

CITES World

Official Newsletter of the Parties

Convention on international Trade
in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Issue Number 12 – December 2003

CITES in the real world

CITES is implemented by Management Authorities, which process permit applications and issue documents, Scientific Authorities, which consider scientific aspects for species in trade, Customs authorities, which inspect shipments and accept or reject documents, other enforcement authorities that become involved in cases of illegal trade, and the judiciary who assign penalties in such cases.

For all persons involved in implementing CITES, the Convention is a difficult task. With its ever-expanding Resolutions and growing Appendices (currently covering over 30,000 species of animals and plants), to say nothing of the myriad domestic laws needed to implement it, the Convention is enormously complex and challenging.

The identification of species is a case in point. Non-specialists are often expected to know every species listed in a permit application or CITES document. Being able to identify specimens correctly is essential for verifying the validity of documents and detecting fraud. Yet the knowledge necessary to identify species in the form they are traded in is not easy to acquire. And access to specialists is not always the answer. Orchids have spectacular flowers to aid with identification, yet most orchid plants in trade

will not be flowering. An ornithologist identifying a bird in the field has much additional information to rely on, such as habitat, behaviour, and the known ranges of species, but identifying a bird that may be one of a hundred birds in a crate, with damaged or soiled plumage, from an unknown source, is quite another matter.

Thankfully, many Parties, institutions, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, and the CITES Secretariat have created tools to make implementation of the Convention easier for the CITES community. This 12th edition of *CITES World* focuses on a number of current, new or upcoming implementation tools that all have a common purpose: to make CITES work in the real world. These include species identification resources and guides, national implementation manuals, training materials, and other useful publications and tools.

The Secretariat is particularly pleased to announce in this issue the availability of an interactive computer-based training course developed for Customs officers, designed in partnership with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Environment Canada. This instructive course will provide to any Customs officer interested in CITES the opportunity to learn about the Convention and the important role they perform in it.

The Editor



Photo: Ger van Vliet

*Learning how to identify CITES specimens
at a CITES training workshop
(Oslo, 31 March - 4 April 2002)*

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An introduction to CITES for Customs and other border control officers

In 2000 the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) published an e-learning CD-ROM explaining the procedures for the control of CITES shipments entering or leaving Canada. The instructions in this programme were based on national procedures and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA), the legislative structure by which Canada meets its obligations under CITES.

Towards the end of 2002, the Secretariat entered into an agreement with Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), the Canadian Management Authority, and CCRA to adapt this innovative e-learning programme to a non country-specific audience, in English, French and Spanish. As it turned out, making the CD-ROM suitable to all Parties took much more time than expected. The Secretariat is therefore very grateful to the Enforcement Branch of the Canadian Wildlife Service for its great help in the preparation of this CD-ROM, thereby ensuring that it will be available for distribution by the end of 2003.



The CD-ROM is designed as an introduction course to CITES, and will be particularly useful to Customs officers involved in processing CITES specimens and CITES documentation as well as personnel from other governmental departments involved in the importation and exportation of CITES specimens, such as Ministries dealing with fisheries, agriculture, plant or animal health inspection, and International authorities such as the World Customs Organization and Interpol.

The course takes approximately three hours to complete. When the user is unable to complete the course in one sitting, a 'bookmark' will automatically be created at whatever point has been reached. This will allow the user to start a new session where he/she had stopped. Several persons can use the same programme (though not simultaneously) if each one chooses a different 'username' and 'password'.

Having completed the course, the user will know more about what CITES is, how CITES operates, how to recognize CITES specimens, what the most common types of contraventions linked to CITES

are, how to verify and validate documentation, how to process CITES specimens, and when to refer CITES specimens to other agencies. Useful links are also provided to other websites. A special Secretariat e-mail address is provided in case the user has questions on certain aspects of the course.

The Secretariat will provide two copies of the CD-ROM to each Management Authority, who are welcome to make additional copies for internal use. Additional copies can also be obtained from the CITES Secretariat.

3.1 What is CITES?

The main objective of the CITES Act is to ensure that the trade in specimens of certain wild animals and plants is sustainable. The Act is designed to ensure that the trade in specimens of certain wild animals and plants is sustainable. The Act is designed to ensure that the trade in specimens of certain wild animals and plants is sustainable.

4.5 Health and Safety Issues

- Before you start to work with live animals and plants, you must check that you are safe.
- All animals, even those that are supposedly tame, can carry diseases that may harm a person working in a laboratory, office, etc.
- Even plants, although they do not bite, may carry diseases that can harm people.

Question:

1. What documents are required to import a **live American crocodile** (Crocodylus acutus - Appendix I) from Cuba?

- An import permit and an export permit or a re-export certificate.
- An export permit.
- An export permit from the country that issued the specimen.
- A certificate of origin.
- None of the above.

Permit Verification Flow Chart

The flow chart outlines the steps for permit verification, including: 1. General Information, 2. Verify the Species, 3. Verify the Origin, and 4. Verify the Dates.



Upcoming WCO E-learning course on CITES

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is planning to launch an on-line training course on Customs and CITES controls in June 2004. This course, part of the WCO's e-learning programme, will be made widely available among Customs administrations and, under some conditions, to partners and the general public.



