WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY
3 MARCH

CITES ©

Hope for a sustainable future

A new era of global cooperation to conserve and sustainably use wildlife was launched on 3 March, 1973 at the World Wildlife Conference in Washington D.C. with the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Raising awareness of the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions to sustainable development and human well-being was given a boost in December 2013 when the UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day.

CITES is an inspiring example of successful international cooperation and national action that gives us hope for a sustainable future in which people and wildlife coexist in harmony.

John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES

Outline

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CITES is...

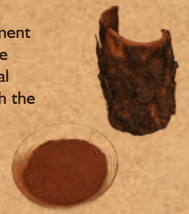
CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

People around the globe have been trading in wildlife for centuries. For instance, demand for exotic wild plants used as spices, incense or perfumes in the ancient world led to the development of an extensive network of trade routes, connecting the West to the East by land and by sea. However, the scale of that trade was nothing compared to the 7 billion people consuming biodiversity products in today's globalised economy.

Since 1973, CITES has put into place a system to regulate the movement across borders of thousands of wild animals (fauna) and plants (flora) subject to international trade. The animals and plants protected by CITES are known as CITES-listed species because they are included on lists called CITES Appendices. CITES protects these species from being excessively traded and exploited unsustainably in the wild as their extinction would have irreversible ecological consequences and economic and social effects.

CITES regulates international trade in whole animals and plants, and also in their parts, such as the bones of a tiger, the tusks of an elephant or the timber of a Bigleaf mahogany tree, and in their derivatives, such as the essential oil extracted from Brazilian rosewood and the bark powder made from the African cherry tree. This is collectively referred to as the trade in "specimens of species". Millions of CITES specimens, often transformed and packaged, are used daily as medicines, food, building materials, cosmetics, clothes or furniture, for example. They include specimens derived from nature (taken from the wild), animals bred in captivity, or plants that have been propagated artificially.

So far, over 35,000 species are CITES-listed. CITES protects them thanks to a set of powerful tools, including trade measures, species management plans and enforcement actions. CITES trade regulations for instance, should be based on the best and most current scientific information available,



whilst CITES enforcement mechanisms encourage countries and individual citizens to comply with the rules set out in the Convention, with anyone found to be violating them risking severe sanctions and even jail in some cases.

Some CITES-listed species (around 1,000) are so threatened with extinction that their international trade is generally prohibited for commercial purposes, and these species are listed in CITES Appendix I. These include animals such as tigers, pandas or gorillas, and

plants such as some cacti and aloe species. Many CITES-listed species from the crocodile and orchid families are no longer threatened with extinction thanks to the collective efforts of the CITES community, and they may now be traded under the strict rules of the CITES universal permit and certificate system.

To date, 179 countries, known as Parties, are part of CITES and more are in the process of joining. All the major trading countries, whether they are producers or consumers of biological resources, are members of the Convention. By joining CITES they have made a commitment to apply CITES rules to the citizens living in their countries.

At the state level, CITES functions through three national bodies: a Management Authority, a Scientific Authority and an Enforcement Authority. These bodies are established and funded by each Party. Internationally, the CITES Secretariat based in Geneva plays a coordinating, advisory and servicing role in the working of the Convention. It also promotes collaboration among countries and institutions through a number of innovative projects and courses to help countries build the capacity they need to implement the Convention.

Biodiversity is all around us and we are part of that biodiversity ourselves. In one way or another, our lives and that of other species are interdependent. We rely on animals and plants for practical things like our food, clothes or medicines, but also for less tangible elements in our lives like our happiness and wellbeing. More broadly we also count on biodiversity for our options to adapt to climate change for instance or for ways of controlling the spread of infectious diseases.

CITES protects biodiversity through the mention of specific plants and animals in the text of the convention. These species are part of the rich biodiversity of our planet.

CITES is directly relevant to all of us. Unknowingly perhaps, we rub shoulders with the Convention on a daily basis: CITES protects species and regulates the trade in specimens that can be found in a number of readily available goods.

