Brown-bag lunch: Tackling illegal wildlife trade

Friday, 6 June 2008, 12:15 -13:45
Meeting room 3, International Environment House 1

The 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) regulates international trade in over 30,000 animal and plant species through a permit system. Whether commercial or not, CITES trade must generally satisfy two pre-conditions: firstly, that it will not be detrimental to the survival of the species concerned, and secondly that the animal or plant in trade was acquired legally.

Appendix I of CITES includes approximately 900 species threatened with extinction, which are or may be affected by trade. International commercial trade in these species is generally prohibited. The remaining 29,000 species are not necessarily threatened with extinction, and their international commercial trade is strictly regulated to ensure that they do not become so.

Ensuring compliance with these trade rules can present considerable challenges to developed and developing countries alike. Checking all containers at busy ports, accurately identifying innumerable kinds of animals and plants as well as their parts and derivatives, and ensuring that people correctly understand and obey the law are just some of the difficulties faced.

You are cordially invited to a brown bag lunch on actions being taken to prevent and punish illegal international trade in wildlife, with the airing of 3 public service announcements (PSAs) on the US-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), featuring world renowned actor Harrison Ford. The public service announcement campaign will be inaugurated at UN headquarters in New York on June 5, World Environment Day, and we will be the first in Geneva to view the Harrison Ford PSAs.

12:15	Sandwiches and drinks
12:20	Introduction – *Dick Wilbur, Deputy Counsellor for Public Affairs, Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN (Chair)*
12:30	Screening of public service announcements by Harrison Ford
12:40	CITES activities for assisting national, regional and global enforcement authorities – *John Sellar, Senior Officer, Anti-smuggling, fraud and organized crime, CITES Secretariat*

11-13 chemin des Anémones, CH - 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: [41-22] 917-8326 Fax: [41-22] 797-3464 Web site: www.environmenthouse.ch

www.CITES.org

CITES Enforcement Assistance

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

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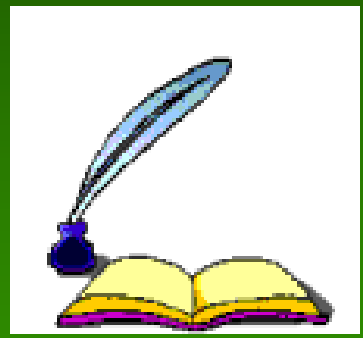
CITES

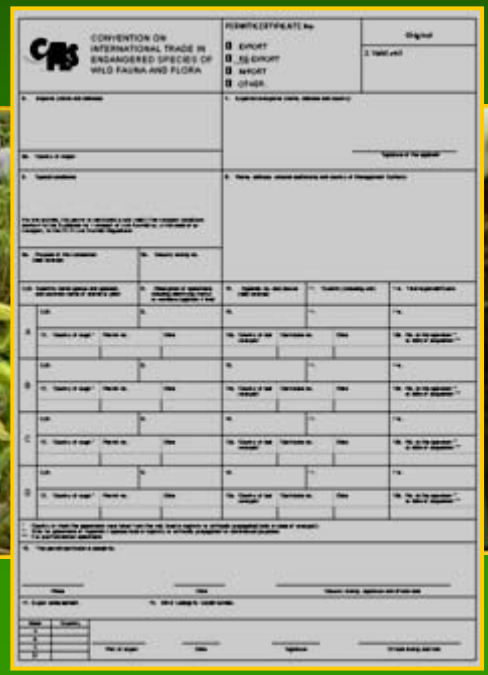
- CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- It is also known as the Washington Convention, as it was signed in Washington D.C.
- CITES was signed on 3 March 1973, and entered into force on 1 July 1975

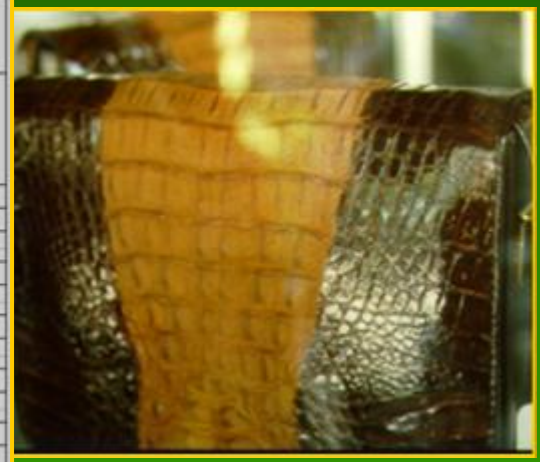


…in operation for 32 years

CITES

- CITES is an international convention that combines wildlife and trade themes with a legally binding instrument for achieving conservation and sustainable use objectives



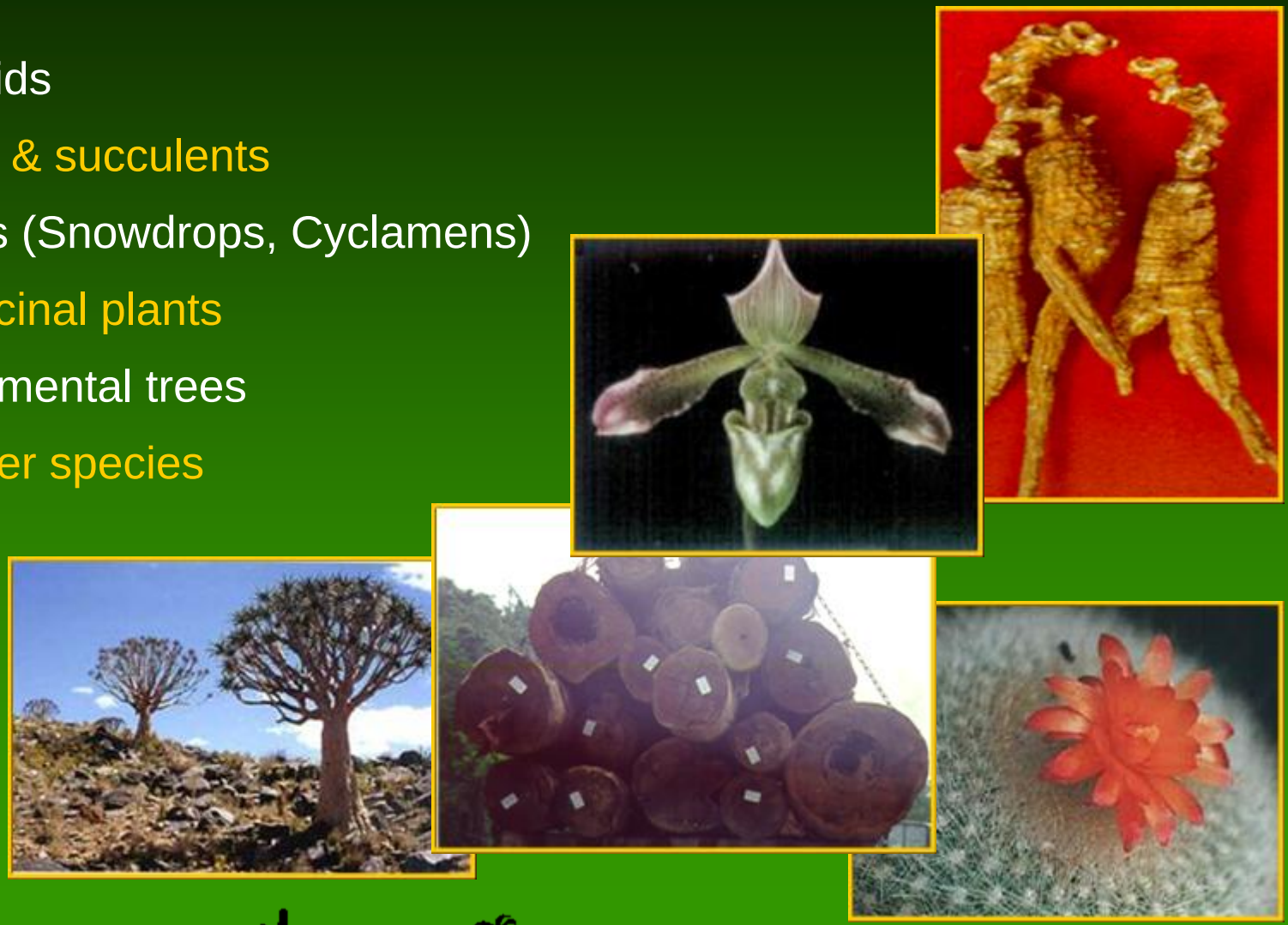


Examples of trade - animals

- Primates
- Hunting trophies
- Birds of prey
- Parrots & parakeets
- Crocodilians
- Snakes & lizards
- Turtles & tortoises
- Live aquarium specimens
- Food fishes
- Spiders & butterflies
- Molluscs & corals

