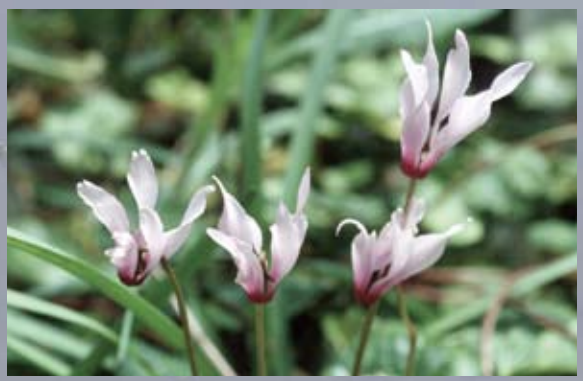
WILDLIFE TRADE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

A REVIEW OF CITES IMPLEMENTATION IN 15 COUNTRIES

KATALIN KECSE-NAGY, DOROTTYA PAPP,
AMELIE KNAPP, STEPHANIE VON MEIBOM

A TRAFFIC EUROPE REPORT



TRAFFIC®

This report was published
with the kind support of

WWF

The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation

Published by TRAFFIC Europe - Central Eastern,
Budapest, Hungary.

Suggested citation: Kecse-Nagy, K., Papp, D.; Knapp, A., von Meibom, S. (2006): Wildlife trade in Central and Eastern Europe. A review of CITES implementation in 15 countries.
TRAFFIC Europe report, Budapest, Hungary

ISBN 2-9600505-3-3
EAN code: 9782960050530

Cover pictures:
Danube River. Credit: WWF-Canon / Anton VORAUER
European Cyclamen *Cyclamen europeaum.*
Credit: WWF-Canon / Michel GUNTHER
Sturgeon *Acipenser sturio.*
Credit: WWF-Canon / Hartmut JUNGIUS
Brown Bear *Ursus arctos.*
Credit: WWF-Canon / Michel GUNTHER

Printed on recycled paper

WILDLIFE TRADE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

A review of CITES implementation in 15 countries

by Katalin Kecse-Nagy, Dorottya Papp,
Amelie Knapp and Stephanie von Meibom

Farmer with cart and donkeys, Romania. © WWF-Canon / Anton Vorauer

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was made possible with financial contributions from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, WWF-Austria, WWF-Germany and WWF-Italy. The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation is gratefully acknowledged for its support to TRAFFIC in the production of this report.

TRAFFIC would also like to thank the Austrian Government, WWF-Austria, WWF-Germany, WWF-Italy and WWF-Hungary for providing general support to TRAFFIC Europe–Central Eastern Project Office.

The authors are grateful to the numerous persons who kindly contributed to the preparation of this report by providing information for and reviewing parts of the report. In addition thanks are also due for assisting with the organization of meetings with national representatives of the different CITES and enforcement authorities in their respective countries, namely:

Bulgaria:	*Valeri Georgiev and Maria Karadimova, Ministry of Environment and Water*
Croatia:	*Darka Spudic and Katica Bezuh, Ministry of Culture*
Cyprus:	*Antonis Antoniou and Elena Erotokritou, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment*
Czech Republic:	*Jan Kucera, Ministry of the Environment and Pavla Rihova, Czech Environmental Inspectorate*
Estonia:	*Kadri Alasi, Ministry of Environment*
Hungary:	*Katalin Rodics, Levente Kőrösi, Anna Práger, Éva Haaz and Zoltán Czirák, Ministry of Environment*
Latvia:	*Gunta Gabrane and Kaspars Abersons, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Nature Protection Board*
Lithuania:	*Eugenijus Leonavicius and Kristina Klovaite, Ministry of Environment and Darius Mikelaitis, State Environmental Inspectorate*
Malta:	*Charmaine Barbara, Environment Protection Directorate, Malta Environment and Planning Authority*
Poland:	*Dagmara Nowacka, Ministry of Environment*
Romania:	*Adriana Baz and Roxana Cazacu, Ministry of Environment and Water Management*
Slovakia:	*Dana Kmecova and Darina Pospisilova, Ministry of Environment*
Slovenia:	*Robert Boljesic, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy*
Serbia and Montenegro:	*Marija Smederevac, Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection and Lazarela Kalezic, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning*
Turkey:	*Serap Kantarli, Gökhan Seyhan and Adem Agir, Ministry of Environment and Forestry*

The writers are particularly grateful to John Caldwell and Tim Inskipp of UNEP-WCMC for their assistance in providing CITES trade data and information on the numbers of CITES-listed species in the Central and Eastern European region.

We would also like to thank our colleagues from TRAFFIC and WWF for the assistance provided in the preparation of the report and for reviewing it: Volker Homes, Roland Melisch, Teresa Mulliken, Massimiliano Rocco and Maija Sirola (all TRAFFIC) and Magdalena Romanowicz (WWF-Poland). We highly appreciate the kind contribution of Britta Pätzold from TRAFFIC Europe–Germany to the section on trade in medicinal plants.

A particular thank you is due to Caroline Raymakers, the former Director of TRAFFIC Europe for providing guidance and help with the content and with the technical details of the report.

The contribution of photographs and maps by several individuals and organizations is much appreciated.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central and Eastern Europe[1] (CEE) is a region rich in biodiversity and possesses the majority of the European Union (EU)'s natural wealth. It is home to a wide range of species that are rare or extinct in Western Europe and many of these species are listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), such as the Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*, Wolf *Canis lupus*, several species of raptors including the Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*, sturgeons, and a number of ornamental plant species such as *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp.

Besides this rich biological diversity, the countries of the Central and Eastern European region are widely diverse geographically, ecologically, culturally and economically. However, in this report they are examined as a whole due to their recent or future EU Accession.

The expansion of the EU from 15 to 25 Member States in May 2004 undoubtedly increased the size of the EU's single market and the EU's role as a major wildlife consumer and this trend is likely to continue with the next enlargement scheduled for Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, and Croatia, Turkey and other countries planning to follow soon after. Many of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe have traditionally played an important role as wildlife trade 'transit countries' in supplying wildlife and wildlife products imported from around the world to the EU. However, with an increase in the standard of living and growing economies, the importation of wildlife and wildlife products for national use and consumption has grown in recent years. Besides this, many of the countries covered by this report are important 'source' countries, which export wild species native to their countries to other parts in the world.

Ten of the 15 countries considered in this report are members of the EU and therefore have to implement and enforce the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations which directly transpose the provisions of CITES in all 25 EU Member States. Two countries, Bulgaria and Romania, are *Acceding countries*, and hence have to comply with the requirements of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations from the time they join the EU – prospectively in 2007. Lastly, of the three remaining countries, Croatia and Turkey are considered *Candidate countries* and Serbia and Montenegro (see footnote below) is a *Potential Candidate country* and they too have to prepare their national wildlife trade legislation and administration before accession to the EU.

This report presents an overview of wildlife trade-related issues in Central and Eastern Europe, including an analysis of the region's role in global trade in wild animals and plants, examining trade trends and volumes, with a particular focus on species groups that are native to the region and listed in the Appendices of CITES. The report also presents a country-by-country review of the aspects related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the 15 Central and Eastern European countries and an analysis of the findings of these country profiles. The aim of the report is to provide up-to-date information about wildlife trade-related issues in the new EU Member States and the upcoming Acceding and Candidate countries and to highlight best practices as well as challenges and obstacles faced by this important region in implementing and enforcing CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

The data used in this report are based on information compiled and collected on a country-by-country basis through available literature and reports, questionnaires, site visits and interviews conducted from May to August 2005 with members of the national CITES authorities (Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and representatives from the relevant enforcement agencies such as Customs, police and environmental inspectorates). Although efforts were made to update information since then, there might have been changes in legislation during the publication process. To describe the region's role in the trade in wild animals and plants, trade data reported by CITES Parties in their annual reports for the years 1996 to 2003 were analysed.

The major findings of the report are set forth below:

[1] In this report Central and Eastern Europe is understood to cover the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro (in June 2006 Serbia and Montenegro became two independent States), Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

Overview of the legal trade in CITES-listed species in Central and Eastern Europe

When compared to other important importing regions or countries such as the EU, the USA or Japan, it is apparent that Central and Eastern Europe does not play a major role as an importer for the main taxonomic groups of wildlife listed in the CITES Appendices (live mammals, live birds, live reptiles, reptile skins, caviar, ornamental plants and medicinal plants). Between 1996 and 2003, the 15 'old' EU Member States (the countries that were members of the EU prior to May 2004, referred to hereafter as the EU15) were the largest importers of CITES-listed live birds (77% of reported global trade), reptile skins (31%) and caviar (46%), whereas the USA, was reported to be the largest importer of CITES-listed live reptiles (64%) and amphibians (63%). During this period, imports of CITES-listed species reported by the 15 Central and Eastern European countries subject to this report (in the following referred to as 15 CEE countries) were at least one order of magnitude smaller than imports into the EU15.

However, with regard to exports, the 15 CEE countries played an important role for a number of the taxonomic groups examined. For example, the 15 CEE countries exported (including re-exports) more CITES-listed live reptiles than the 15 'old' EU Member States and almost half the number of invertebrates that the EU15 reported as exports. In addition, a number of the CEE countries were also important exporters (and re-exporters) of caviar.

Although not range States to sturgeons, Poland and Turkey were the largest (re-)exporters of caviar from Central and Eastern Europe, with 35 tonnes and 38 tonnes of caviar (re-)exported respectively between 1998 and 2003. The two important sturgeon range States in the region, Bulgaria and Romania, exported 12 tonnes and 22.5 tonnes respectively over the same time period. These figures reflect the fact that the 15 CEE countries play an important role not only as transit countries but also as source countries in the trade of CITES-listed specimens.

In terms of ornamental plants listed in CITES (represented by *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp. in this analysis), Turkey was found to be the largest exporter worldwide, exporting more than 140 million CITES-listed live specimens of *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp. between 1996 and 2003. The region is also an important region for plants used for medicinal and aromatic purposes. Moreover, Europe as a whole is responsible for one third of annual global imports in medicinal plants (including non-CITES-listed plants), and one fifth of annual global exports. Europe is clearly divided into source and consumer countries for medicinal species. Bulgaria, Poland, Turkey and Hungary are the most important source countries in Europe.

Overview of common issues related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in Central and Eastern Europe

For each of the 15 countries covered by this report, country reviews were compiled in which each country's CITES implementing legislation, administrative structures (Management and Scientific Authority and enforcement agencies) are described. Research into the registration and marking of CITES-listed specimens, capacity building and training needs and illegal trade were also conducted. The main findings are shown below from a comparative point of view.

Usually the Management Authorities (MAs) are quite similarly structured within the region, with one designated MA. The staff time spent by the MA on CITES issues has significantly increased since 2001 in most countries. It was found that the Scientific Authorities in several countries (e.g. in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Turkey) are often not consulted by the MA when considering permit applications in order to make non-detriment findings.

Overall, the number of CITES import and re-export permits issued per year by the 15 countries under review increased during the period examined (1998-2004) but not the number of export permits. This suggests that the region's role as an importer has increased (especially in the case of the Czech Republic and Poland) whilst exports remained stable or declined.

Most of the ten new EU Member States implement the marking requirement according to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations whilst some countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) have stricter measures on marking.

Although there is no obligatory requirement under the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations for the identification of parenthood for specimens bred in captivity, it was found that in several countries such requirements exist for native birds of prey (e.g. in the Czech Republic, Hungary), for all native protected species listed in Annex A as well as all specimens of species listed in Annex A and used for reproduction (e.g. in Slovakia) and for parrots, lories listed in Annex A, birds of prey and owls, DNA tests are obligatory in Slovenia.

Similarly, although registration of CITES specimens is not obligatory according to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, this report reveals that several countries in the Central and Eastern European region find registration a useful tool to control internal trade.

In order to allow for better co-ordination and information exchange amongst the different agencies involved in CITES implementation, formal units that meet regularly were established in several countries (e.g. Croatia, Slovenia and Slovakia). In other countries (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Malta, Poland), there are informal meetings between these authorities whilst Cyprus and Latvia plan to establish formal interagency co-ordination units. Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey do not have formal units for this purpose.

The region is quite diverse in terms of the number of detected cases of illegal trade that were reported for the period examined (2000–2004). Smaller countries (Cyprus, Estonia and Latvia) and the countries that are relatively new Parties to CITES (Lithuania and Serbia and Montenegro) reported only a small number of seizures. The countries where there was a steadily significant number of cases include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Unfortunately, it was found that the capacity of rescue centres is very low in several countries (Bulgaria, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania and Romania). Selling of confiscated specimens is forbidden in Hungary, Malta, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia while in those countries where it is permitted (the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia for Annex B specimens) it is not practised.

Large differences were found between the countries examined with regard to the type and scale of the sanctions that can be applied for CITES infringements. The highest fines for private persons can be imposed in Slovenia (EUR 20 800), Cyprus (EUR 17 000) and Slovakia (EUR 7150) whilst the highest fines for corporations can be imposed in the Czech Republic (EUR 46 845), Slovenia (EUR 41 600) and in Cyprus (EUR 17 000). Imprisonment can be imposed for CITES infringements in half of the countries covered (the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia), ranging from three months to eight years.

However in almost half of the countries studied (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey), according to the Management Authorities neither fines nor imprisonment have actually been imposed. One reason behind this could be the low awareness of judges and prosecutors about the seriousness of wildlife crime. Another reason could be that often there is little or no communication between the prosecutors' offices and the Management Authority, and so the MA is not kept informed of the outcomes of cases.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made in this report, in order to ensure that legal trade in CITES-listed specimens does not threaten the rich biodiversity of the Central and Eastern European countries and to attempt to reduce illegal trade entering the EU. It has to be noted that the majority of the recommendations are also applicable to 'old' EU Member States. These include, amongst others, the need for improved co-operation, co-ordination and information exchange among the different CITES authorities involved, not only at national but also at international level. Consequently, the following recommendations are not only directed to policy makers and CITES authorities in Central and Eastern Europe but also to their counterparts in the other Member States, to the European Commission and other relevant institutions, for example agencies and programmes that provide technical and financial support, and research institutions and NGOs working in the field of nature conservation and animal welfare.

Moreover, one common factor that underpins the majority of the recommendations below is the relatively low level of political priority and support given to issues related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations by higher governmental representatives. Again, this is a problem that is not only specific to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, but has also been recognised for the whole of the EU (Parry-Jones *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, one important pre-requisite that will enable countries in Central and Eastern Europe to strengthen their implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations is to increase the level of recognition by senior governmental officials and law enforcement policy and decision makers of the importance of effective control and management of wildlife trade at national and European level.

Legislation
Individual governments, especially those of the upcoming Acceding countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, should ensure, by formulating corresponding legislation, that all the obligations arising from the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations are met by the time of their accession to the EU.

Administrative structures
The Ministries and governmental institutions in Central and Eastern Europe that oversee the operations of their national CITES Management Authorities should ensure that their authorities are adequately staffed and equipped in order to secure the proper implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. These Ministries and governmental institutions should also allocate sufficient funding to ensure that representatives of their CITES Authorities are present at the meetings of the Committee on Wildlife Trade, the Scientific Review Group and the EU Enforcement Group in Brussels. In addition, they are encouraged to send representatives of the relevant enforcement authorities such as the Customs, police or the inspection service to the meetings of the EU Enforcement Group to ensure adequate representation of 'operational' law enforcement personnel in this group.