CITES operates throughout the supply chain, from nature to the shop, to help make sure that products are internationally traded and are made from wild animals and plants are produced sustainably. This influences the products that are available in the marketplace at both ends of the spectrum, from luxury vicuña knitwear or shoes made of crocodile skin to the chewing gums and lipsticks containing candelilla wax which are consumed by a mass market.

The CITES Secretariat supports Parties in building their capacity and networks to detect and catch criminals who are trafficking CITES-listed animals and plants. The Secretariat helps to coordinate enforcement agencies at the international level, such as the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL the world's largest international police organization. These organisations also work with front-line rangers, police, prosecutors and other enforcement officers. These agencies use the best forensic technology, including DNA tests. But nothing can replace the involvement of

society - In the fight against wildlife crime, your information can make the difference!

At home, CITES is relevant to those of us who have companion animals or pets. From parrots to iguanas or aquarium fish, the Convention works to ensure they are obtained legally and without endangering wild populations.

On holiday, CITES comes into play for tourists who buy souvenirs made from animals and plants. Popular souvenirs such as queen conch shells and cacti rainsticks can be brought back home in limited quantities without CITES permits. But the sale of souvenirs made from some Appendix I species is prohibited by domestic laws, although theses souvenirs may be found for sale in international airports, seaports, and particularly in gift shops located in duty-free areas. Tourists should make sure that they are not bringing home items that are banned in international trade.

Next time you are at the airport check twice and look out for the CITES airport exhibitions and information booths displaying information and wildlife items which have been confiscated by Customs.

· **Time and place of signing:** 3 March 1973, Washington, DC, United States of America.

· **Entry into force:** 1 July 1975.

· **Membership:** As of March 2014, 179 States were Parties to the Convention, with 5 others in the process of joining. Switzerland is the Depositary Government of the Convention.

· **Financial resources:** The budget is covered entirely by contributions of the Parties to a Trust Fund (established in 1984) administered by UNEP. Contributions from Parties are calculated in accordance with the UN scale of contributions. The budget was USD 6.2 million for 2013. Specific projects may also be financed through external funding from the public or private sector.

· **Around 5,500 animal and 29,500 plant species are listed by CITES.**

LEGAL TRADE:

· Legal and sustainable wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar legitimate business and CITES has over 13,000,000 recorded trade transactions in its databases, which is growing by 1,000,000+ per year. Some examples of prices for CITES Appendix II specimens legally traded:

· High quality oil from the agarwood producing species *Aquilaria crassna* can fetch up to USD 80,000 per litre.

· Estimated annual figure of the total turn-over of the industry for python leather products is USD 1 billion.

· The price of a vicuña wool scarf starts at around USD 1,000.

In Uganda, tourists are willing to pay USD 500 to spend one hour with gorillas in the wild.

ILLEGAL TRADE:

The CITES Secretariat does not place a value on illegal wildlife trade, but it notes that some estimate that it is worth at least 5 billion and may potentially total in excess of $20 billion annually (excluding timber and marine wildlife). Some of the most lucrative illegal wildlife commodities include tiger parts, elephant ivory, rhino horn, and exotic birds and reptiles.

One large horn can now be exchanged for up to half a million dollars, and the price per kilo ranges from $20.000 to over $50.000, which is more than gold.

A recent World Bank study Justice for Forests reports that illegal trade in timber deprives States of over USD 10 billion in annual revenue.

The mission of CITES is to help conserve species and ensure that use of species in international trade is sustainable and traceable.

Trade in some CITES specimens can boost economies, particularly in remote and poor areas where other livelihood options are limited. CITES specimens should therefore be used in a responsible manner, allowing the species to regenerate and reproduce for future generations. CITES seeks to prevent the mismanagement, overharvesting and destruction of animals and plants that live on land, in our rivers, lakes and oceans.

Science, legislation and enforcement are the three pillars of CITES. Effective management of harvest of plants and animals to supply international trade relies on the collection of sound scientific information collected from different sources at the local, national and international to generate a clear picture of how local wild populations of a given species are faring. Good knowledge of the state of a species in the wild and of the management practices that are in place is the first step in avoiding overexploitation and in creating a sound management plan for that animal or plant. This is the knowledge that together with adaptive management practices allows harvest levels and export quotas to be set at a sustainable level.

