

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

EUROPE

1. This document has been submitted by Portugal¹ as the Regional Representatives for Europe.

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Overview of major developments
3. Activities of the regional representatives
4. Regional cooperation
5. Meetings and workshops
6. Problems faced by the regional representatives

1. Introduction

This Report covers activities of the Parties within the European Region in the period between the 64th meeting (Bangkok, March 2013) and the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2014). This Report was compiled using contributions received from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Additional information for the European Union (EU) and its 28 Member States was received from the European Commission.

¹ *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

2. Overview of major developments

Currently there are **48 Parties** to the Convention in the European Region, from which **35 Parties** adopted the Gaborone Amendment to article XXI of the Convention.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has amended its national legislation on CITES as the Decree No. 198/2003 on the amount of compensation for the cost of care of specimens from groups of species in rescue centres entered into force on 22nd August 2013. The English translation is available from the Czech MA.

The Czech Environmental Inspectorate together with the Czech Customs have made progress in their investigation within the "Operation Rhino" tackling with the organized wildlife crime abusing hunting trophies for commercial purposes. Within this operation seven household checks were conducted at 16th July 2013 leading to 15 people being taken into custody. Following the seizure of 10 rhino horns (in March 2012) intended to be exported illegally to Vietnam, there were confiscated 2 more rhino horns at the Prague Airport in December 2013 which were concealed as a shipment of electric wire going to Vietnam. The investigation is ongoing.

Germany

The German Scientific Authority commissioned TRAFFIC and IUCN to develop technical guidelines to help CITES Scientific Authorities to elaborate **Non-Detriment Findings** (NDF) for perennial plants and also for sharks. Both reports were presented to the Plants Committee and the Animals Committee respectively in May 2014. These guidances will also be incorporated in the CITES Secretariat's capacity building website. The shark ndf guidance was a follow up of the listing proposals for several shark species that have been agreed by the CITES Parties at CoP 16 in Bangkok, March 2013. The listing proposal for Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) had been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Germany and submitted by Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

On behalf of Germany's Scientific Authority for plants the Thünen Institute revised in 2014 the computer aided, interactive identification program **CITESwoodID**. The software enables users to identify CITES listed timber taxa and similar timber species by means of macroscopic wood anatomical features. The newly revised version which will be available in English, French, Spanish and German now includes 22 CITES taxa (species and genera) and 34 non-CITES taxa that can easily be misidentified as CITES listed timbers because of the similarity of their wood anatomical features. Among the species additionally included in the new version are those of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* listed at CoP 16 in the CITES Appendices. The software is available as CD Rom and an online version will be finished in the course of 2014.

Hungary

An EU-funded Twinning Light Project on "STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CITES AND WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT IN SERBIA" has been launched on 31 March 2014. The lead partner of the project is the Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary. The project is being implemented by Hungarian experts, in close cooperation with experts from several other EU Member States, such as the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain, who assist Serbian colleagues to raise the capacities of authorities responsible for CITES and wildlife trade regulations enforcement in the Republic of Serbia.

This project is funded by the EU with EUR 194 thousand and will be implemented for 6 months until September 2014. The principal objective of this Twinning project is to raise the capacities of all the relevant authorities in Serbia involved in CITES and national wildlife trade legislation enforcement through specialized trainings for the project target beneficiaries. Implementing EU standards in this field will be important for Serbia as it advances in the process of EU integration. Not only will it be necessary for EU accession but the activities of this project will contribute to the priorities set in the National Sustainable

Development Strategy, in particular the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources with one of the measures being the establishment of a system to protect and sustainable use the natural resources such as wild fauna and flora. But most importantly, complying with EU standards will contribute to preserving biodiversity on the local, regional and global level and to the efficient control legal transboundary movement and trade, internal trade and possession, and to sanction illegal activities related to protected species of wild fauna and flora. MS experts will focus on the following results to be achieved:

- legislation analysed and recommendations developed for full harmonization with the acquires;
- enforcement officers adequately trained for conducting wildlife trade controls in both trans boundary and internal trade, with the ability to detect wildlife smuggling attempts;
- public prosecutors and judges adequately informed on proper sanctioning procedures for infringements related to wildlife trade, with the ability to properly prosecute and sanction wildlife smugglers;
- stakeholders involved in the disposal and care of confiscated live specimens of wild animals adequately trained in basic procedures;
- national action plan for wildlife trade enforcement developed and prepared for adoption;
- inter-sectoral cooperation strengthened and capacity of stakeholders increased for more efficient enforcement of CITES and national wildlife trade regulations provisions.

The Hungarian Government adopted the Hungarian national Biodiversity Strategy from 2014-2020 in February 2014. The Strategy includes a specific target for the protection of species endangered by trade which refers to those species that are listed on the CITES Appendices and occur in Hungary as well as on raising awareness in order to increase with CITES provisions.

The national CITES implementing regulation was changed in 2013 with regard to registration of Hunting trophies and requirements for the authorization of caviar processing and (re-) packaging plants. The amendment, as a stricter national measure, prohibited keeping of primates for private persons.

Ireland

Ireland has actively contributed to the review of EU wildlife trade regulations; Council Regulation 338/97/EC and Commission Regulation 865/2006, following changes initiated to this legislation by activates at CoP16. Ireland was also involved in the development of the Council Decision on the European Union Accession to CITES as a Party.

Norway

A new draft regulation for CITES in Norway has been sent to the Ministry of the Environment late 2013. The Management Authority hopes to see the entering into force of the new regulation early 2015. The new regulation aim to bring the Norwegian regulation for CITES more akin to the EU regulation.

There have been an increasing number of confiscated specimens due to national focus on specifically traditional Asian medicines and slimming products with *Hoodia gordonii*.

The illegal trade in fishflies with feathers from i.a. *Gallus sonneratii* has been in focus since late 2013. The MA has reason to believe that there are huge imports to Norway and other countries without required permits.