CITES Management Authorities in the region should ensure that they regularly consult their CITES Scientific Authorities when considering permit applications in order to make non-detriment findings.

Enforcement and interagency co-operation
Wildlife trade law enforcement authorities in Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to establish interagency co-ordination groups or units for national CITES enforcement agencies in order to facilitate the co-operation and information exchange between the different agencies involved in the enforcement and control of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Existing groups and units, such as the units in Croatia, Slovakia or Slovenia, could serve as examples and best practice models.

The European Commission, the UK Government and other EU Member States should ensure that the recommendations contained in the Statement and Action Plan that was concluded at the "EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop" that was organized under the UK's presidency of the EU in October 2005 (see Annex G) are implemented and acted upon.

CITES Management Authorities as well as enforcement agencies responsible for the enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations should strengthen and promote the exchange of intelligence and other information regarding illegal wildlife trade at the regional and wider EU level through the use of existing tools such as the EU-TWIX database and the related e-mail list server. CITES Management Authorities that have not yet done so should designate national enforcement focal points for wildlife trade and should communicate their contact details to the CITES Secretariat.

CITES Management Authorities and relevant law enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe should, where appropriate, allocate funding for the establishment of central electronic databases to monitor CITES trade and facilitate the exchange of information among different authorities (such as CITES Management Authorities and environmental inspectors). Countries that have such systems already in operation are encouraged to inform other countries about these and to provide these if possible in order to adapt them to the specific needs and to the language of other countries.

Internal market control measures
EU Acceding and Candidate countries should take steps to fully implement the marking requirements as outlined in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations before they join the European Union.

The CITES Management Authorities of the 25 EU Member States and the European Commission should work towards a more streamlined implementation of the marking requirements for Annex A specimens, i.e. use common marking techniques, and should establish guidelines on how to ensure individual identification of juveniles that cannot be marked.

CITES Management Authorities of the 25 EU Member States and the European Commission should consider undertaking a review of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in order to address problems in the control and monitoring of intra-community trade in certain Annex B specimens. This may include an assessment of the costs and benefits of expanding the requirement of individual marking of certain specimens to other species as is currently the practice in some of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and in some existing EU Member States.

Training and capacity building
The EU Member States, the European Commission and other relevant bodies should ensure the continuation, further development and funding of existing and new capacity-building and training initiatives aimed at assisting new EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate countries in building their expertise and knowledge in implementing and enforcing the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Regular CITES training courses for officers of enforcement agencies responsible for the enforcement and control of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations should be conducted, in particular in countries where such courses have not yet been undertaken, e.g. Cyprus, Romania. The involvement of experts from the 'old EU Member States' is encouraged to facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise.

Sanctions
CITES Management Authorities and relevant enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe should strengthen links with prosecutors and judges to raise their awareness of wildlife trade-related issues and the relevance of illegal wildlife trade and crimes, in order to ensure that any sanctions imposed for such crimes are proportional to the gravity of the infringement. For this purpose, a European-wide workshop should be organized for representatives of the judiciary, building on the experiences gained from similar events organized by TRAFFIC and others in 2001 and 2004.

Countries in Central and Eastern Europe, that have not yet done so, should amend their national legislation to provide for adequate fines and sanctions (including imprisonment in the prosecution of wildlife trade crime) for wildlife crimes.

Disposal of live specimens
NGOs working in the field of animal welfare should assist CITES Management Authorities, zoos and relevant enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe with the adequate placement of live specimens that have been seized. For example, NGOs could assess the feasibility of establishing a central database that contains information on existing rescue centres in the EU Member States, their capacities and costs as well as a central contact point that could assist enforcement agencies in finding adequate housing facilities for CITES specimens.

Public awareness
The European Commission and CITES Management Authorities in Central and Eastern Europe should allocate funding for awareness raising activities related to wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES. Countries in Central and Eastern Europe should make the most of existing materials that have been used in other countries and that can be easily adapted to other European countries.

CITES Authorities in Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to co-operate more frequently with the media and press, i.e. by informing them about wildlife trade-related seizures and publishing information about cases involving illegal wildlife trade.

NGOs should co-operate with CITES authorities and where appropriate the public sector to run effective informative campaigns for travellers, tourists and for the wider public on the importance of CITES and the regulation of wildlife trade and of the threat that illegal wildlife trade can cause to biodiversity and livelihoods.

EU Enlargement

The Governments of Acceding countries and countries that will prospectively accede to the EU should ensure that their border controls at the new external borders of the EU are appropriately equipped and trained. Individual governments of the EU Member States, especially the current EU Members that are neighbouring Accession countries, should provide technical advice, guidance and training in the form of joint activities to support the process of their preparation for EU Accession.

INTRODUCTION

In the long history of enlargements of the European Union, the last one, which took place on May 2004, was the largest in terms of scope and diversity (Theile *et al.*, 2004). Ten countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) joined the EU in 2004 and Bulgaria and Romania (hereafter referred to as Acceding countries) are to join in 2007. Furthermore, Croatia and Turkey (hereafter referred to as Candidate countries) have also recently begun negotiations to accede to the EU in 2009 or thereafter.

The EU is one of the world's largest and most diverse markets for wildlife and wildlife products. Millions of CITES-listed live animals and plants are imported into the EU every year, ranging from wild chameleons from Africa to orchids from South America. In addition, a large variety of wildlife parts and products are imported every year, for example, crocodile skins for the fashion industry, luxury food items such as caviar, mahogany logs from South America, picture frames and blinds made of ramin, timber from South-east Asia or dried plant materials from the Balkans to be used in medicines. Many of these species are listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and hence are subject to certain provisions before international trade can take place.

The expansion of the EU from 15 to 25 Member States in May 2004 has undoubtedly increased the size of the EU's single market and the EU's role as a major wildlife consumer and this trend will certainly continue with the next enlargement. Many of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe have traditionally played an important role as wildlife trade 'transit countries', supplying wildlife and wildlife products imported from around the world to the EU (Theile *et al*., 2004). But with an increase in the standard of living and growing economies, the importation of wildlife and wildlife products for national use and consumption has grown. Besides this, many of the countries that are subjects of this report are important 'source' countries and export their native wild species to other parts of the world. The region is rich in biodiversity and possesses the majority of the EU's natural wealth. It is home to a wide range of species that are rare or extinct in Western Europe and many of these species are listed in the CITES Appendices, such as Brown Bear, several species of raptors including the Saker Falcon, sturgeons, a number of medicinal plants, *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp. (see **Annex A**).

The common implementation and enforcement of CITES is necessary in the EU due to the virtual absence of systematic border controls and the free movement of goods within the EU's single market (Berkhoudt, 2002). Therefore, the EU Member States have been implementing CITES collectively through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations since 1982: currently *Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97* and related Commission Regulations, that are directly applicable in all 25 EU Member States and are stricter than CITES in several ways. All 15 Central and Eastern European Countries that are subjects of this report are Parties to CITES (see **Table 1**).

Table 1
Date of accession to CITES for the 15 CEE countries

Country	Date of accession to CITES	Entry into force	Country	Date of accession to CITES	Entry into force
Bulgaria	16/01/1991 (A)	16/04/1991	Malta	17/04/1989 (A)	16/07/1989
Croatia	14/03/2000 (A)	12/06/2000	Poland	12/12/1989 (R)	12/03/1990
Cyprus	18/10/1974 (R)	01/07/1975	Romania	18/08/1994 (A)	16/11/1994
Czech Republic	14/04/1993 (Ds)	01/01/1993	Serbia and Montenegro	27/02/2002 (A)	28/05/2002
Estonia	22/07/1992 (A)	20/10/1992	Slovakia	02/03/1993 (Ds)	01/01/1993
Hungary	29/05/1985 (A)	27/08/1985	Slovenia	24/01/2000 (A)	23/04/2000
Latvia	11/02/1997 (A)	12/05/1997	Turkey	23/09/1996 (A)	22/12/1996
Lithuania	10/12/2001 (A)	09/03/2002			

Source: CITES website www.cites.org
A – Accession, Ds – Declaration of succession, R – Ratification

In order to understand better some of the challenges that new Member States face when preparing for accession to the EU, it is important to highlight some of the major differences between CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (Theile *et al*., 2004):

- Different Appendices: CITES has three Appendices (I, II and III) while the EU Regulations have four Annexes (A, B, C and D). CITES Appendices I, II and III largely correspond to EU Annexes A, B and C but there is no equivalent for EU Annex D, which lists species for which import levels have to be monitored. Additionally, the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations also list non-CITES species.
- Stricter regulations on imports: commercial imports of species listed in Annex A and B require not only permits from the country of origin or of re-export but also from the country of destination. The importation of species listed in Annexes C and D requires an import permit and the specimens must also be registered at the point of entry into the EU. Imports of species listed in Annex A, like species listed in CITES Appendix I, require the issuance of an export permit or re-export certificate and an import permit.
- Species listed in EU Annex A but CITES Appendix II: some species are listed on Annex A of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations that are listed in Appendix II of CITES. The commercial trade in Annex A species is generally prohibited.
- All live vertebrates listed in Annex A need to be marked.
- The EU can suspend imports of species from particular exporting countries.

Since the late 1990s, TRAFFIC Europe has been committed to assisting Candidate countries in their preparation for EU Accession focusing on the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. In 2002, TRAFFIC published a report *Focus on EU Enlargement and Wildlife Trade: A Review of CITES Implementation in Candidate Countries* that examined among others the legislative and administrative structures in place with regard to CITES implementation and enforcement in the region, provided an analysis of the legal wildlife trade in 13 countries and described some of the challenges in the region with regard to the implementation and enforcement of CITES. In the same year, a TRAFFIC office was established in Budapest, Hungary, to carry out TRAFFIC's wildlife trade monitoring work in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region. The report *Expanding Borders: New Challenges for Wildlife Trade Controls in the European Union* published in April 2004 focused on the legal and illegal wildlife trade in the EU and its 10 new Member States and the new challenges related to the enforcement of wildlife trade controls in the enlarged EU.

The current publication provides a comprehensive update of the TRAFFIC report *Focus on EU Enlargement and Wildlife Trade: A Review of CITES Implementation in Candidate Countries* from 2002. It presents an overview of the wildlife trade in the region as well as that of CITES implementation, administration and enforcement. It also formulates recommendations for the national and regional levels to address identified gaps and challenges. The geographical scope of the current report has been extended to cover 15 countries in the CEE region: the ten EU Member States (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) that acceded in May 2004, the Acceding countries (Romania and Bulgaria) and the Candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey). In addition to these 14 countries, Serbia and Montenegro[2] has also been included because it directly borders the enlarged EU and is one of the potential Candidate countries for future EU accession. Moreover, by incorporating information about this State, a more coherent overview could be obtained about the region. The 15 countries covered in this publication will hereafter be referred to as the 15 CEE countries.

[2] In June 2006, Serbia and Montenegro became two independent states. However, in this report they are still treated as the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

METHODOLOGY

Country profiles

This report was compiled by gathering information from different sources. Information was collected from previous TRAFFIC publications and work e.g. *Focus on EU Enlargement and Wildlife Trade: A Review of CITES Implementation in Candidate Countries* (Berkhoudt, 2002) and from the *Proceedings of the International Expert Workshop on the Enforcement of Wildlife Trade Controls in Central and Eastern Europe Held on 3–4 June 2004, in Budapest, Hungary* (Kecse-Nagy *et al.*, 2004) and the *Final Project Report of TRAFFIC Europe-Candidate Countries programme* (Steiner and Kecse-Nagy, 2004). Following this literature search, draft country profiles were produced and specific questions were added for Management Authorities (MA), Scientific Authorities (SA) and other relevant authorities to fill in. The draft country profiles were sent to the Management Authorities of the 15 CEE countries to review them and to provide additional information to the questions that were added. All country profiles were returned and reviewed by the Management Authorities of the countries covered by this report. (See the list of people who contributed to filling in the questionnaires and reviewing the country profiles on page 1 under Acknowledgements.)

TRAFFIC staff undertook country visits in 2005 to most of the countries reviewed in this report to meet with staff from the national CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, the relevant enforcement agencies and NGOs and to gain a better insight into and understanding of the wildlife trade issues and related challenges in each of the 15 countries. The Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia were visited in 2003 and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Turkey were visited in 2005.

Information on CITES legislation was provided by the Management Authority of the country. In most cases, the full legal text was not available in English thus the Management Authority was asked to provide a short summary or explanation of the relevant pieces of legislation.

Information about seizures and confiscations of illegally traded CITES-listed live and non-live specimens from the last five years was obtained mostly from CITES Management Authorities. On the basis of the available data short analyses were conducted attempting to demonstrate trends, the scope of species, whether CITES-listed live specimens or parts and derivatives were most frequently seized.

Trade data sources and analysis

CITES trade data (data provided by CITES Parties in their annual reports) were used to analyse reported international trade. This report uses trade data for the years 1996 to 2003 (as 2003 was the most recent year for which comprehensive data were available at the time of writing) and where whole groups are involved (e.g. CITES-listed live birds), data for all CITES species in Appendix I, II and III were used. The data were downloaded from the CITES Trade Database, managed by UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, in August 2005. For the purpose of this report, comparative tabulations, which compare the imports and exports reported by individual CITES Parties, were used. These include information on the reported purpose of the trade and source of the specimens traded.

Although the trade records should be reported identically by the importer and the exporter, in practice these often differ due to differences in reporting between the importing and exporting country. These discrepancies in reporting explain why the totals according to importers and exporters (including re-exporters) for CITES-listed live mammals, CITES-listed live birds etc. do not match in Tables 2 and 3 of the chapter *Overview of the global trade in selected groups and Central and Eastern Europe's role*, which compare total imports and exports (including re-exports) for different regions of the world.

When *exports* are referred to, this includes both direct exports from a country and re-exports, unless the expressions *direct exports* or *re-exports* are used. In some cases total reported exports (e.g. CITES-listed live reptiles) significantly exceed total reported imports. This can be caused by the fact that usually it is the export

permits issued that are reported instead of the export permits actually used. Official CITES import data were used as the best estimate of total trade instead of gross or net trade data because of similar reasons.

Unless specified otherwise, all CITES trade descriptions and totals include all sources (e.g. wild, captive-bred) and purposes (e.g. commercial, personal or hunting) for data from 1996 to 2003.

All trade is reported as individual specimens unless a unit is specified (such as kg). For caviar, trade records reported without a unit or records reported with the CITES term *eggs (live)* were not included in the analysis as these usually refer to live eggs destined for aquaculture rather than for consumption as caviar. Caviar trade reported as *cans* or *flasks* was converted to kg with a weight of 0.1 kg chosen as the average weight[3] of a caviar can or flasks. Wolf *Canis lupus* and Brown Bear *trophies* are defined as the following CITES terms: bodies, skins, skulls and trophies[4]. *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. are generally traded as ornamental plants, not only under the term 'live' but also as (live) bulbs, which are traded under the term 'roots'. Therefore when referring to *live specimens* of these two genera, the CITES terms *live* and *roots* are included.