The mission of the WCO is to improve the operation of Customs services among its 162 member countries. One of the WCO's tasks is to maximize the potential of Customs staff through a dynamic training and technical assistance policy. The primary objectives of the WCO e-learning programme are to develop and improve the quality of training offered to members. The WCO e-learning project is aimed primarily at Customs officers from member administrations, but also offers training on certain Customs topics to its partner institutions or the general public. This new teaching tool will enable the WCO to offer trainees the same high standard of training regardless of their geographical location. Compared with training requiring the presence of the student, e-learning makes it possible to reach a greater number of students, whilst providing individually tailored and supervised training programmes at a fraction of the cost.

All the modules will be available in the WCO's two official languages (English and French). Additional information on the WCO e-learning programme can be obtained from the e-learning Web page («e-learning zone») on <http://www.wcoomd.org>.

CITES training package

The Secretariat has just completed an update to its training package, available on CD-ROM. The training package has been compiled for the Parties to CITES and others who are interested in the implementation of the



Convention. Published in the three working languages of the Convention (English, French and Spanish), it comprises a comprehensive series of 16 CITES training presentations in PowerPoint format, as well as the text of the Convention, Appendices I, II and III, and the standard CITES export/import permit – re-export certificate. The training presentations include an introductory section and presentations on definitions; roles of CITES Authorities; role and function of the Scientific Authority; permits and certificates; special procedures; using the Appendices; reading the Appendices; science, non-detriment findings and data; role of quotas in CITES; trade with non-Parties; permit management systems; filling in permit forms; reservations; plants; and differences between wild-collected and artificially propagated plants.

Copies of the CD-ROM are available upon request to the CITES Secretariat.

The Secretariat encourages the translation of these materials into other languages. The basic training package is also available upon request in Arabic and Macedonian (Cyrillic alphabet).



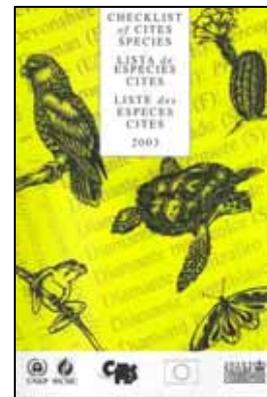


CITES Handbook

The *CITES Handbook* has been compiled to provide to the Parties to CITES and the wider CITES community the most essential texts for the implementation of the Convention in one single reference publication. Published in the three working languages of the Convention (English, French and Spanish), it comprises the text of the Convention, Appendices I, II and III, the standard CITES export/import permit – re-export certificate, the Resolutions and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in effect after the 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002). It can be purchased through the CITES website.

Checklist of CITES Species

The *Checklist of CITES Species* provides the official alphabetical list of CITES species, their scientific synonyms, their common names in English, French and Spanish (to the extent that these were available to the compilers) and an indication of the Appendix in which they are listed. The publication, compiled by UNEP-WCMC, includes a CD-ROM that contains in PDF format all of the information above as well as the Annotated CITES Appendices and reservations. The latter provides the original listing date of all taxa (orders, families, genera, species, subspecies) and populations specifically named in the current or past Appendices. It also indicates all reservations ever made by Parties, with the dates on which they entered into force and, in the case of past reservations, the dates on which they were withdrawn. This book should be particularly useful to CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs officials and all others involved in implementing and enforcing the Convention. The Checklist can be obtained from the Publications Services Unit of IUCN (e-mail: info@books.iucn.org) or downloaded in PDF format free of charge from the CITES website.



Operations manuals

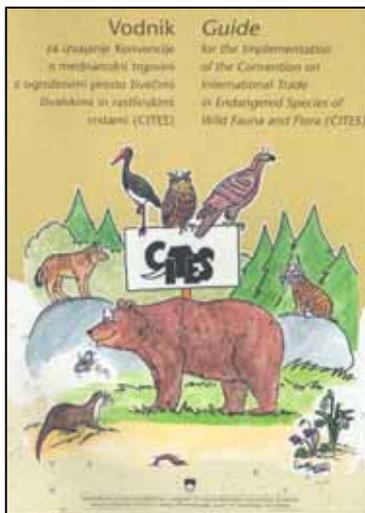
Anyone tasked with implementing the Convention needs information at their fingertips. The *CITES Handbook* is an essential reference publication that contains the text of the Convention, Appendices I, II and III, the standard permit/certificate, the Resolutions and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The *Checklist of CITES Species* provides an alphabetical listing of the contents of the Appendices. But while these provide essential tools to implement the Convention, they do not provide all of the practical information a government official will need to do his or her job. Is it the correct form? How does my national legislation treat this species? Whom should I contact if I believe there may be a problem?

Several Parties have developed their own 'operations manual' to fill this need and provide practical support to their officers. One excellent example is the operations manual developed by the *Direzione per la Conservazione della Natura* and the *Corpo Forestale dello Stato* (Management Authorities for Italy), and the *Agenzia delle Dogane* (Italian Customs). Included in a sturdy ring binder is a listing of applicable legislation, definitions and abbreviations; a description of administrative procedures for import, export and re-export, control of CITES documents and

verification of shipments; procedures for personal and household effects; procedures in the case of violations; and disposal of confiscated specimens. The manual also contains a section listing the contact details of all offices involved in CITES matters, a listing of CITES Parties (with dates of entry into force of the Convention), a listing of non-Parties that have informed the CITES Secretariat of the Authority competent to issue comparable documentation, a listing of Parties using security stamps, the contact details of the Italian Scientific Authority, a listing of experts able to identify specimens, a listing of the countries using ATA/TIR carnets, and a listing of Parties using phytosanitary certificates in lieu of export permits. Finally, the manual includes facsimile copies of all forms and documents used to process CITES trade in Italy. The ring binder format allows for an easy updating of the contents, and all pages are printed on heavy paper to withstand frequent use. The Italian operations manual is also available on CD-ROM.