Portugal

Recognizing the problem of the illegal wildlife trade and in particular of ivory specimens which contributes to the severe increase of poaching of African elephants in recent years, Portugal as a country with strong relationships namely with some African Portuguese speaking countries has built its efforts to tackle that issue.

Trade of legal pre-Convention ivory specimens is strictly regulate with each item always accompanied with an EU certificate issued after analyzes from Portuguese CITES Management Authority. Furthermore, each

company that transfers ivory specimens, even if it is not commercial trade, need to be registered in CITES MA and update all details every year.

Celebrating the first World Wildlife Day and the 41 anniversary of CITES, Portugal implemented a number of activities during late March 2014 which appear in the news. Those actions intend primarily to raise public awareness to the problem of wildlife traffic.

Portugal is pleased to inform you that one of those activities was the incineration of our stock of seized ivory specimens, March 7th, which included more than one ton of ivory and more than 3.000 specimens.

The Portuguese CITES MA together with the judiciary Police have made progress in their investigation tackling the illegal trade of birds specially parrots. Within this operation eleven household checks were conducted with the seizures of hundreds of birds. The investigation is ongoing and is leading for new persons. Portugal approved the new action plan for enforcement of issue for the period 2014-2015.

Portugal has contributed to the review of EU wildlife trade regulations; Council Regulation 338/97/EC and Commission Regulation 865/2006, following changes initiated to this legislation by activates at CoP16.

Russian Federation

With the view to strengthen the control on import of specimens of *Falco cherrug* (saker falcon) and *F. rusticolus* (gyr falcon) the Russian Federation submitted a proposal to the CITES Secretariat to request an issuance of a CITES import permit for these two specimens regardless of the origin of the birds (Notification to the Parties № 2013/008, Geneva, 1 March 2013).

In 2013 the Russian Federation undertook steps to include in CITES Appendix III FAGACEAE *Quercus mongolica* and OLEACEAE *Fraxinus mandshurica*. (Notification to the Parties № 2014/014, Geneva, 26 March 2014).

On the occasion of an international meeting, 29 July 2013, Kunming, China, held in celebration of Global Tiger Day, the Russian Federation announced an establishment of two ecological corridors on its border to allow Amur tigers to migrate freely. The meeting in Kunming is known as the International workshop on Transboundary Conservation and Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade in Wild Tigers and Other Rare and Endangered Species.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus will work on the rehabilitation of the sustainable population of European bison in their respective territories. Such a decision was adopted by a board of the Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Ecology of the Russian Federation (Minsk, 20 December 2013).

In May 2013 and May- June 2014 six Amur tiger cubs were released in the Amur region and the Jewish Autonomous Province. These tiger cubs underwent rehabilitation in a special rehabilitation and reintroduction centre for Amur tigers and other rare species in Primorsky krai. The centre was created by the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution and an agency "Tiger Special inspection" (under jurisdiction of the Russian Federal Environment Control Service) with support from the Russian Geographical Society. The tiger cubs were in distress in wild. The staff of the "Tiger Special inspection" found and caught them in 2012-2013.

Slovak Republic

In December 2013 the Slovak Government has adopted National Action Plan 2014 – 2019 for the enforcement of Council Regulation (EC) no. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. The National Action Plan establishes a national strategy to combat illegal trade in endangered species and the authorities responsible for the coordinated enforcement of the relevant legislation of the EU and national legislation. The National Action Plan 2014 – 2019 was drawn up on the

basis of a Commission recommendation of 13 June 2007 identifying a set of actions for the enforcement of Council Regulation (EC) no. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (2007/425/ES). The objective of the plan is to cooperate in curbing the illegal trade in specimens of endangered species by raising public awareness, taking effective actions to law enforcement and supporting cooperation among the competent authorities at national and international level. Some of the concrete tasks are reviewing of all relevant national legislation, including competences between authorities/organizations in order to identify the problems and needs of their changes, reviewing of the effectiveness of prevention and of the height of penalties in criminal and administrative proceedings for infringements of legislation on trade in endangered species and the real effectiveness of the sanctions imposed and review of the appropriateness and capacities for confiscated specimens.

Switzerland

Switzerland has enacted a new legislation concerning the implementation of CITES. Details can be seen under the following links in German, French and Italian: (<http://www.admin.ch/opc/de/classified-compilation/20092733/index.html>;

<http://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20092733/index.html>;

<http://www.admin.ch/opc/it/classified-compilation/20092733/index.html>)

The implementation of a musical instrument certificate has been completed and a sample can be viewed under the following link:

http://www.blv.admin.ch/themen/handel_wild/05116/05368/index.html?lang=en

In a survey conducted with scientific institutions and a Swiss based NGO, illegal imports of Bushmeat into Switzerland was investigated. It was shown that several tons of Bushmeat are imported annually and that about a third was stemming from CITES listed species. As a first reaction Switzerland developed a manual for control agencies on the identification and treatment of bushmeat in all three official languages and in English as well.

Turkey

E.U. Project:

“Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementations in Turkey” EU Project has been started on 21 November 2011 and finished on 13 December 2013. According to outputs of this project; the technical capacity and the institutional capacity on CITES Implementation have been strengthened. All project activities have been completed. All project goals have been achieved.

Title: Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementations in Turkey.

Overall Objective: Strengthening the sustainability of the biological diversity in line with CITES Regulation in Turkey.

Project purpose:

Strengthening administrative and technical capacities regarding control of trade of CITES species.

Overall cost: 1,425,000 €

Project Partner: Spain

(Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness)

Project Duration: 2 years

Beneficiary: Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks)

Co- Beneficiary: Ministry of Customs and Trade; Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock; The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

Stakeholders: Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Economy

Result: The results of the project are as follows;

Result 1. Strengthened Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementation.

Result 2. Strengthened Technical Capacity on CITES Implementation.

