakistan, *V.g. koniecznyi* and *V.g. caspius*) is found over much of the country (Fig. 2), but is more or less restricted to arid regions with sandy soil.

The third species is the Yellow-headed Monitor *Varanus flavescens*. Its geographic range is the most restricted of the three species, being found only in seasonally flooded forests and marshes in the floodplain of the Indus River and its tributaries (Fig. 3).

All three monitors are listed in CITES Appendix I and are protected in Pakistan.

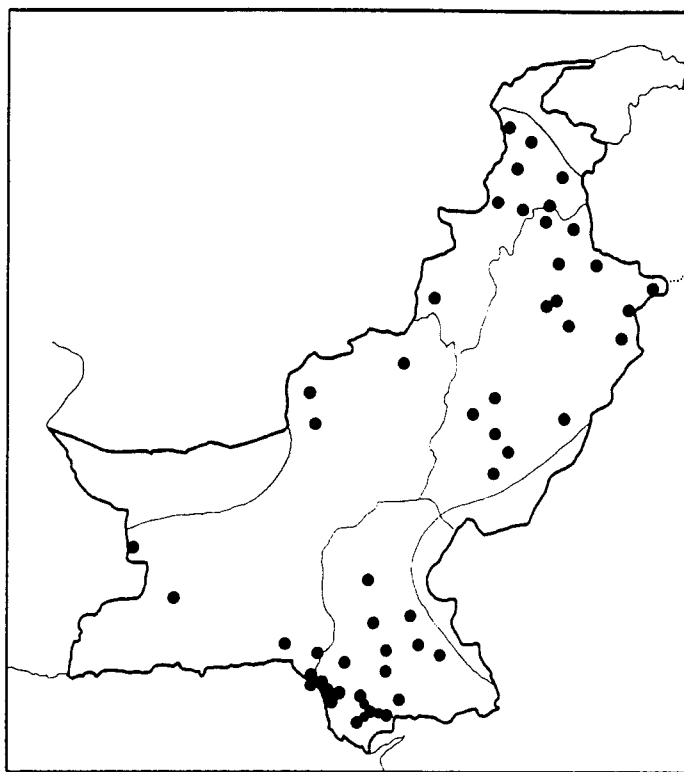


Fig. 1. The known distribution of *Varanus bengalensis bengalensis* in Pakistan.

Data on the distribution, abundance and life history of these species are central to considerations of management programmes for them. General conclusions on these topics are already known for the species. While beyond the scope of this report, pertinent results of the studies on the life history and habits of *V.g. koniecznyi* and *V. flavescens* have been submitted for publication (Auffenberg et al., in press). Results of the geographically more extensive study of *V. bengalensis* are expected to be completed by the end of 1989.

The documentary identifications by species of legally shipped monitor hides cannot always be relied upon, partly because the skins are not always easy to identify (particularly when country of origin is in doubt), and partly because the personnel responsible lack sufficient expertise.

In order to obtain reliable data on the proportionate use of the different monitor species occurring in Pakistan, a sample of 275 tanned hides was examined in four manufacturing establishments in Karachi. Each skin was identified and measured across the widest part (thus more or less equalling the circumference of the individual). Of this total, not a single hide represented *Varanus griseus*, nor were any hides of this species seen in the hundreds of manufactured monitor skin items on sale in the retail shops scattered about the country (see below). This is partly due to the fact that tanners and manufacturers do not like to work with the skin of this species as it is thin and is relatively easily torn. Furthermore, hunters repeatedly stressed that individuals of *V. griseus* are much more scattered than those of the other two species and hunting it is less cost-effective.

In the sample of hides that was examined, *Varanus flavescens* was consistently found in smaller numbers than *V. bengalensis*: the proportions of *V. flavescens* in the four sample subsets varied from 15 to 32.3% of the total (average 28.1%). Thus, between one quarter and one third of all the hides manufactured in Karachi represent the rarest, geographically and ecologically most restricted species of monitor in the country.

Manufactured articles of a fourth monitor species, Water Monitor *Varanus salvator* are regularly seen in a few leather shops in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore.

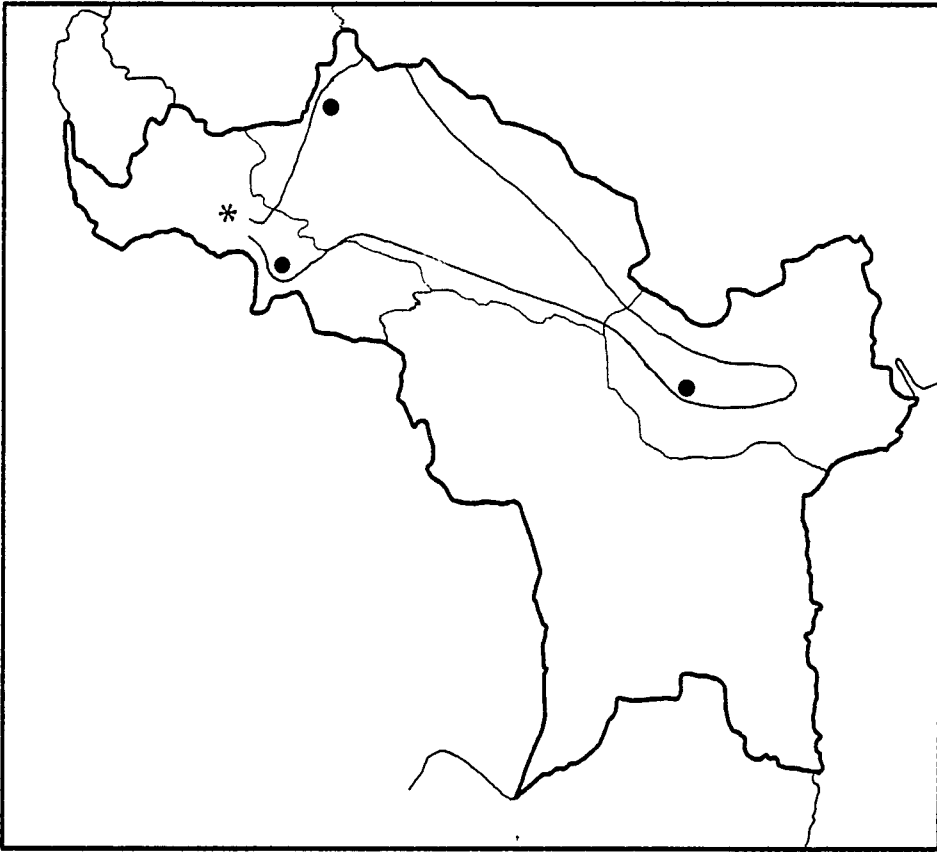


Fig. 3. The known distribution of *Varanus flavescens* in Pakistan. The star represents an old indefinite locality record in the literature.