Slovenian Guide for the implementation of CITES



All governments should provide their officers with information on CITES, and some Governments have produced excellent operations manuals that describe national procedures and provide essential working references (see Operations manuals on the previous page). The Government of Slovenia has taken this approach one step further, by producing for its officials a comprehensive and richly illustrated guide to CITES and CITES implementation, in Slovenian (with some sections also provided in English), that incorporates a review of international wildlife trade and an analysis of CITES trade in Slovenia. The main subjects covered include the international wildlife trade; an introduction to CITES; CITES and the European Union; Slovenia and CITES; analysis of CITES trade in Slovenia; inspection (Customs and veterinary controls); Interpol and international police cooperation; and zoonoses and non-native species. This provides officers in charge of implementing CITES with a wealth of background information that can help them get a national and international perspective of their work. Copies of the guide may be obtained from the Management Authority of Slovenia.





Website for traders and travellers on EU wildlife trade regulations

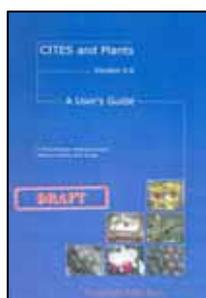


One of the ways to facilitate the implementation of CITES is to try to solve problems before they occur. Processing permit applications is made much easier when the applicant is well prepared and well informed. To achieve this, TRAFFIC Europe, with support from the European Commission and with the participation of the Management Authorities of the 15 EU Member States, has launched a website especially designed for wildlife traders in the European Union. This website, at www.eu-wildlifetrade.org, aims to provide user-friendly information on EU wildlife trade regulations for CITES in the 11 official EU languages. It gives a comprehensive overview and explanation of the EU wildlife trade regulations; procedures for obtaining CITES permits and certificates; lists of species subject to provisions; import restrictions; marking and labelling requirements; captive-breeding and artificial propagation requirements; and education to customers. There is also a section on personal effects relevant to travellers. The website provides over 600 related Internet links on CITES, the European Commission, national governments and nature conservation organizations in the EU and elsewhere. Better informed traders and travellers should facilitate the work of CITES Authorities throughout EU Member States.

CITES and Plants, and CITES and Succulents

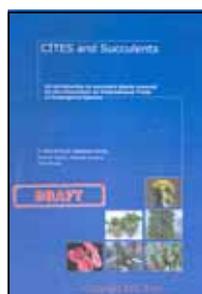
The Conventions and Policy Section of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will soon produce two publications that will be of great use to those who want to get a better understanding of CITES implementation for plants: *CITES and Plants: a User's Guide* and *CITES and Succulents*.

CITES and Plants is an updated and greatly expanded version of the slide pack published in 1999. The slides have now been replaced by a well-illustrated PowerPoint presentation, and which provides a very user-friendly tool for training those who wish to know more about CITES implementation for plants.



This new version has more detailed speakers notes and additional slides have been added to provide a more comprehensive coverage of particular topics. The advantage of this approach is to make it easier for the user to tailor the presentation to any type of audience or format.

CITES and Succulents has been produced with the aim of providing an introduction to the succulent plants in the CITES Appendices, excluding the Cactaceae. Information is provided on the identification and trade structure of succulent plants



and on the CITES provisions that apply to them. Although the guide is primarily intended as a training tool for those involved in the implementation of the Convention (Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities, enforcement officers), it is also likely to be of interest to a much wider audience, in

particular those that are interested in growing and collecting this type of plants.

In addition to the speaker's notes, both guides contain a detailed bibliography and list of additional resources. The guides and the accompanying CD-ROM with the PowerPoint presentations will be published by April 2004, in English, French and Spanish.

For details on how to obtain copies please contact:

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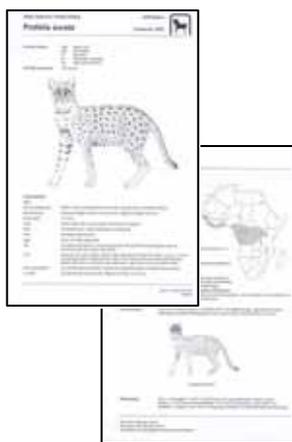


CITES Identification Manual

When the Parties to CITES met officially for the first time (at the Special Working Session in Geneva in 1977), it was already decided that an Identification Manual should be developed, to assist enforcement agencies in verifying the identity of species in the CITES Appendices.

The first volume of the CITES Identification Manual, Fauna, (Volume 3) was distributed at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981). Volumes 1, 2, 4 and 5 were distributed to the Parties after the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gaborone, 1983). At that time the Manual contained 312 sheets in total, all in English.

The production of the ID Manual was initially the responsibility of the Identification Manual Committee, which was formally established



in June 1979 by the Standing Committee. This Committee was chaired by Mr Peter Dolinger from Switzerland, who tirelessly worked on the continuous expansion of the ID Manual. He increased almost single-handedly the number of sheets in the ID Manual to 1,356 (all in English) in 1992, when he stepped

down as Chairman of the ID Manual Committee. Nowadays the production of the ID Manual is the responsibility of the CITES Secretariat.

At the moment the English edition of the ID Manual contains 1,860 sheets on fauna (in nine binders) and 78 sheets on flora (in one binder). In 1991 the first contracts were established to translate the ID Manual into French. The first volume was published in 1993 and currently the French edition consists of 1,562 fauna sheets in eight binders and 23 flora sheets in one binder. The Management Authority of France has contributed considerably to pay for the cost of the translations.