Project Outputs:

Activity Set 1. Strengthened Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementation

- Four (4) study visit programs to EU Member States were organized to share the experiences on CITES implementations.
- Exchange program on Rescue Center for 10 veterinarians (between Spain-Turkey) was performed in order to develop coordination and cooperation.
- Internship program for the CITES Core Group was performed in Spain for 2 weeks with the participation of four CITES experts from the Turkish Primary Management Authority.
- Comprehensive six (6) training programs for the staff of beneficiary, co beneficiaries and the stakeholders were organized for strengthening of personnel capacity on CITES implementation.
- ID Manuals were prepared for most of the animals and plants that are traded, whether native or not, and commonly found on markets, as a basic tool for the implementation of the Convention.
- CITES trainer brochures and posters were prepared. (For tourists, public and 140 Customs points.) (10.000 informative brochures, 1.000 posters and 5.000 booklets were performed, published and will be distributed to Customs points, tourists and public.)

Activity Set 2. Strengthened Technical Capacity on CITES Implementation

- Preparing of Central CITES Database program was one of the project's main benchmarks. The trade monitoring and database system was established to issue the CITES permits and certificates electronically.
- CITES web-page was designed and established. The objective of this activity was to help CITES Turkish Department designing and creating the web-page CITES Turkiye using the existing resources in the Turkish IT Department.
- Necessary field equipment and materials were purchased. Also four wheel drives and one transporter (for animals) were purchased for the four local CITES offices and one Rescue Center.

Ukraine

Sturgeon species conservation and sustainable use

Since 2000 a full ban on commercial fishing of sturgeon species had been enacted in Ukraine. Thus it was prohibited to sell sturgeon species of natural origin in the domestic market as well as to export them.

Since 2009 all the sturgeon species typical for Azov – Black Sea basin (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, *Acipenser stellatus*, *Huso huso*, *Acipenser nudiiventris*, *Acipenser ruthenus*, *Acipenser sturio*) had been listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. The species are only taken from the wild for the conservation purposes under special permits issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine based upon the decision of National Red Data Book Commission of Ukraine.

The results of monitoring of sturgeon stocks in the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea and the Danube river estuary show that the stocks of sturgeon species are currently suppressed.

This is the reason that Ukraine maintains the ban on commercial fishing of sturgeon species in 2014. The ban applies to both: the target fishing of sturgeons and the by-catch while fishing other species.

For 2014 a zero export quota has been established by Ukraine for specimens originated from natural populations of the sturgeon species.

Aiming to restore natural populations of sturgeon species, funds from the State Budget of Ukraine are used under the framework of special programme to stock natural basins with the juveniles of sturgeons. The State fishing plant "Dnipro Production and Experimental Sturgeon Plant named after academician Artuschik S.T." works in the framework of this program.

Annually Ukraine releases more than 1.3 million individuals of juveniles of the Russian sturgeons and sterlet in the Black Sea basin (lower Dnipro river).

There is also a rapid growth of the sturgeon aquaculture sector in Ukraine including production of black caviar for human consumption. This is a very promising area. In 2013 an Agricultural company "Osetr" Ltd. (8, Promyslova str., Ukrainka, Kyiv reg, 08720, Ukraine) had been registered in the State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine as a producer of conserves and preserves. The company has its own farm-raised brood stock of sterlet. It was properly registered to produce conserves and preserves and received the official production number – "Б30".

Ukraine takes all reasonable steps to develop and ensure the efficiency of the national system of genetic identification to control commercial operations with sturgeon species and products made thereof. A laboratory of genetic research has been created on the basis of the Research Institute of the Azov Sea (RIAS) (Berdyansk) which specializes in studying sturgeon species and solves the issues in the framework of

CITES monitoring. A collection of genetic samples of sturgeon species has also been created and is constantly updated on the basis of this institute.

The collection has been complemented by samples of the Black Sea Russian sturgeon, stellate sturgeon and Dnipro sterlet for the period under review. The genetic material derived from the alive samples of the Azov Sea Russian sturgeon and stellate sturgeon have been added to the collection.

In 2014 the first celebration of the World Wildlife Day has been organized in Ukraine.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Development of the London Declaration to tackle illegal wildlife trade at the London Conference convened in February 2014. This high level conference was attended by over 50 countries and a number of Heads of State

Establishment of a £10 million fund to help governments, NGOs and charities tackle illegal wildlife crime across the world and help deliver the outcomes of the London Conference

Continuing full participation on the review of the EU wildlife trade regulations; Council Regulation 338/97 on the protection of species **European Commission**

Further to the entry into force of the "Gaborone amendment" on 29 November 2013, the EU has initiated the procedure required under EU law to become a Party to the CITES Convention. It is expected that this procedure will be finalised towards the end of 2014.

of wild fauna and flora and Commission Regulation 865/2006 which implements 338/97

3. Activities of the regional representatives

Italy

Italy was engaged in:

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on investigation techniques for fighting wildlife crime (December 2013)

-memorandum of understanding between Italian Forestry Corps and the main e-commerce companies to enhance the fight against web wildlife traffic (June 2013)

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on CITES matter and related issues (May 2013)

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on identification techniques of CITES specimens (November 2013)

-opening of the Museum of Environmental Crime - MACRI, whose main subject is the enforcement against the wildlife crime and crimes related to CITES Convention (March 2014)

-Italy realised the data bank of CITES plants present in the Italian university Botanical Gardens, it was made possible thanks to an agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea and the Italian Botanical Society, with information on the presence and consistence of the CITES plants in the Botanical Garden and about the species in the wild and their endangered status.

(EC) CITES is implemented in the European Union through Council Regulation 338/97/EC of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

Norway

The Norwegian CITES MA has concluded a series of training seminars for the customs, police and the veterinary authorities, including 12 customs offices spread around the country.

The Norwegian CITES MA is together with national airport authorities developing an outreach plan on CITES at all 42 airports in Norway.