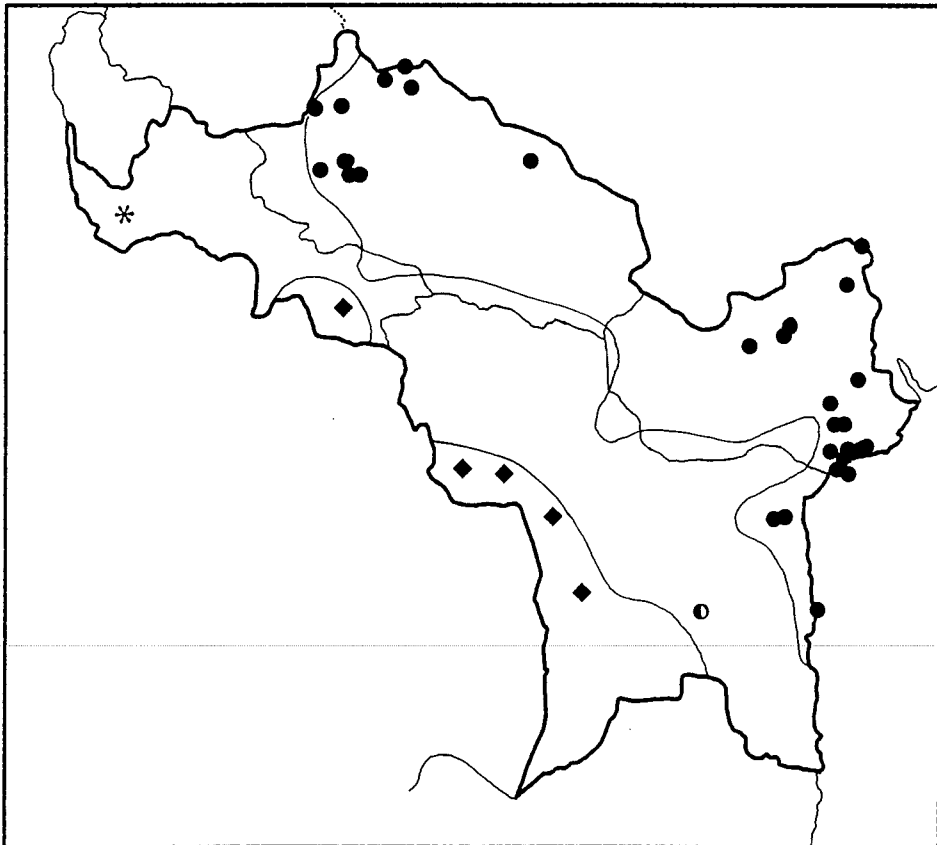
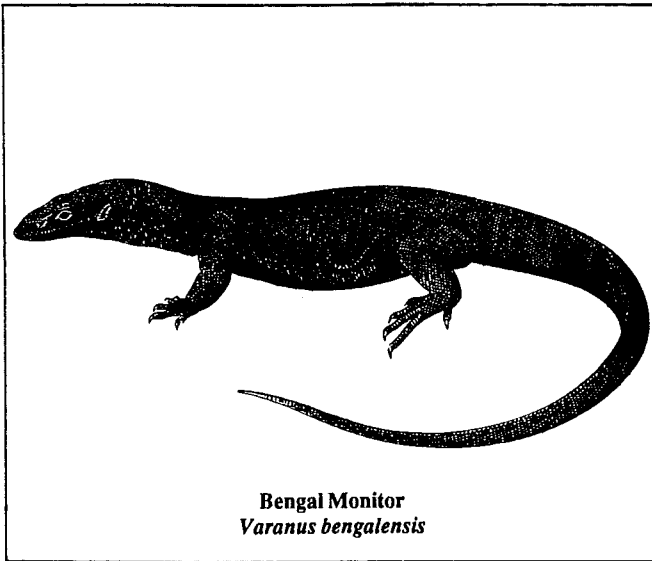


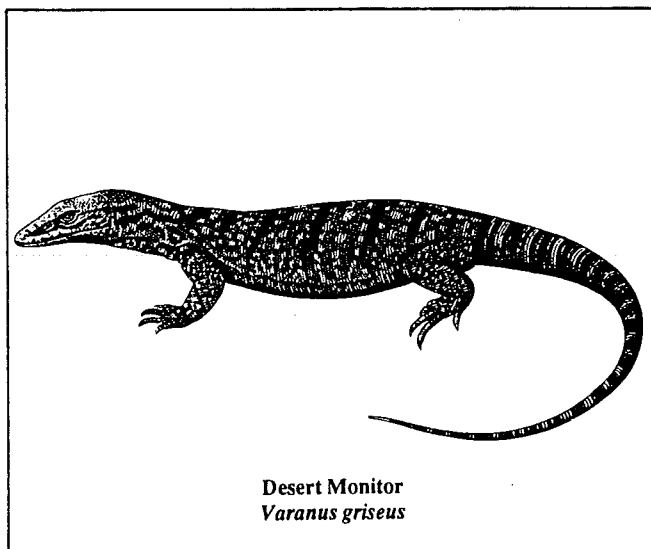
Fig. 2. The known distribution of *Varanus griseus* in Pakistan. The solid dots represent localities at which *V. g. koniecznyi* have been taken, the solid diamonds the localities at which *V. g. caspius* have been recorded, the half-filled dot intergrades between these two subspecies and the star a questionable sight record. The lines on the map show the suggested limits of the subspecies ranges in Pakistan.

According to one of the shop keepers, these skins are smuggled in from Bangladesh. Their dorsal colour pattern, clearly distinguished in the finished products (mainly ladies' handbags), is characteristic of populations from West Bengal and Bangladesh.



#### STATUS IN THE WILD

There is no direct evidence that any of the three monitor species inhabiting Pakistan have suffered significant reduction in geographic range, although the author suspects this has been the case with *Varanus flavescens*. This suspicion is based on the fact that the distribution of this species is more restricted than the suitable habitat available: it normally occurs in seasonally flooded land along major rivers, land that has been greatly modified over thousands of years by drainage, irrigation, and other massive environmental changes associated with agriculture, especially rice-growing. By the same token, it is conceivable that large canal systems, particularly along those sections where water leakage into surrounding low-lying areas is significant, have tended to enlarge the range of this species, at least on a local basis (e.g. the Rice Canal, near Dokri, Sind Province, where this species is able to live in date plantations owing to irrigation canals; and the agricultural land in the Charsadda area near Peshawar, NWFP, where similar irrigation systems in grain fields allow the expansion of *V. flavescens* beyond the floodplain of the Kabul River).



