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
CITES Enforcement Assistance

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
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?
同方威视集装箱检查系统图像
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
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 ivory
- Illegal trade in caviar
- Illegal trade in Orang-utans
- Illegal trade in rhinoceros
- Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope
Memorandums of Understanding

World Customs Organization
CITES Secretariat’s work with UN agencies

• UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

• Division for Treaty Affairs

• Anti-Organized Crime and Law Enforcement Unit

• Investigations Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services, United Nations
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
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
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.
For enforcement assistance contact:

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Anti-smuggling, Fraud and Organized Crime
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International Environment House
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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.
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
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
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

Key:
- 1980s
- 2000s

- 82% to Western Europe
- At least 60% to China
WILDLIFE TRADE: A Programme Partnership

WWF

TRAFFIC

IUCN

CITES
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.
Illegal trade comes in many shapes and sizes.....
Animal smuggling:

PROFILE OF A SMUGGLER

- Single mode of entry: air
- Age: 20-35
- Usually European or Australian
- Some offenders have a knowledge of wildlife, have worked in that area or have associations with them.
- Customs can earn at least $5000, with some earning considerably more.
- As well, they can get insurance to take advantage of being in other countries such as in the USA or Europe.

CONTRAINTES: Two rare Ferranti sparrowhawks were found in a man's luggage at Adelaide International Airport.

WANTED: A man who arrived at Perth Airport wearing only undergarments. He was given

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

DUTY IN A DUTY

As an importation of wild meat into Australia is illegal, the Customs officers are always on the lookout for any suspicious activity.

The story of a man who was arrested for smuggling birds.

The man was found to be carrying a large number of exotic birds, including rare species.

The investigation continued as the Customs officers tracked down the来源 of the birds.

The man was eventually convicted of smuggling and sentenced to a period in prison.

The story highlights the importance of strict laws to prevent the illegal trade of wildlife.
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**CHEN JUN**

25 RUE LIMITE

**CONGO**

OICE 398

**DESTINATAIRE**

CHINA

GUANG DONG SHENG LIAN

JIANG SHI AN PU ZHEN DONG

HUAN LU 16 HAO

Tel: (026) 759 684765

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Illegal ivory trade

Year

Total Volume (kg)
8000 10000 12000 14000 16000 18000 20000

Trend line
Without China
CORRELATION BETWEEN POLITICAL UNREST AND RHINO POACHING

Trends of Rhino Poaching in CNP

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<th>Year</th>
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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
• 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
ATELIER DE REFLEXION POUR UNE CONTRIBUTION A LA DEFINITION DES BASSES ET CRITERES DE LEGALITE DANS L'EXPLOITATION FORESTIERE AU CAMEROUN

Yaounde, Hôtel AZUR, 28 Août 2006
Wildlife Trade Monitoring and CITES Enforcement Training Course for Custom Staff
11-13, September, 2006
(Kunming, China)
Wildlife Trade Monitoring and CITES Enforcement Training Course for Custom Staff
9-12, April, 2007
(Guangzhou, China)
China, India and Nepal CITES Enforcement workshop
Just yesterday....