The Scientific Authority of Spain has produced the first volume of the Spanish version of the Identification Manual in 1994, and continues

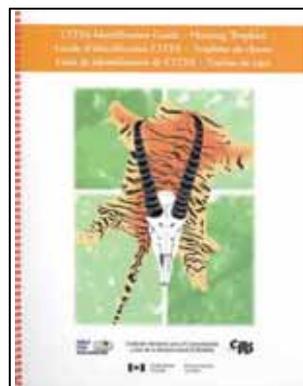
providing translations of most of the current 1,215 fauna sheets and 23 flora sheets, in the same number of binders as the French version.

Several Parties have also translated the ID Manual in their own languages such as Czech, German, Italian and Russian (the latter sponsored by Germany).

This year the Secretariat has almost completed the inclusion of all ID sheets into a searchable database. The next step is the updating of all the existing sheets and their production in electronic format. The completion of this work largely depends on the availability of funds. About half of the sheets are currently available in electronic format. Once this work is completed, the Secretariat will be in a position to produce, on request, specific national or regional selections from the Identification Manual.

Next year the Secretariat expects to start posting the ID Manual on its website. This will also allow the inclusion of colour illustrations as well as links to other websites with identification information on the species concerned.

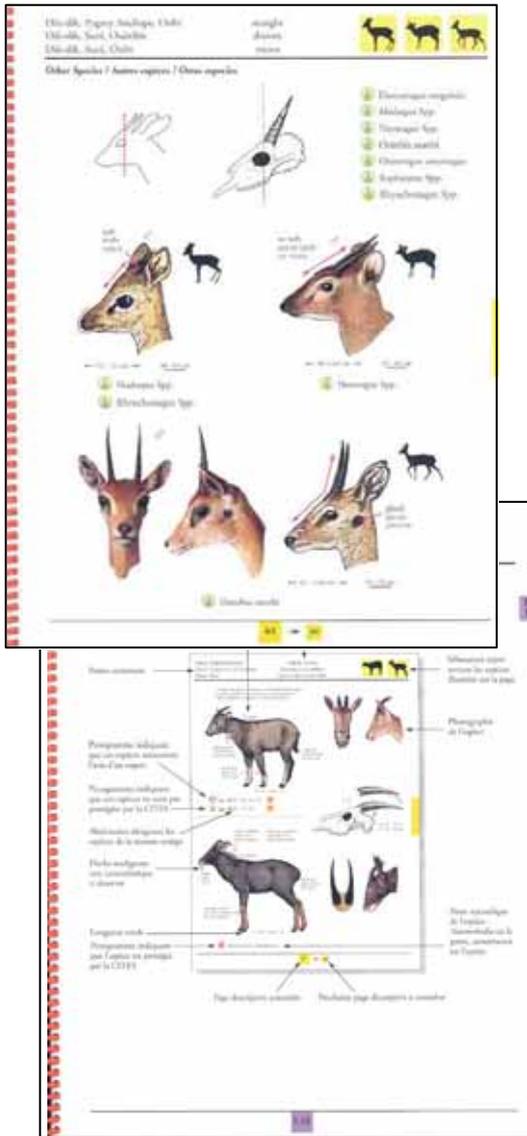
CITES Identification Guide – Hunting Trophies



Environment Canada, the CITES Management Authority for Canada, has developed CITES Identification Guides for individuals responsible for enforcing CITES. They provide in English, French and Spanish, detailed information for the identification

of species protected under CITES and, in some cases, look-alike species that are not protected.

The latest guide in this collection, the *CITES Identification Guide – Hunting Trophies* was published with the collaboration of the CITES Secretariat, the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico, and Safari Club International.



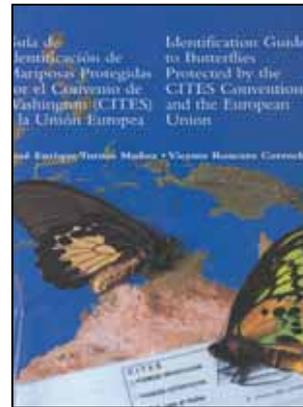
It has been specifically designed to enable non-specialists to identify the most commonly traded varieties of hunting trophies. The guide follows the same structure as the other guides in the series, distinguishing between species that are easy to identify, similar-looking species that are more difficult to identify, and species requiring expert input. More than 275 CITES-protected species are illustrated in this guide, as well as non-protected species with which they can be confused.

All guides in the series can be ordered from Environment Canada (Environmental Protection Publications, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0H3, e-mail: epspubs@ec.gc.ca), or downloaded from the Environment Canada law enforcement website (http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/enforce/species_e.cfm).

Identification Guide to Butterflies protected by the CITES Convention and the European Union

By J.E. Tormo and V. Roncero

This work presents a list of all butterfly species protected by CITES and the European Union. All species are illustrated in colour, together with those species that are not regulated but similar to them in appearance. Both sexes are illustrated, as well as underside patterns where these are different from the upperside.



This hard-bound guide is in a large format (340 x 252 mm, and totals 106 pages, including indexes. Text is cross-referenced to 19 high quality colour plates of all species reproduced life-size.

The specimens figured are from private collections, as well as from the collections of the British Museum (Natural History) in London. The comprehensive and extremely informative text is printed in parallel in Spanish and English.

The authors have been actively involved in Natural History enterprises in Spain for over twenty years and one of them is an official CITES inspector, working for the Management Authority of Spain.