There is anecdotal evidence from local Jogi and Bagri tribals that *V. flavescens* is less common in some areas of Larkana District, Sind Province, than it was before 1970. If stories told them by their relatives could be believed, *V. flavescens* has been almost entirely extirpated in the Lahore District, Punjab Province. There seems to be no evidence that the ranges of the remaining two species have been significantly affected by either agriculture or hunting. However, long-term, local depletion has in a few areas reduced populations to such an extent that professional hunters must now go further afield than they used to (e.g. Lahore region). While *V. griseus* tends to live in areas unsuitable for agriculture, *V. bengalensis*, if not hunted, often reaches its greatest densities in agricultural areas. In these regions, the greatest potential threat is from pesticides, since the latter species is primarily an insectivore and feeds most extensively upon beetles of two families associated with extensive damage of grain crops, Scarabaeidae and Tenebrionidae.

Though much research has been conducted during this study to estimate population densities in several populations of monitors, particularly *V. bengalensis*, in both India and Pakistan, the large number of individual monitors in appropriate habitat, coupled with their extensive movements over large areas, make the usual 'mark and release' methods of density estimation relatively inconclusive. However, some minimum densities of adults in what the author considers particularly good habitats for each species are provided in Table 1. These data were obtained by counting the number of active burrows of each species of monitor lizard along 10 belt transects in each habitat (=50 transects total). Previous work in India on the same project demonstrated that, in most monitor habitats, 18.2% of all active burrows (of *V. bengalensis*) are actually inhabited on any one day. Therefore, this figure is used as a correction factor for the total numbers of holes found along each transect. All monitor burrows counted were made by adult individuals. Juveniles are extremely wary, rarely dig their own burrows, and spend much time in the trees. As a result, no density estimates were possible for the smaller size classes.

These data show that *V. flavescens* has the most dense populations of all the Pakistan species. It is also the smallest, and is restricted to areas with high productivity. *V. griseus* has the least dense populations. It is of medium size when compared to the other two species and lives in areas of lowest productivity in all of Pakistan (desert habitats with shifting sand). *V. bengalensis* is the largest species in Pakistan and is found in the greatest diversity of habitats. Within these, it is least abundant in those with low productivity (arid) and highest in those with permanent water (wetlands).

#### Number and size taken

One of the most important factors to be considered in recommending management programmes for monitor lizards is the effect of trade on wild populations. Inskipp (1984) correctly stated that one required data set pertains to the age distribution of the animals represented in the trade. With this in mind, the widths of a series of 148 skins in the storehouse of the Sind Wildlife Management Board and 275 in four shops in Karachi were measured. The results show that for *V. bengalensis* the average circumference of individuals captured for the leather trade is  $19.9 \pm 2.6$  cm. This correlates with an average snout-vent length of 312 mm, or individuals in at least the fourth year of their life, and thus sexually mature (calculated as 2.5 to 3 years for these species on the basis of both captive and field data). No juveniles were noted, the smallest being 15 cm, which is still sexually mature. The size distribution is strongly peaked at the mean size (skewness = 0.32; kurtosis = 4.56). Thus the hide sample shows great size selectivity. This may be due to the

manner in which the monitors are hunted, for smaller individuals rarely dig their own burrows and, even when they do, the characteristic cross-sectional shape of the opening is less easily seen. Additionally, the spoor left by entering monitor is barely discernible on the clayey soils that usually characterise the surface of the habitat of *V. bengalensis*.

The skins of *V. flavescens* examined were also all of adult individuals (average mean width  $14.8 \pm 1.9$  cm). The difference in the average size of individuals taken of each species is directly correlated with the mean sizes of these two species.

TABLE I  
Estimated minimum densities (adults/km<sup>2</sup>) of  
*Varanus* species in different habitats in Pakistan

Habitat	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	<i>Varanus griseus</i>	<i>Varanus flavescens</i>
Desert scrub	9	-	-
Thornbrush	-	16	-
Deciduous forest	-	28	-
Wetland borderlands	-	32	46

#### METHODS OF CAPTURE

The method of luring monitors to a trap with rotten flesh (used in much of S.E. Asia, particularly for *V. salvator*) is not used in Pakistan because the species here are generally not carrion-feeders. Instead, monitors are usually dug from their burrows, which are normally less than 2-m long. To an experienced eye, the burrows are easily recognised by their cross-sectional shape (oval, with a flat floor). All monitor lizards hunt for their food during the day, mostly before 10.00 hrs (*V. griseus* often finishing its hunting by 08.30 hrs, owing to the rapidly heating surface of its arid habitat). However, they spend as much as 90% of every day in the burrow. As a result, searching for them in their burrows is the most effective way of capturing them. However, there are many more burrows in any given area than monitors. (On the basis of test excavations completed in north-west India, there are about 0.67 monitors per burrow in agricultural land with thorn scrub borders; this figure is bound to be different in other habitats). Thus hunting success depends largely upon the ability of the hunter to recognize the signs that suggest a monitor lizard is 'at home'. These signs include absence of spider webs across the entrance, scratch marks, tail drags and footprints at or near the burrow mouth, and faeces.

The tools used by most hunters are a light hand axe (burrows are often located in small thickets and under roots) and a heavy, chisel-like instrument, made by flattening and sharpening one end of a 75cm-90cm long steel rod about 2cm in diameter. This is used to break away the often dense, very hard clay in which the burrow is excavated. When sufficiently exposed, and after checking that there are no poisonous snakes in the same burrow, the monitor is grasped, using the hands, and pulled from the burrow, often with considerable difficulty. It is then placed in a cloth sack, often after having its back deliberately broken so that it is unable to run away.

Hunting parties consist of two or three men. Because monitor hunting often involves considerable distances (owing to previous extirpation of nearby populations), transportation to the hunting areas, usually by public rural buses, is required.

#### USES OF MONITOR LIZARDS

Compared to other Asian countries, and apart from their use for leather manufacture, monitor lizards are little used in Pakistan. A few tribals eat the flesh (e.g., Koli, Bhil, Bagri and Thani Jogi), often, but not always, for medicinal purposes, e.g. for relief of rheumatism. Murray (1884) stated that, at least in former times, some Sindis used the blood as a folk medicine. Eating monitor flesh is apparently an ancient practice in the Indus River Valley; Prashad (1936) reported finding *Varanus* bones in midden materials from the ancient Harappa site (c. 2500 BC).

A few tribals use different anatomical parts of monitors (including the reproductive organs) in black and white magic. The skin is widely used in making drum heads for two types of small percussion instruments ("Dhoh!" and "Dug-Dug!"), often used by street entertainers to accompany trained, 'dancing' animals (usually bears or monkeys). The large amounts of abdominal fat found in monitors is used as a salve for epidermal bacterial infections. Occasionally, oil rendered from the fat is used as a remedy for haemorrhoids (at Rs100 (US\$8) for 12 g). More often, however, the oil is illegally sold on street corners as an aphrodisiac/sexual lubricant, though oil from the Spiny-tailed Lizard, or 'sandah' *Uromastix hardwicki* is preferred for this purpose, and less expensive. A special "sandah oil licence" can be purchased through appropriate government offices for about Rs350 a year. Some Thani Jogi tribals prepare a powder of the hemipenis of *V. bengalensis* to mark the foreskin of male babies, believing this to bring wealth and fortune to the child in later life. Some Hindus also use monitor oil on the temple Linga as a symbolic gesture of desired fertility. The gall bladder is not believed to be as extensively used in medicine in Pakistan, as it is in South-East Asia (particularly Malaysia).