Portugal

Portugal MA coordinated:

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on investigation techniques for fighting wildlife crime

-elaboration of a draft memorandum of understanding between Portuguese CITES MA and Brazilian colleagues

-training of police officers engaged at custom and territory level on CITES matter and related issues

Portugal CITES MA and SA took part in:

- 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March 2013
- 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 2 March 2013)
- 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 14 March 2013)
- 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (Veracruz (Mexico, 28 April-03 May 2014). Portugal is alternate member of Plant Committee

Ukraine

Ukraine took part in the:

16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (Bangkok, Thailand, 3–14 March 2013);

63rd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (Bangkok, Thailand, 2 March 2014);

64th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (Bangkok, Thailand, 14 March 2014).

Regional cooperation

Sturgeons:

Whereas the stocks of sturgeon species in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov basins are shared among different countries, it requires the cooperation between all the countries in managing the stocks of sturgeons.

The cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the Sea of Azov as to studying sturgeon species and managing of their stocks is implemented in the framework of the Ukrainian-Russian Commission for fisheries in the Sea of Azov.

The international cooperation in studying of sturgeon species of the Danube river and the neighbouring part of the Black Sea is implemented under the framework of "The Agreement between fishery managerial bodies and CITES bodies of the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine as to «Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sturgeon Populations of the N-W Black Sea and Lower Danube River in accordance with CITES».

Other species:

There is ongoing exchange of information between the CITES Management Authority of Ukraine and other CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of different countries.

European Commission

The European Commission is currently revising the Implementing Regulations (EC) No 865/2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 and (EU) No 792/2012 laying down rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents in order to implement certain Resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and in order to ensure that the Regulation is implemented consistently within the Union.

The European Commission is preparing a new Regulation reflecting recent changes to CITES Appendix III.

The European Commission is currently updating Commission Regulation (EC) No 578/2013 suspending the introduction into the Community of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora.

Implementation

Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 establishes the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Scientific Review Group and the Enforcement Group. The Committee on Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which agrees on implementation measures for CITES, met four times in 2013 and will have met twice in 2014 by the time of SC 65. The Scientific Review Group, which consists of the Member States' Scientific

Authorities and examines any scientific question relating to the application of the Regulations, met four times in 2013 and so far twice in 2014. The Enforcement Group, which consists of representatives of each Member State's authorities with responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Regulations, met twice in 2013 and so far once in 2014. This group plays a key role for exchanging enforcement related information among enforcement, customs and police authorities.

On 7 February 2014, the European Commission adopted a Communication and launched a stakeholder consultation on the future EU approach to wildlife trafficking. On 10 and 11 April 2014, the European Commission organized an expert conference, followed by dedicated workshops to discuss how to strengthen enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime in the EU and how to make EU support against wildlife trafficking at global level more effective. Based on the results of the stakeholder consultation and the conference, the European Commission will review the existing policies and measures at EU level so as to enable the EU to react more effectively to the current crisis situation.

4. Regional cooperation

Belgium

Belgian Customs and Federal Police do regularly make use of the EU-TWIX list-server to share information on seizures and others related enforcement subjects with colleagues of CITES authorities in other EU Member States.

Belgian Customs and Federal Police do regularly make use of the EU-TWIX list-server to share information on seizures and others related enforcement subjects with colleagues of CITES authorities in other EU Member States.

Belgian Customs did participate to the Project WCO GAPIN II which focused on rhinos, elephants, pangolins and great apes. The first workshop was held in Brussels with contributions from the Belgian CITES Management Authority and TRAFFIC and provided Belgian Customs with training in x-ray image analysis and other practical techniques. Some positive results have been achieved. This action was successful as Belgian Customs did seize, at this occasion, large amounts of ivory, dried seahorses, pangolins scales :almost daily seizures in luggages from Chinese citizens, coming from West-africa and going to Peking.

There was a workshop in Zurich for the French speaking countries and one in Belgium, organised by Belgian customs for the English speaking countries. 12 kg of ivory was found during the workshop in mail from Congo to Turkey (hanko's).

After the operation Gapin, our African colleagues informed us for more seizures, always from passengers (Chinese) who went back to China with new ivory in their luggages.

Germany

In Twinning Serbia 26.5. – 30.5.2014, project by Hungary: German short-term expert gave lectures.

The German government provided in January 2014 through its development bank KfW 20 million EUR for a five year integrated tiger conservation program managed by IUCN. The aim of the program is to increase the number of tigers in the wild and improve the livelihoods of communities living in and close to their habitat.

Ireland

Irish enforcement authorities regularly make use of the EU-Twix service to source information on seizures and other law enforcement subjects and where possible to follow up and provide assistance to colleagues in CITES authorities in other EU Member States.

In September 2013 the Criminal Assets Bureau of the Irish Police Force (An Garda Síochána) carried out raids on a number of properties in connection with a Europol investigation concerning an Irish Criminal

Gang linked to the thefts of rhino horn and other valuable artefacts from museums and auction houses. Investigations are continuing and Irish law enforcement authorities continue to liaise with international law enforcement on such cases.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic hosted a 5-day TAIEX study visit for 3 representatives of CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities of Croatia in June 2013 in Prague. The study visit was focused on enhancement of implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in Croatia.

Italy

Italy participated in the EU Twinning project for strengthening the wildlife trade regulations and enforcement in Serbia (June 2014)

Norway

Representatives from CITES MA Norway participated in a joint course arranged for the customs on the border between Norway and Sweden, as initiated by the Swedish MA.

CITES MA's from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland has established an annual meeting regarding general management issues, and confiscations and possibly illegal activities. Since SC 2012, two meetings with representatives from the Nordic countries CITES MA have been arranged; one in Stockholm, Sweden and the other in Helsinki, Finland.

Portugal

Portugal participated in the EU Twinning program to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of CITES implementation in Turkey

Portugal participated in the EU Twinning project for strengthening the wildlife trade regulations and enforcement in Serbia (June 2014)

Portugal organized the 2nd Meeting of Management Authorities and Environmental Polices of Portugal and Spain (

Spain

In 2013 finished the Twinning program with Turkey that during 2 years has been implemented between the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. The aim of the project was to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of CITES implementation in Turkey.