This volume is a unique and indispensable guide for all those working for Customs and other law enforcement agencies. It is also essential reference material for museums, universities and libraries, and also for professional and amateur naturalists throughout the world, and for all others concerned with the protection of butterfly species in rapidly shrinking habitats.



The publishers (Hill House Publishers, Melbourne and London) are world-renowned for their Natural History books. This volume has been specially supervised by Bernard D'abrera, who is the entomologist of reference for most of the butterflies included in the *CITES Convention* and who wrote the foreword.

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Identification guide for Vietnamese species in trade



Many identification tools are available in the three working languages of the Convention, but in the real world officials often need tools in their national language. Some existing tools and materials have been translated into a number of languages. In other cases, new publications have been

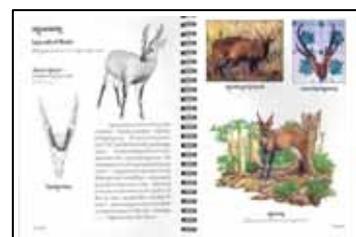
developed to fill the gap. An example of the latter is the identification manual for fauna species in trade in Viet Nam, written in Vietnamese and produced by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. This pocket-sized manual includes a description of the Convention and a list of commonly traded fauna species that occur in Viet Nam. For each species the status in CITES (where applicable), national legislation and IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species is given. Each species or taxon is illustrated and described, and a distribution map illustrates the species' range within the country. Copies of the manual can be ordered from TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, at tsea@po.jaring.my.



Cambodian wildlife identification guide for law enforcement



Another example of a useful guide produced for local requirements is the Khmer-language guide titled *Wildlife Identification for Law Enforcement*, published in 2002 by the Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Cambodia, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Program, and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina. This spiral-bound volume provides an overview of the Convention and wildlife trade in Cambodia, followed by well-illustrated descriptions of the mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes most frequently encountered in trade in Cambodia. Both CITES-listed and non-listed species are included. The guide makes a special effort to illustrate specimens as they appear in trade, such as horns and trophies, skins, medicinal products, and dead and live specimens in markets. The guide also includes a list of species covered by national legislation and a list of CITES-listed species occurring in Cambodia. Copies of the guide may be ordered from WCS Cambodia Program, at cambodia@wcs.org.



Identification manual for common trade birds



Amongst the many species in trade that are difficult for non-specialists to identify, birds are notoriously challenging. A bird in a cage may as a matter of fact be much more difficult to identify than a bird in the wild, as the more useful clues of locality, habitat and behaviour are absent. Birds in trade may also have damaged or immature plumage and it is

not unusual for specimens from different continents to be included in a single shipment. Birds in trade pose a real problem for officials verifying the validity of documents, especially in countries where a large variety of birds are in demand. To assist its national authorities, the Management Authority of China has published an identification manual for common trade birds, in Chinese. This 192-pagebook covers both CITES-listed and non-listed species frequently encountered in trade, and provides colour photographs of each species. The more commonly encountered parrots and birds of prey are described, but most of the book is devoted to 'songbirds' in trade, as these are the most challenging to identify. Latin names and



English species and family names are also given, together with the Appendix (for CITES-listed species), descriptions of size and morphological features, geographic range and native habitats. Copies may be ordered from the Management Authority of China.



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Identification manual for common turtles and tortoises



The inclusion of 23 species of freshwater turtles in Appendix II at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002) has further complicated the task of inspection officers having to deal with a difficult group of species to identify. To simplify this task, the Management Authority of China has produced a comprehensive identification manual for common turtles and tortoises in trade, in Chinese. This manual describes and provides illustrations of 77 species of tortoises, freshwater turtles, soft-shell turtles and marine turtles, including both CITES-listed and non-listed species. Colour photographs illustrate both the upper carapace and the underside (plastron) of each species, to aid identifying them. English species and family names are also given, together with the Appendix (for CITES-listed species), descriptions of size and morphological features, geographic range and native habitats. Copies of this useful manual can be ordered from the Management Authority of China.

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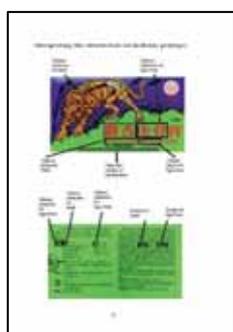
Traditional Asian Medicine Identification Guide for Law Enforcers

One of the great difficulties that all enforcement agencies face is trying to identify the enormous variety of animal and plant species listed under CITES. One area of particular difficulty that officials are increasingly faced with is that of traditional Asian medicine. Unless the enforcement officer is fluent in Chinese or other Asian languages, it is not always



clear from the packaging what ingredients are listed in the medicine. The publication of the *Traditional Asian Medicine Identification Guide for Law Enforcers* should greatly help in the identification of traditional Asian medicines. Produced by HM Customs & Excise of the United Kingdom and

TRAFFIC International, the guide includes over 430 colour images of packages that have been found in trade. The lists of ingredients on these packages have been translated and any inclusion of a CITES-listed species is indicated. By comparing packages and their ingredients found in shipments against those described and illustrated in the manual, it is possible to have an informed idea of whether any of the medicine's contents are controlled or not. The guide also provides good background information on traditional Asian medicine, the main species used, and a translation of some of the common Chinese words used to list the ingredients. *(Reprinted with permission from TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol. 19 No. 2 (2002).*



The guide exists in a binder format and CD-ROM. The CD-ROM version of this guide is available from the Secretariat on request. An updated version of this guide will be available by the beginning of 2004.