The less frequent use of monitor lizards and products derived from them for food and in medicines in Pakistan is partly attributable to the fact that many villagers believe them to be venomous and partly because, in general, Muslims refrain from close contact with lizards and snakes.

The most common use of monitor lizards in Pakistan is for the leather industry. A small number are used by colleges and universities as display specimens and for scientific research.

#### LEATHER INDUSTRY

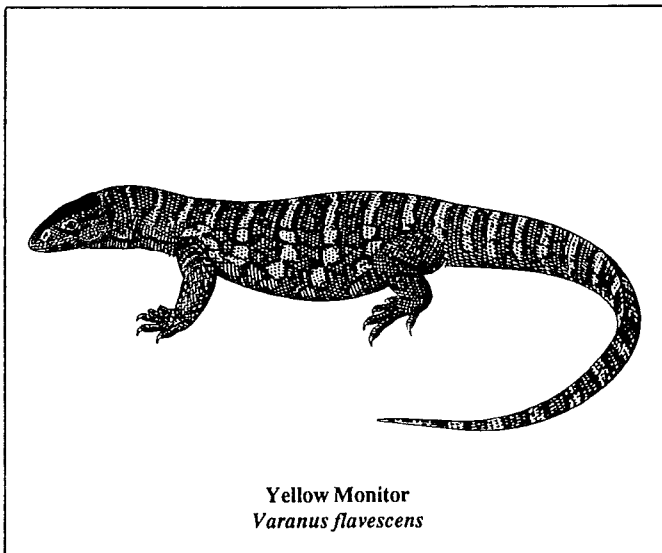
Monitor hunting is always a man's occupation. In Pakistan it is largely, though not exclusively, confined to Sind Province. Most hides originate from an area between Bahawalpur (Punjab), and Thatta (Sind), with the hub of the industry centred in the Larkana area (Sind). In addition, monitor hunting is an occupation of only certain tribal groups, of which the most significant are the Bagri and the Jogi. These groups also deal in illicit skins of other animals (crocodile, wolf, fox, and small cats) and supply live specimens for research and the international pet trade (the latter also being illegal). However, none of these can currently be construed as having a major impact on populations, although this may have been the case in the past. Not all tribal members are involved in this illicit animal trade; some are musicians or snake charmers; a few are agricultural/industrial workers.

After being caught, monitors are usually skinned in the field, almost always by slicing the belly, so that the dorsal surface is intact. About a third of the tail is left attached, and is used for small items, such as watch straps. The main part of the skin is eventually used for wallets, belts, brief-cases and, particularly, ladies' shoes and handbags. The hides are either lightly salted or, preferably, stretched and dried in the shade.

Illicitly obtained skins are periodically collected from the more distant rural hunters by a visiting middleman (also often tribal), who then sells them to the urban tanner-dyers; hunters near the larger towns (usually Karachi and suburbs) take the skins directly to the tanneries. In 1986, hunters received Rs.3-5 (US\$0.25-0.4) a skin; after tanning, prices vary from Rs.10-15, depending on size and quality. Tanneries dealing in monitor skins are not the large, legal operations for which east Karachi is so well known, but small enterprises in single-family dwellings, which are sometimes financed by larger leather-manufacturing operations.

The tanner sells the preserved hides to local retailers and manufacturers. These are also small, family-run businesses in which only a few cutters and assemblers work. Karachi is apparently the only such manufacturing centre in Pakistan and the author estimates that there are probably no more than two dozen such manufacturers in the city.

In fact, relatively few skins are used in the production of manufactured goods. The latter are retailed in a few shops located in Lahore, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, and Karachi. Again, only a few families are involved in retail of these items. Surprisingly, the goods are openly displayed for sale, often in shops located in the lobby of the best hotels. The proprietors have repeatedly stated to the author that they are not fearful of being closed down.



Yellow Monitor  
*Varanus flavescens*

The majority of skins are apparently smuggled out of the country. Based on discussion with retailers, they only sell the raw or tanned hides - smuggling them out of the country is the buyers' problem. However, some proprietors of smaller retail shops (away from the major hotels) are quite willing to take orders for a large number of hides: requests for 8000-10 000 caused no apparent surprise or concern. On the basis of such discussions, the author is convinced that orders of this magnitude can be obtained locally and at relatively short notice, perhaps by pooling stocks of several retailers, or from small warehouses. However, I was told that delivery of a larger number of hides would take some time, suggesting that such orders would have to be sent to the hunters via the travelling middlemen. The author did not get the impression that many large orders had been filled for foreigners in recent years. However, the fact that only relatively few skins are used in the manufacture of items locally and that a large number of monitors are caught throughout the year, suggests that there is a continuing illicit trade of some sort. There is, however, no

evidence of stockpiling. Small numbers of raw and/or tanned skins probably leave the country on a more or less regular basis. At present, it is impossible to determine what the number is, although dealers believed it to be about 4000 a year. Of this total, approximately 10% are said to be re-exports of skins brought illegally into Pakistan from India, either across the desert border or by sea (to Karachi from Bombay). The illicit border traffic was apparently greater in the past; current border patrolling between the countries makes crossing it more difficult.

## CONCLUSION

In general, the monitor lizard conservation programme in Pakistan can be said to be effective. Though some illegal hunting and export takes place, the number of skins sent out of the country is very significantly lower than five years ago. Though this change is largely due to continued strict Customs regulations in importing countries, it is also related to the recognition of, and compliance with, wildlife laws in Pakistan itself. In appropriate habitats, at least two of the three native monitor species can be seen regularly. There is every indication that current practices in both Pakistan and countries abroad will assure that this remains the case in the future.

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Drawings by Urs Woy © CITES Secretariat

## Seizures and Prosecutions

### AUSTRALIA

compiled by Frank Antram, TRAFFIC(Oceania)

#### Federal:

Three West German citizens, charged with conspiring to export 32 native birds, have skipped bail.

On 18 April 1989, Ludwig Hörr, his wife, Vera, and Albert Mueller, along with John Croymans, an Australian bird dealer, were remanded on bail until 24 July 1989, charged with attempting to export native Australian birds without a permit, contrary to Section 21(b) of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982. The Germans had been arrested the day before, at Melbourne airport. Australian Federal Police alleged that they were intending to fly to Singapore; two suitcases belonging to them allegedly contained 5 Galahs *Cacatua roseicapilla* and 27 Long-billed Corellas *Cacatua tenuirostris*. Croymans was arrested later the same day on conspiracy charges. The Germans were also charged, under the Customs Act 1901, with illegally possessing and attempting to export the anaesthetic used on the birds.