When analysing imports for a country or region, the data reported by importers were used whilst the data reported by exporters (including re-exporters) were used when analysing exports and re-exports. A few exceptions to this are listed below:

- Japan has not submitted its CITES annual report for 2003. Therefore, the trade reports of Japan's trading partners were used for all years as these are more complete.
- Out of the 15 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey), five countries joined CITES after 1996 and were therefore not reporting their trade transactions for the full period 1996–2003. When looking at totals for these 15 countries, the trading partner's records were used for all years.
- Tables 4 and 5 compare imports and exports (including re-exports) from each of the 15 CEE countries individually. For this table, the importer's records were used for Table 4 and exporter's (including re-exporter's) records were used for Table 5 for the 10 CEE countries which were CITES Parties for the whole period 1996–2003. For the five CEE countries (Latvia, Croatia, Slovenia, Lithuania and Serbia and Montenegro) which became CITES Parties after 1996, the country's own records were used from the year they became a Party and for the years prior to that, the trading partner's trade records were used to account for pre-accession trade.
- For the countries' totals in Tables 2 and 3, the totals for CITES-listed live birds, CITES-listed live reptiles, ornamental plants and caviar are based on the sum of the respective countries in Tables 2 and 3, which give totals for individual countries. Hence in Table 3 the total number of CITES-listed live birds imported by the five non-EU CEE countries is calculated based on the totals for CITES-listed live imports for Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey given in Table 3.

For the analysis of trade in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP), Customs data were used rather than data from the CITES Trade Database. This is because such a small fraction of MAP are listed in the CITES Appendices, and hence CITES trade data do not give a good overview of trade in this group of species. Instead, for this section, Customs data from the Commodity Trade Statistics database (COMTRADE) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have been used as a best practice proxy to assess the relevance of the 15 CEE countries in the trade in MAP. The UNCTAD COMTRADE database contains annual trade flows – imports and exports reported by more than 162 countries or areas, split up into different commodity groups and the commodity group SITC 3.292.4 *pharmaceutical plants* is used here to represent MAP. The UNCTAD COMTRADE database does not distinguish between exports and re-exports so any mention of exports therefore includes re-exports. Customs data covering trade in MAP between 1991 and 2000 were used.

[3] The weight estimation of caviar flasks/cans is based on TRAFFIC experience and it is likely to be a rather conservative estimate.

[4] Skulls were counted as a separate item from trophies when analysing trade data. Although it might result in double counting e.g. an animal is reported separately traded as a trophy and as a skull, it is less risky than under-representing trade by ignoring the term skull.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL TRADE IN CITES-LISTED SPECIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

As outlined earlier, the European Union is one of the largest and most diverse markets for animal and plant species and their products. The accession of 10 new Member States in May 2004 has increased the size of the EU's single market and this trend will be continued in the future with new accessions planned for the coming years. In addition to increasing the volume of wildlife entering and leaving the EU, the new Member States also play a particular role for both the import and export of specific taxa and many are range States and important exporters for species listed in the CITES Appendices.

This chapter provides an overview of wildlife trade in the Central and Eastern European region with a focus on the reported trade in selected CITES-listed species. It also includes information on wildlife trade in non CITES-listed species, for example medicinal plants, in order to provide a general overview of the region's role in these wildlife resources. The chapter is based on an analysis of the volumes and trends of wildlife trade globally and in the region, thereby setting the region's wildlife trade into perspective. The second part of the chapter examines in more detail the trade involving the 15 CEE countries and focuses on CITES species or species groups that are traded in relatively high numbers in the region (live birds and reptiles) or that are native to the region and for which the CEE countries are an important source region, for example Brown Bears, sturgeons, ornamental plants such as snowdrops and cyclamens, medicinal plants and leeches.

Overview of the global trade in selected CITES-listed species and the relevance of Central and Eastern Europe

This chapter presents an overview of trade volumes of the main importing countries and regions for CITES-listed species, i.e. the 15 'old' EU Member States (prior to the last enlargement of the EU in May 2004, hereafter EU15), Japan and the USA, and a comparison with the trade reported by the countries in the Central and Eastern European region that are reviewed in this report (the 10 new EU Member States as well as Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey, referred to hereafter as CEE15). The trade of all other countries has been summarized into one category "Rest of the world". The analysis focuses on certain categories of species listed in the CITES Appendices, that have been selected according to their importance in wildlife trade in Europe and in particular in Central and Eastern Europe. The tables presented here show the total imports and exports (including re-exports) for the period 1996 to 2003. The graphs in the following chapter also present an overview of the trade trends, i.e. the levels of trade per year, for some of the selected categories including CITES-listed live birds, CITES-listed live reptiles and caviar.

Trade in CITES-listed species by the main importing regions[5]

Table 2 shows the reported imports of CITES-listed species into the 15 CEE countries, separated into the 10 new EU Member States (EU10) and the five remaining countries (CEE5) alongside the reported imports by the three largest importers on the global wildlife trade scene: the EU15, Japan and the USA.

From 1996 to 2003, the EU15 were the largest importers of CITES-listed live birds (77% of reported global trade), reptile skins (31%), caviar (46%) and *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. (traded live and as bulbs) (84%), whilst the USA was reported to be the largest importer of CITES-listed live mammals (45%), CITES-listed live reptiles (64%), CITES-listed live amphibians (63%) and CITES-listed live invertebrates (69%). During the eight-year period, for all the major groups listed in **Table 2**, imports reported by the 10 new EU Member States and the CEE5 were at least one order of magnitude smaller than imports into the EU15.

In terms of global exports (which include both direct exports from the country of origin plus re-exports), the 15 CEE countries played an important role for a number of the selected groups (**Table 3**). The 10 new EU Member States were important exporters of CITES-listed live birds and they were also important exporters of CITES-listed live reptiles, thus exporting and re-exporting more CITES-listed live reptiles than the EU15.

[5] China is not included in the tables below because, although China is the largest importer of wildlife overall, the forthcoming analysis relates to trade in CITES-listed species.

The CEE5 were important exporters (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live invertebrates, exporting almost half of the EU15's reported exports and double the USA's reported exports. The CEE5 countries were also important exporters (and re-exporters) of caviar (**Table 3**).

Table 2
Reported imports of selected CITES-listed animal and plant groups by the 15 'old' Member States (EU15), the 10 new Member States (EU10), CEE5 (RO, BG, HR, SCR, TR), Japan, the USA and the rest of the world (1996–2003) (number of specimens)

	EU15	EU10	CEE5	Japan	USA	Rest of World	Total
Live mammals	61 869	4 259	6 331	43 267	113 846	23 379	**252 951**
Live birds	6 548 169	157 012	4 060	314 545	68 050	1 457 955	**8 549 791**
Live reptiles	1 804 924	103 623	9 018	583 991	6 807 260	1 308 271	**10 617 087**
Reptile skins	11 465 038	36 799	41 314	3 943 266	3 636 218	18 150 650	**37 273 285**
Live amphibians	49 308	984	48	26 813	158 224	14 519	**249 896**
Caviar (t)[1]	549	8	2	119	295	233	**1 205**
Live invertebrates	2 487 918[2]	63 676	117	452 916	7 813 305[3]	434 539	**11 252 471**
Snowdrops and cyclamen[4]	145 452 306	37 969	3 332	4 512 210	16 846 615	6 916 117	**173 768 549**

Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. 1= Note that data only start in 1998 (April) when the listing of all sturgeons in CITES entered into effect, so the period covered is 1998–December 2003 for this group; 2= Plus 26 194 kg CITES-listed live invertebrates; 3= Plus 113 672 kg live invertebrates; 4= comprises *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. traded live or as bulbs.

Table 3
Reported exports and re-exports of selected CITES-listed animal and plant groups by the 15 'old' Member States (EU15), the 10 new Member States (EU10), CEE5 (RO, BG, HR, SCR, TR), Japan, the USA and the rest of the world (1996–2003) (number of specimens)

	EU15	EU10	CEE5	Japan	USA	Rest of World	Total
Live mammals	8 927	2 508	200	1 315	16 757	275 074	**304 781**
Live birds	730 232	150 088	5 364	609	18 213	8 350 169	**9 254 675**
Live reptiles	21 422	106 409	9 535	3 366	668 401	12 508 687	**13 317 820**
Live invertebrates	1 017 386	2 535	441 871[1]	10 653	212 106	6 999 369	**8 683 920**
Live amphibians	16 838	9 584	0	117	29 733	272 124	**311 558**
Reptile skins	1 311 996	1 077	92	145 206	2 665 171	36 236 547	**40 360 089**
Caviar (t)[2]	162	38	73	1	59	830	**1 163**
Snowdrops and cyclamen[3]	23 622 904	34 220	158 859 020	60	8 472	97 844 749	**280 369 425**

Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. 1= Plus 7 196 kg of invertebrates (all *Hirudo medicinalis*) were exported (according to importers' records); 2= Note that data only start in 1998 (April) when the listing of all sturgeons in CITES entered into effect, so the period covered is 1998–2003 for this group; 3= comprises *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. traded live or as bulbs.

Trade in specific CITES-listed taxonomic groups for the 15 Central and Eastern European countries

This section examines in more detail the wildlife trade involving the 10 new EU Member States and Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey (15 CEE countries) between 1996 and 2003 and focuses on groups of CITES–listed species that are of particular relevance for this region. Because the trade in CITES-listed live mammals, CITES-listed live amphibians, CITES-listed live invertebrates and reptile skins was relatively small compared to other important regions of the world such as the EU15, USA and Japan, these taxonomic groups were not looked at in detail for the 15 CEE countries. In addition, more specific groups for which the 15 CEE countries play an important role in the global trade, for example trade in hunting trophies of Brown Bear and Wolf and live Medicinal Leeches *Hirudo medicinalis* are looked at in detail.

Each of the taxonomic groups or species listed in **Tables 4 and 5** are discussed below in more detail, including information on trends between 1996 and 2003, the most important importers and exporters, trade routes, the most important species traded in each taxonomic group and the source of specimens traded. The reported trade totals are presented for each country individually and graphs provide an overview of the trade trends over the eight-year period.

The Czech Republic and Malta were by far the most important importers of CITES-listed live birds among the 15 CEE countries with 60 000 and 78 000 CITES-listed live birds imported respectively over the eight-year period (**Table 4**). The Czech Republic was also the largest exporter (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live birds among the 15 CEE countries (**Table 5**). Moreover, the Czech Republic was also by far both the largest importer and exporter (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live reptiles. Between 1998 and 2003, the Czech Republic imported more than 85 000 CITES-listed live reptiles and exported (including re-exports) more than 61 000 CITES-listed live reptiles. Other important exporters of CITES-listed live reptiles were Slovakia and Slovenia with around 24 000 and 17 700 CITES-listed live reptiles reported as exports between 1996 and 2003.

None of the 15 CEE countries imported significant numbers of either Brown Bear or Wolf trophies whereas Romania was one of the largest global exporters of Brown Bear trophies (**Tables 4 and 5**).

Turkey reported the highest levels of exports (including re-exports) of caviar (38 tonnes), followed by Poland with 35 tonnes and Romania with around 23 tonnes.

In terms of ornamental plants (*Cyclamen* and *Galanthus* spp.), the Czech Republic was the largest importer and Turkey and Bulgaria the largest exporters (including re-exports).

Table 4
Reported imports of selected CITES-listed animal and plant groups by the 15 CEE countries (1996–2003) (number of specimens)

	BG	HR	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	RO	SCG	SK	SI	TR	Total
Live birds	37	395	6 776	59 805	28	1 426	1	1 949	78 176	4 889	23	269	2 325	1 613	3 336	161 048
Live reptiles	5 236	436	138	85 145	19	1 861	2	123	1 255	11 522	39	558	427	3 131	2 749	112 641
Live *Hirudo medicinalis*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6 000
Live *Cyclamen* spp.	0	2 864	0	2 924	0	0	0	0	12 068	0	0	468	0	0	0	18 324
Live *Galanthus* spp.	0	0	0	22 973	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	22 973
Brown Bear trophies	0	4	1	55	12	8	0	7	0	45	0	4	21	1	0	158
Wolf trophies	0	2	2	68	23	2	0	23	1	15	0	0	1	8	0	145
Caviar (kg) [1]	78	612	212	3 309	0	0	5	81	98	3 998	0	0	0	12	1 219	9 624

Table 5
Reported exports and re-exports of selected CITES-listed animal and plant groups by the 15 CEE countries (1996–2003) (number of specimens)

	BG	HR	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LV	LT	MT	PL	RO	SCG	SK	SI	TR	Total
Live birds	50	67	12	135 092	219	6 084	85	26	111	410	24	5 138	8 019	30	85	155 452
Live reptiles	3 136	21	4	61 311	51	2 553	106	30	68	434	35	785	24 069	17 783	5 558	115 944
Live *Hirudo medicinalis*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	490 kg	650	0	0	11 080 kg	650 + 11 570 kg
Live *Cyclamen* spp.	50 000	0	0	220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13 519 500	13 569 720
Live *Galanthus* spp.	12 900 000	0	0	0	0	34 000	0	0	0	0	97 kg	0	0	0	132 389 520	26 453 000 + 97 kg
Brown Bear trophies	41	51	0	6	158	3	0	3	0	1	877	1	65	28	4	1 238
Wolf trophies	75	2	0	37	99	3	12	24	0	706	98	2	0	0	12	1 070
Caviar (kg) [1]	12 257	0	0	2 145	59	0	0	0	0	35 479	22 643	0	0	0	38 160	11 0743

Source for Tables 4 and 5: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. 1=Note that data only start in 1998 when all sturgeons were listed on CITES, so period covered is 1998-2003 for this group.

ISO codes used are: CY (Cyprus), CZ (Czech Republic), EE (Estonia), HU (Hungary), LT (Lithuania), LV (Latvia), MT (Malta), PL (Poland), SI (Slovenia), SK (Slovakia), BG (Bulgaria), SCG (Serbia and Montenegro), HR (Croatia), RO (Romania), TR (Turkey).

Trade in Brown Bear and Wolf trophies

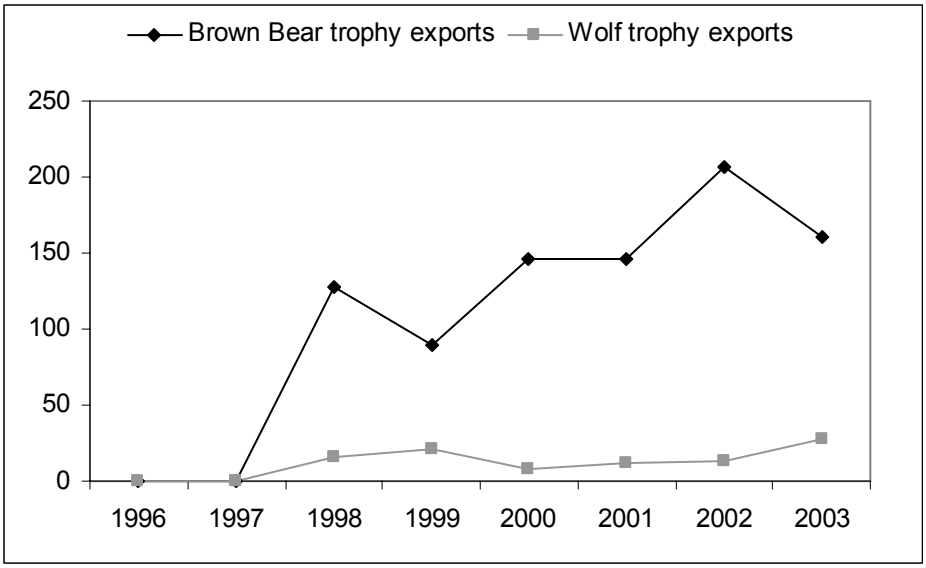
Imports

Eleven of the 15 countries in this region are Brown Bear range States (Servheen *et al.,* 1999) and 12 are Wolf range States (UNEP-WCMC, 2005). Globally, 7269 Brown Bear trophies and 34 420 Wolf trophies were reported to be imported from 1996 to 2003. The majority of Wolf trophies were imported by the USA (27 887) and the EU15 (3728) and the majority of Brown Bear trophies were imported by the USA (3319) and by the EU15 (3133). The 15 CEE countries imported during that period 158 trophies of Brown Bear and 145 trophies of Wolf. The three largest importers of trophies among the CEE countries were the Czech Republic (55 Brown Bear and 68 Wolf), Poland (45 Brown Bear, 15 Wolf) and Estonia (12 Brown Bear, 23 Wolf).