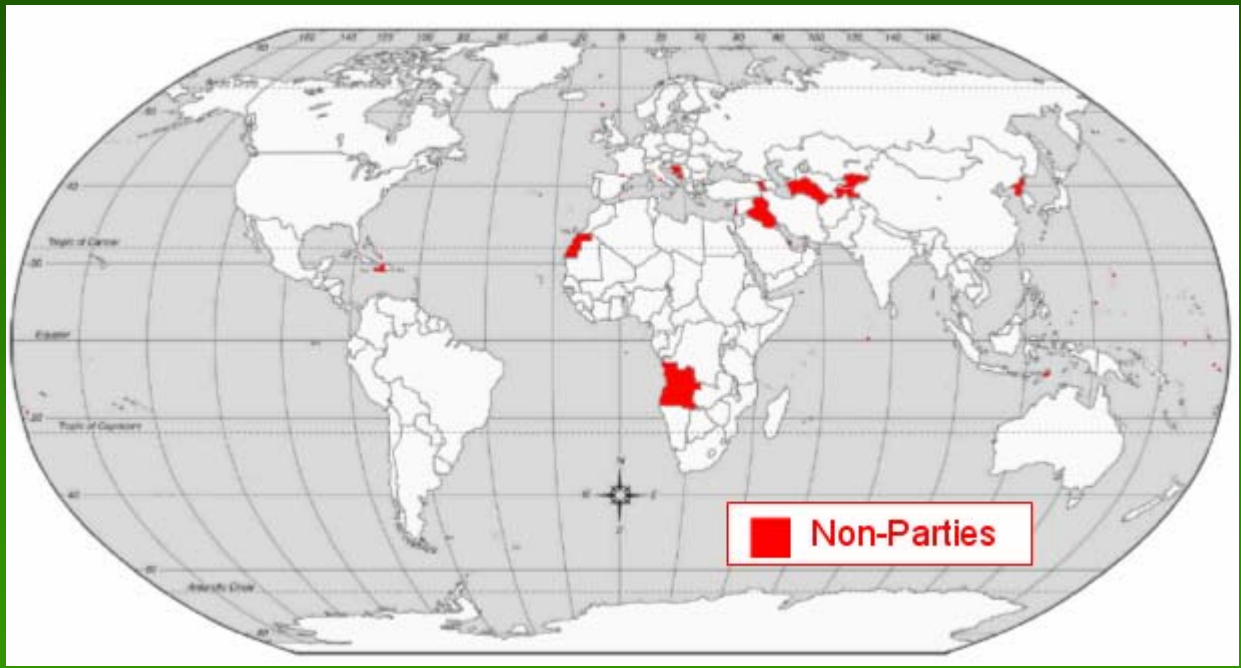
Examples of trade - plants

- Orchids
- Cacti & succulents
- Bulbs (Snowdrops, Cyclamens)
- Medicinal plants
- Ornamental trees
- Timber species



The CITES ‘family’

- This framework and common procedural mechanism is now used by **173** countries to regulate and monitor international trade in wild resources

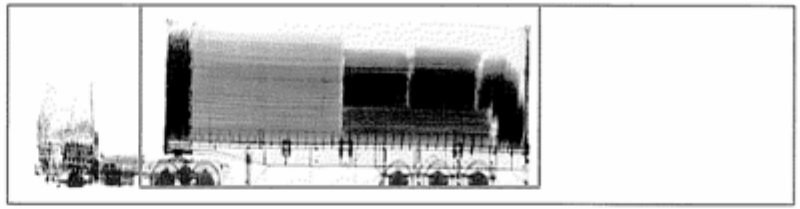


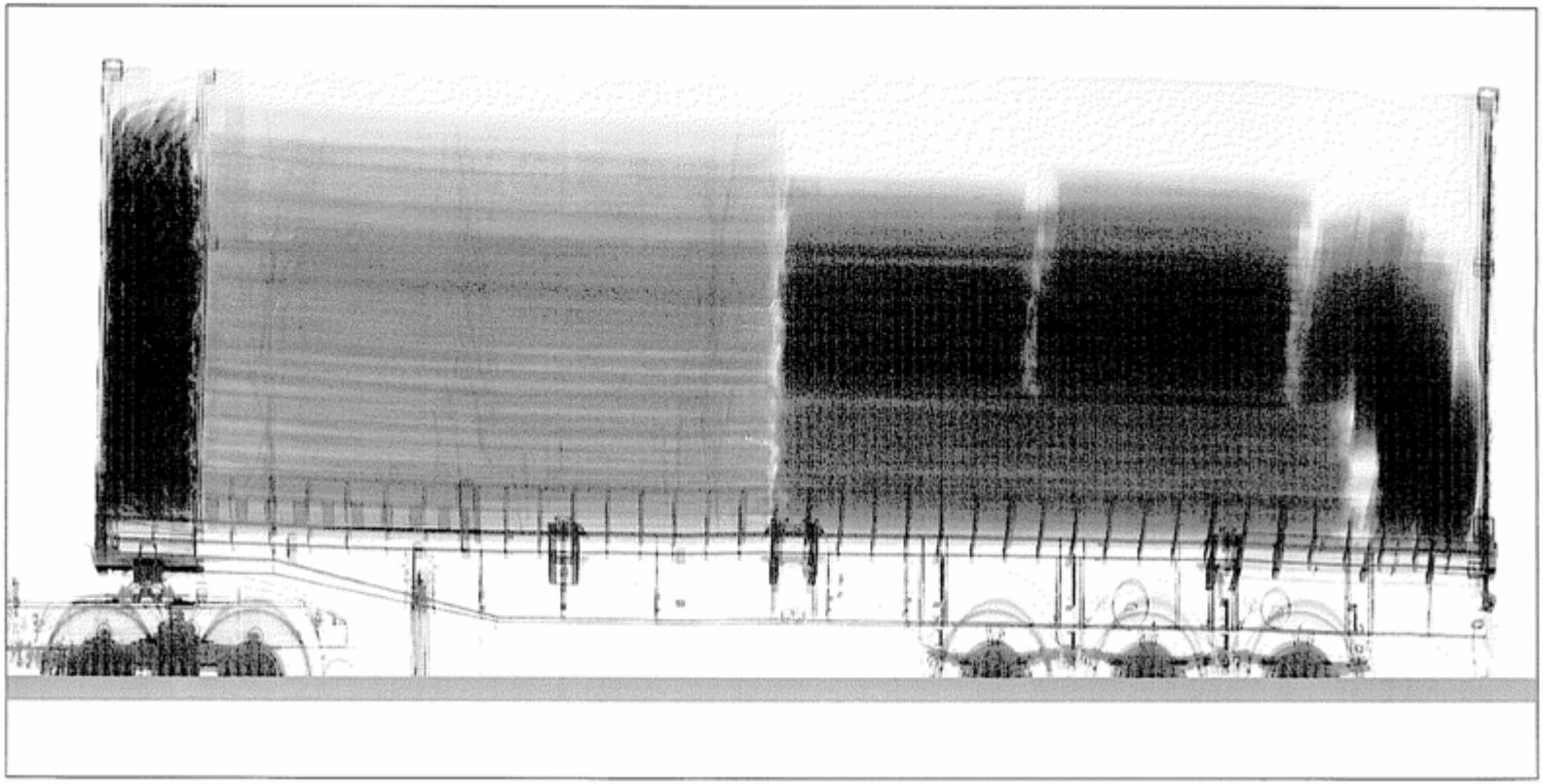
What does illegal trade look like?