As a legally binding Convention, each Party must adopt national legislation to implement CITES' rules. This includes laws prohibiting trade in violation of the Convention, penalties for such trade, and laws providing for the confiscation of illegally traded specimens – this helps deter wildlife crime in favour of a sustainable approach to using plants and animals.

Ensuring compliance with CITES and enforcing its provisions requires specialized knowledge and skills, including the ability to: safely inspect shipments and their documentation; identify specimens; minimise the risk of injury damage to health or cruel treatment of live animals when they are traded; detect fraud and other forms of illegal activity; deal with seizures and confiscations of CITES specimens; and prosecute cases of illegal trade.

The CITES Parties and the Secretariat derive valuable information from multiple sources, including from intergovernmental bodies involved in tackling illegal wildlife trade, and from non-governmental organizations taking an active interest in these issues.

CITES contributes to human wellbeing and local livelihoods whilst supporting conservation and sustainable use and benefiting the global environment.

On the frontline of conserving, using and managing wildlife, CITES works with rural communities and indigenous peoples, those who are the first-hand experts of local animals and plants. These individuals are indispensable allies and, when directly involved in managing their local natural assets, are the best guardians of a species. CITES engages with them to understand the spiritual, cultural, social, economic and ecological values of traded species and helps ensure they directly benefit from any associated commerce. CITES-related projects build upon local traditional knowledge to protect species whilst concurrently generating income. This combination has a positive impact both on the livelihoods of local communities and on the status of wildlife populations.

Wildlife trade benefits a growing number of rural poor people from the communities where wild fauna and flora are harvested. Major benefits are also made by business people of big metropolises. Through its global outreach, CITES impacts on the livelihoods of people across the globe from all walks of life.

A Gov2Gov certification

In 1973, CITES has introduced a certification system that combines trade, environment and development. This system works on a Gov2Gov basis:

The **Management Authority** of each Party governs wildlife trade at the national level. It is responsible for authorizing, certifying, administrating and regulating international trade in CITES-listed species. It coordinates the preparation of national legislation (countries have to translate CITES into national law); authorizes trade in CITES-listed species; prepares reports of the trade that has taken place; and communicates with other national agencies, Management Authorities of other countries, and the CITES Secretariat. The Management Authority issues **permits and certificates** to authorize trade only if a number of conditions are met – the most important of which is that exports of specimens of species listed in Appendix I and II (see below) must not be detrimental to their survival in the wild. Just like passports, these permits and certificates must be presented when leaving or entering a country.

The **Scientific Authority** provides all the relevant scientific advice that is mandatory for trade to occur under CITES. Its primary role is to advise the Management Authority whether exports are sustainable and not detrimental to the survival of a species in the wild (through what are called non-detriment findings, which are assessments of the sustainability of the trade). It further suggests export quotas; conducts research and population surveys; coordinates the monitoring of species by local communities; monitors national trade; and helps prepare and review any national proposals to the CITES Conference of the Parties (the governing body of the Convention).

The **Enforcement Authorities** deal with any breach to CITES, including, illegal trafficking in CITES-listed species. This is often an existing enforcement agency, but may be a coordinating body that works with Customs officials, wildlife enforcement officers and the police. On some occasions even the military is brought in to assist in combating wildlife crime.

CITES categorizes species into three groups, known as 'Appendices'. The species on each Appendix are regulated in different ways.

Animals and plants listed in **Appendix I** are prohibited from international commercial trade except in very specific circumstances. Appendix I contains about 670 animal and 300 plant species, or about 3% of the listed species, including: all the great apes; various big cats such as the cheetah, snow leopard and tiger, numerous birds of prey, cranes and pheasants, all sea turtles, many species of crocodile, tortoises and snakes, and some cacti and orchids.

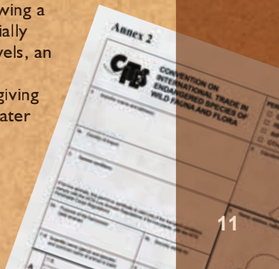
Appendix II covers over 4,800 animal and close to 30,000 plant species - or about 96% of species regulated under CITES, including all primates, wild cats, cetaceans, parrots, crocodiles and orchids not listed in Appendix I. Appendix II species can be traded in a regulated manner and require CITES export permits that indicate, among other things, what the species is and what countries it is coming from and going to.