When the West Germans failed to appear in court on 24 July 1989, they were each sentenced to four-months' imprisonment for failing to comply with bail conditions and a warrant was issued for their arrest. The A\$10 000 (US\$8000) bail money that each of them had paid was forfeited to the Crown. The case against Croymans was adjourned to 15 August 1989, when all charges against him were withdrawn.

\* \* \* \*

On 14 July 1989, Chung Kwang Yee, of Sydney, New South Wales, was convicted in Brisbane Magistrates Court on charges under Section 22(B) of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982, Section 67(1) of the Quarantine Act 1908, and Section 234(1)(e) of the Customs Act 1901. The charges related to an attempt by Chung, on 4 February 1988, to import 10 live Pond Slider turtles *Trachemys scripta* and some plant material. Chung had apparently purchased the animals in Hong Kong and attempted to smuggle them into Australia concealed in hand baggage and clothing. When Chung and his family arrived at Brisbane, in transit to Sydney, they were searched by Customs and the animals were discovered. Chung pleaded guilty to the charges and was fined A\$1000 (US\$800) on the wildlife charge and A\$500 on each of the Customs and Quarantine Act charges; a total of A\$2000, plus A\$120 court costs.

\* \* \* \*

On 20 July 1989, an American citizen, Edmund Celebuki, from Ohio, appeared in Sydney District Court, on charges, under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982, of illegal importation of reptiles. Celebuki had been arrested on 26 May 1989, at Sydney airport. Examination of his baggage had revealed 61 live reptiles, concealed in pillow cases and socks, and separated by wooden slats. The animals comprised 23 Mangrove Monitors *Varanus indicus*, 6 D'Albertis' Pythons *Liasis albertisii*, 28 Bismarck Pythons *Liasis boa*, 1 Olive Python *Liasis papuanus*, and 3 Carpet Pythons *Morelia spilota variegata*. Celebuki had arrived on a flight from Papua New Guinea. He allegedly had no export permits from Papua New Guinea, and failed to declare the animals upon arrival in Australia. The judge released Celebuki on condition that he entered into a recognizance in the sum ▷



© WWF/Willi Dolder

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

▷ of A\$1000 (US\$800) to be of good behaviour for three years and on condition that he left the country by midnight that day. If he failed to comply with these conditions, Celebuki would be gaoled for four years. The judge, referring to the Klein case (see *Traffic Bulletin* 10(3/4):45), indicated that, whilst he needed no convincing of the severity of offences of this nature, there was little point in handing down what he considered to be appropriate sentencing, until the appeal court held a similar view.

\* \* \* \*

On 28 July 1989, Anthony Somerville, of Orange, New South Wales, was convicted in the Sydney District Court on three charges of being knowingly concerned with attempts to export Australian native birds and reptiles, contrary to Sections 21(a) and 21(b) of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports & Imports) Act 1982, through Section 5 of the Crimes Act 1914. (The charges related to the attempts by Randall McBride and Horst Selig to export fauna - see *Traffic Bulletin* 10(1/2):11 and 10(3/4):45 respectively.)

Somerville had been arrested on 24 November 1988 as he was about to board a flight to Bangkok. He was released on bail by Sydney's Central Court to appear again on 22 May 1989. However, Somerville failed to appear. He was arrested at Sydney airport, on 23 May 1989, after being sent back from Indonesia, where he had been imprisoned by the District Court of Merauke, Irian Jaya, for illegal entry into Indonesia. He was remanded in custody and, on 28 July 1989, Somerville was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on each of the three charges (to be served concurrently). The judge set a minimum non-parole period of 18 months.

## SEIZURES AND PROSECUTIONS ctd.

## AUSTRALIA ctd.

State:Victoria

On 22 March 1989, at Wodonga Magistrates Court, Philip Need, of Victoria, was convicted on four charges relating to possession of protected wildlife without an appropriate licence, contrary to Sections 26(1) and 43(2) of the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975. The species involved were 98 Varied Lorikeets Trichoglossus versicolor, 16 Rainbow Lorikeets Trichoglossus haematodus, 3 Emu chicks Dromaius novaehollandiae, and 6 Bearded Dragons Amphibolurus barbatus. The animals had been found in Need's car, on 17 September 1988, by highway patrol police, during a routine vehicle licence check. Need was fined a total of A\$1500 (US\$1200), and ordered to pay costs of A\$1380. Need has previous convictions in Australia for illegal possession of wildlife.

## AUSTRIA

WWF-Austria has initiated legal proceedings against an Austrian citizen, following illegal importation of a Military Macaw Ara militaris (CITES Appendix I) from F.R. Germany. The bird died a few days later.

The person responsible for the transaction was recently convicted of smuggling at least one Hyacinth Macaw Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus.

Another Austrian citizen imported two Moluccan Cockatoos Cacatua moluccensis from Hong Kong without a CITES permit. However, owing to a lack of adequate housing facilities, the birds were returned to the importer.

\* \* \* \*

On 19 April, a shipment of birds was confiscated from one of the largest animal dealers in the state of Styria, Austria, because it was not accompanied by CITES documents.

In addition to numerous non-CITES-listed birds, the shipment contained 10 pairs of Orange-cheeked Waxbills Estrilda melpoda, 10 pairs of Black-rumped Waxbills Estrilda troglodytes and 5 pairs of Orange-breasted Waxbills Amandava subflava, all listed in Appendix III by Ghana.

The birds came via F.R. Germany and are being cared for by a private aviculturist.

\* \* \* \*

On 14 June 1989, a commercial shipment of 24 Common Waxbills Estrilda astrild, 20 Yellow-fronted Canaries Serinus mozambicus and 8 Acacia Paradise Whydahs Vidua paradisaea was confiscated after entering Austria from F.R. Germany without CITES documentation. Again, owing to the lack of a rescue centre, the birds were placed in private hands. Most of the birds have perished.

Source: TRAFFIC(Austria)

## BELGIUM

On 13 March 1989, 15 raw tusks totalling 180 kg were confiscated by Customs at Zaventem airport, Belgium. The tusks were declared as 'personal effects' and were in transit from Libreville, Gabon, to Seoul, South Korea. On inspection, the ivory, which was without documentation and unmarked, appeared to be quite old and of the hard quality typical of forest elephant.

A further shipment of 558 kg of part-worked ivory, transiting from Dubai to Singapore, was seized on 15 June. The goods had been declared as 'fashion jewellery' and included unpolished ivory bracelets and cylinders (for seals). Documented evidence has shown that ten similar shipments of ivory, totalling 5680 kg, transited through Zaventem airport, between 2 March and 9 June. Airlines responsible for transporting the shipments were the Royal Jordanian Airlines, KLM (Netherlands), Singapore Airlines and SABENA (Belgium).