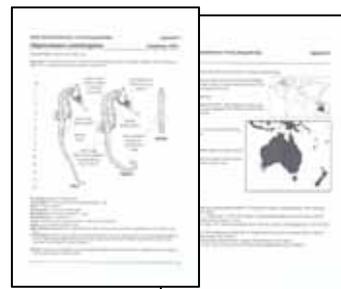
Identification guide to seahorses

The 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES took place in Santiago, Chile, from 3 to 15 November 2002. During this meeting the Parties voted to include all seahorses (genus *Hippocampus*) in Appendix II of the Convention, effective on 15 May 2004.

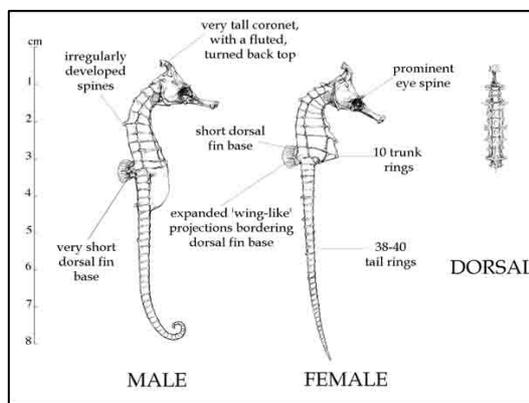
In order for the CITES Appendix-II listing of seahorses to be effectively implemented, government authorities and other stakeholders need to be able to identify the 33 different seahorse species. In response to this need, TRAFFIC North America, Project Seahorse (University of British Columbia), US Fish and Wildlife Service and US NOAA Fisheries are collaborating on the development of an identification guide to seahorses. This project is possible owing to generous funding support from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program and the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation.

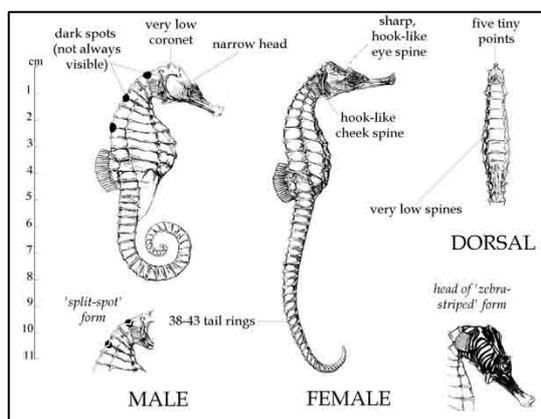
The species descriptions in this guide are based on a 1999 publication by Project Seahorse entitled *Seahorses: An Identification Guide to the World's Species and their Conservation* (Lourie *et al*, 1999). Materials from this earlier publication are being revised and reformatted and information is being added. The original Project Seahorse guide described 32 species of *Hippocampus*. One species, *H. denise*, has been added based on recent research.

The goal of the project is to provide a guide that is both technically accurate and user-friendly – useful to specialists and non-specialists alike. This is no simple task as



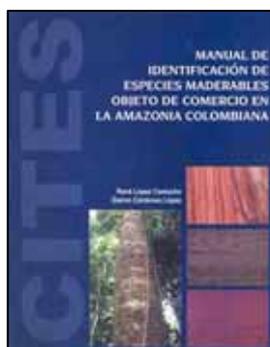
many species are similar in appearance and their identification can be challenging. The guide will include descriptions, range maps, line drawings and colour illustrations of each of the 33 species of seahorse that have been accepted by the CITES Nomenclature Committee. Additional materials will include advice on seahorse identification and photographs of species that are commercially traded for traditional medicine.





The guide will be published and made available to the Parties before the listing takes effect in May 2004.

Identification manual for commercially important timber species from the Colombian Amazon



The Management Authority of Colombia, together with one of Colombia's Scientific Authorities (Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas SINCHI), has produced a manual for the identification of commercially important timber species from the Colombian Amazon. The manual includes a description of CITES, an overview of all timber species included in the Appendices, an explanation of CITES permits and national CITES procedures, and an explanation of national legislation that applies to the two CITES-listed species (*Swietenia macrophylla* and *Cedrela odorata*) and the 14



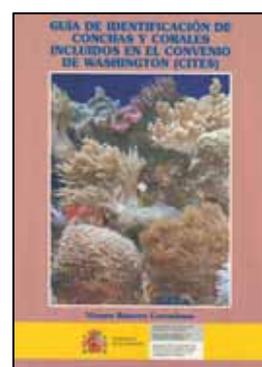
non-CITES timber-producing species covered by the manual. Each species is described, giving its scientific name and synonyms, common names, indigenous names, commercial names, CITES Appendix, description, range, habitat, physical properties of the timber and its uses. The manual also includes a table of common names used in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Accompanying the manual is a folder containing wood samples of the 16 species included in the manual. Copies of the manual and samples can be ordered from the Management Authority of Colombia.



Wood samples of the 16 species included in the Colombian Manual

Identification guide of shells and corals included in the CITES Appendices

The second edition of this well-illustrated book by Vincente Roncero Corrochano was published in May 2002. It provides beautiful colour illustrations of shells and corals that are most frequently found in international trade.