Print Time:May 09,2006 17:37:47

同方威視集裝箱檢查系統圖像

查驗流水號：200605090006
集裝箱號：YCLU3769480
車輛編號：GL2003
檢查區域：KC CPD
檢查員姓名：82412 檢查結論：無嫌疑
檢入時間：May 09,2006 15:50
結論內容:





Coordinated enforcement

European Union
Wildlife Trade Enforcement Working Group

- Established in law by the European Regulation on wildlife trade
- All 25 EU member States involved
- Participation funded by the European Commission
- Meets twice a year
- Engages in projects
- EU-Twix database
- Uses TRAFFIC as a consultant

North American Wildlife Enforcement Group

- Supporting a network of wildlife enforcement officers
- Building capacity
- Creating a regional forensic network
- http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/law_policy/regional_enforce_forum/naweg/index.cfm?varlan=english

North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

- Known as the ‘Lusaka Agreement’
- Established in 1994
- Came into force in 1996
- Task Force established in 1999
- Overseen by a Governing Council of Ministers from the Party States
- Member States – Kenya, Lesotho, Republic of Congo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

ASEAN-WEN

- Association of South East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network

Coming soon - SA-WEN

- South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

ARAB-WEN?

Interpol
Wildlife Crime Working group

- Mandate: To facilitate the sharing of information between CITES and Interpol members in a timely and legal manner for the sole purpose of environmental law enforcement.
- Vision: The Wildlife Working Group exists to help conserve, preserve and protect the ever-deteriorating and fragile ecosystem. The group's aim is to co-ordinate the sharing of information on an international scale to optimize the global effort to combat environmental crimes related to wildlife and plants.
- Mission: Through Interpol, to be the world's pre-eminent organization in support of CITES listed members, whose mission is detecting, preventing and reporting international wildlife crimes.

The CITES Secretariat

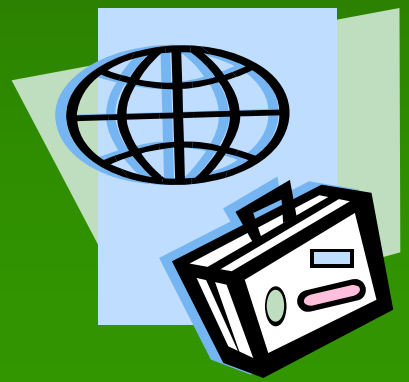
- Has responsibilities and authority under Article XII of the Convention to study implementation of CITES and make recommendations
- Is empowered by Article XIII to act when the Convention is not being implemented effectively
- Has a range of enforcement-related duties mandated under Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev.CoP14) (*Compliance and enforcement*)

CITES National Legislation Project

- Collects relevant legislation from Parties
- Analyzes the adequacy
- Provides detailed assessments
- Provides technical assistance, including model laws
- Conference of the Parties reviews progress and makes recommendations, which can include cessation of trade

CITES Secretariat conducts *in situ* verification and assessment missions

- To review implementation of the Convention
- To verify compliance
- To provide technical assistance



Specialized missions

Illegal trade in tiger

Illegal trade in Orang-utans

Illegal trade in ivory

Illegal trade in caviar

Illegal trade in rhinoceros

Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope

Memorandums of Understanding

World Customs Organization

HM Revenue & Customs

uk NWCU National Wildlife Crime Unit

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

CITES Secretariat's work with UN agencies

- UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

- Division for Treaty Affairs
- Anti-Organized Crime and Law Enforcement Unit
- Investigations Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services, United Nations

GRASP
Great Apes Survival Project

UNEP/UNESCO

Alerts

- Distributed to all CITES Management Authorities, Interpol, the World Customs Organization and other national and regional law enforcement agencies
- Provides intelligence to aid risk assessment, targeting and profiling

Alert

CONFIDENTIAL – FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY

No. 14 March 2004

Illicit trade in falcons from Kazakhstan

In the past 18 months, three incidents of illicit trade in falcons exported from Kazakhstan have come to the attention of the Secretariat. In the first case, 40 specimens of *Falco cherrug* (saker falcon), described as 'ranched' were exported but all the birds appeared to have been removed from the wild. In the second case, 32 specimens of *Falco cherrug* were exported with a permit indicating they were captive-bred. All the birds were regarded by experts in the importing country to have been taken from the wild.

Following contact from the Secretariat, the CITES Management Authority of Kazakhstan suspended the trader's authority to export falcons.

However, in January 2004, three specimens of *Falco rusticolus* (Gyr falcon) were seized, having been exported from Kazakhstan with an export permit that described them as *Falco cherrug* and declared them to be captive-bred. These birds are also regarded by experts as having been removed from the wild. In this case, the exporter indicated on the export permit was the Amwaj Stein Zoo, Kazakhstan.

In each of the above cases the birds were identified by open leg rings but the relevant numbers were not quoted on the export permits.

The Secretariat has asked the authorities in Kazakhstan to investigate the latest case. In each of the above cases, the fraud was detected following their import to the United Arab Emirates. The Secretariat congratulates the authorities in the United Arab Emirates on their enforcement work. It is concerned in case similar frauds are being committed to other countries of destination. Consequently, it recommends that any falcon shipments originating in Kazakhstan should be scrutinized and the assistance of the Secretariat be sought, if appropriate. The Secretariat also requests that it be informed of any similar incidents that are or have been detected.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

UNEP

CITES

Training

Two-week course for wildlife law enforcement officers from 12 countries in Asia at the National Police Academy of India

Training material

Interactive CD-Rom for Customs officers

in English, French and Spanish

Training material

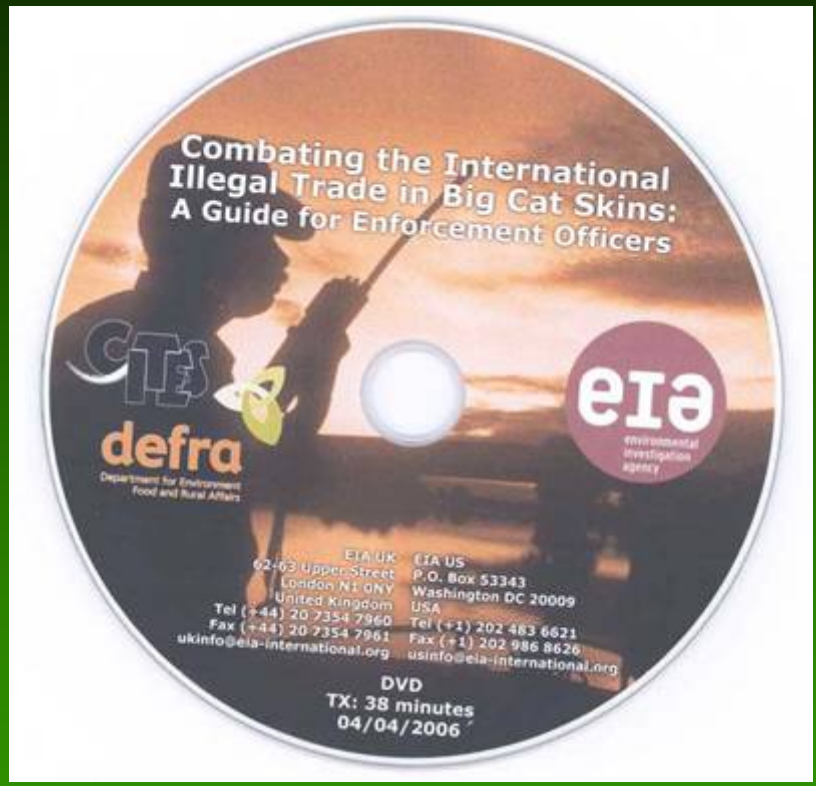
Interactive CD-Rom for Enforcement officers, Prosecutors and the Judiciary

in English, French and Spanish

Awareness raising

CD-Rom video film on combating ivory smuggling

Awareness raising



CD-Rom video film on combating illegal trade in Asian big cat skins

CITES Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

First presented in May 2003 to Hong Kong Customs and the Hong Kong CITES Management Authority for a major seizure of ivory and subsequent imprisonment of the offender

In China, this man and woman were sentenced to death and life imprisonment respectively for the smuggling of 44 saker falcons

Remember – it is not all bad news

The majority of CITES trade is legal and most shipments take place each year without problem.

I’m happy!

Me too!