Appendix III includes species that are already protected at the national level of the Party requesting its protection and covers about 1% of CITES-listed species. By including a species in Appendix III, a country calls on the potential importing countries to help it regulate the trade by requiring the presentation of a permit at the time of import. If the import is from another country than the one that listed the species, a certificate of origin has to be presented. This Appendix lists over 290 species.

Any Party may at any time submit a request to the Secretariat to list its native species in Appendix III, provided that its trade is already regulated at the national level. Parties which have submitted a species for inclusion in Appendix III may withdraw it at any time by notification to the Secretariat

As the impact of trade on a population or on a species increases or decreases, the species can be added to the CITES Appendices, transferred from one Appendix to another, or removed from them altogether. In the case of changes to Appendix I or II, these decisions are taken at the triennial meetings of all of the Parties to CITES, called the Conference of the Parties, and they are based on biological and trade information and on an analysis of how protection under CITES may benefit the species. If there is a disagreement amongst Parties, a vote is held, and for a proposal to succeed two thirds of the Parties voting must be in support.

Transferring a species from Appendix I to Appendix II can be a sign of success that a species population has recovered to the point where commercial international trade may become possible again with strict oversight. By allowing a species to be commercially traded at sustainable levels, an Appendix-II listing can improve protection by giving local communities a greater incentive to ensure the survival of the species.



CITES partners

Conserving wildlife for future generations is a great collective effort. Partners play critical roles and help to expand the reach and effectiveness of CITES.

The countries, organizations and people working to help make sure that CITES is implemented include:

- Local scientists and wildlife managers (including traditional experts);

- World renowned international scientific institutions such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the UK, and the Chico Mendez Institute in Brazil;

- Customs agents and national police forces;

- Government agencies and intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

- Non-governmental organizations such as WWF; the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC; Conservation International; Wildlife Conservation Society; IFAW the International Fund for Animal Welfare; and Humane Society; and

- Private Sector entities.

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) illustrates the strength of working together. Created in late 2010, the ICCWC brings together CITES, INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization. ICCWC offers coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that act daily in defence of wildlife. Making best use of the individual experience and outreach of each partner allows ICCWC to have a strong impact.

An important element of CITES operations, partnerships catalyze success and demonstrate the effectiveness of joining forces for the greater good.

CITES & RIO+20

RIO+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was the third international conference on sustainable development and aimed at reconciling the economic, social and environmental goals of the global community. At the meeting, world leaders explicitly recognized the "important role of CITES in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity".

Of the 283 paragraphs contained in the RIO+20 outcome document The Future We Want, many are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora. However, one paragraph in particular makes reference to the continued significance of CITES in achieving sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, namely paragraph 203, which states:

We recognize the important role of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development; promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people, and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction. We recognize the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides. In this regard, we emphasize the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. We further stress the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria.

Recognising the importance of CITES, including the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trade in wildlife, at the highest political level helps generate the level of public awareness and financial support that is required to successfully implement CITES.

CITES for tomorrow

The CITES vision statement, established in resolution 14.2 to ***Conserve biodiversity and contribute to its sustainable use by ensuring that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation through international trade, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss*** crystallises the role of the Convention in the future, with its continuing relevance coming into sharp focus every day.

The importance of CITES was apparent in the 1960's and put to paper in the 1970's when the Convention was drafted and came into force. Yet none of the reasons for creating the Convention some forty years ago has gone away.

The need to raise awareness about endangered species has never been more pressing. The current rate of biodiversity loss and of illegal wildlife trade poses an immediate risk to both wild animals and plants but also to people and their livelihoods. Scaling up our current efforts to counter this trend, new collective initiatives and more innovative partnerships are taking shape. Visionary governments are leading new technological approaches with the strong support of civil society and the business community. But more is needed if we are to adequately address this risk.