Exports and Re-exports

In total, the 15 CEE countries exported 1238 trophies of Brown Bear and 1070 of Wolf. Romania is by far the largest exporter of trophies from this region (877 Brown Bear and 98 Wolf trophies), and the third largest exporter of Brown Bear worldwide after Canada and the Russian Federation. The next largest trophy exporters in the region were Poland (706 Wolf and one Brown Bear trophies), Estonia (158 Brown Bear and 99 Wolf trophies) and Bulgaria (41 Brown Bear and 75 Wolf trophies). Overall, Romanian exports of Brown Bear trophies have been increasing since 1996 (**Figure 1**). From 1997 to 2005, Romania had an annual export quota varying between 150 and 210 Brown Bear hunting trophies (CITES, 2005). However, exports of trophies from Romania to the EU were suspended between December 2004 and October 2005 (UNEP-WCMC, 2005). Romania has also had export quotas for Wolves from 1997 to 2005, for both hunting trophies and live wolves (CITES, 2005). Turkey has had an export quota of 10 Brown Bear hunting trophies in 1999 and in 2000 and 10 Wolf hunting trophies in 1999–2001 (CITES, 2005).

Figure 1
Reported exports of Brown Bear and Wolf trophies from Romania (1996-2003)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK for trade data and www.cites.org for CITES annual export quotas.

Trade in CITES-listed live birds

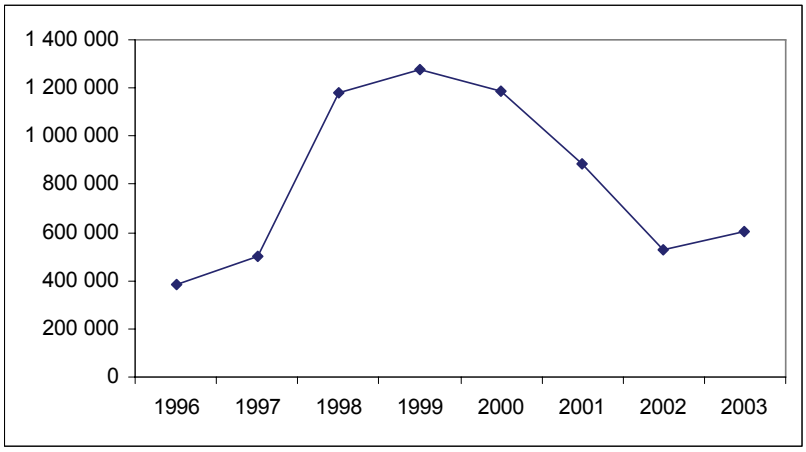
Imports

Globally, over 8.5 million CITES-listed live birds were traded from 1996 to 2003 (**Table 2**). The EU15 Member States were by far the largest reported importers of CITES-listed live birds globally, accounting for 77% of global imports, equivalent to 20 times the amount imported by Japan (314 545) and 100 times USA imports of

CITES-listed live birds (68 050) (**Table 2**). The 15 CEE countries were the third-largest importers after the EU15 and Japan, with 161 072 CITES-listed live birds imported from 1996 to 2003.

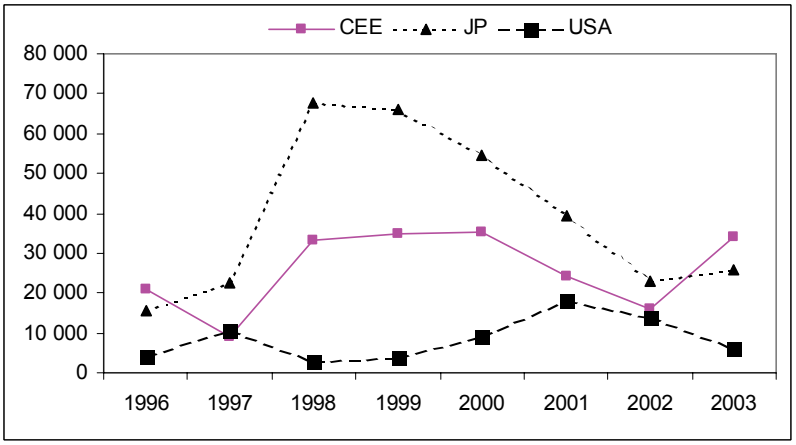
The number of CITES-listed live birds imported by the EU15 from 1996 to 2003 is shown in **Figure 2.** Imports by the 15 CEE countries, Japan and the USA are shown separately (**Figure 3**), due to the difference in scale compared to the EU15. The EU15, the 15 CEE countries and Japan show the same trend in imports, with CITES-listed live bird imports peaking in the late 1990s then decreasing until 2002 and increasing again slightly in 2003 (**Figures 2 and 3**). Imports to the USA, on the other hand, peak in 2001 and then decrease (**Figure 3**).

Figure 2
Trends in reported imports of CITES-listed live birds by the 'old' 15 European Union Member States (1996–2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database,* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Figure 3
Trends in reported imports of CITES-listed live birds by the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (CEE), Japan (JP) and the USA (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



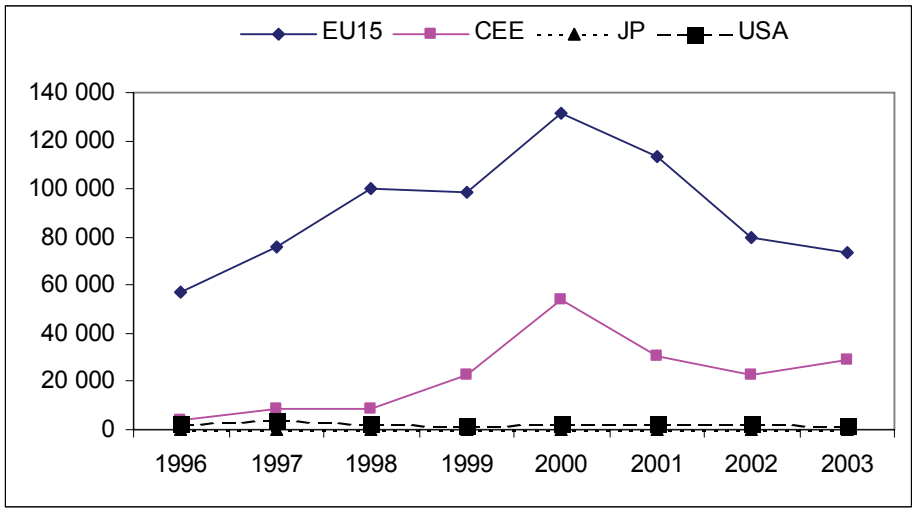
Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database,* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Of the 161 072 CITES-listed live birds reported to be imported by the 15 CEE countries, the majority was imported by the 10 new EU Member States (157 012) whereas the CEE5 countries imported only 4 060 CITES-listed live birds from 1996 to 2003. The largest CEE importers were reported to be Malta (78 176) and the Czech Republic (59 805) (**Table 4**). Malta's reported imports peaked in 1999 at 17 416 CITES-listed live birds and the majority of Malta's reported imports consisted of the Green Singing Finch *Serinus mozambicus* (49 263). The Czech Republic's reported imports decreased from 11 712 in 1996 to 4967 in 2003 and the most commonly imported species were both parrots: the Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* (10 237) of western Africa and the Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* (9757) which also occurs in Africa.

Exports and Re-exports

As well as being the largest reported importers of CITES-listed live birds, the EU15 Member States were also the largest reported exporters (including re-exports) globally, accounting for 77% of reported exports worldwide (**Table 3**). With 155 452 CITES-listed live birds, the 15 CEE countries were the second largest exporters, followed by the USA (18 213) (**Table 3**).

Figure 4
Trends in reported exports and re-exports of CITES-listed live birds by the EU15, the 15 CEE countries (CEE), Japan (JP) and the USA (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database,* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Reported exports by the EU15 Member States and the 15 CEE countries showed very similar trends (**Figure 4**), peaking in 2000 and then decreasing again. In the case of the 15 CEE countries, 95% of CITES-listed live birds reported to be exported were exported directly from these countries rather than re-exported, and of these direct exports, 99% were reported as captive-bred.

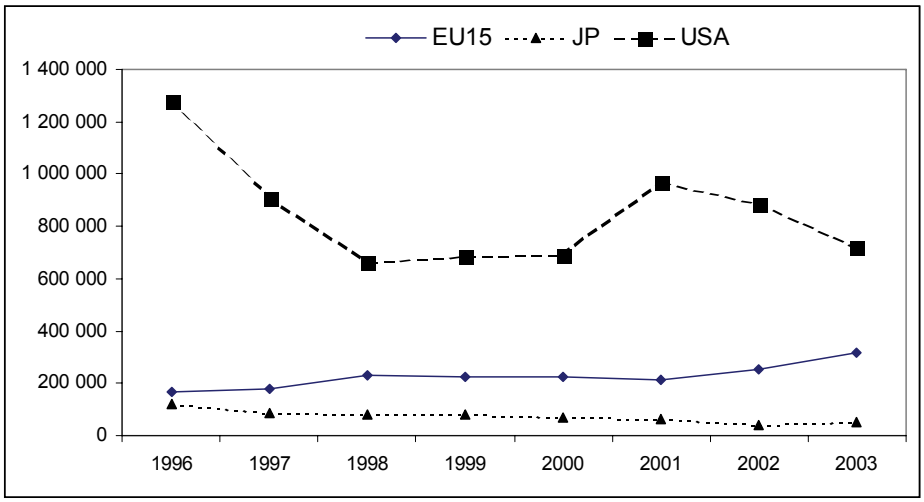
Virtually all the CITES-listed live birds reported to be exported or re-exported from the 15 CEE countries came from the 10 new EU Member States (150 088) whilst the CEE5 countries were only reported to export and re-export 5565 CITES-listed live birds. The Czech Republic (135 092) was the largest reported exporter amongst the 15 CEE countries, accounting for 87% of reported CITES-listed live bird exports from the CEE countries. The Czech Republic's reported exports increased over three-fold between 1996 (8320 CITES-listed live birds) and 2003 (26 498 CITES-listed live birds). The most exported genera of CITES-listed live bird reported to be exported from the Czech Republic were both parrots: *Agapornis* spp. (60 752) and *Platycercus* spp. (33 843). *Agapornis* spp. from the Czech Republic were reported to be exported mainly to Spain (24 530).

Trade in CITES-listed live reptiles

Imports

Worldwide, over 10 million CITES-listed live reptiles were reported to be imported from 1996 to 2003. The USA was reported to be the largest importer of CITES-listed live reptiles, accounting for 64% of global imports, followed by the 15 'old' EU Member States (17%). The 15 CEE countries were only reported to import 112 641 CITES-listed live reptiles, or one per cent of global imports. Imports by the USA have decreased sharply over time, from 1 280 287 in 1996 to 720 517 in 2003 (**Figure 5**). Japan's imports have also decreased over this period, more than halving in eight years. The imports by the EU15, on the other hand, have nearly doubled between 1996 and 2003, from 165 838 (1996) to 317 387 (2003) (**Figure 5**).

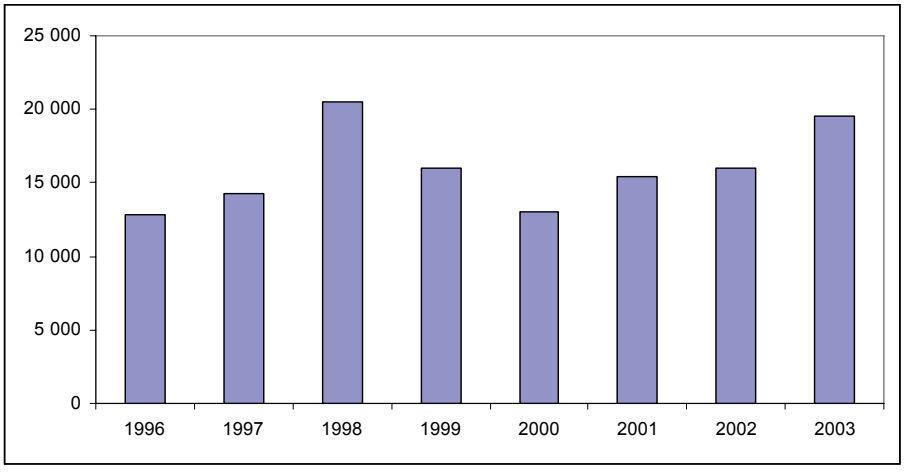
Figure 5
Trends in reported imports of CITES-listed live reptiles by the 15 'old' European Union Member States (EU15), Japan (JP) and the USA (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database,* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Overall, reported imports by the 15 CEE countries remained relatively stable with some fluctuations from 1996 to 2003 (**Figure 6**). The largest reported importers of CITES-listed live reptiles amongst the 15 CEE countries were the Czech Republic (85 145) and Poland (11 522), which together accounted for 86% of the 15 CEE countries' imports.

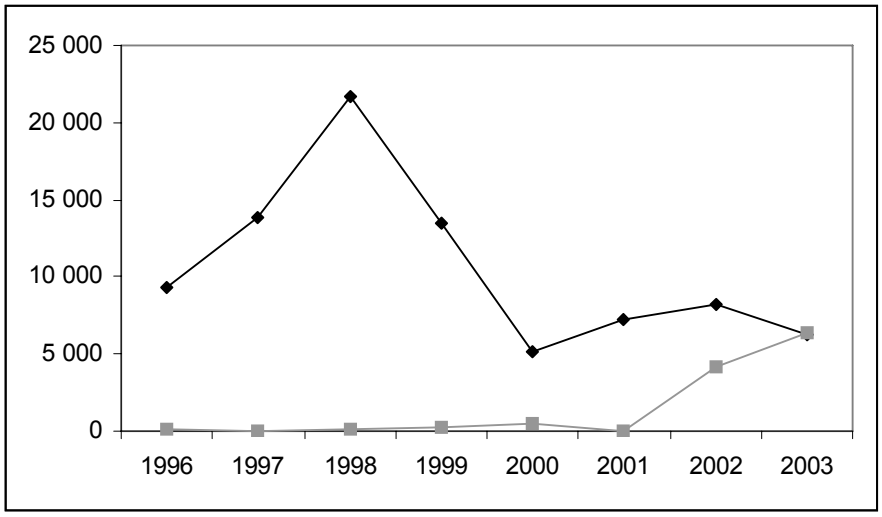
Figure 6
Trends in reported imports of CITES-listed live reptiles by the 15 CEE countries (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database,* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

In 1996, reported imports of CITES-listed live reptiles by the Czech Republic were over 70 times larger than those by Poland. But reported imports by the Czech Republic have decreased over time whilst those by Poland have increased, especially between 2001 and 2003, such that these two countries were reported to import similar amounts in 2003 (**Figure 7**). The three most imported species by the Czech Republic were reported to be the Green (or Common) Iguana *Iguana iguana* (57% of Czech CITES-listed live reptile imports), the Royal Python *Python regius* (12%) and Horsfield's Tortoise *Testudo horsfieldii* (10%). A single species, the Green Iguana, accounted for 44% of Poland's reported imports of CITES-listed live reptiles. Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni* and the Royal Python were the next most imported species to Poland, accounting respectively for 21% and 11% of reported imports into Poland.