For enforcement assistance contact:

John M. Sellar

Anti-smuggling, Fraud and Organized Crime

CITES Secretariat

International Environment House

11-13 chemin des Anemones

1219 Chatelaine-Geneve

Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 917 82 93

Fax: +41 22 797 34 17

Email: john.sellar@unep.ch

Website: www.cites.org

Illegal wildlife trade as a threat to biodiversity and local communities: facing the problem, and finding solutions

Geneva Environment Network

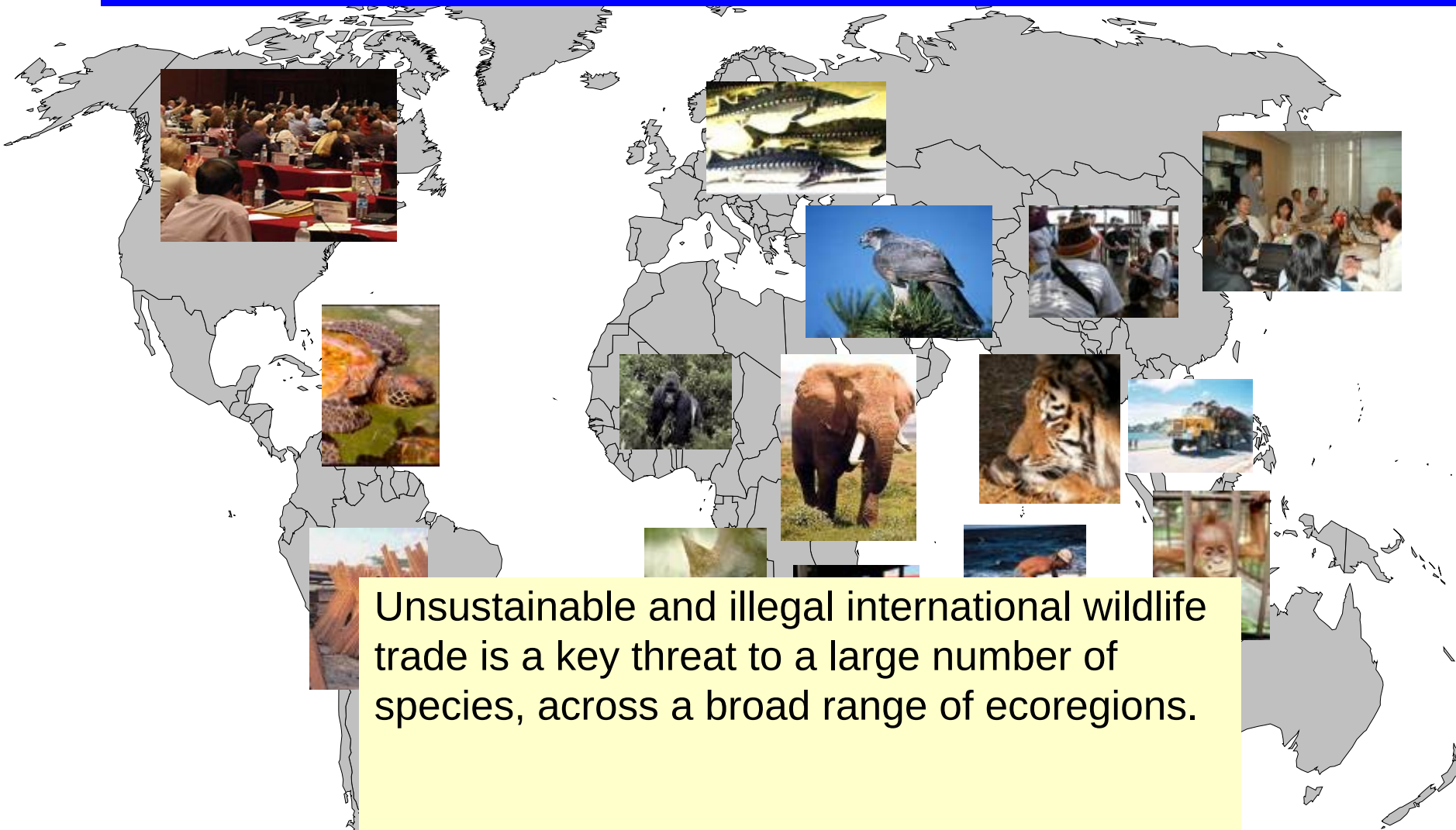
6 June 2008

Dr Susan Lieberman
Director, Species Programme
WWF International

Emerging & Ongoing Threats to Biodiversity

- Habitat conversion
- Agricultural expansion (including oil palm, soy)
- Over-exploitation (e.g. wildlife trade, fisheries, timber harvest, bycatch)
- Human/Wildlife Conflict
- Invasive alien species
- Climate change
- Biofuels (habitat conversion + agricultural shifts)
- Expanding economies/footprint/consumption

Illegal wildlife trade: Global issue, global solutions



Unsustainable and illegal international wildlife trade is a key threat to a large number of species, across a broad range of ecoregions.

Sustainable, legal international wildlife trade can benefit species and local communities

for a living planet

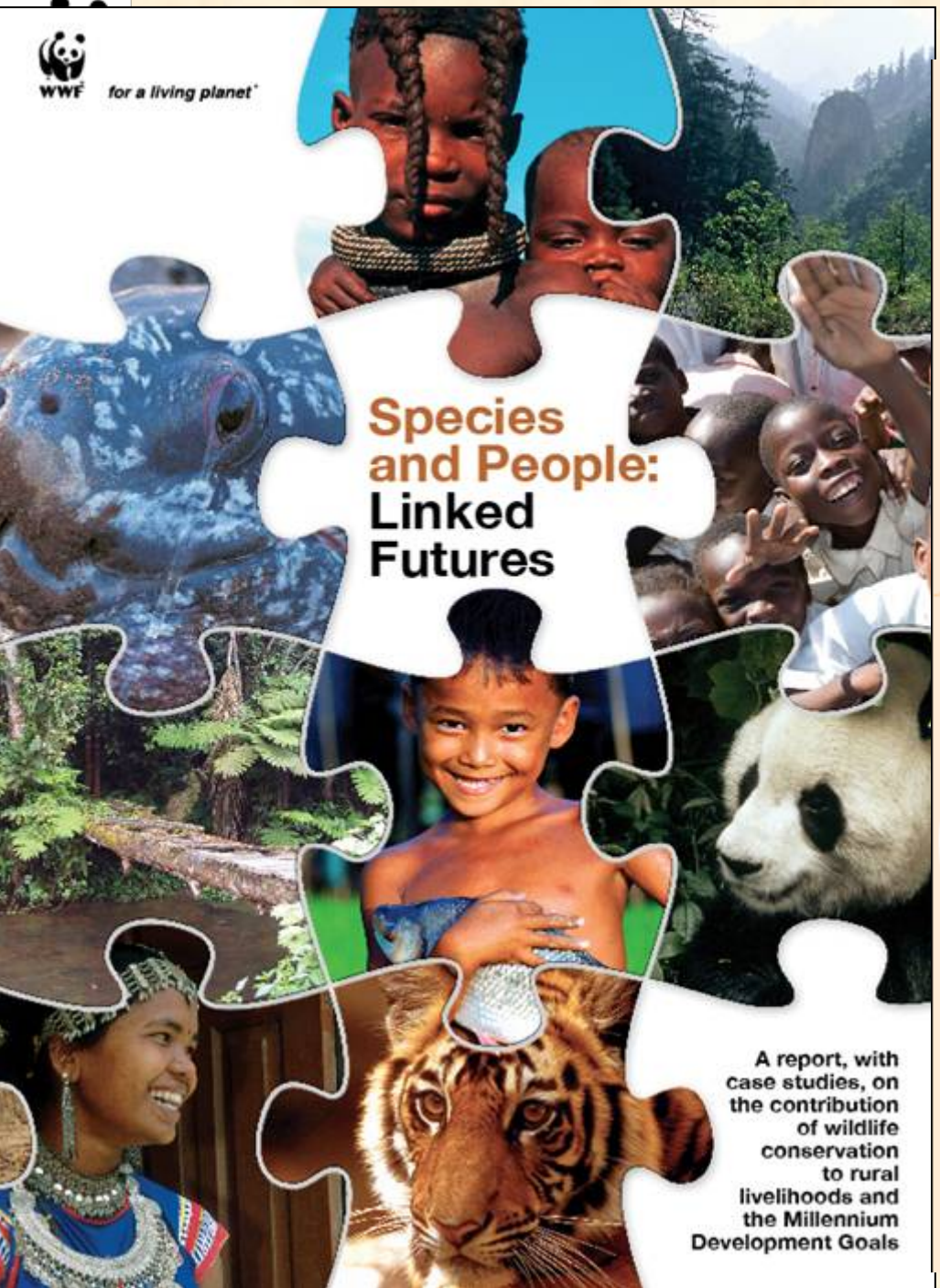
Wildlife trade—a transnational problem

requires multilateral/international solutions

- **173 countries are CITES Parties** (effective 17.6.08)
- **Multilateral decisions and actions**
- **Illegal and unsustainable trade threatens species and livelihoods**