During the implementation process 25 different activities were carried out covering all the relevant aspects for CITES implementation. In these activities 27 experts from Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom and Italy have participated working closely with the beneficiary country members and elaborating reports with recommendations.

As most important achievements can be mentioned the following:

- 269 Turkish officials have attended different training seminars.
- 10 Identification Guides and 543 identification sheets have been translated into Turkish, published and distributed among Customs and CITES Local Offices.
- 12 identification sheets containing information for 16 animal species and 7 identification sheets for plant species were elaborated and published.
- Brochures, booklets and posters with information about CITES have been published.

Switzerland

In a pilot project, France and Switzerland are developing a system for exchanging CITES permits in an electronic way, in order to go over to paperless CITES trade procedures. Tentative time of entry into force of the system is the beginning of 2015.

Ukraine

In September 2013 consultations of researchers of Research Institute of the Azov Sea (Berdyansk, Ukraine), Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) (Moscow), Azov Research Institute of Fisheries (AzNIIRKH) (Rostov-on-Don) on molecular genetic researches of Azov Sea sturgeons, and on solving of artificial reproduction problems and evaluation of its effectiveness were held in Rostov-on-Don (Russian Federation).

Also in autumn of 2013 in Moscow (Russian Federation) the methodological consultations on usage of genetic examination in species identification of sturgeon species have been conducted between representatives of scientific institutions of Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) (Moscow) and Research Institute of the Azov Sea (Berdyansk, Ukraine).

In October 2013 the XXV session of the Ukrainian-Russian Commission for fisheries in the Sea of Azov (Rozhok, Rostov region, Russian Federation) was held in the framework of which the issue of "Cooperation between Parties under CITES" was considered. As a result of this consideration, the Commission agreed on a "zero" export quotas for all Azov Sea sturgeon species (Russian sturgeon, beluga) for Ukraine and Russia in 2014. As follows from the above, the recommendation (a, III) contained in Resolution 12.7 of the Conference of the Parties requiring agreed quotas for fishing of sturgeon species to be based on a Regional Strategy of conservation and monitoring mode for the region is fulfilled.

In the framework of WWF Danube Carpathian Programme Romania (Tulcea, Romania, 5–7 March 2014) Ukraine took part in the training workshop on the protection of the Danube river sturgeon.

Representatives of scientific institute of Odessa's Science Centre YugNIRO (Odessa) participated in business meeting on the tagging of juvenile of sturgeon species organized by the University of Lower Danube (Galati, Romania, 8-11 April 2014) in the framework of the project "E.C. Fisheries Operational Programme for Romania on supportive stoking of sturgeons: Pilot project". It should be noted that in the framework of this project the workshop has been carried out on training of specialists to install and scan the CWT tags. In addition Ukraine has received the relevant set of equipment to scan the CWT tags.

Representatives of Ukrainian CITES Management and Scientific Authorities took part in the IInd (20-24 of August 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya) and IIIrd (Budapest, Hungary, 16–18 June 2014) Seminars "Implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in CEE region".

In the framework of cooperation between the CITES Management Authorities of Canada and Ukraine 5 Identification Guides for CITES specimens (crocodiles, tortoises, birds, hunting trophies and butterflies) have been translated into Russian and Ukrainian and published. Electronic versions of those Identification Guides have been made available through Internet (<http://ecoanalitika.com/index.php/cites>).

There is ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and OSCE on CITES related issues aimed at enhancement of cooperation between CITES enforcement authorities of Ukraine.

In addition CITES Management authorities of Ukraine actively cooperate with WWF Ukraine.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The **UK**:

- chairs the CITES working groups on Rhino, e-commerce and Special Reporting requirements (SRRWG) UK SA member co-chairs Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation the Review of Significant Trade
- JNCC (Vin Fleming) attended the 27th Animals Committee meeting (AC) and represents the European regions views at AC. Kew attended the 21st Plants Committee (PC) and are the nominated nomenclature experts (Noel McGough)
- Provided assistance to the Georgian SA on NDF's for geophytes and joint paper on process published in Oryx.
- Produced CITES User's Guide: CITES and Cycads, funded by Italy.

European Commission

EU funds have been granted or approved for the following projects: (EC)

- Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species (EUR 1.3 million granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130914_shark_ray.php)
- Combating wildlife crime (1.7 Mio EUR granted to ICCWC through Interpol) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1428_en.htm)
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) (2 Mio EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat)
- "Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES)" (successor of MIKE, more focused on enforcement and with larger scope); the programme will run in the period 2014-2018 (12.3 Mio EUR granted to the CITES Secretariat) (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1193_en.htm)
- Implementation of CoP 16 decisions (2013-2016, 0.7 Mio EUR)
- Species+ and monitoring of the status of several CITES-listed species (0.65 Mio EUR granted to UNEP-WCMC)
- ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species (5 Mio EUR granted to ITTO for the period 2012-2015)

5. Meetings and workshops

Austria

In an article in an IUCN Newsletter (see attached), Austria has called the CITES Scientific Committees to consider taking into their programme of work the "CITES and livelihoods" issue which, if done properly, could help more effective CITES implementation in developing countries.

Austria has also participated at the Commission Workshop in April 2014 on how best to address wildlife crime within its borders, with Austria aiming in particular for more effective cooperation between the CITES Authorities and the judiciary.

The Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna was contracted by the CITES MA and SAs as "Austrian CITES competence center for plants".

CITES issues and topics are incorporated in the MSc "Nature Conservation and Management" curriculum of the University of Vienna. One effect of this MSc-course-linkage is the possibility to do CITES related MSc-theses. The first thesis was finished in 2013 on NDFs (M. Rose: "„Non-detriment-findings in CITES – Thymelaeaceae“"); an enlarged version of the thesis will be published (see above). One thesis (on CITES and medicinal plants from Asia) is currently carried out, and another one (on CITES and Bromeliaceae) is going to start soon.