CITES tomorrow will very much depend on how we collectively manage the demand for wildlife, with each consumer having their share of responsibility in this outcome. It will also depend on how efficient we are at ensuring legal trade is regulated in a sustainable manner, focusing strongly on improving traceability (knowing where traded species are going to and coming from), getting more people involved and making resources increasingly available. And finally, success will hinge on winning the ongoing battle against the illegal use and trade of animals and plants.

How well we do with these steps will be influenced by the attitudes and actions of each and every one of us.

Visit the CITES website at **www.cites.org** to learn more.

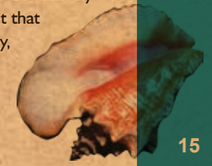
Milestones

What has been achieved in the last 40 years and how

We can outline achievements in several areas which are as follows:

1- CITES species

Around 5,600 animal and 30,000 plant species are listed under CITES. Most of these can be traded internationally in a controlled manner whilst for others international trade for commercial purposes is generally prohibited. The few examples of CITES-listed species selected here showcase both the success that CITES has achieved in preventing them from extinction and some of the challenges we are still facing. Vicuñas and wild snowdrops illustrate how CITES can help a species recover from over-exploitation and be successfully managed in a sustainable manner. On the other hand, rhinoceroses demonstrate the fragility of conservation successes as well as the threat posed by international organized criminal groups to high-valued species, whilst agarwood underscores the challenges that can be encountered in implementing CITES. Collectively these few examples serve to highlight that conservation success is a long journey, one that can be compromised at anytime and requires ongoing vigilance.



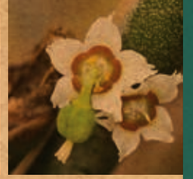












ANIMALS

Vicuña

The vicuña (Vicugna vicugna) is the smallest member of the camelid family and is believed to be the wild ancestor of the alpaca. It produces wool which is five times more expensive than cashmere and is exported worldwide. The vicuña lives in the high regions of the Andes of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru (Range States). It is listed on Appendix I and II.

Issue: In the 1960s, vicuñas had been hunted down to some 6,000 individuals and by 1967 the situation was so bad that some Range States declared the species extinct in their territory. Vicuñas became protected under CITES in 1975.

Success: By 1987, some populations had recovered so significantly that trade in cloth made from wool sheared from live animals was permitted for some populations. In 2008, the number of vicuñas had increased to 350,000. Today, the species is soundly managed, numbers are on the increase and local communities benefit directly from this resource.

Crocodiles

The Crocodylia order includes 23 species of crocodiles, alligators, caimans and gharials. Found from Asia to Africa, Central and South America and Australia, these semi-aquatic predators first appeared some 200 million years ago. All species are listed in Appendix I and II.

Issue: Sought after mainly for their skins, these reptiles are also threatened by habitat destruction. Uncontrolled hunting in the fifties and sixties seriously depleted many wild crocodile and alligator populations, such as the American alligator or Nile crocodile, and there was fear that extinction would follow. CITES protects all Crocodylia, with the products of some species being prohibited in trade, whilst others are traded freely with CITES documentation.

Success: Central America's Morelet's crocodile (Crocodylus moreletii) illustrates the success of conservation measures for species of this order. Hunted nearly to extinction in the 1970's, the crocodile benefited from total hunting and export bans enacted by Mexico, its main range State, followed by listing on CITES Appendix I in 1975. By the year 2000, the species was recovering rapidly and concerns about extinction declined accordingly. In 2010, it was transferred to CITES Appendix II.

Queen conch

The queen conch (Strombus gigas) is a sea mollusc or shellfish, whose shell can attain 30 cm in length and weigh up to three kilos. It is found throughout the Caribbean and is listed in Appendix II.

Issue: Queen conch is traded for its meat and shell, with the United States consuming some 70% of all internationally traded meat. Uncontrolled harvesting and increased demand resulted in overfishing, illegal landings and a rapid decline in numbers. It was included in CITES in November 1992. After extensive reviews of scientific and management information, CITES proposed a range of actions in the mid-nineties and again in 2003-05 to improve the sustainability and legality of the trade. These were favourably acted upon by most of the 36 Caribbean countries and dependent territories where queen conch occurs. Measures included export quotas, (temporary) trade suspensions, harmonized fishery rules and better trade controls. Regional Fisheries Organizations fully supported these efforts through workshops, technical publications (such as a Manual for the monitoring and management of queen conch), training seminars, facilitation of regional collaboration, etc. They resulted in funding and technical support, targeted research efforts, and an improved understanding of the ecology and management of the species.