WWF for a living planet®

Species and People: Linked Futures

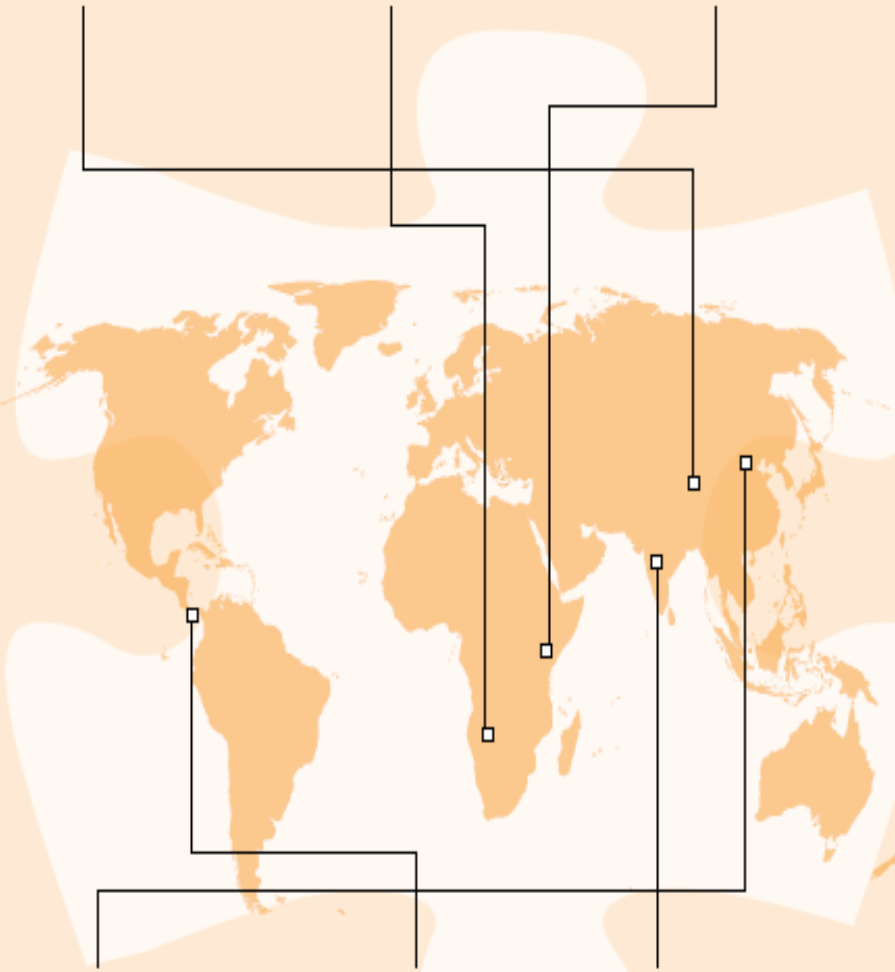


A report, with case studies, on the contribution of wildlife conservation to rural livelihoods and the Millennium Development Goals

Case Study 1:
Integrating sustainable livelihoods with tiger conservation in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal
Page 24

Case Study 2:
Wildlife conservation – a viable strategy in Namibia's Rural Development Programme
Page 32

Case Study 3:
Mountain gorilla conservation contributes to local livelihoods around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda
Page 40



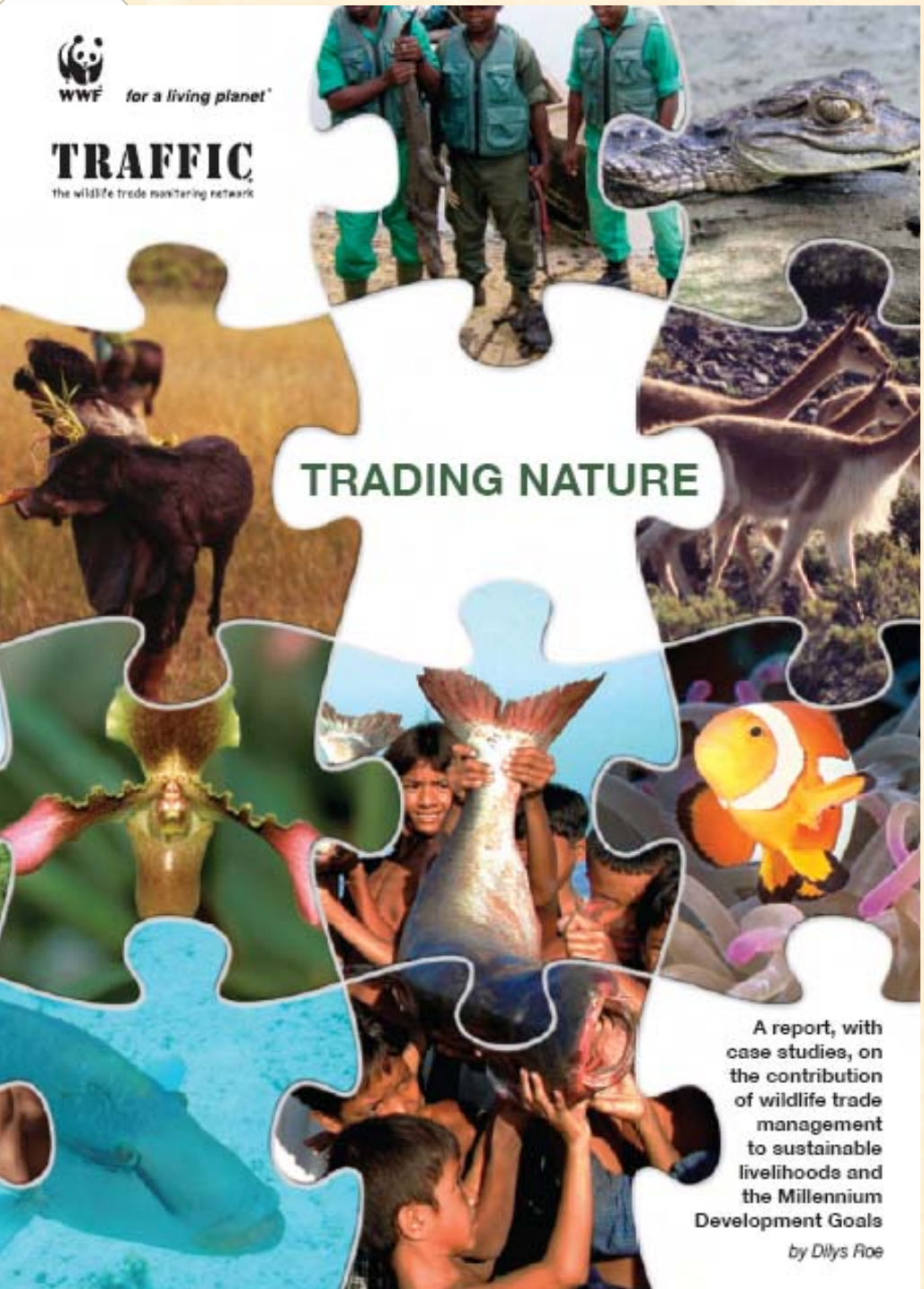
Case Study 4:
Partnering to secure the future for people and pandas in the Minshan & Qinling mountains, China
Page 48