Figure 7
Trends in reported imports of CITES-listed live reptiles by the Czech Republic (black line) and Poland (grey line) (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



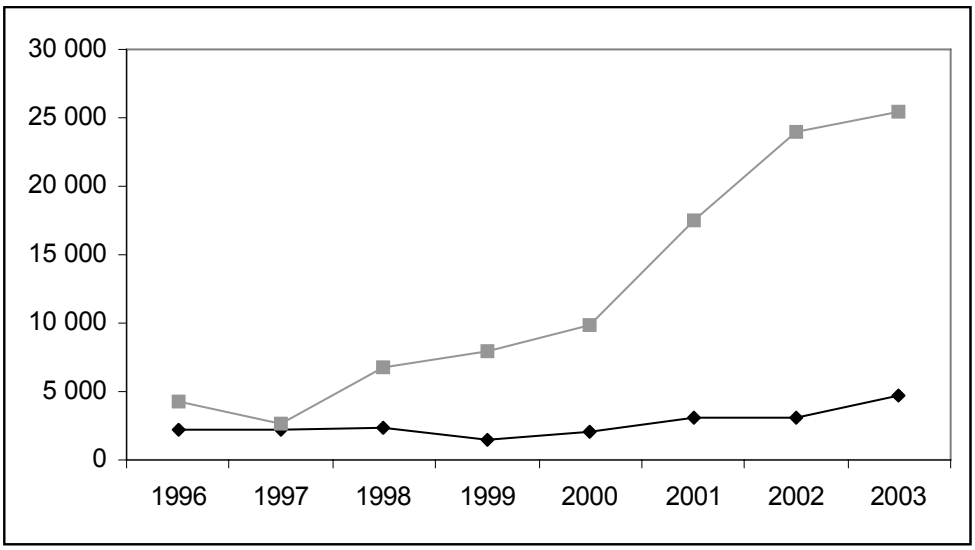
Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Exports and Re-exports

Whereas 88% of global imports in CITES-listed live reptiles between 1996 and 2003 was reported to be destined to the EU15, Japan, USA and the 15 CEE countries, only six percent of global exports (including re-exports) came from these countries. The USA was reported to export five percent of the 13 317 820 CITES-listed live reptiles reported to be exported worldwide during that period and the 15 CEE countries exported under one percent (115 944 CITES-listed live reptiles) of the global total.

Reported exports (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live reptiles from the 15 'old' EU Member States have doubled between 1996 and 2003 whilst reported exports from the 15 CEE countries have increased six-fold from 4215 (1996) to 25 471 (2003). Ninety-five percent of reported exports leaving the 15 CEE countries consisted of direct exports whilst only five percent consisted of re-exports. Of the CITES-listed live reptiles reported to be exported directly from the 15 CEE countries, and for which a source code was reported by the exporting country, 88% were reported to be captive-bred, six per cent were reported to be wild and four per cent were reported to be source F (i.e. animals born in captivity (F1 or subsequent generations) that do not fulfil the definition of 'bred in captivity').

Figure 8
Trends in exports (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live reptiles by the 15 CEE countries (grey line) and the 15 'old' European Union Member States (black line) (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Exports (including re-exports) of CITES-listed live reptiles from the 15 CEE countries have increased five fold between 1996 (around 5000 specimens) and 2003 (around 25 000 specimens) whilst exports from the EU15 remained relatively stable (**Figure 8**).

The Veiled Chameleon *Chamaeleo calyptratus* was reported to be the most exported species from the 15 CEE countries (39 882 CITES-listed live specimens), followed by the Boa Constrictor *Boa constrictor* (16 445), Hermann's Tortoise (16 103) and the Asiatic Rock Python *Python molurus bivittatus* (16 017).

Trade in caviar

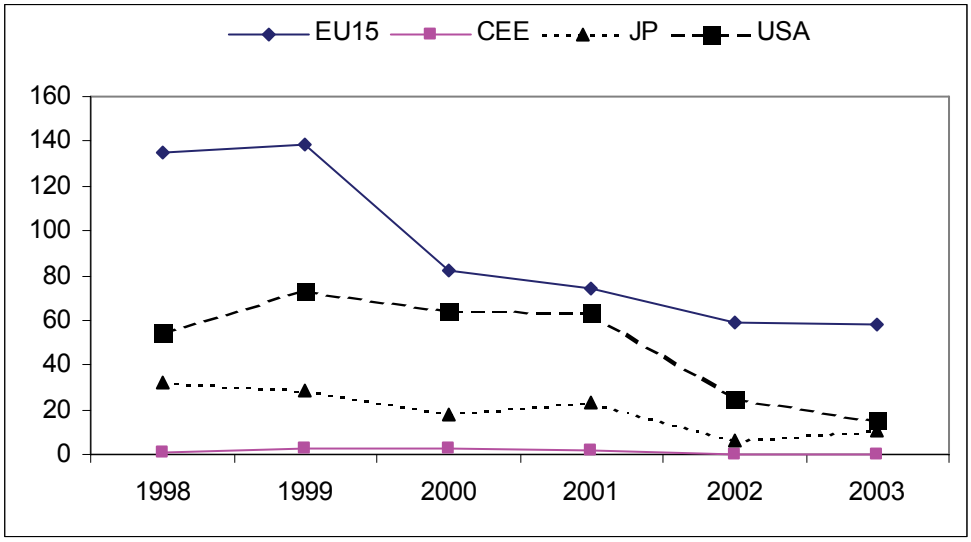
Sturgeon and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes) occur in coastal and inland waters of around 25 countries. They are the source of 'caviar', the unfertilized eggs that are extracted from the ovaries of the female sturgeon. Caviar is one of the most expensive wildlife products with retail prices of up to 6000 EUR per kg in Western Europe and the USA. Since 1998 all 27 species of sturgeon and paddlefish are listed in the Appendices of CITES. Sturgeons of the Caspian Sea produce what is claimed to be the highest quality caviar and the countries bordering the Caspian Sea basin are the source of the majority of the world caviar trade. However, other important sources are the Amur and the Danube river basin, the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov, the Great Lakes of North America and several of the countries which are the subject of this report are range States for sturgeons and produce caviar for international trade, for example Bulgaria and Romania.

Imports

Globally, over 1204 t sturgeon eggs were reported to be imported from 1998 to 2003, of which 46% was imported by the EU15 and 24% by the USA. The 15 CEE countries accounted for less than one per cent of reported imports with 9.6 t sturgeon eggs and Poland (4 t), the Czech Republic (3.3 t) and Turkey (1.2 t) were reported to be the main importers of sturgeon eggs among the 15 CEE countries. The majority of the imports from Poland (98%) and the Czech Republic (94%) originated from the Russian Federation, either directly or via another country, which was almost always the United Arab Emirates. The majority of Turkey's caviar import (69%) was reported to come from Kazakhstan.

Reported imports into the 15 CEE countries have shown the same characteristic decline between 1998 and 2003 as is observed in the EU15, the USA and Japan. For all these importers, reported caviar imports in 2003 have more than halved since 1999 (**Figure 9**).

Figure 9
Trends in reported import of sturgeon and paddlefish eggs by the EU15, the 15 CEE countries (CEE), Japan (JP) and the USA (1998-2003) (in tonnes)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

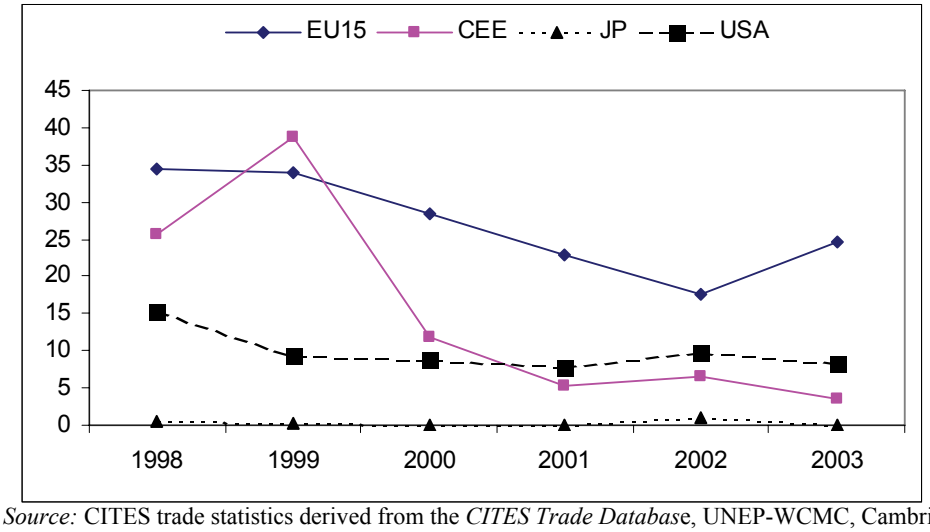
Exports and Re-exports

Of the 1163 t of sturgeon eggs that were reported to be exported (and re-exported) globally, 162 t came from, or passed through the EU15 (14% of global exports and re-exports), making this region the largest caviar trader in the world for the period studied. Since no commercially viable wild population of sturgeon remains in the 25 European Union Member States, most of the caviar leaving the EU originated outside of the EU, apart from caviar produced in aquaculture.

The 15 CEE countries were reported to export 111 t (10% of global exports) of caviar (from all sources), almost double the amount exported by the USA (59 t). Within the 15 CEE countries, the main reported exporters of caviar were Turkey (38 t), Poland (35 t), Romania (23 t) and Bulgaria (12 t) which together account for 98% of the 15 CEE countries' reported caviar exports (including re-exports). However, a large part of this consisted of re-exports from elsewhere, especially from the Russian Federation. In case of Turkey, where 81% of the caviar reported to be (re-)exported actually originated in the Russian Federation, re-exports were destined for the USA (80%), the EU15 (19%) and Japan (1%). Similarly, although Poland was reported to be the second-largest exporter of caviar of the 15 CEE countries, virtually all (9.7%) of its caviar exports consisted of re-exports which originated in the Russian Federation.

Reported exports from the EU15, the 15 CEE countries and the USA have decreased between 1998 and 2003 (**Figure 10**). The decrease in exports from the CEE countries was the largest, with a ten-fold decrease between 1999 and 2003 caused mainly by a drop of reported exports from Turkey (from 20 t in 1999 to 0.2 t in 2003) and from Poland (from 16 t to 0.3 t), but also by a decrease in exports of wild-sourced Danube River caviar from Bulgaria from 2 t (1996) to 1.6 t (2003) and from Romania from 4.6 t (1996) to 2.8 t (2003).

Figure 10
Trends in reported export and re-exports of sturgeon and paddlefish eggs by the EU15, the 15 CEE countries (CEE), Japan (JP) and the USA (1998-2003) (in tonnes)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

The majority of the 1163 t of caviar reported to be exported globally between 1998 and 2003 came from wild sources (88%), whilst 11% was reported to be 'pre-Convention'[6] (and therefore could also be from wild sources). Only 0.5% was reported from captive-bred sources and for 0.01% no source code was provided. CITES trade statistics underestimate the total level of captive-breeding (aquaculture) because much of the caviar produced from aquaculture is sold and consumed within the country of production or in case of the EU, on the EU internal market and hence is not captured in CITES trade records.

Trade in CITES-listed live leeches

The Medicinal Leech has been used for thousands of years in medical treatments for conditions such as cramp veins, vein diseases and arthritis, as well as in reconstructive and plastic surgery (Anon., 2005b).

Imports

Globally, 1 450 449 live Medicinal Leech specimens and 117 206 kg of live Medicinal Leeches were traded. Apart from Lithuania, which was reported to import 6000 live specimens, none of the other CEE countries were reported to import live Medicinal Leeches.

Exports and Re-exports

Turkey is by far the largest exporter of live Medicinal Leeches of the 15 CEE countries, with 11 080 kg reported to be exported or re-exported over the eight-year period. Turkey's exports have been fairly stable, at around 1600 kg per year from 1997 to 2003. No other country reported exporting or re-exporting live leeches except for 650 kg from Serbia and Montenegro and 490 kg from Romania. At the global level, there were a number of important exporters of Medicinal Leeches (**Table 6**). However, Turkey was the largest exporter of wild-sourced[7], live Medicinal Leeches worldwide. Between 1998 and 2005 Turkey has had a CITES export quota of between 5000 and 8000 wild leeches (CITES, 2005).

[6] See Resolution Conf. 5.11 on Definition of the term 'pre-Convention specimen' adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985); (www.cites.org/eng/res/05/05-11.shtml).
[7] Only records with the term 'wild' or with no term were used here, as specimens for which no source is specified are often treated as wild.

Table 6
Largest reported exporters of live Medicinal Leeches and totals exported (1996–2003)

	Quantity	Comment
France	745 675 live specimens	Mostly captive-bred exports
Germany	121 472 live specimens + 11 kg	Mostly re-exports of wild specimens from Turkey
Russian Federation	403 500 live specimens	All captive-bred specimens, either exported or re-exported (origin Ukraine)
UK	124 156 live specimens + 37 kg	Mostly source 'F' exports
Ukraine	161 000 live specimens	All exports of captive-bred or ranched specimens to the USA and France
USA	48 568 live specimens	Mostly re-exports of captive-bred specimens from France

Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

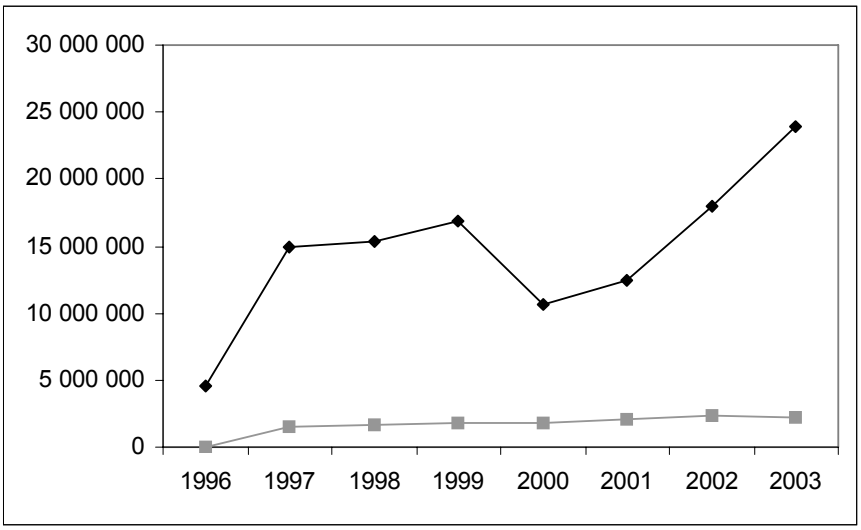
Trade in snowdrops and cyclamen

Cyclamen spp. and *Galanthus* spp. are two commonly traded genera of ornamental plants. There are about 20 species in the genus *Cyclamen,* native to the eastern Mediterranean (Montréal Botanical Gardens, Anon., 2004). *Galanthus* spp. come from Europe and West Asia and have also been introduced to the USA. The genus *Galanthus* spp., which means 'milk-white flowers' in Latin, contains around 75 species and varieties which are all white and are all known as snowdrops (Steinbergs, 2001).