The most important aspect of this book is that it was designed with enforcement officers in mind. Spanish border control officers found that the available bibliographical information on shells and corals was rather dispersed, and therefore not of easy access. In addition many of these publications dealt

with the scientific description of species, and although much scientific and biological information was available, it did not correspond to what the border inspectors needed. This book is therefore a successful attempt to illustrate most of the shells and the corals in the form in which they are most frequently traded, which makes this a useful verification guide, even for non-Spanish speakers.



Live corals

Using this guide in combination with other tools mentioned in this issue of *CITES World* will greatly assist border inspectors with the correct identification of the most commonly traded species.

Copies of the book, in Spanish only, can be purchased from the Secretaría General Técnica, Subdirección General de Información, Centro de Publicaciones, Plaza de Campillo del Mundo Nuevo 3, 28005 Madrid, Spain.

ARKive coral identification website

The Wildscreen Trust is working with the UK Management Authority (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA) on a pilot project for CITES-listed coral species, to be used by Customs officers around the world. The coral section of the ARKive website (www.arkive.org/coral.html) and its on-line ID guide provides 24-hour access worldwide to Customs officers wishing to identify the most commonly traded coral groups, as well as to users as diverse as school children, scientists

and holiday makers, allowing them to recognize endangered corals. This beautifully illustrated website includes both still and moving images.



The website provides an introduction to the main groups of corals with hard skeletons that are common in trade, and assists in the identification of live specimens and cleaned skeletons to genus level. Nearly 3,000 coral species are listed in the Appendices, most of which belong to the Order Scleractinia (stony corals). The guide covers the most commonly traded stony corals, as well as fire corals, lace corals, organ-pipe coral, blue coral, black corals and red corals. The *Further information* section lists other more detailed identification guides, which provide information on genera not covered by this guide and aid identification to species level.

ARKive is an initiative of the Wildscreen Trust (www.wildscreen.org.uk). It is a centralized digital library of films, photographs and associated recordings of species, accessible to all via the World Wide Web. ARKive finds, sorts, catalogues and copies key records of species, and builds them into a comprehensive and enduring audio-visual record. It is ARKive's ultimate aim to compile an audio-visual record, where possible, of the 11,000 animals and plants threatened with extinction, according to the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) *Red List of Threatened Species*.

Web Guide to Indo-Pacific Corals in International Trade

The US Government's National Marine Fishery Service (NOAA Fisheries) has developed an on-line identification manual for Indo-Pacific stony corals in international trade that are included in Appendix II of CITES (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/ecosystem/coralid.htm#ID1>). It is designed for use by law enforcement agents as a rapid identification guide to the major taxa of coral in wildlife trade from the Indian and Pacific Oceans.



Corals in the manual are described to the genus level, based on skeletal structures and live features easy to identify. The guide emphasizes simple features to differentiate similar corals, however proper identification of some corals to genus level (and even more so to species level) may be difficult when relying only on live specimens and may require a microscopic examination of skeletal structures.

The manual consists of photographs, a list of key features and a simplified key for Indo-Pacific coral genera as well as some rapid identification tools. These tools include simple steps to determine the identity of a coral based on its growth form or polyp arrangement, definitions and photos of major skeletal features of stony corals, illustrated keys to separate genera in the three major growth forms (branching, massive and plating corals), a list of common names used in the trade, and individual sections on taxa with characteristic morphological features and growth forms.



NOAA Fisheries also provides training sessions in coral identification for law enforcement officials in the United States and abroad, and can be contacted at NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation (NOAA/F/HC), Ecosystem Assessment Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, United States, or by email to Dr Andy Bruckner at andy.bruckner@noaa.gov. A limited number of hard copies of the coral identification manual are available. A guide for Caribbean corals in international trade is currently under development.

Using Identification guides

The CITES Team at London Heathrow are in an enviable position. They are perfectly placed geographically for identification experts in all fauna and flora. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Natural History Museum and the Animal Reception Centre are all within ten miles (about 16 km). This however does not detract from the use of identification material used by the team.

On a daily basis the members of the CITES team receive requests from their Customs colleagues to identify goods believed to be of animal origin and possibly regulated under CITES. This is not just limited to Heathrow staff, as often requests arrive from around the country via e-mail or post. Similar requests regularly arrive from other agencies in the United Kingdom, such as the JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the British Scientific Authority for fauna), TRAFFIC and the police. We are also used as a resource by foreign agencies, for example the team has assisted Republic of Ireland Customs, New Zealand WEG and Maltese Customs as well as many others.

In cases where the team is sent a request for identification either by e-mail with photographs attached or the physical item, the team would attempt a preliminary identification using the data at our disposal. This allows the team to make an educated decision on the next action or advice to the interested party. In many cases an answer is required urgently. There may be a passenger waiting to connect to their next flight, or the goods may be live, and therefore time is of the essence.

For example, a passenger arrived at Heathrow en route to Germany from Zimbabwe. On a routine stop and search by HM Customs at the flight connection centre a number of items of animal origin were discovered. The CITES team was informed of the discovery of a number of skins and horns that were amongst the passenger's personal effects. The passenger's plane was to leave one hour later.

In preparing to react to this call the team gathered the relevant reference material required to complete an initial identification. It is imperative to identify the goods correctly to at least family level to make the correct decision of further action (HM Customs has the power of detention, which allows us to keep the goods in our control until a formal identification is made). If the goods are not subject to control the passenger will be allowed to continue with his goods. If however the goods are subject to control a number of decisions will have to be made and questions asked. Is the passenger carrying any paperwork? If yes, is it the correct paperwork to allow the goods to continue? If not, should the goods be confiscated and the passenger interviewed, cautioned or arrested?