Case Study 5:
Sea Turtle conservation in Tortuguero, Costa Rica
Page 56

Case Study 6:
River Dolphin conservation in Farida village, India
Page 64

WWF for a living planet

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

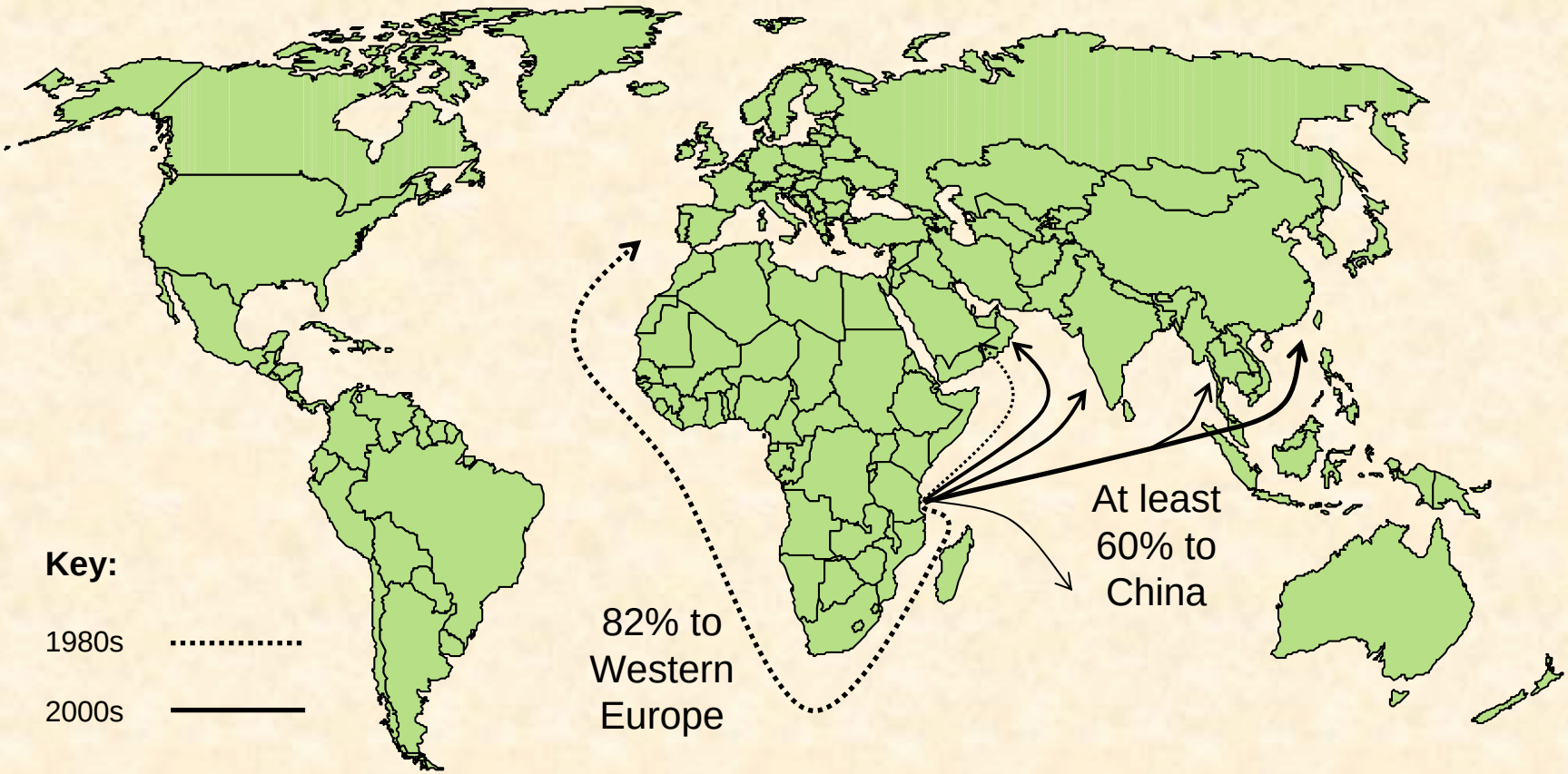


TRADING NATURE

A report, with case studies, on the contribution of wildlife trade management to sustainable livelihoods and the Millennium Development Goals

by Dilys Roe

Shifting trade patterns—changing markets



WWF

for a living planet

WILDLIFE TRADE:
A Programme Partnership

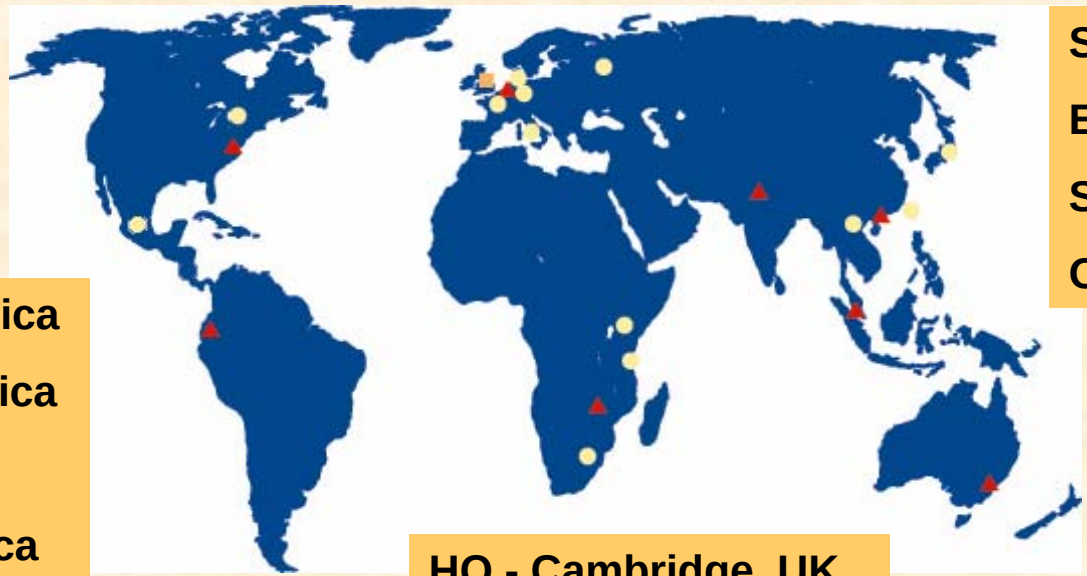
WWF → TRAFFIC ← IUCN

CITES

TRAFFIC

A joint programme of WWF IUCN The World Conservation Union

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants is not a threat to the conservation of nature



N. America
S. America
Europe
E/S Africa

S. Asia
E. Asia
S.E. Asia
Oceania

HQ - Cambridge, UK

Illegal trade comes in many shapes and sizes…..

9 May 2006 Hong Kong

WWF
for a living planet
HALONYUAN F-1
MUSK & TIGER
PLASTER
NATURAL MUSK & TIGER
MUSK AND
TIGER BONE PLASTER
麝香虎骨膏
ZhiTong Gao

SAHARA
ROAD

Animal smuggling:

CASE CRACKED: Bird eggs seized at Sydney Airport

PROFILE OF A SMUGGLER

- Single males chasing easy money
- Aged 20-35
- Usually European or Australian
- Some offenders have a knowledge of wildlife, have worked in that area or have associates who have.
- Couriers can earn at least $5000, with some being paid considerably more. As well, they can get bonuses to take advantage of being in other countries such as top-class hotels

*Information supplied by agencies involved in catching wildlife smugglers

CONTRABAND: Two rare Pinnaty lizards found by Customs officers inside a passenger's hand luggage at Adelaide International Airport

HARDED: A British man who arrived at Perth Airport wearing a vest containing birds' eggs. He was jailed for six months

The arrest last week of an Adelaide man trying to smuggle parrot eggs into Australia highlights this lucrative – and cruel black market trade, as MATT CLEMOW reports

THE clean-shaven man stands nervously in the queue of passengers, waiting for the Customs officer to call him through.

Strapped to his waist in special vest containing fertile snake and lizard eggs worth thousands of dollars on the black market in europe, his hands sweat as his passport and hand luggage is checked and then he's through – this time.

Welcome to the lucrative world of wildlife smuggling, where being a courier can result in a big payday if the goods are delivered – or records in jail if they're caught.

According to international authorities, the black market trade in animals is now the third-largest criminal activity in the world behind only firearms and drugs.