Over 173 million CITES-listed live specimens (including bulbs) of *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp. were reported to be imported globally between 1996 and 2003 (**Table 2**). The EU15 accounted for 84% of reported global imports between 1996 and 2003, the USA for 10% and Japan for 3%. With 41 301 *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. reported to be imported live or as roots, the 15 CEE countries accounted for a mere 0.02% of reported global imports.

Although Turkey has never reported importing any specimen of *Galanthus* spp., exporters have reported exporting 81 200 000 live *Galanthus* spp. and bulbs to Turkey (mainly from Georgia and to a lesser extent Bulgaria). This explains to a large extent why reported global exports (including re-exports) were much higher than reported imports over this period, with over 280 million live *Galanthus* spp. and *Cyclamen* spp. reported to be exported or re-exported but only 174 million reported to be imported globally (**Table 3**). The 15 CEE countries accounted for 56% of reported global exports and re-exports, followed by the EU15 (8%). With over 13.5 million live specimens of *Cyclamen* spp. and 132 million live specimens of *Galanthus* spp. reported to be exported or re-exported, Turkey accounted for 72% of reported global exports and re-exports for *Galanthus* spp. The vast majority of Turkey's exports of *Cyclamen* spp. and *Galanthus* spp. were reported to be wild-sourced and Turkey's reported exports increased between 1996 and 2003 (see **Figure 11**). The main species reported to be exported were *Cyclamen hederifolium* (10 277 050 between 1996 and 2003), which occurs only in Europe, *Galanthus worwonowii* (58 million), *G. elwesii* (over 50 million) and *G. ikariae* (over 21 million).

Figure 11
Trends in reported exports and re-exports of live *Galanthus* spp. (including bulbs) (black line) and live *Cyclamen* spp. (including bulbs) (grey line) from Turkey (1996-2003) (number of specimens)



Source: CITES trade statistics derived from the *CITES Trade Database*, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Trade in medicinal and aromatic plants

There are about 50 000–70 000 medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) in global use (Schippmann *et al.,* in press), about 4 000 of which are to some extent threatened according to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) (Schippmann, 2004). About 300 are listed in the CITES Appendices, but only very few of those have been listed because of their medicinal or aromatic purposes alone. Of the aforementioned species, many are also used for construction material (for their wood) or as ornamentals. Some MAP species that occur in the CEE countries include Spring Adonis *Adonis vernalis* (Appendix II), which is found in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia (UNEP-WCMC, 2005), and which is used in remedies for chronic cardiac problems and as a tranquilizer (Lange, 1998).

Europe as a whole, as well as many individual European countries, is an important actor in the international trade in pharmaceutical plants (Lange, 1998; 2002), as Europe is responsible for one third of annual global imports, and one fifth of annual global exports in this commodity. Europe is clearly divided into source and consumer countries for medicinal species. Bulgaria, Albania, Poland, Turkey and Hungary are the most important source countries (Lange, 2003).

Traditionally, wild harvesting of MAP predominates in the Balkan region (Lange, 1998; 2002). However much has changed over the past 10 years, since the State controlled system of collection and trade lost its overall influence following political changes in the former Warsaw pact/COMECON States (Bernáth, 1996; Lange and Mladenova, 1997; Lange, 1998). In recent years, further changes in MAP trade have been caused by the war and subsequent political changes in the former Yugoslavia. The following information on imports and exports (including re-exports) comes from Lange (2003) unless stated otherwise.

Imports

Between 1991 and 2000, the reported annual global imports of MAP material, based on the Customs data commodity group *pharmaceutical plants* (UNCTAD COMTRADE database), on average amounted to 400 000 tonnes valued at USD1224 million (equivalent to EUR 1014 million) (Lange, 2004). The international trade was dominated by few countries: about 80% of worldwide imports and exports were traded by only twelve countries. In the 1990s, on average only three per cent of the global import volume and two per cent of the value was

destined for East and Southeast Europe[8]. Slovakia was the largest reported importer among the 15 CEE countries (with an annual average of 3160 t of MAP imported between 1991 and 2000), followed by Poland (2090 t) and the Czech Republic (1530 t) (**Table 7**).

Table 7
Average annual figures for the reported import figures of pharmaceutical plants for the 15 CEE countries (1991–2000)

Country	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (USD)
Bulgaria	260	548 500
Croatia	490	1 314 000
Cyprus	0	0
Czech Republic	1 530	5 098 000
Estonia	17	105 500
Hungary	1 200	2 838 000
Latvia	49	186 000
Lithuania	150	485 000
Malta	0	0
Poland	2 090	5 187 500
Romania	45	187 000
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0
Slovakia	3 160	1 633 500
Slovenia	1 000	2 439 000
Turkey	350	644 500
Total CEE	**10 341**	**20 666 500**

Source: Lange, 2003. Figures based on commodity group pharmaceutical plants (SITC.3: 292.4=HS 1211) – Source: UNCTAD COMTRADE database, United Nations Statistics Division, New York.

Exports and Re-exports

In terms of exports (including re-exports), Bulgaria is the ninth largest exporter of pharmaceutical plants at the global level. Poland is the 16th largest exporter or re-exporter, Turkey the 19th and Hungary the 20th amongst the 110 countries reporting imports and exports of pharmaceutical plants (Lange, 2003) (**Table 8**). Between 1991 and 2000, eight per cent of the global MAP export volume was exported from Eastern and South-eastern Europe (Lange, 2003). With regard to the value, the shares were somewhat lower: the value of the East and Southeast European export commodities comprised about 6.5% of the global export value. These figures reveal clearly that none of the East and South-east European countries were primarily consumer countries like Japan or South Korea are, but highlight them as important suppliers of raw material to the world's medicinal and aromatic plants market (Lange, 2003).

[8] Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Russian Fed., Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro.

Table 8
Average annual figures for the reported export and re-export figures of pharmaceutical plants for the 15 CEE countries (1991–2000)

Country	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (USD)
Bulgaria	10 050	14 508 000
Croatia	1 260	3 650 500
Cyprus	0	0
Czech Republic	2 760	2 322 000
Estonia	7	82 500
Hungary	3 890	6 009 500
Latvia	18	65 000
Lithuania	23	142 500
Malta	0	0
Poland	6 330	14 140 000
Romania	1 080	1 873 000
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0
Slovakia	520	1 240 000
Slovenia	380	1 542 500
Turkey	3 970	8 801 500
Total CEE	**30 288**	**54 377 000**

Source: Lange, (2003). Figures based on commodity group pharmaceutical plants (SITC.3: 292.4=HS 1211) – Source: UNCTAD COMTRADE database, United Nations Statistics Division, New York. The figures are for the period 1991–2000.

COUNTRY REVIEWS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND THE EU WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This chapter consists of country profiles that present a short overview of the main administrative and legislative structures and instruments related to wildlife trade management and controls in place in each of the 15 countries which are the subject of this report. This section also contains information about measures that are stricter than the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, for example regarding registration and marking of live specimens of species listed in the EU Annexes. It also explains the structures and responsibilities of the different agencies responsible for the enforcement of wildlife trade controls such as the police, Customs, environmental inspectorate and how they work together and provides an overview of the capacity-building and training efforts undertaken so far and existing needs for each country. Lastly a short analysis of cases of detected illegal trade is given.

BULGARIA

Background

In 2005, the number of inhabitants in the Republic of Bulgaria was estimated to be about 7.5 million. The capital is Sofia and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country has an area of 110 910 km² and it borders Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey (Anon., 2005d).

Bulgaria acceded to CITES on 16 January 1991 and the Convention entered into force on 16 April 1991. Bulgaria is a range State to 160 CITES-listed species including 66 species of plants, 10 mammals and 70 birds (see **Annex A**).

Source: The World Factbook, CIA, 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife trade legislation

The Decree on International Trade Regime of the Republic of Bulgaria No. 233/8 [Official Gazette (OG) No. 93/2000, adoption: November 2000, last consolidation: 20 January 2005, SG No. 9/2005] designates the Ministry of Environment and Water as the competent authority for the control of international trade on wildlife including CITES-listed species.

Chapter four of the *Biodiversity Act* (adoption: 2002, SG No. 77 amendment Nov. 2005, SG No 88) is dedicated to trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna and the provisions of this chapter apply to specimens of any species included in the CITES Appendices. This Act also designates the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. The provisions of the *Biodiversity Act* state that specimens of any species listed in the CITES Appendices can only be imported and exported according to the requirements of the Convention, the *Biodiversity Act*, the *Customs Act* and other special laws. It also regulates the necessary requirements when applying for a CITES permit in order to import or export a specimen. The *Biodiversity Act* incorporates a model permit (Annex 7) and specific references to its use are set down in relation to the import and export of specimens of CITES-listed species. Section III on Customs Supervision and Control specifies the obligation of Customs in handling CITES permits and seized specimens. This Act is the substantive law, defining the specific administrative violations and sanctions.

In 2005 some amendments to the *Biodiversity Act*, such as provisions on marking, exemptions from registration and the decisions of the last CITES Conference of the Parties, were proposed to the National Assembly for adoption and a draft amendment of the *Biodiversity Act* has been submitted and discussed by the Environmental Commission of the Bulgarian Parliament. However, the vote on the amendment by the Parliament was postponed and the draft had to be re-submitted. Finally, the amended act was adopted in November 2005. The amended act introduced the obligation for individual marking of CITES specimens (live specimens, goods, caviar, etc.). More detailed provisions were set up in the amendment for the experts who assist Customs with the identification of the specimens at the border. Moreover, provisions about personal and household effects were included. The scope of the registration regime was restricted; invertebrates, coloured mutations of birds, small leather products and specimens from the species that are regarded as personal and household effects are exempted from registration.

There are other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Bulgaria: *Order of the Minister No. 242* (adoption: 14 March 2003) on the establishment of the rescue centres and *The Hunting and Game Protection Act No. SG 78* (adoption: 2000, last amendment: No. SG 79/2002) which among others prohibits falconry in Bulgaria.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Ministry of Environment and Water is the Management Authority in charge of the implementation of the requirements of CITES. The four staff members at the Management Authority including the head of the department work on different fields. One staff member is responsible for issuing permits for exotic animals, another for plants and there is one person responsible for permit issuance for hunting trophies and fish.

Scientific Authority

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with its specialized institutes, full-time research personnel and associate experts, has been designated as the Scientific Authority. The Scientific Authority is consulted by the Management Authority on a case-by-case basis to make the non-detriment findings. A scientific council for CITES issues has been established by an order to assist the Management Authority with the identification of species. The council can also be contacted by Customs officers 24 hours a day. There is also a list of experts who can be consulted apart from the members of the council. The list has not yet been officially approved by the Ministry of Environment and no focal point has been designated to date to co-ordinate the work of the council. Currently, the scientific council and the experts work on a voluntary basis. Additionally, the expertise within the council regarding plant species is limited according to the Management Authority.

Enforcement Authorities

Regional Environmental Inspectorates
There are 15 regional inspectorates in Bulgaria. The biggest office is in Sofia and covers the International Airport, many border-crossing points, traders and pet shops. The regional environmental inspectorates are responsible for controlling wildlife trade within Bulgaria along with other nature conservation issues. Their tasks include the registration of CITES-listed specimens. The inspectorates are also entitled to carry out checks on keepers, breeders, pet shops and they can also seize specimens but they have less authority than the police. For instance, if they want to ask for the identity card of a breeder, a police officer has to be present. However, they can check captive breeding operations to verify if the specimens are really bred in captivity. According to the inspectorates, more staff are needed to implement the registration requirements fully and to control shops that sell CITES-listed specimens. The staff of the inspectorates have been trained two or three times so far.

Customs
Customs officials are responsible for checks at the border-crossing points. Fifteen mobile Customs groups were established in 2002 with the financial and professional support of the UK. Each of the groups consists of four people: one tax officer, two Customs officers and one advisor from the UK (special police officer). These groups have the right to stop and check cars and lorries inside the country and to make seizures. The current project will probably be finished in 2006 but there are plans to keep the mobile groups by an amendment of the national Customs legislation. Mobile groups provide the connection between the Ministry of Environment, police, regional environmental inspectorate and the veterinary service. However the co-operation with the veterinary service that inspects shipments of live animals before Customs could be improved. The co-operation with the Management Authority and the inspectorate works more smoothly. Customs can phone these authorities at any time for help with identification. The Scientific Authority is rarely contacted directly.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

In Bulgaria, all specimens of any species listed in Appendices I and II of CITES have to be registered with the regional environmental inspectorates. Exempted from this are food products derived from CITES species, species covered by the *Hunting and Game Protection Act* (with the exception of native hunting species such as Wolf and the exception has to be approved by the Ministry of Environment) and due to the latest amendment of the legislation, also invertebrates, coloured mutations of birds (e.g. albinos), small leather products and specimens from the species that are regarded as personal and household effects. The owner of a specimen listed

in Appendix I or II has to submit an application to the regional inspectorate within 15 days of acquisition of the specimen.

This registration aims to improve the controls on export, import and domestic trade in specimens of CITES-listed species. Trade with non-registered specimens is forbidden according to the legislation. However, to date, there are still some problems in the implementation of the registration requirements. A transition period that ended on 1 July, 2005 was allowed for keepers and breeders to comply with the requirement. From that date on, any specimen not registered can theoretically be confiscated. Nevertheless, as there are still large numbers of unregistered specimens, the Management Authority and the regional environmental inspectorates face problems regarding the appropriate disposal of confiscated specimens due to a lack of suitable accommodation at existing rescue centres. There is no central database of registered specimens, keepers, breeders; the information on registered specimens is stored electronically by the regional environmental inspectorates, however, the format of the databases may vary from office to office.

In 2005, the *Biodiversity Act* was amended and now it includes a requirement on the compulsory marking of all live vertebrates listed in Appendices I and II of CITES.

Capacity building and training needs

In 2002 and 2003, within the framework of a Phare Twinning[9] project with Germany, six training courses were organized for officers of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional inspectorates, Customs border control and the border veterinary and phytosanitary control. In 2004 and 2005, staff working at the inspectorates were given training by the Management Authority on Bulgarian CITES legislation and the implementation of CITES in general. In early 2005, the CITES Secretariat in co-operation with the REC (Regional Environmental Centre) Bulgaria organized a training course entitled 'Science in CITES' for the Scientific and Management Authorities.

In 2003, within the framework of an EU Phare project, the Management Authority translated and adapted an identification manual (with colour pictures) for Customs officers that was originally produced by TRAFFIC Europe-Russia. It includes pictures of specimens (live as well as parts and derivatives) of species most frequently appearing in trade in Bulgaria. To date, two editions have been published.

Reported illegal trade

There were relatively few seizures in Bulgaria in the last five years (**Table 9**). In most of the cases tortoises were seized (Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca* – 169 specimens in 2000, Angulated Tortoise *Chersina angulata* – 66 specimens in the same year and Hermann's Tortoise – 13 specimens during the five years examined). In addition, there are concerns by local NGOs regarding illegal trade in caviar but according to the Management Authority, there is no evidence of this.

Table 9
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Bulgaria in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	237	0
2001	50	0
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	5	0

Source: CITES Management Authority of Bulgaria.