\* \* \* \*

In April 1989, the Customs Inspection Service at Antwerp, Belgium, discovered an illegal shipment of 1660 Caiman crocodilus crocodilus skins, en route from Argentina to a well-known leather firm, Bodiopelli, in Italy. The skins were accompanied by a false Argentinian re-export document which was based on a legal Bolivian export permit issued some years before for 7000 skins of the same subspecies. This stock had allegedly been exhausted for some time.

The Italian Management Authority had already accepted the fraudulent Argentinian document and had issued an import permit.

Source: TRAFFIC(Belgium)

## CHINA

In China, a man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for poaching Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys Pygathrix roxellanae.

Wang Yong, a farmer, was accused, along with six others, of trapping 18 specimens in the Shenlong Range Natural Reserve, in Hubei province, between September 1984 and January 1988. He was also accused of colluding with the director and deputy director of the Wuhan Zoo to make a deal for the monkeys. Thirteen of the animals have died.

The Golden Snub-nosed Monkey lives in mountainous areas of central and south-west China at altitudes of 2000 m to 3000 m above sea level. It is a protected species in China and is listed in CITES Appendix I.

Source: Straits Times (Singapore), 20 June 1989

## ITALY

Acting on information received from TRAFFIC(Italy), the CITES Management Authority recently seized 12 Common Marmosets Callithrix jacchus of at least three subspecies, from a pet shop in Ciampino, Rome. The animals, worth 1.5 million lire each (approximately US\$1050) had no CITES documentation.

The Marmosets are being housed in the zoological garden in Rome until permanent accommodation, possibly in a breeding centre, can be found. ▷

## SEIZURES AND PROSECUTIONS ctd.

## ITALY ctd.

Sixteen Hermann's Tortoises Testudo hermanni were seized by the Carabinieri (Army Police) from Mendillo, the oldest and most famous pet shop in Rome, following information received by TRAFFIC(Italy). A regional law forbids the killing, capture, keeping and sale of most reptiles and amphibians (including tortoises). In addition, EEC CITES Regulation 3626/82 prohibits the import into member countries of T. hermanni. This has placed pressure on the few remaining Italian populations of T.h. robertmertensi. Laws to protect herpetofauna exist in only a few regions and these are largely ignored.

Source: TRAFFIC(Italy)

## UK

On 16 June 1989, Peter Cooke of Hampshire, UK, was fined £1000 (US\$1700) and £1500 costs on seven charges of illegally importing four Gila Monsters Heloderma suspectum, five Blue-tongued Skinks Tiliqua sp., and seven rattlesnakes Crotalus spp. through the post from the USA.

Staff at the Mount Pleasant main post sorting office, London, became suspicious when a brown paper parcel moved. A Customs officer was summoned to X-ray the package which revealed a Gila Monster, a poisonous lizard (CITES App. II), wrapped in a sock.

A further 60 specimens of snakes, lizards, snapping turtles and an Indian Python Python molurus, were found at Cooke's home.

Cooke was described in court as "an obsessional and misguided hobbyist who went too far". It was accepted that he was not a dealer and that he never had any intention of selling his collection for commercial gain.

The animals are now in London Zoo.

\* \* \* \*

Stephen Kirby, of Kirby Exotic Birds, Coventry, has been gaoled for three months, with a further 18 months suspended, after admitting a £46 500 (US\$76 700) VAT fraud on 12 000 imported birds and reptiles. The tax has since been repaid.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of his brother and business partner, Gerald, who is living in Florida, USA.

Sources: *The Independent (UK)*, 17 June 1989; *Daily Telegraph (UK)*, 5 August 1989

\* \* \* \*

## USA

Three US citizens, arrested on 2 November 1988 for conspiring to import rhinoceros horns and other products illegally into the USA from South Africa have been sentenced (see *Traffic Bulletin*, 10(3/4):30).

John Lukman received a gaol sentence of 27 months, a US\$20 000 fine, and three years of supervised release after he leaves gaol; Isaac Saada was sentenced to three years probation and a US\$2500 fine; Mary Anne McAllister received a sentence of one year probation and a US\$250 fine; Russell Beveridge received a US\$250 fine and the US Customs Service seized his car used to transport the rhino horn; Kenneth Hussey and Martin Sher received fines of US\$2500 and US\$100 respectively.

Three South African nationals, Marius and Pat Meiring and Waldemar Schutte, were also indicted in 1988. Efforts to extradite the South Africans to the USA are currently underway. If successfully extradited and tried in US courts, the Meirings face up to 50 years in gaol and a US\$2.5 million fine, while Schutte could receive a sentence of ten years and US\$500 000 fine.

Lukman had smuggled rhino horn and weapons from South Africa with the help of Meiring and Schutte, members of the South African Defence Force, and other accomplices. The horns were apparently obtained from rhinos killed by South African army troops in Angola.

\* \* \* \*

Twelve people have been charged in the USA for their role in the international smuggling into the country of large shipments of birds worth approximately US\$500 000, which included Palm Cockatoos Probosciger aterrimus, Hyacinth Macaws Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus, Eclectus Parrots Eclectus roratus, Double Yellow-headed Amazon Parrots Amazona (ochrocephala) oratrix, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos Cacatua sulphurea and Military Macaws Ara militaris.

The accused, who come from the USA, Mexico, Singapore and Argentina, are accused of conspiracy to import wildlife contrary to CITES, the US Endangered Species Act, US Lacey Act, and federal quarantine and Customs laws. The indictments were the result of a 20-month undercover operation conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with the assistance of the Customs Service.

The maximum penalty per offence (up to 12 offences) is five years' imprisonment and/or US\$250 000 fine.

Investigations into the activities of the smuggling ring continues.

\* \* \* \*

James Bivins, of Florida, USA, was fined a total of US\$108 800 on 10 March 1989 for the possession of eggs of the Loggerhead Turtle Caretta caretta.

Bivins was arrested in possession of 1088 eggs, most of which were from the highly endangered Loggerhead. In addition to the standard maximum penalty for a second degree misdemeanour, Florida statutes allow judges the discretion to apply a US\$100 penalty for each marine unit, when they believe circumstances require a more substantial fine.

This record penalty should act as a powerful deterrent to wildlife law violators who sell the eggs for \$2-\$3 each for their alleged aphrodisiac qualities.

Sources: TRAFFIC(USA) Newsletter, July 1989; US Dept. of Justice, 31 May 1989; Marine Turtle Newsletter No. 46, July 1989



## ITTO Monitors Timber Trade

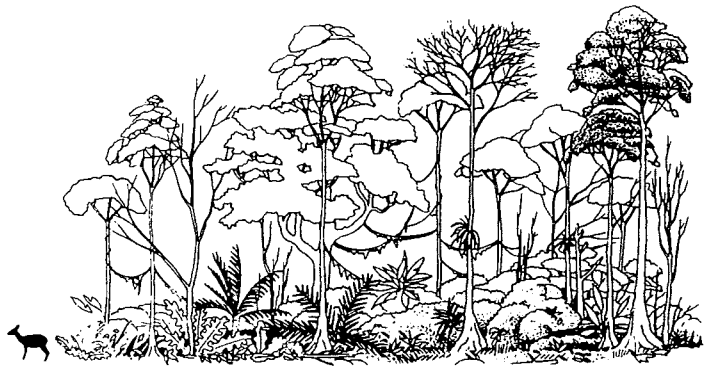
A two-day review session on tropical timber markets took place during the meeting of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 16-24 May 1989. During the market discussions, member countries presented brief market statements and there were also discussions on consumer markets in Europe, Asia/Pacific and North America. Tropical timber market forecasts were also presented, and will form part of an ITTO annual review of the trade.