The Australian customs service's national investigations manager, Russell Reynolds, says the high-paid job is also high-risk – as an Adelaide man found 10 days ago when arrested at Sydney Airport for attempting to smuggle 10 parrot eggs from south Africa.

"As very lucrative, some other animals can be worth up to $100,000," Mr Reynolds said.

"There's no doubt there are a lot of people making a lot of money out of these activities."

Those caught, however, can face a maximum penalty of a $110,000 fine and/or 10 years' jail.

As with most black market activities, authorities say it is difficult to assess how much is being paid for our well-loved wildlife.

At the top of most buyers' wish-lists of most buyers are white cockatoos – which can fetch $1000 in Indonesia – while red-tailed black parrots can sell for $10,000.

Reptiles are also heavily sought after, with some species fetching up to $5000 each.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

SOME RECENT CASES OF WILDLIFE SMUGGLING IN THE PAST TWO YEARS INCLUDE:

- A British TV documentary producer and cameraman who was fined $20,000 for trying to take 200 species of animals such as lizards, snakes, frogs and cockroaches through Perth Airport.
- The discovery of 47 reptiles being sent to the Czech Republic in computer hardware found on an air freight company in Sydney.
- A Swedish glazier who was sentenced to two months in jail for attempting to smuggle eight snakes into the country via Sydney Airport.
- Two Japanese smugglers who almost wiped out an endangered beetle species on Lord Howe Island. The pair were given two-year suspended jail terms and deported.

flights, there have been several arrests in recent years, including the discovery of 16 lizards found in the luggage of a woman bound for Frankfurt in November, 1999.

Authorities say there are three types of smugglers – the professional, the opportunistic and the organised crime rings.

And while the collectors and the opportunists simply use contacts and greed, the international gangs view wildlife as a means of making money.

EMS
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CHINA
GUANG DONG SHENG LIAN
JIANG SHI AN PU ZHEN DONG
HUAN LU 16 HAO
CHINA
Contrat n°
Tél. 9902099
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Date
Valeur déclarée
Valeur assurée
Marchandise
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Taxe douane
Tél. (0086) 759 6844705
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Instructions
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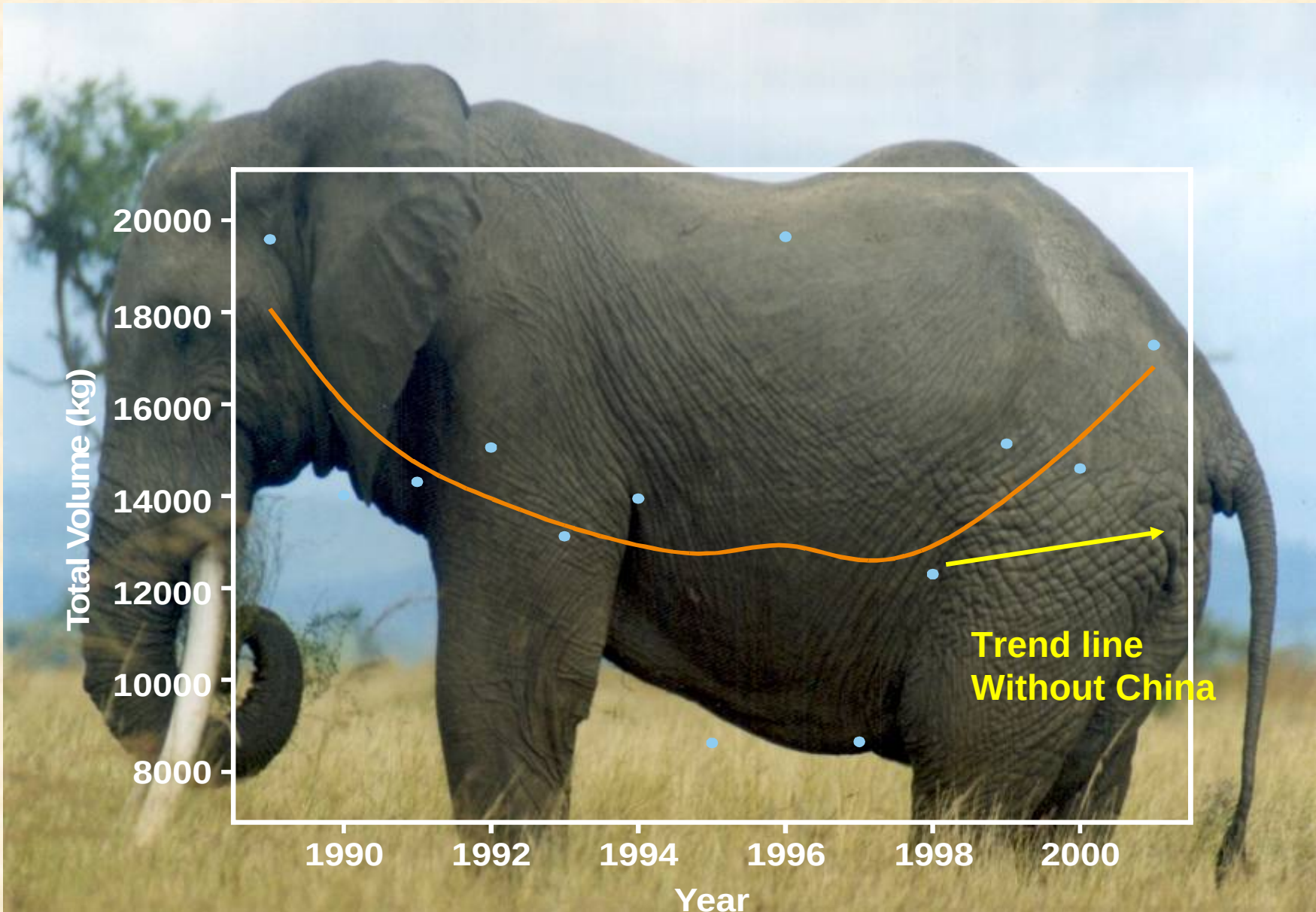
REP. DEM. DU CONGO