[9] *Twinning* is an EU instrument which provides the framework for accession partnerships between administrations of EU member countries and administrations of EU candidate countries. The objective is to help the candidate countries in their development of efficient administrative structures (Institution Building) and in the full transposition, implementation and enforcement of the '*acquis communautaire*'. Moreover, twinning provides opportunities for sharing know-how and experience and for long-term co-operation between EU member countries and candidate countries.

CROATIA

Background

In 2005 the number of inhabitants in the Republic of Croatia was about 4.5 million. The capital is Zagreb and the government type is a parliamentary/presidential democracy. The country covers an area of 56 542 km^2. In total there are 2197 km of land boundaries with the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina 932 km, Hungary 329 km, Serbia and Montenegro (north) 241 km, Serbia and Montenegro (south) 25 km, Slovenia 670 km. The coastline covers 5835 km (mainland 1777 km, islands 4058 km) in the Adriatic Sea (Anon., 2005d).

Croatia acceded to CITES on 14 March 2000 and the Convention entered into force on 12 June 2000. Croatia is a range State to 148 CITES listed species including 60 plants, nine mammals and 67 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The Law on Nature Protection OG 70/2005 (adopted: 08 June 2005, www.min-kulture.hr) which governs the system of protection and integrated conservation of nature and its values can be regarded as primary[10] CITES legislation in Croatia. This Act regulates transboundary movement, keeping, breeding and trade of wild fauna and flora (articles 67-75) that are protected domestically or under international treaties such as CITES. It also sets penalties in cases of violation of CITES provisions. The law regulates many issues related to nature conservation in general and contains only very basic provisions about CITES.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Management Authority of Croatia is the Nature Protection Division, Department of Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation at the Ministry of Culture. Three persons work on CITES issues part-time.

Scientific Authority

There are four designated Scientific Authorities: the Institute of Ornithology, the Natural History Museum, the Veterinary Faculty and the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Zagreb. Of the four, the Institute of Ornithology is the most involved in CITES issues. The Scientific Authorities are consulted both for identification of species and for making non-detriment findings before issuing permits (mostly for import permits as most CITES-listed species native to Croatia are protected and are not allowed in trade). The staff of the Scientific Authority are not paid for their work on CITES issues. A representative of the Institute of Ornithology takes part in the meetings of the inter-sectoral CITES Committee but there are plans to involve the other Scientific Authorities as well.

[10] The expression "primary legislation" is used for legislation that is directly related to the implementation of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Any other type of law or regulation, e.g. the Customs Code, is referred to as "secondary legislation".

Enforcement Authorities

Nature Protection Inspection
The Nature Protection Inspection provides inland control of CITES and can also seize specimens. There are six inspectors working in Croatia, covering all 20 counties. Additionally five inspectors in Zagreb and one lawyer are employed. The focal point participates in the regular meetings of the inter-sectoral CITES committee. Organizationally, the inspection is one of the departments of the Ministry of Culture, Division of Nature Protection where the Management Authority is also located. They co-operate closely with the Management Authority, the veterinary service, the police and Customs and are responsible for administrative violations and minor offences. Croatia also has an environmental inspection which is a distinct organization.

Police
The police have more powers than the inspection; they are responsible for investigating wildlife trade crimes and deal with crime cases covered by the Penal Code. At the police headquarters there is one person who is the focal point for CITES issues within the police and who directs the inspection, Management Authority and Customs to the relevant police officers at the county-level. The focal point participates in the regular meetings of the inter-sectoral CITES committee. The police are also in regular contact with Interpol. The police were involved in the detection of 15 cases of wildlife crime (mostly cases of bird crime) in 2004. The police provide the premises for the annual training on CITES for all CITES enforcement officers.

Customs
Customs are responsible for checks at the border. The Customs focal point participates at the regular meetings of the inter-sectoral CITES committee. Customs have detected several cases of wildlife crime (mostly cases of bird crime).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

At present there is no requirement for the registration of CITES-listed specimens nor of commercial breeding facilities that breed Appendix I species. However, the Management Authority is currently trying to collect data about keepers in Croatia and a meeting is planned with the association of keepers. There are also plans to enact legislation on registration. According to the Management Authority, it is not popular to keep exotic species in Croatia, although birds of prey are commonly kept. No legislation is yet in force on the obligatory marking of specimens of CITES-listed species.

Capacity building and training needs

Since 2003 one-week training courses have been organized twice a year for the Customs, police, and veterinary inspection by the Management Authority. In most cases Danish and Slovenian experts have been invited as lecturers. All nature protection inspectors working on CITES have been trained.

Reported illegal trade

Between 2002 and 2004, the majority of reported seizures consisted of dead non-CITES-listed species of birds[11] destined for the Italian black market (almost 10 000 specimens seized in three years) (**Table 10**). In February 2004, 200 kg of rocks with the Date Mussels *Lithophaga lithophaga* were seized at Gorican although at the time of the seizure Date Mussel was not yet listed in Appendix II of CITES. In November 2004, 73 Hermann's Tortoises were seized by the police from a keeper near Zadar. The animals were later re-introduced into nature. In 2005 the illegal breeding of Hermann's Tortoise was detected. One hundred and twenty and 80 specimens were found at two different places near Zadar.

[11] These bird species are listed on the Annexes of the Birds Directive and they can be hunted in a given country according to its hunting regulations however, they cannot be traded legally. Therefore no legal import is permitted to Italy. Most of these species are imported illegally to Italy and sold as delicacies to expensive restaurants.

The most significant CITES seizure in Croatia took place on 28 November 2004 at Zagreb airport when 50 Emerald Monitors *Varanus prasinus* were seized. A Croatian citizen carried the reptiles in his hand luggage from Indonesia without a CITES permit. Thirteen of the seized specimens died, four were too ill to travel while all the others were taken back to Indonesia in February 2005.

There was a case in 2005 when approximately 500 specimens of tortoises in transit from Serbia and Montenegro were seized. The specimens were sent back to Montenegro where they were released back in the wild.

Table 10
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Croatia in 2002–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2002	100 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	1104 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)
2003	36 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	6400 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)
2004	123 (CITES listed); 5 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	2356 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)

Source: Nature Protection Inspection of Croatia.

CYPRUS

Background

Source: The World Factbook, CIA, 2006.

In 2005, the number of inhabitants in Cyprus was estimated to be fewer than 800 000. The capital is Nicosia and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country has a total area of 9250 km² and the coastline stretches for 648 km. Cyprus shares its borders with Akrotiri (47 km) and Dhekelia, both of which are sovereign base areas of the UK. Only the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot-controlled part of Cyprus joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and EU laws do not apply to north Cyprus (Anon., 2005d).

Cyprus acceded to CITES on 18 October 1974 and the Convention entered into force on 1 July 1975. Cyprus is a range State to 137 CITES listed species including 59 plants, four mammals and 66 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The principal legislation regarding the implementation of CITES in Cyprus is the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife (No. 153(I)/2003)* which appoints the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, and the inspectors. It outlines their responsibilities, as well as setting penalties for violation of this law. In addition, the *Law for the Protection, Health and Welfare of Animals (No. 1994 46(I)/1994)* provides conditions for import and export including housing conditions for transport, and the *Customs Code Law (No. 94(1)/2004)* empowers Customs to seize consignments imported or exported contrary to any prohibitions and restrictions under Customs or other legislation.

There are other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Cyprus, these are for example, the *Law for the Protection and Management of Wild Birds and Game No. 152(I)/2003* (adoption: 3 October 2003, www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy) under which the Minister of Interior is the competent authority for the management of wild birds, game species and the endemic Cyprus Mouflon *Ovis orientalis* in the Republic of Cyprus. Other relevant pieces of legislation are: the *Regulation under the Fisheries Law and Regulations (1990-2004) 135 of 1961* as amended up to 2004; the *Law for the Protection, Health and Welfare of Animals of 1994 No. 46(I)/1994*; the *Customs Code Law No. 94(1)/2004* (adoption: 30 April 2004 www.mof.gov.cy/ce); *Forest Law of 1967* as amended in 1991.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The only Management Authority in Cyprus, appointed under the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife (No. 153(I)/2003)*, which can issue permits or certificates is the Environment Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment). The Game and Fund Service of the Ministry of Interior is not entitled to issue permits but advises the Management Authority on issues involving avifauna and avifauna products (Anon., 2005c).

Scientific Authority

There are three scientific committees that act as CITES Scientific Authorities. They are appointed under the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife (No. 153(I)/2003)* namely:

(a) Scientific committee for aquatic fauna and flora species. Members represent the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (chair), Environment Service and the Department of Veterinary Services.

(b) Scientific committee for terrestrial flora species. Members represent the Department of Forests (chair), Agricultural Research Institute, Department of Agriculture and the Environment Service.

(c) Scientific committee for avifauna species. Members represent the Game Fund (chair), Department of Forests, Environment Service and the Department of Veterinary Services.

All members are permanently employed public servants and they are consulted on a case-by-case basis.

Enforcement Authorities

Customs
Customs and environment officers act as co-ordinators for CITES under the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife*. The implementation of the provisions of the *Customs Code* and the *Customs Community Code* and its implementing provisions fall under the exclusive competence of the Department of Customs and Excise Duty. The same department deals with contraventions and criminal offences connected with transportation, fishing, protection of the environment, movement of goods which infringe intellectual property rights and illegal trade of wild fauna and flora. Enforcement officers are responsible – among other duties – for implementing the provisions of the *Customs Code* (articles 100, 103 and 104) which refer to prohibitions and restrictions. These articles empower Customs officers to apply the provisions of CITES. If a person with an act or omission contravenes prohibitions or restrictions provided by Customs or other legislation, he/she is considered guilty of a criminal offence and can be fined or punished with imprisonment. This code also has provisions on the detention, seizure and confiscation of goods: any goods liable to forfeiture under Customs or other legislation may be seized as liable to forfeiture by the director or authorized officer. It also stipulates that food may be detained or seized as liable to forfeiture in case of importation or exportation contrary to any prohibition or restriction under Customs or other legislation. In other words, only the Department of Customs and Excise has the authority to confiscate CITES species. Customs officers work in close co-operation with the officers of the environmental service for CITES implementation.

Police
There are no specialized units within the police dealing with environmental crime and the police do not normally inspect or accompany the environment or Customs officers on checks. Cyprus does not attend the meetings of the Interpol Working Group on Wildlife Crime (Anon., 2005c).

Environmental Inspectorate
According to the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife*, Cyprus is in the process of appointing inspectorates, which among others, will be responsible for monitoring, inspection, control and enforcement of this law. Each inspector will have the authority to practice the right of control, examination, investigation and others accompanied by a police officer. However, environmental inspectors will not be entitled to seize or confiscate goods (Anon., 2005c).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

According to the *Law on the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife* the commercial captive breeding facilities, breeders and keepers of Appendix I species need to be registered as well as all Appendix I specimens bred in captivity for commercial purposes (Anon., 2005c). The registration is carried out by the Environment Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. There are no specific legal provisions in Cyprus for the marking of specimens listed in the EU Annexes and therefore Cyprus does not yet implement the relevant Commission Regulation regarding marking of live Annex A vertebrates and certain live and dead specimens, as well as parts (skins, trophies, caviar) although there are plans to implement these articles soon (Anon., 2005c).

Capacity building and training needs

There have not been any training courses focusing on CITES issues in Cyprus so far, however there was an informal experience exchange between the CITES Management Authorities of Italy and Cyprus in 2004.

Reported illegal trade

There have been only three reported seizures of CITES specimens in Cyprus since the country's accession to CITES entered into force in 1975. Two of them involved large quantities of ivory carvings in 1996 and in 1997. In 2001, 201 specimens of stuffed Cobra *Naja* spp. were seized (**Table 11**).

Table 11
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Cyprus in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	0	0
2001	0	201
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	0	0

Source: CITES Management Authority of Cyprus.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Background

The Czech Republic has a total area of 78 866 km^2, and an estimated population of 10.2 million. The capital is Prague and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The Czech Republic is landlocked and shares its borders with Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia (Anon., 2005d).

Source: The World Factbook, CIA, 2006.

The former Czechoslovakia became a contracting party to CITES on 28 May 1992. The Czech Republic as a successor State became a contracting party on the first day of its independent existence on 1 January 1993 (by the Declaration of succession of 14 April 1993). The Czech Republic is a range State to 146 CITES listed species including 66 plants, five mammals and 70 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The framework legislation for the implementation of CITES in the Czech Republic is *Act. No. 100/2004 Coll. on the Protection of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by regulating trade therein and on further measures for protection of these species and on amendment of several acts* (*Act on Trade in Endangered Species*) (adoption: 5 March 2004, entry into force: 1 May 2004, www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/). This Act implements, among others, *Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97* and further regulations of the European Union issued on the basis thereof. The Act also provides for some further measures that go beyond the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations such as the registration of certain specimens (see below).

Decree No 227/2004 for the implementation of certain provisions of the Act No. 100/2004 (adoption: 19 April 2004, entry into force: 1 May 2004 www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/) regulates the application forms, CITES documents and forms and details of the registration of specimens.

Other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in the Czech Republic are the *Act of the Czech National Council on Protection of Nature and the Landscape No. 114/1992* (adoption: 19 February 1992, entry into force: 1 June 1992, www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/ in Czech) which deals with the proof of the legal origin of all CITES specimens; *Decree of the Ministry of the Environment No. 395/1992 implementing some of the provisions of the Czech National Council Act No. 114/1992* (adoption: 11 June 1992, entry into force: 13 August 1992 www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/); *Act No. 140/1961 Coll.* and the *Criminal Code as amended by the Act No. 134/2002* (adoption: 15 March 2002, entry into force: 01 July 2002 www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/) that introduces a new criminal offence concerning protected wild fauna and flora, including CITES specimens.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Department for the International Conservation of Biodiversity within the Ministry of the Environment is the designated CITES Management Authority and is responsible for the issuance of import and export permits for specimens listed in the EU Annexes. In addition to the CITES Management Authority there are 42 regional offices (14 State regional authorities, 24 administrations of the protected landscape areas and four administrations of national parks) that are authorized to issue EC certificates for intra-community trade in specimens of species listed in Annex A. There is not yet a central database that compiles the information on issued EC Certificates, but the Ministry receives copies of certificates from most offices. The State phytosanitary administration of the Czech Republic, Division of Quarantine and the 72 district departments of the State phytosanitary administration are competent to grant export permits in the form of phytosanitary

certificates for plants that are artificially propagated and listed in Annexes B and C and for artificially propagated hybrids produced from plant species listed in Annex A which are not annotated.

Scientific Authority

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection – a technical body of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic – is the CITES Scientific Authority, designated under the *Act on Trade in Endangered Species*. The Scientific Authority is formed by the CITES Steering Group that consists of seven people, all full-time employees of the agency, however they do not deal with CITES issues exclusively. The Scientific Authority also includes some external experts from different institutions with expertise in, for example, ornithology, cacti and exotic birds. The Scientific and Management Authority co-operate very closely. Official CITES meetings are held monthly and every week the applications for CITES permits are checked by the Scientific Authority. The Scientific Authority participates at the meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as in the Scientific Review Group (SRG) of the EU. Statements on SRG documents are prepared in co-operation with the Management Authority and the control and enforcement bodies such as the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and general directorate of Customs.