Kiehn M., Benítez-Díaz H. (2013) published: International Trade in Endangered Plant Species in the Context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 99: 167–171.

Austria developed a user-friendly **guide to NDFs** for its SAs, drawing on a Masters Thesis conducted at the University of Vienna, and various NDF guidelines produced in the past (CITES and IUCN). The guide has been completed after peer review (incl. Ulrich Schepp), has been distributed among Austria's SAs and made available to SA and MA in the EU.

Belgium

Belgium participated in all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level since October 2012 :

- 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March 2013
- 63st meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 2 March 2013)
- 64th meeting of the Standing Committee (Bangkok, 14 March 2013)
- 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (Veracruz (Mexico, 28 April-03 May 2014)

25rd Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 29 October 2012)

26th Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 29-30 April 2013)

27th Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 25 October 2013)

28th Enforcement Group Meeting (Brussels, 24 April 2014)

62^h CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 8 February 2013)

63th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 29 May 2013)

64th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 13 September 2013)

65th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 9 December 2013)

66th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 28 February 2014)

67th CITES Management Committee Meeting (Brussels, 4 June 2014)

62th Scientific Review Group Meeting (7 December 2012)

63th Scientific Review Group Meeting (7 February 2013)

64th Scientific Review Group Meeting (28 May 2013)

65th Scientific Review Group Meeting (12 September 2013)

66th Scientific Review Group Meeting (6 December 2013)

67th Scientific Review Group Meeting (27 February 2014)

68th Scientific Review Group Meeting (28 May 2014)

During the period October 2012 – June 2014, the Belgian CITES Management Authority coordinated 2 meetings of the Belgian CITES Enforcement Group (28.06.2013 and 26.05.2014). During the same timeframe, the Belgian CITES Scientific Authority met on 6 occasions (03.12.2012, 04.02.2013, 24.05.2013, 05.09.2013, 25.02.2014 and 26.05.2014).

In May 2013, Belgian CITES Management Authority organised an Informal Workshop with other EU member States to share their experience on specific topics of the EU regulation.

On 12 and 13th December 2013, Belgium participated also in the Workshop 'EUTR and CITES' Chatham House, London. The major topic was the link between CITES and the EU Timber Trade Regulation (with detailed discussions on Compliance/Enforcement Synergies; Managing risks and sharing of EU Member states CITES Enforcement Experience).

On 3 March 2014, date of the World Wildlife Day; Belgium celebrated its 30th Anniversary of becoming a Party to CITES. Belgium CITES Management Authority organised for this occasion a big symposium at

Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels. Representatives of the European Commission, CITES Secretariat, scientists, customs officers, breeders of CITES species, representatives of NGO, were assembled to celebrate this anniversary. This events was well covered in the press. The day was very successful !

On 9 April 2014, Belgium proceeded to the destruction of its stockpile of illegal ivory – about 1.7 tons. This event took place in cooperation with the Custom Authorities and IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) at the "Palais des Colonies", in Tervuren. A special ceremony was held to mark the occasion, with dignitaries from the Belgian government, Representatives of the European Commission, CITES Secretariat, scientists, customs officers, NGO's. This stockpile comprises all ivory confiscated by the different controlling authorities, the custom services in particular, since 1984, year in which the CITES convention became effective in Belgium. A press conference with speeches of Belgium Minister in charge of CITES, a customs' representative and the CEO of IFAW were given. The crushed ivory will be used to create educational art which will be displayed in several public places in order to create awareness for the problem of elephant poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife in general. This event got worldwide press coverage.

In October 2012, Belgian CITES MA gave a presentation on CITES legislation applicable for the CITES parrots to the implicated stakeholders in the framework of the 'Day of Parrots' at 'Pairi Daisa', Bruelette.

In June 2013, the head of the Belgian CITES Management Authority and the Enforcement liaison officer gave a presentation on CITES legislation and procedures of seizure, administrative fines and general follow-up of CITES-cases by the legal system during a training day of the prosecutors. It was organized by the Network of Prosecutors responsible for Environment and was held in the airport of Zaventem. The customs officers held a presentation on the significant seizures that they encountered.

In February, July, October and November 2013, Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentations on CITES legislation applicable to the CITES protected parrots to several Bird associations (WPC, FP, AOB, KBOF, BVP)..

In July 2013 the Belgian CITES Management Authority has its yearly meeting with ANIMALES (traders association) where discussions are held between the policy-makers and one of its major stakeholders.

In August 2013, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on the legislation applicable to the CITES protected reptiles to a Turtle association.

In October 2013 the head of the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on the legislation applicable to CITES protected wood to several wood importers.

In October , November and December 2013, the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave three CITES training days to Customs working at Charleroi-Gosselies Airport(1 day) , and Liege airports (2 days).

In March 2014, the scientific advisor gave a presentation on CITES in the framework of a symposium in Namur on Moving biological material into and out of Belgium.

In March 2014 the Enforcement liaison officer gave a presentation in the Netherlands on the first organized Contact Day of all the CITES enforcement officers. The presentation gave an insight in the Belgian CITES procedures and significant seizures.

In May 2014 the Belgian CITES Management Authority gave two CITES training days to Veterinarians/inspectors of the Animal Welfare and CITES Inspection Service of Public Federal Service Public Health. This service (amongst others) controls the application of CITES legislation within Belgium.

In July 2014 the Belgian CITES Management Authority has its yearly meeting with ANIMALS ANIMALES (traders association) where discussions are held between the policy-makers and one of its major stakeholders.

Regarding communication with the CITES stakeholders, Belgium continues to inform the general public and the specialized sector by means of leaflets containing information on the CITES regulations in birds of prey, parrots, reptiles and amphibians and also for the consumer of caviar. Belgium also continues to inform the tourists with a brochure "An endangered species is no souvenir".