Success: The inclusion in CITES of queen conch has prompted numerous collaborative initiatives to promote its recovery, reduce overfishing and ensure legal, sustainable trade. Particularly since the 2000-reviews, CITES also acted as a catalyst for international cooperation and regional coordination of queen conch management and utilization. Queen conch remains one of the most important fishery resources in the Wider Caribbean Region, and is slowly but surely making a comeback. Caribbean range States acknowledge the need to further support and build capacity for making robust Non Detriment Findings, improve enforcement of fisheries management and trade provisions, and enhance regional approaches towards sustainable use of and trade in queen conch.

Rhinoceros

The rhinoceros family includes two African and three Asian species. This herbivore is so ancient that it is depicted in cave paintings, yet today they are amongst the world's most endangered species and are listed in Appendix I except the subspecies in Appendix II

Issue: The species is poached for its horn, which was used in traditional Chinese medicine and is now increasingly for non-traditional uses. Illegal trade is international, exporting horns primarily from Africa to the Far and Middle East. Large criminal syndicates are involved in this lucrative but illegal trade, with the black market price of rhino horn at over USD 50,000 per kg.

Success: Focusing on one species, the recovery of the white rhino in South Africa was hailed as a conservation success just a few years ago, with numbers growing from 60 in the early 20th century to 20,000 in 2010. Beginning in 2008 however, the recovery of black and white rhinos in Southern Africa was put in jeopardy by a surge in poaching. In 2012, 668 rhinoceroses were poached in South Africa. In response, CITES Parties are currently focusing on enforcement, with South Africa having deployed troops along its borders to help stop smuggling. In 2011, 232 people were detained and some were sentenced to decades in jail, whilst in the first three months of 2012, 89 people were arrested for poaching. This surge in poaching episodes illustrates the fragility of conservation successes and the need for ongoing vigilance and effort.

Mountain gorilla

The mountain gorilla (Gorilla beringei) is the largest and most endangered of the great primates. It lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, and is listed in Appendix I.

Issues: Discovered in 1902, the mountain gorilla has endured uncontrolled hunting for bushmeat, war, disease, habitat destruction and capture for the illegal pet trade.

Success: Having survived several periods of political instability in the region, mountain gorilla numbers are once again climbing, with 620 individuals recorded in 1989 and 786 today. Conservation efforts, transboundary collaboration, better law enforcement, and sharing the benefits of ecotourism with local communities have led to this increase, as have the CITES controls that prohibit the international trade in live apes and bushmeat.

Markhor

The markhor (Capra falconeri) is a large species of wild goat that is found in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Markhors occur in mountainous terrain between 600 m and 3,600 m elevation.

The markhor is the national animal of Pakistan.

Issues: Major threats are habitat degradation and encroachment, competition for forage, grazing land and water with livestock, fragmentation of wild populations, and poaching for horns and meat. The species in included in CITES Appendix I. Under the auspices of CITES, a strictly controlled community-based trophy hunting programme for markhkor was initiated in Pakistan in 1998. It has in the mean time generated more than 2 million USD for community development (20% of the trophy fees go to the government and 80% to local communities). To protect and rehabilitate markhor throughout its range, such incentive-driven community-based conservation programmes, as well better grazing management, more protected areas and corridors, reintroductions, population monitoring and diligent enforcement at local and international level are required. A strong CITES regulatory framework contributes substantially to this.

Success: Due to the success of the programme, the initial Markhor hunting quota for Pakistan could be increased from 6 to 12 trophies per year. Under the protection of local tribesmen, paid by funds generated trough sport-hunting, the markhor populations in Pakistan increased from 700 in 1994 to 2,500 in 2005 and 4,000 in 2010.

PLANTS

African cherry

The African cherry (Prunus africana) is an evergreen tree found in tropical Africa and Madagascar. It is used to treat prostate cancer, benign prostatic hypertrophy and other ailments such as fever, malaria and stomach pain, and is listed on Appendix II.