It is therefore imperative that the initial identification be reliable. In our initial conversation with the officer we would determine which type of animals we were expecting to see, for instance whether it is a mammal or reptile, its size, and any colouration or markings. This assists us in deciding which reference material to employ. In the case of mammal

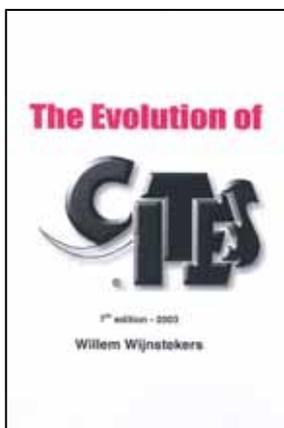


skins and horns we use the Identification Guide for Hunting Trophies (produced by Environment Canada, and described elsewhere in this issue) and Walker's Mammals of the World (R. M. Nowak). Having selected the correct identification material we could ascertain in the example given above that the skins and matching horns originated from impala *Aepyceros melampus* and greater kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* (both non-CITES species). This allowed the passenger to catch his onward flight with his goods. Without this facility in the majority of cases the goods would be detained for a formal identification, costing time and money for all concerned and in turn upsetting and inconveniencing the passenger, who in this case had acted within the law.

CITES Team
HM Customs and Excise
Heathrow Airport

Fifteen years of *The Evolution of CITES*

From the Secretary-General



This edition of *CITES World* is dedicated to the different types of material that are currently available to assist all those who are responsible for the correct implementation and enforcement of the Convention. The need for such tools is becoming more and more obvious and the forms they take are increasingly sophisticated.

The provision of information is obviously essential to CITES and therefore figures amongst the top priorities of the Secretariat.

Let me share my personal experience with you to show that the need to have quick and easy access to the ins and outs of CITES is not new and that it was not always as easy as it is today to find reference materials.

My motto has always been that it is no problem not to know everything about CITES by heart, as

long as you are able to find quickly what you need to know when you need to know it. Exactly that has become a lot easier thanks to the efforts of many Parties and the technologies that are now available to us.

I first got involved in CITES back in 1979 and already at that time it was awfully complicated. I did not attend the first two meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP); I kept forgetting things and constantly needed to look up provisions in the text of the Convention and recommendations and other references in the proceedings of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Things did not improve with the years and every new meeting of the Conference of the Parties resulted in a bigger pile of documents to remember.

After CoP5, in 1985, I had really had it. There were more than 100 Resolutions to know and the proceedings of the meetings since 1976 amounted to no less than 4,250 pages!

I had already started to summarize texts and to link recommendations in Resolutions to the articles of the Convention they concerned, but now I needed to do this more systematically in an attempt not to drown in the avalanche of paper that was sent to me by the CITES Secretariat. This attempt coincided with the arrival of the first personal computers and that facilitated things for me. In 1987, CoP6 added another 24 Resolutions and 993 pages of proceedings to read, but I was on top of it. Finally!

When I mentioned my computer file to my friend Brian Davies, the founder of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, he immediately suggested to make it available to all people involved in CITES and agreed to finance the printing of 500 copies of *The Evolution of CITES*, which were donated to the CITES Secretariat. That was in 1988.

Today, fifteen years later, I have finished the 7th edition of this book.

The current executives of IFAW decided to discontinue their traditional funding of the publication, but fortunately a great many others realized how helpful this book is and promptly agreed to finance its printing.

I am very grateful to the Governments and Management Authorities of Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and to Safari Club International for their contribution to prevent all those interested in and responsible for CITES and its implementation and enforcement from drowning in paper. What is more, with the now available funding, Spanish and French versions will be soon produced!



I must admit that this latest edition of *The Evolution of CITES* has 586 pages, does not float in water and therefore does not really qualify as a life-jacket, but it is quite comprehensive and the proceedings of the 12 meetings of the Conference of the Parties between 1976 and 2002 total 11,750 pages. With 95% less paper, you don't even have to swim, you can just walk through the CITES provisions.

I hope you will find the 7th edition of *The Evolution of CITES* on your desk soon and wish you a nice walk in preparation of CoP13 in Bangkok in 2004.

Willem Wijnstekers

Certificate of Commendation awarded to senior Interpol officer

In Notification to the Parties No. 2002/014 of 6 March 2002, the Secretariat advised the Parties of the introduction of certificates of commendation that would be issued, at the Secretary-General's discretion, to recognize exemplary enforcement actions.

The second such certificate was awarded by the Secretary-General on 1 October 2003 to Mr Torkjel Rygnestad, Assistant Director, General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol), Lyon, France. It recognizes the exemplary work undertaken by Mr Rygnestad during his secondment to Interpol from the Police Department of Norway between 1999 and 2003.

During this period, Mr Rygnestad actively promoted wildlife law enforcement around the world: through his activities with the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group; by assisting in raising the general awareness of environmental crime; by participating in the training of police and other specialized officers; through the dissemination of intelligence relating to wildlife crime and illicit trade in wildlife; and by assisting in the coordination of international investigations into crime and illicit trade. His support to the CITES Secretariat in its work relating to enforcement of the Convention was highly valued. Mr Rygnestad's personal enthusiasm and dedication to this field of law enforcement served as an excellent example to a lot of us.



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If you would like to submit an article, or make suggestions or comments, please contact the Capacity-Building Unit.

Although every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of the articles, the opinions expressed are those of the individual authors. The designations of geographic entities do not imply the expression of an opinion from the CITES Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its frontiers and borders.