Czech Republic

The following CITES workshops for the state authorities and the public were organized in the Czech Republic:

- A 2-day workshop "The CITES evergreens" in Sedlacky Dvur near Humpolec, June 2013 were organized by the Czech SA and opened to the public. The workshop was focused on conservation of marine species protected by CITES.
- A 3-day workshop on wildlife crime for the enforcement authorities, prosecutors etc. was organised by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in November 2013 in Cervena Lhota. Participants from the Slovak Republic took part as well.

Germany

Germany's Management Authority participated at the meeting of CITES Standing Committee's working group on reporting requirements held on 26-28 November in Peterborough, UK.

The German government supported financially the African Elephant Summit held in Gaborone, Botswana 2-4 December 2013 which IUCN together with the government of the Republic of Botswana had kindly organized. The meeting had been initiated by the German government through the adoption of Resolution WCC-2012-Res-025 'Conservation of African Elephants at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012. The resolution requested among others that the Director General and the African Elephant Specialist Group work with the Secretariats of CITES and CMS, Interpol, UNODC, the World Bank, LATF, ASEAN-WEN, ICCWC, FAO, UNDP and UNEP to convene a high-level meeting as soon as possible,..... with the aim of recommending urgent measures needed by African Elephant range States and consumer States to address the concerns relating to the conservation of the African Elephant, and to carry these recommendations forward to range States and consumer States, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee of CITES.

Germany's CITES Management Authority gave a presentation on its African elephant ivory age and spatial origin determination project at the UNODC- ICCWC Expert Group Meeting on Forensic methods and procedures 4-6 December 2013 in Vienna, Austria.

Germany's CITES Management Authority gave a presentation at Chatham House EU-timber regulation workshop, 12-13 December 2013 in London, UK on practical implementation and enforcement of both, the EU wildlife trade regulations for CITES listed timber and the EU timber regulation in Germany between different federal government authorities.

The German CITES authorities funded a meeting of the joint AC/PC working group for the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade on the Island of Vilm in 2012.

Hungary

The 3rd meeting of the MoU on the Conservation of Middle-European population of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) was held in April 2013 in Hungary. The meeting adopted a new Action Plan to the MoU, a new Medium-Term International Work Programme 2013-2016, a Joint Research Programme and several guidelines. The meeting also amended the MoU itself to extend its geographical scope to include Italy, Montenegro, Russia and Serbia.

In June 2013 experts of the Hungarian CITES MA hold a seminar on the implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade regulations in Podgorica, Montenegro in the frame of the THEMIS Project (“Technical assistance workshop on EU Regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade “). Representatives were experts and policy makers from various ministries and agencies responsible for CITES in Montenegro.

In June 2014 Hungary hosted a seminar for the Central and Eastern European Countries on E-commerce of CITES specimens, organised by the Polish CITES Scientific Authority, CEEWeb together with the Hungarian CITES MA. The main aim of the seminar was to share experience on controlling Internet trade of specimens and provide good examples and best practices for the representatives. The meeting was attended by representatives of the CITES authorities from the CEE region and external experts.

Ireland

Ireland has participated in nearly all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level since March 2013, including EU CITES Management Committee Meetings, EU Scientific Review Group Meetings, EU Enforcement Group Meetings, the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee Veracruz (Mexico), 02-03 May 2014 and the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee, Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April-03 May 2014, as Alternate member of the Animals Committee.

Ireland also attended the recent Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking, 10 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium. This attendance included representation from the CITES Management Authority, Customs and the Criminal Assets Bureau of the Irish Police Force (An Garda Síochána).

Italy

Italy participated:

- 3rd Envicrimenet Annual Seminar (Europol), Den Haag, Holland (November 2013)
- 1st International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference, Nairobi, Kenya (November 2013)
- the EU Strategy against wildlife traffic Conference, Brussels, Belgium (April 2014)

Italy organized:

- a Workshop aimed to enhance the cooperation in CITES enforcement (Italian forestry Corps, Customs Agencies etc.), Rome, Italy (November 2013)
- a Workshop on the “University Botanical Gardens and CITES : the activities for the protection and enhancement of CITES autochthonous plants” (February 2014)

Norway

CITES MA Norway attended CITES COP 16, and all SC meetings as member of the standing committee, as well as all AC and PC meetings.

CITES MA Norway has been represented at the workshop “Review of Significant Trade Advisory Working Group” at Vilm 2012.

Poland

In December 2012 Poland hosted a seminar for the Central and Eastern European Countries on preparations for the 16th Conference of the Parties, organised by the Polish Society for Nature Conservation “Salamandra” together with the MA and SA of Poland. The main aim of the seminar was to provide an opportunity for better understanding of background of the chosen proposals submitted for consideration during CITES CoP 16th and provide platform for exchange of views in this regard.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the CITES authorities from the CEE region, USA, EU Commission and external experts.

In 2013 CITES MA of Poland organised two meetings of the national CITES working group. CITES working group consists of all key institutions involved in implementation and enforcement of CITES in Poland (notably CITES MA and SA, Customs, Police, prosecution and judiciary representatives, nature conservation and veterinary institutions) and CITES-related NGOs. Meetings of this working group provide a very useful platform for national cooperation and exchange of relevant information concerning CITES implementation in Poland.

Portugal

Portugal has participated in all CITES meetings whether at international or EU level since March 2013, including EU CITES Management Committee Meetings, EU Scientific Review Group Meetings, EU Enforcement Group Meetings, the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee Veracruz (Mexico), 02-03 May 2014 and the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee, Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April-03 May 2014, as Alternate member of the Plants Committee.

Portugal also attended the recent Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking, 10 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium. This attendance included representation from the CITES Management Authority, Customs and the Environment Police (SEPNA/GNR).