Issue: Small-scale cultivations of the tree can be found in Cameroon, Kenya and Madagascar, but all the bark entering the international market is from wild harvest. The unregulated collection of bark meant that the species risked becoming endangered and African cherry has been listed in CITES since 1995.

Success: Range States are working on gathering scientific data to better manage and conserve this species. Cameroon for instance is now able to open production sites, harvesting bark and generating income for forest communities in a sustainable manner. Other countries are following suit and developing harvesting techniques that maximize harvesting efficiency.

Wild snowdrop

The wild snowdrop (Galanthus woronowii) flower is one of the first to bloom in spring. It is found in West Asia and Europe with its stronghold in the Caucasus mountains and is listed in Appendix II.

Issue: Georgia alone exports 15 million wild snowdrop bulbs per year, primarily to Turkey and the Netherlands. Because of high demand and uncontrolled harvesting, most Georgian populations of the flower risked extinction in the wild.

Success: With CITES, Georgia was able to assess its wild stocks, set sustainable harvest and export levels, and control the international trade in the species. Today, the sector has been regulated so that people can benefit from the plant for years to come.

Afrormosia (African teak)

Afrormosia (Pericopsis elata) or African Teak is among the most valued tropical timber species. It grows in the equatorial forests of west and central Africa, and is listed in Appendix II.

Issues: African Teak is exported worldwide but illegal logging, over-exploitation, commercial extinction, and insufficient enforcement to ensure compliance with CITES regulations have taken their toll on most wild populations.

Success: Today, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular are making strides towards managing their forests sustainably, by gathering scientific and trade data, and enforcing existing legislation. National Authorities are increasingly collaborating at the regional level and their timber industry is undergoing significant reform under the guidance of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

Bigleaf mahogany

Bigleaf mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla) fetches high prices for use as timber. It grows in dry tropical forests from southern Mexico to the Amazon basin (range States), and is listed in Appendix II.

Issues: Illegal logging, unregulated trade and forest conversion to other land uses such as agriculture pose major threats to most populations of this species.

Success: It is early to talk about a success about the conservation of a timber species that takes 80 to 120 years to reach its maturity. However, the reduction of informal and illegal trade and the implementation of more reliable systems is a sign of progress in the right direction. CITES and ITTO are supporting the range States' capacities to comply with the implementation of CITES requirements, including gathering sound scientific data on which to base their harvest and export quotas. Since the species became listed under CITES, Parties have made great efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of this species, which efforts are ongoing with the hope that the species will be sustainably managed in the near future.

Wax plant or Candelilla

Candelilla (Euphorbia antisyphilitica) is a succulent shrub found from northern Mexico to the south-western United States which produces wax used as a food additive, a glazing agent and a component of lip balm and lipsticks, lotions, chewing gum and varnishes. It is listed in Appendix II.

Issue: Candelilla is exported worldwide and has been exploited for centuries without proper management plans. High demand, coupled with precarious local living conditions and the lack of economic alternatives, increased the threat of extinction.

Success: Today, management plans are in place and good practice has resulted in the removal of trade controls for finished products ready for retail sale containing Candelilla, such as lipsticks and creams. Producer countries have thus eased the use of the plant's wax, and provided more stability to the livelihoods of over 20,000 Candelilla harvesters and their families.

Succulent Euphorbias have been in Appendix II since 1975.

Agarwood

Found throughout Southeast Asia, Aquilaria malaccensis and other Aquilaria and Gyrinops species produce "agarwood" as a result of a fungal infection in the wood, and are listed in Appendix II. Agarwood is mainly used in the fragrance industry and for traditional burning of wood chips and incense.

Issues: Overharvesting and habitat loss threatens some populations of agarwood-producing species and most are commercially extinct in the wild. This multi-million dollar business is extremely difficult to control owing to problems in identifying the traded specimens and in detecting concealed small quantities – illustrating the practical hurdles in enforcing conservation measures and trade limitations.

Success: Today, much progress has been made in identifying the products traded internationally and in producing management plans for both wild and plantation populations. There is therefore hope that the species will be sustainably managed in the near future.