ITTO is now in a position to monitor trends in the international tropical timber trade. The Organisation has established a quantitative database holding information which represents 93% of the value of the total net exports of member states and 89% of total worked exports of tropical wood products. An in-house Statistical Unit has been in place since March this year, and most of its work since then has been in preparation for the market review. A statistical computerised database is operational with linkages through the UN International Computing Centre (ICC) in Geneva, Switzerland. Through this, ITTO has direct access to FAO and UNCTAD databases.

A report prepared by the ITTO Secretariat, on the tropical timber statistics of member countries, shows the national information which is available as a basis for data processing by the Organisation. The report is based on responses to an ITTO questionnaire circulated early in 1988. For each member country the availability of a range of statistics is summarised, such as removals of industrial wood, exports by product and species, stocks at point of embarkation, imports and end-users. The type of agency collecting the statistical data, for example Government or trade associations, is given, together with the time period for collection. Based on the findings of the report, recommendations were made to strengthen ITTO's capability in economic information and market intelligence.

Two specific projects in this field are the development of the international publication on trade data for tropical timber as a joint ITTO/FAO Bulletin and the proposed Market News service for tropical timber and timber products. The Market News Service is planned as a service of the UNCTAD International Trade Centre (ITC) which will produce information primarily on tropical timber prices.

Parallel to the major trade-monitoring services of ITTO, the organisation is considering the collection of data on tropical timber species of conservation concern and the feasibility of monitoring international trade in



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such species. In order to do this, ITTO has commissioned a pre-project study on 'The conservation status of tropical timbers in trade' which is being undertaken by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The study will include collection of data on rare and threatened tropical timber species, a review of existing conservation measures, design and development of a database for storage of species information with the capacity for adding regular trade data, and a study of the practical aspects of monitoring trade at the species level. The study is being co-ordinated by WTMU and we would be very interested to hear from anyone who can contribute information on species in trade.

During the market review session, in Abidjan, the effect of environmental campaigns on tropical timber markets was a major item of debate. Tropical timber users are increasingly demanding wood from sustainably managed forests and a major part of ITTO's work is concerned with the promotion of well-managed natural forests for timber production. Equally, consumers want to know that the timber species they utilize are not being over-exploited. At present, such information on the conservation status of tropical timbers is not readily available. It is intended that, through the WCMC study, information will be assembled into a database accessible to ITTO members and that clear options will be presented to the Organisation for work in timber species conservation.

Sara Oldfield

## Publications Available

Application de la Convention de Washington en Polynésie-Française. 1989. 52 pp. (French text).

Application de la Convention de Washington en Nouvelle-Calédonie et Dépendances. 1989. 48 pp. (French text).

Two reports, on the implementation of CITES in French Polynesia, and in New Caledonia, are available from TRAFFIC(France).

Both reports are based on visits to the two French Overseas Territories by the Director of TRAFFIC(France) during the period November to December 1988, to assess the implementation of CITES.

While stocks last, copies are available free of charge from TRAFFIC(France) (address back page).

Annotated CITES Appendices and Reservations. 1988. 63 pp. Price: £5 (US\$10) incl. postage.

Published by and available from WTMU, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK.

This publication includes details of all amendments to the CITES Appendices and changes to the list of reservations held by CITES Parties, up to September 1988. In two parts, Part 1 contains lists of all taxa ever listed in CITES Appendices I, II and III and their English common names, with annotations to show when each taxon was listed, deleted or transferred from one Appendix to another. It includes seven pages of nomenclatural and explanatory notes. Part 2 contains a record of all the specific Reservations ever entered by Parties to CITES, with annotations to show when the reservations became effective, when they were withdrawn and in some cases why.

## Birds' Nest Cave Closed to Collectors

The Sarawak Government, Malaysia, has decided to close Niah Caves from birds' nests collectors for a period of three years, following a ban on collection which had gone unheeded.

Recent studies indicate that the bird population in the cave has decreased and this has been attributed to large-scale illegal nest collections.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Datuk Amar James Wong, when he met with a group of licensed birds'-nest and guano collectors in Miri, in April, to seek their view on the ban. The collectors felt the ban would flush out illegal collectors.

Source: *The Borneo Bulletin*, 22 April 1989

## Birds' Nests Theft

Three men broke into a Chinese herbal medicine shop in South Bridge Road, Singapore, and escaped with 2 kg of birds' nests worth S\$60 000 (US\$31 000).

Source: *Straits Times (Singapore)*, 3 May 1989

## Italy's Airline Urged to Curb Smuggling

WWF-Italy recently requested the Italian airline ALITALIA to help curb illegal smuggling, following a disclosure to TRAFFIC(Italy) by an ALITALIA air stewardess that passengers on certain routes often carry live animals of CITES-listed species.

In response, WWF-Italy has been assured of the company's attention to the problem; an internal memorandum has been issued to all the airline's personnel and landing stations, urging them to be vigilant to the problems and outlines the procedures to be taken to alert Customs at the airport of destination.

The animals said to be most commonly smuggled are marmosets Callithricidae, which are hidden in bags or under coats, and parrots, concealed in cigar boxes amongst other places. The flights mainly concerned are from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and, less often, Dakar (Senegal), and Bangkok (Thailand).

Plans are underway by ALITALIA to publish an announcement in all issues of its monthly in-flight magazine, *Ulisse 2000*, instructing passengers about the requirements of CITES.

Source: *TRAFFIC(Italy)*

## TRAFFIC Network Activities

### TRAFFIC(Austria)

Staff are currently studying the use of turtle (Cheloniidae) and Aloe products in the cosmetic industry in Austria.

Investigations are being carried out into alleged illegal live-bird transactions; one specimen of Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* has already been confiscated from illegal falconers in Hungary. The trade in thousands of alleged captive-bred Horsfield's Tortoises *Testudo horsfieldii* from the Soviet Union, is also being investigated.

### TRAFFIC(Belgium)

The series of CITES seminars to Customs officers, organised by the Belgian CITES Management Authority and TRAFFIC during the period March to June, seems to have greatly increased the awareness of the Convention and produced tangible results (see page 14). Staff also participated in a training and information seminar, organised by the CITES Secretariat for the International Custom Co-operation Council in Brussels.