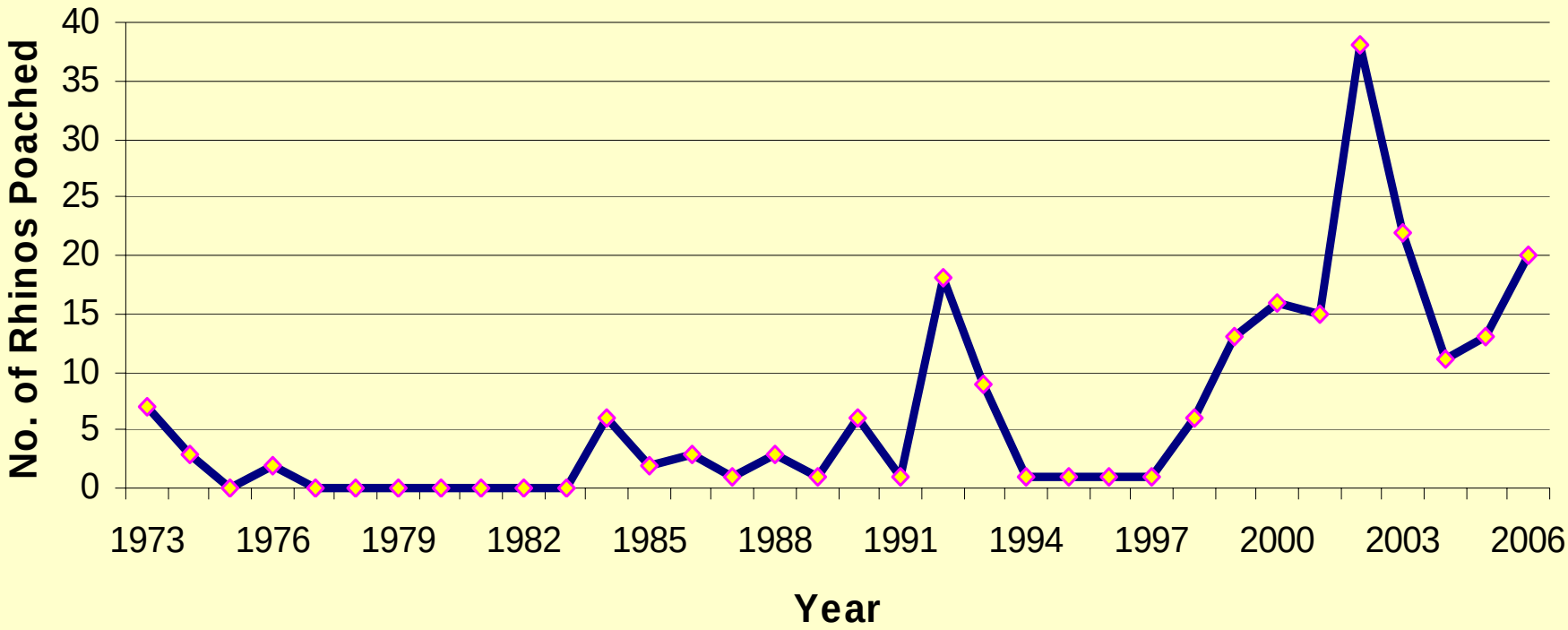
BEIJING
P.R. CHINA
405

Illegal ivory trade



CORRELATION BETWEEN POLITICAL UNREST AND RHINO POACHING

Trends of Rhino Poaching in CNP

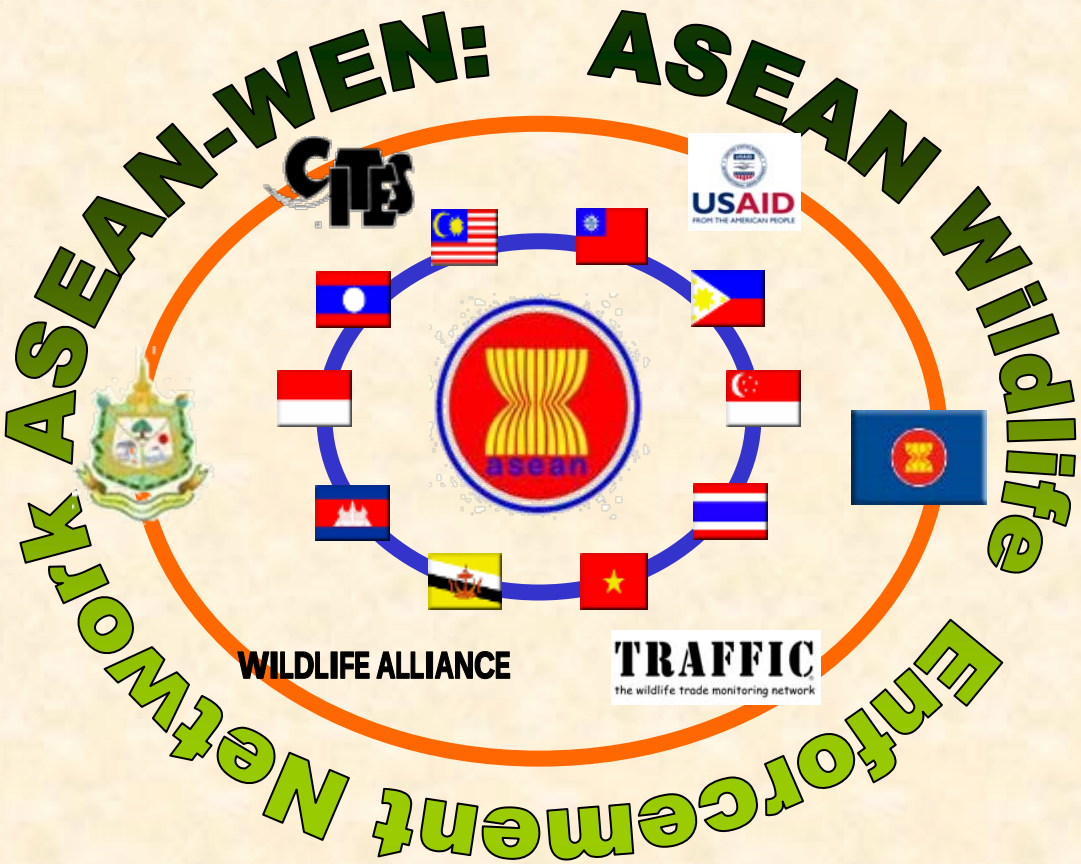


ADDRESSING ILLEGAL TRADE

- Laws and regulations
- Enforcement
- Intelligence
- Training
  - Customs, enforcement officials, judiciary
- Compliance: education, awareness
- Research, analysis, information
- Communications
- Bilateral, regional, multilateral collaboration & action

PRESS CONFERENCE
ASEAN STATEMENT ON CITES
OCTOBER 2004

- **ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora**
- **ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network**



SOUTH ASIA WILDLIFE TRADE INITIATIVE

Helping law enforcement control wildlife trade in South Asia

EU Wildlife Trade Initiative

ATELIER DE REFLEXION POUR UNE CONTRIBUTION A LA DEFINITION DES BASES
ET CRITERES DE LEGALITE DANS L'EXPLOITATION FORESTIERE AU CAMEROUN
Yaoundé, Hôtel AZUR, 28 Août 2006

The Second Meeting of
The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Networ

Communication

WWF

for a living planet

Wildlife Trade Monitoring and CITES Enforcement Training Course for Custom Staff

11-13, September, 2006

(Kunming , China)

WWF IUCN The World Conservation Union

TRAFFIC EAST ASIA

Wildlife Trade Monitoring and CITES Enforcement Training Course for Custom Staff

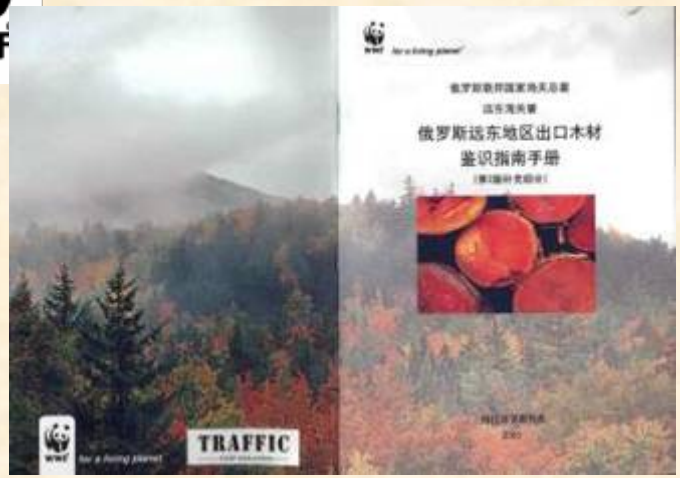
9-12, April, 2007

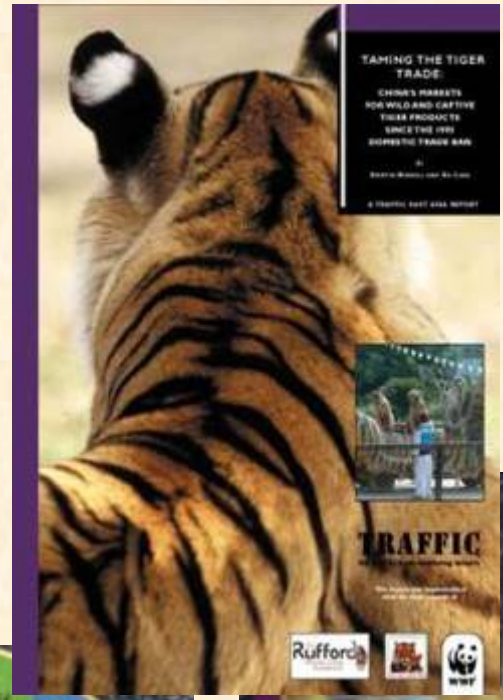
(Guangzhou , China)

WWF IUCN The World Conservation Union

TRAFFIC EAST ASIA

China, India and Nepal CITES Enforcement workshop


俄罗斯远东地区出口木材
鉴识指南手册
TRAFFIC


TAMING THE TIGER TRADE:
TRAFFIC
Rufford

for a living planet
俄罗斯远东地区
野生动植物走私的预防与打击

通讯
NEWSLETTER
TRAFFIC

ETIS Training Manual
TRAFFIC
IUCN
CITES
Rufford

IUCN
The World Conservation Union
TRAFFIC
EAST ASIA

China

Just yesterday….