Agarwood was listed in CITES in 2005.

Milestones

2- Committees, criteria and Strategic Vision

➢ CoP2, Costa Rica, 1979: establishment of a Steering Committee to overview CITES implementation between CoPs. Later on, it became the Standing Committee.

➢ CoP6, Canada, 1987: creation of 3 independent committees: the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee.

➢ CoP9, United States of America, 1994: adoption of the Criteria, definitions, notes and guidelines for amendment of CITES Appendices I and II.

➢ CoP11, Kenya, 2000: adoption of the first CITES Strategic Vision and Action Plan.

3- Key Tools for authorizing, certifying and monitoring world's wildlife trade

➢ CITES Standard Permit/Certificate form: It was during CoP3, 1981, in New Delhi that CITES decided to create a standard CITES document for the import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of specimens of CITES-listed species. The first country to implement it was Bolivia.

➢ Trade database: this database has been maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) since 1982, under a contract with the CITES Secretariat. It holds data from the annual reports of the Parties to CITES and records nowadays an average of 850,000 permits issued annually. Most of the entries represent individual shipments of live or dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives of species that are included in the CITES Appendices.

4- Wildlife production systems

➢ CITES has permanently evolved to recognize a wide range of wildlife management and production systems. For example, the ranching system for crocodiles was set up at CoP3 in 1981 together with the start of Sustainable Management Programs. The ranching system helped to rescue from extinction 18 of the 23 species of Crocodilidae existing in the world.

5- Trade measures and compliance systems

➢ CITES is known as a treaty with teeth. The first bite of the CITES compliance system was the wildlife trade suspension adopted against a Member State in 1985 via Resolution Conf. 5.2.

➢ Since its early days, legality and sustainability have been the two most important pillars of CITES. Two major compliance mechanisms were adopted at CoP8 in Kyoto Japan (1992), the National Legislation Project and the Significant Trade Review. The first one is based on the rule of law and the second on the best available science.

➢ Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on National laws for implementation of the Convention establishes the basis for assessing the national laws adopted by Parties to implement the Convention. Parties' national legislation is assessed according to four minimal indicators and classified in three different categories. CITES National Legislation Project also aimed at providing legislative assistance to Parties for the effective implementation of CITES.

➢ Resolution Conf. 8.9 on Significant Trade Review created the foundation for assessing sustainability of wildlife trade. It was replaced by Resolution 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) and has triggered many important recommendations that includes the adoption of management plans, scientific surveys and trade restrictions or suspensions for specific species.

6. Enforcement

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) was launched on 23 November 2010. .ICCWC comprises the

CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The CITES Secretariat chairs the alliance.

7- Major programmes

➢ MIKE Programme: The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme is an elephant range States programme authorized in 1997 by a resolution of the Parties to the CITES at the CoP10 in Harare, Zimbabwe. MIKE is a site-based system to monitor elephant population trends and the illegal killing of elephants.

➢ A multi-donor technical trust for the implementation of an African Elephant Action Plan was launched in August 2011. The African Elephant Fund was created under the auspices of CITES and it is managed by UNEP.

➢ CITES-ITTO programme on timber: The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the CITES Secretariat are collaborating on a multi-year programme of activities aimed at ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation.

8. Capacity building

The CITES Virtual College was launched on 7 June 2011 and the International University of Andalusia (UNIA).

First Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade was held from 13 April to 4 July 1998 in Baeza (Spain). In 2011, the International University of Andalusia celebrated the 10th edition of the master. In its last editions, the course was linked to a Doctorate programme in collaboration with the University of Cordoba.

9. World Wildlife Day

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 March as World Wildlife Day on 20 December 2013 and recognized the important role of CITES.

10- Major meetings

➢ Sixteen meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Each one represents a historical milestone. First CoP was held in Bern, Switzerland in 1976.

➢ Sixty-four meetings of the Standing Committee. First one held in Bonn, Germany, 1979

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CITES Secretariat - International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones - CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva - Switzerland
Tel: +41-(0)22-917-81-39/40 - Fax: +41-(0)22-797-34-17
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