Studies on the ivory trade in Belgium and Zaire, as part of the Ivory Trade Review Group (ITRG) interim report, were completed.

From May to July, Bernard De Wetter was hired to survey the trade in reptile leather, skins and items in Belgium. A preliminary report has been submitted and additional field work will be carried out in September.

A direct mailing has been prepared, together with WWF-Belgium and WWF-France; a trial run mailing to some 40 000 WWF supporters has had promising results and could raise enough money to finance future investigations by TRAFFIC.

### TRAFFIC(France)

With great regret, we must report that Gwénola le Serrec, Director of TRAFFIC(France) will be leaving in September. She established TRAFFIC(France) two years ago, has been responsible for several important trade studies, and has greatly helped to improve wildlife trade controls and awareness of the problems in France. Gwénola will be greatly missed by the Network.

Recent activities have included a study of France's trade in ivory which has been completed and published as part of the ITRG interim report. The report shows that even if importation of ivory has decreased over the past few years, in 1987 France imported about seven tonnes of raw ivory and 18 tonnes of worked ivory. Almost all raw ivory imported was re-exported to Japan.

Two seminars on CITES have been held for Customs and veterinary officers. In addition, a training video tape on CITES, prepared in co-operation with Customs, has been made and will be distributed to officials and the general public.

Among other activities, TRAFFIC(France) is assisting in a study concerning the establishment of rescue centres for confiscated live animals.

### TRAFFIC(Germany)

The ivory trade study for the ITRG has been completed. Two courses to train teachers to use the new wildlife education kit "Artenschutzkoffer" have been held.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Nature Conservation, a study looking into the implementation of CITES and national wildlife trade regulations in the state of Hessen, has begun.

A concerted effort is being made to investigate violations of CITES and to initiate prosecutions against certain offenders.

### TRAFFIC(Italy)

Lectures concerning wildlife trade and CITES have been given to a number of WWF-Italy regional offices. Several CITES violations have been referred to the Italian Management Authority and the police for action (see pages 14-15).

An analysis on the import of reptile skins and re-export of reptile products began in July, in co-operation with the Management Authority.

TRAFFIC(Italy) has assisted in the ITRG study by providing data on imports of raw and worked ivory, although Italy has only a small market for this product.

It is hoped later this year to employ a part-time assistant in Rome to carry out trade analyses and investigations; two other assistants, one in Venice and another in Naples, will be taken on part-time to investigate trade issues in the north and south of the country.

A TRAFFIC wildlife trade booklet is available free of charge (one copy) to CITES Management Authorities, wildlife conservation organisations and zoological institutions. To other interested organisations/individuals, a minimum contribution of US\$3.00 (or its equivalent) is requested. Contact TRAFFIC(Italy) (address back page).

### TRAFFIC(Japan)

TRAFFIC(Japan) completed draft reports on the ivory trade in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan for the ITRG and gave a presentation on the ivory trade at the Second Meeting of the CITES African Elephant Working Group in Gaborone, Botswana in July. TRAFFIC(Japan) played a leading role in working with the Japanese Government and the ivory importers to establish an interim import policy, including a ban on all worked ivory imports and raw ivory imports from non-CITES and non-producing countries (see page 2). A special delegation, including Dr Perez Olindo, Dr David Western, Dr Joyce Poole, and Dr Ruth Mace, visited Japan for presentation of the ITRG study to government and industry policy-makers. TRAFFIC arranged the meetings and provided translating services during the course of the discussions.

Other recent activities of TRAFFIC(Japan) have included examination of a proposal for another Giant Panda loan from China, provision of assistance to law enforcement officers on a variety of pending confiscation cases, and further contributions to the international bulb trade study.

### TRAFFIC(Netherlands)

A part-time researcher, Arnold van Kreveld, has been employed since July, and is currently engaged in a project looking into the breeding of and trade in parrots. The office will now be operating five days a week.

A compilation of confiscations of CITES specimens, during the period 1984-1987, will soon be finalised.

As a result of growing concern about the bulb trade, TRAFFIC has been invited to participate in an international meeting of bulb growers and traders, to be held in September, where discussions on the extent of wild-collected bulbs in trade will take place.

TRAFFIC has also been invited to give a presentation at an educational seminar organised by the Dutch Government's General Inspection Service.

### TRAFFIC(Oceania)

TRAFFIC(Oceania) has continued the process of transferral to computer of its record-keeping systems on wildlife trade data and market prices. This has included the computerisation of kangaroo quotas and kills, by State and by species, for the last 15 years.

Preliminary analysis has been undertaken, and plans made, for a proposed study of the tropical timber trade in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

A list of all CITES fauna species for the 'Oceania' region (as defined by the office's area of responsibility - see Traffic Bulletin 9(2/3):32) is in preparation.

Details are being finalised, with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), for TRAFFIC(Oceania) to become a co-sponsor of SPREP Project PA17 (Survey of Wildlife Status - Solomon Islands), through the provision of funds and data support. The objectives of the project include the provision of recommendations and guidelines for the preparation of legislation to protect and manage fauna, and to control wildlife trade; to provide guidelines for the establishment of an efficient administrative structure to regulate and monitor wildlife trade; to provide recommended trade practices which ensure minimal wastage of wildlife resources; and to document past and current trade, identify species which may be traded on a sustainable basis, and provide information on the status of key species in trade, etc.

A report on Australasian marsupials and monotremes in trade is nearing completion. This has been prepared, at the request of the compiler of the Action Plan for Australasian Marsupials and Monotremes (WWF Australia Project No. 123), as a contribution to the development of the Action Plan.

### TRAFFIC(South America)

TRAFFIC(South America) called a press conference at the end of April to provide information on the discovery of illegal re-exports of over 265 000 caiman skins from Argentina to Europe and Japan, an investigation in which TRAFFIC assisted. The Director visited Argentina with the Scientific Co-ordinator of the CITES Secretariat to inform the authorities of this case and to request an internal enquiry; the result is still awaited.

A group of volunteers has been established to assist staff with their work and their first task is to examine wildlife trade in Uruguay.

### TRAFFIC(USA)

The initial phase of the US CITES implementation study has been completed, and draft reports have been prepared on the US Scientific Authority and Management Authority offices, and on law enforcement investigations involving CITES species. In addition, draft reports have been completed on US imports of Asian reptile skins and the US trade in chimpanzees. A questionnaire on CITES procedures and regulations has been sent to 120 port inspectors and agents around the country; the results are now being analysed.

The USA banned African ivory imports on 9 July, largely as a response to the interim report released by the ITRG, to which TRAFFIC(USA) contributed an analysis on the US ivory trade.

The third meeting of the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade, established by TRAFFIC and WWF-US, was held in May. The group reviewed a draft report on the live bird importation process in the USA. The report is now being expanded to include information on the role of captive breeding in the bird trade and long-term strategies to promote conservation and management of wild species.

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