Russian Federation

International Forum on Conservation of Polar Bears took place in Moscow from 4 to 6 December 2013. The outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. Signature of the Declaration of the Responsible Ministers of the Polar Bear Range States, including commitments on key steps to be undertaken up to 2033;
2. Adoption of general commitments of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (Oslo, 1973);
3. Adoption of the Working plan to further develop a Circumpolar Action Plan for polar bears.
4. Signature of the minutes of the Forum of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of the Polar Bears.

The IV All-Russian Congress of the Environmental Protection took place from 2 to 4 December 2013 in Moscow. More than 3 thousand representatives of federal, regional, municipal executive authorities, international organizations, civil society, scientific and educational organizations, important natural resource users attended the Congress. The Congress paid a special attention to biological and landscape diversity conservation issues in Russia.

Being a snow leopard (*Felis uncia*) range state Russia attended the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum, 22-23 October 2013, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Slovak Republic

Slovak Republic has organized several training seminars regarding CITES issues:

- October 2012: two day training of new district officers
- June 2013: two day training of new district officers
- 5 November 2013: training of customs officers of Banská Bystrica Customs Office (mail offices)
- 13 November 2013: training of customs officers of Žilina Customs Office (mail offices)

Representatives of the Slovak CITES Management Authority and Police attended Expert Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking (and two workshops) which was held on 10 -11 April 2014 in Brussels, Belgium and organized by the European Commission. The conference, as well as the two workshops, focused on two main areas: Firstly, the situation within the EU, and in particular how enforcement and the fight against organized wildlife crime could be strengthened. Secondly, how the EU could - through its diplomatic tools and development cooperation - support more effectively global efforts to reduce wildlife trafficking.

Representatives of the Slovak CITES Management Authority and Slovak Environmental Inspectorate have participated also at the Workshop on "Identification of CITES timber species" held on 11 – 12 June 2014 in Hamburg, Germany, organized by the German CITES Scientific authority. The aim was to improve the identification of the CITES timber species.

Slovak CITES Scientific Authority has participated at the III. Seminar on the „Implementation of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the Central and Eastern European Region" which was held on 16-18 June 2014 in Budapest, Hungary. The seminar organized by the Hungarian CITES Management Authority, the Polish CITES Scientific Authority and CEEweb, was focused on the internet wildlife crime.

Slovakian CITES representatives regularly participate on the Management Committee, Scientific review group and Enforcement group meetings organized by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

Spain

Spain offered the Master's Degree Course on "Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework. The program is organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the CITES Authorities of Spain and the CITES Secretariat.

The general objective of the program is to provide specialized high quality training in the scientific bases, techniques and instruments that make it possible to implement and develop the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The Master's Degree Course has already been given ten times by the International University of Andalusia (UNIA). In four editions, the course was linked to a Doctorate program in collaboration with the University of Cordoba. At the moment, 4 people have got the Doctor degree (PhD) after the presentation and argumentation of their thesis doctoral dissertations.

In these ten editions, including the Master's Degree and Doctorate courses, quality specialized training was given to 258 individuals from the following 72 countries: Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Spain organized in 2012 and 2013 a training seminar on protected species by CITES addressed to the SEPRONA (Spanish Environmental Police). 60 participants attended the course.

Turkey

IPBES Meeting was arranged by Turkey in 2013 (10-13 December 2013). CITES EU Project was presented in this meeting.

Ministerial seminar was given on the biology of leeches, importance of leeches for medicine, measures needed for their reproduction on natural habitats, prevention of leech smuggling, and their economic importance in the World by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.

Training programs on CITES implementations for CITES officers were organized by the Management Authorities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UK MA and scientific and enforcement authorities attended and fully participated in CoP 16 in March 2013

UK MA and the scientific authorities participated in the Spain led EU CITES Twinning Project, Turkey (June 2013)

UK (JNCC) attended the sharks workshop in Australia in Autumn 2013

UK attended:

-Meeting of the SRRWG in Peterborough (UK) in November 2013

-Georgia Field Survey – Scientific Authority (Kew) assisted Georgian MA in field surveys of cultivation sites of *Galanthus woronowii* (Georgia, March 2014)

-UK hosted a CITES workshop 25-26 March 2014 for its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, where UK experts from customs, enforcement, licensing, Scientific Authorities, policy and legal shared their experience and knowledge of the Convention with representatives from 10 Territories.

-Scientific Authority (RBG Kew) participated in EU mission to China (May 2014) under the cooperation agreement between the EU and the State Forestry Administration of China and CITES-related matters

-Scientific Authority (Kew) participated in International Workshop on “Identification of CITES traded timber”(Hamburg, June 2014)

European Commission

The European Commission representing the European Union attended as observer the 62nd CITES Standing Committee in 2012 and the 63rd and 64th CITES Standing Committee meetings in 2013 as well as the CITES Animals and Plants Committees in 2014, where it participated in a number of working groups.

6. Problems faced by the regional representatives

Russian Federation

Cases on environmental law violations in the area of species protection (poaching, illegal import and export) are not actively dealt with.

Legislation on responsible treatment of animals is not approved.

There is a need to develop legislative instruments on trade and protection of rare and endangered animal and plant species.

Ukraine

In recent years there have been cases of illegal export of sturgeon caviar for human consumption from Ukraine by mail.

The State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine as the CITES Management authority of Ukraine concerning sturgeon species and products made thereof has received information from the CITES Management Authorities of Denmark and Belgium on cases of confiscation of black caviar for human consumption, which had been exported from Ukraine by mail in violation of international law without relevant CITES permits/certificates. Most cases of such illegal export refer to the production of “Caviar Astrakhan” company (www.caviarastrakhan.com).

Taking into account these facts as well as information received through EU TWIX Ukraine takes appropriate measures to ensure more effective cooperation of relevant government bodies of Ukraine in terms of enhancing the monitoring of CITES specimens movement especially caviar.

Relevant information regarding legal and regulatory framework of international trade in sturgeon species has been posted on the official web-site of the State Fishery Agency of Ukraine.