Enforcement Authorities

Customs
The duties of the Customs administration include consignment documentation and checks of veterinary and phytosanitary certificates. Customs closely co-operate with the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI) and there is an agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and Customs to avoid duplication of tasks. For instance, if Customs discover an infringement against CITES, they will hand over the case to the CEI. Sometimes the case stays with Customs because they have more power to investigate. Following the EU accession special mobile Customs teams have been established with powers to inspect internal trade including the trade in CITES specimens.

Police
Since the amendment of the *Criminal Code* in 2002, serious infringements of the CITES provisions can be treated as criminal offences. The environmental inspectorate has started to co-operate with the police that has the power to investigate criminal offences. It co-operates with the police presidium as well on the methodology of CITES-related issues. However, as the Management Authority reported, the police and courts are overburdened with other criminal cases and the investigation of offences against nature protection is not considered as a priority.

Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI)
The Czech Environmental Inspectorate is an independent body established in 1991, under the Ministry of Environment. Its headquarters are in Prague. There are 10 regional inspectorates and one office at Prague Airport. A special unit for wildlife protection and CITES, established within the CEI, operates the office at Prague Airport and serves as a methodological and information centre on CITES-related matters for other inspectorates. Among its five departments, the Department for Nature Protection is responsible for species protection and thus for CITES. This means that the CEI is not only responsible for checking species listed under CITES but also native, strictly protected species. Each CEI office has one or two microchip readers. The staff consist of approximately 16 full-time and six part-time inspectors for CITES. Within the Inspectorate, a special section on species conservation and CITES (CITES Section) was established in January 2004 with four full-time inspectors who also provide regular training courses for other wildlife inspectors within the CEI. In 2004, several seminars were organized for CEI inspectors. Competencies of the CEI related to CITES are: checking import, export, breeding, selling; imposing penalties on a private individual up to CZK 200 000 (EUR 6200), on legal entities up to CZK 1 500 000 (EUR 46 500); confiscation of specimens; supervision of administrative bodies, Customs and police. The inspectors cannot enter private homes, only businesses, and they cannot wear weapons but close co-operation with Customs and police help CEI to overcome this challenge. As the CEI explained in interviews, the inspection of shipments by the CEI is carried out only after veterinary controls which may provide a possibility for manipulation. CEI added that if a case goes to court, inspectors must testify

to the court as private persons and their private identification is fully disclosed to criminals without any protection from the State.

Veterinary administration authorities
The veterinary administration authorities, in collaboration with the Customs offices, check transport conditions and assist with the handling of specimens during seizure and confiscation.

Phytosanitary authorities
Phytosanitary authorities, in collaboration with the Customs offices, assist with handling of specimens during seizure and confiscation and check transport conditions.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Registration

Act No. 100/2004 provides for obligatory registration of all live specimens of mammals, bird or reptile species listed in Annex A (with the exception of a few commonly kept species[12]) and a limited number of selected mammal, bird and reptile species listed in Annex B[13] of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. The registration requirement does not apply to amphibians and lower taxa of animals, nor plants and dead specimens. The registration is carried out by the 14 State regional authorities, the four administrations of national parks and the 24 protected landscape areas. The exemptions for keeping strictly protected species are individually considered by the Department for Particularly Protected Nature. Temporary imports (up to three months) do not need to be registered. The system of registration has changed after EU Accession. The former registration, which was established in 1997 by the former *Act No. 16/1997,* covered a much broader spectrum of CITES specimens but has been scaled down since 2004 mainly because of the great administrative burden involved.

Currently there is no central inventory of registered breeders and traders. The registers are kept only locally and usually on paper. A new computerized system for this purpose is being developed by the ministry. The system will contain import and export permits, lists of registered breeders and specimens, and it is planned that all national CITES authorities will be connected to the system.

Applications for the registration of commercial breeders or nurseries of Appendix I species are forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and, once approved, to the CITES Secretariat. Until 2005, three commercial nurseries for Appendix I cacti had been registered by the CITES Secretariat.

Marking

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 and *Decree No. 227/2004* set the basic requirements for marking (see also **Table 12**). The specimens under the registration requirement also need to be marked. On the advice of the CITES Scientific Authority, the Ministry of the Environment provides guidance on the methodology of marking and recommends marking methods for specific species. However, a comprehensive methodology is still under development and revision.

---

[12] Crested Porcupine *Hystrix cristata; Chinchilla* spp.; Laysan Duck *Anas laysanensis;* Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis;* Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis*; Red Siskin *Carduelis cucullata;* Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii;* Bobwhite Quail *Colinus virginianus;* Common Pigeon *Columba livia;* White Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon;* Tibetan Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon harmani;* Brown Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon mantchuricum;* Yellow-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus auriceps;* New Zealand Parakeet *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae;* Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus;* Edwards's Pheasant *Lophura edwardsi;* Swinhoe's Pheasant *Lophura swinhoii;* Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca;* White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala;* Napoleon's Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron emphanum;* Hooded Parrot *Psephotus dissimilis;* Ostrich *Struthio camelus;* Chinese Barred-backed Pheasant *Syrmaticus ellioti;* Hume's Bar-tailed Pheasant *Syrmaticus humiae;* Mikado Pheasant *Syrmaticus mikado;* Cabot's Tragopan *Tragopan caboti;* Duméril's Boa *Acrantophis dumerili;* Common Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon;* Lacertidae spp.; Round Island Day Gecko *Phelsuma guentheri;* Indian Python *Python molurus molurus.*

[13] Elephantidae spp.; Felidae spp.; Primates spp.; *Amazona* spp.; *Ara* spp.; Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum; Calyptorhynchus* spp.; Hawk-headed Parrot *Deroptyus accipitrinus;* Blue-bellied Parrot *Triclaria malachitacea;* Grey Parrot*;* Girdled Lizard *Cordylus* spp.*;* Crocodylia spp.; *Dracaena* spp.; Coast Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma coronatum; Pseudocordylus* spp.; Testudinidae spp.; *Tupinambis* spp.; *Uromastyx* spp.; *Varanus* spp.

Marking, however, is not compulsory if a veterinarian gives a certificate that the animal cannot be marked because of welfare reasons. According to the legislation, in dubious cases the Ministry can obtain a second opinion and if it is different, the Ministry can decide whether the specimen will be marked or not. This exemption is relatively open to abuse and is often used to avoid the marking of a specimen as noted by the Management Authority.

Table 12
Marking of CITES-listed species in the Czech Republic

Taxa	Marking technique	Legislation or requirements
Mammals (Annex A and B with exceptions)	transponder, pictures of non-interchangeable signs (photographic identification)	Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 and Decree No. 227/2004
Birds (Annex A and B with exceptions)	closed ring	Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 and Decree No. 227/2004
Birds (Annex A and B with exceptions)	open ring	Decree No. 227/2004
Birds (Annex A and B with exceptions)	transponder	Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 and Decree No. 227/2004
Birds (Annex A and B with exceptions)	pictures of leg skin scutellums	Applies primarily to Falconiformes protected by Act No. 114/1992.
Reptiles (Annex A and B with exceptions)	transponder, pictures of lineation, pictures of non-interchangeable signs (photographic identification)	Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006and Decree No. 227/2004
Derivatives (Annex A and B with exceptions)	tagging system, documentation	Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006

Source: Management Authority of the Czech Republic.

Capacity building and training needs

Since 1998 there have been regular training courses for enforcement officers in the Czech Republic. For instance, the Czech authorities participated in a number of international training courses with relevance to wildlife trade issues that were organized by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (TAIEX). Later on, training courses were mostly organized for inspectors of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate but also for the State veterinary service and other officers of the regional State administration that are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention. These training courses focused on special taxa, such as sturgeons and caviar, reptiles, traditional Asian medicines and falconry. Training courses to prepare the authorities for EU Accession were also organized. For instance in April 2004 in the framework of a Phare project, the CITES officers at the regional authorities, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and Customs officers were trained by German experts on three occasions. Apart from training courses organized by the Ministry of the Environment, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate has also been involved in organizing training courses. They organized several training courses in 2004 for their inspectors, police and Customs officers focusing on EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and other specific issues such as CITES succulents and furs. These training courses for the inspectors continued in 2005 and concentrated on the identification of hunting trophies and traditional Asian medicines. CITES is also included in the curriculum of Customs officers. Additionally there are special training seminars on the Convention.

Reported illegal trade

According to available information, between 2000 and 2004 the Czech Republic has seized considerable quantities of live plants and seeds (**Table 13**). These were mostly cacti, orchids and Snowdrops *Galanthus nivalis* (e.g. 12 600 Snowdrops seized in 2000 in just one shipment). In addition, several live parrots were

seized, among them some Appendix I-listed species such as Moluccan Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis* and Cuban Amazon *Amazona leucocephala*. The significant number of confiscated birds of prey is also of interest. There are many falconers in the Czech Republic that breed European species in captivity. The seizures of these birds indicate that wild birds could also have been introduced into existing breeding stocks. In addition live reptiles, such as tortoises, are frequently confiscated. Tourist souvenirs also occur repeatedly among confiscated specimens.

Since March 2004, Czech Customs Officials have uncovered more than 20 cases of attempts to smuggle wild fauna and flora. These included about 190 reptiles, 32 birds, 10 plants, 34 souvenirs and 29 kg of foodstuffs of CITES specimens. The majority of the cases were discovered by checking personal baggage at Prague International Airport. Mail consignments are also commonly used to try to smuggle CITES protected specimens, especially skins and skulls of reptiles, dried butterflies and live plants like cacti. CITES enforcement officials of the Czech Republic conducted more than 800 CITES-related controls in 2004. Altogether, 38 legal and 48 private persons were fined for breaking the law. The total fines imposed were worth more than CZK 750 000 (EUR 23 000). In early 2004, one person was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for two illegal imports of live reptiles originating from Indonesia and Madagascar – the first prison sentence since the *Criminal Code* was amended in 2002.

Table 13
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in the Czech Republic in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	31 653	1.588
2001	1 412	54 + 8.6 kg caviar
2002	2 127	606 + 0.3 kg caviar
2003	104*	n. a.
2004	181*	n. a.

Source: CITES Management Authority of the Czech Republic; * - incomplete data, n.a. – not available

ESTONIA

Background

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

The number of inhabitants in the Republic of Estonia was estimated to be almost 1.4 million in 2005. The capital is Tallinn and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 45 226 km², including 1520 islands in the Baltic Sea. Estonia shares borders with Latvia and the Russian Federation, with a total terrestrial border length of 633 km (Anon., 2005d).

Estonia acceded to CITES on 22 July 1992 and the Convention entered into force on 20 October 1992. Estonia is a range State to 97 CITES-listed species including 35 plants, six mammals and 55 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Estonia: *The Nature Conservation Law* (entry into force: 10 May 2004, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=893104) defines protected species (protected objects) including the species listed in Annexes A, B, C or D of the *EC Reg. No 338/97*. This law also designates the Ministry of Environment as the Management Authority and gives facultative delegation to the Minister of the Environment to enact – if necessary – measures stricter than those under *EC Reg. No. 338/97*.

The other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Estonia are *The Regulation of the Government No. 213 on Designated Custom Offices for Import and Export of Specimens of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora* (adopted: 10 June 2004, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/ert.jsp), *The Code of Misdemeanour Procedure* (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=782829 in English: www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?m=022), *The Customs Act* (entry into force: 01 May 2004, https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=740392), *The Animal Protection Act* (entry into force: 01 June 2001) and *The Penal Code*.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Nature Conservation Department of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment is designated as the CITES Management Authority. One staff is employed at the Management Authority that works on CITES-related issues half of the time.

Scientific Authority

The Regulation of the Minister of the Environment on the Designation of the Scientific Authority establishes the Estonian Scientific Committee of CITES as its Scientific Authority. It consists of five independent members with different taxonomic expertise. The members of the committee are contacted on a case-by-case basis depending on their expertise. The head of the committee is contacted most frequently and has a contract with the Ministry that allows him to contract other experts if needed. In cases when the unbiased decision of the head of the committee could be questionable, the committee gathers to come to a common decision. The head of the committee participates in the EU Scientific Review Group meetings. The Scientific Authority is mostly consulted for specimen identification and to a lesser extent to make non-detriment findings.

Enforcement Authorities

The Environmental Inspectorate
The environmental inspectorate consists of a central office, seven regional offices and 15 country-level offices. There is one person in each office who is responsible for CITES issues, among others. The environmental inspectorate has the right and the obligation to monitor adherence to the requirements in the fields of environmental protection and use (including EU Regulations) and to suspend or terminate activities, which are contrary to the specified requirements. Furthermore, officers of the environmental inspectorate may, pursuant to the procedure established by law, seize illegally procured natural products (confiscation is possible after a Court decision) and, in cases specified by international agreements, return such natural products to their State of export. According to the *Code of Misdemeanour Procedure* representatives of the environmental inspectorate are entitled to act as pre-trial investigation authorities, but not in matters concerning violation of the Customs rules.

Customs
Customs are authorized to seize and confiscate goods, including the means of transport, if carried unlawfully across the borders. The rights and obligations derive from the *Customs Act*. The Customs authorities are pre-trial investigation authorities in matters concerning the violation of the Customs rules.

Police
The police in Estonia are not actively involved in CITES enforcement but according to the Management Authority, more involvement has not been required to date. A memorandum of understanding for institutional co-operation related to environmental surveillance has been signed between the environmental inspectorate and the police.

Veterinary and Food Board
The board collaborates with Customs, assisting in the identification and handling of specimens and checking of transports (Anon., 2005c).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

A new regulation of the Ministry of Environment on stricter measures regarding keeping, registration, and marking of specimens of species covered by *EC Regulation No. 338/97* was adopted in spring 2006. The regulation requires the registration and marking of all mammals, birds and reptiles that are listed in Annex A. The registration of operations that breed CITES-listed species for commercial purposes will be regulated in a separate piece of legislation in the future. Marking is the responsibility of the specimens' owner although expenses are borne by the ministry. Whilst all "new" specimens, i.e. specimens that have been obtained after the new regulation entered into force, have to be marked, "old" (obtained before the regulation) ones only need to be marked if they are sold or exported. It is the responsibility of the seller/exporter to provide documents that prove the legal origin of the specimens.

Capacity building and training needs

Until 2002, Estonia did not organize special training courses on enforcement of wildlife laws, but in the framework of courses for Customs students at the Estonian National Defence Academy, there have been lectures about this subject given by the Management Authority or Customs officers. A number of training courses on CITES were organized in 2001 and in 2002 within the framework of a project entitled 'Implementation of CITES and related EU legislation' that ran from 2000 to 2002 and was funded by the Danish Co-operation for Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE). In 2004, UK experts were invited to give training courses to Customs officers and to environmental inspectors on EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Training courses for Customs officers on CITES issues were planned for autumn 2005. The Management Authority has applied for funds for a training course with experts from the Netherlands in the framework of the Matra-flex project (co-financed by the Netherlands and the Ministry of Environment, Estonia). Regular training courses for Customs officers are also organized by the Customs Board, where one of the subjects is CITES. At least once a year the

environmental inspectorate arranges an information day for regional inspectors that also covers issues related to CITES.

Reported illegal trade

Although the legal trade, the number of permits issued and the number of seizures is quite low in Estonia, there has been an increase in the number of reported seizures since 2000, especially in recent years (**Table 14**). In the last years mostly products made from reptile skin were seized as well as some corals and shells. No seizure of live plants or animals was reported between 2000 and 2004.

According to the Management Authority, exotic pets (e.g. parrots imported from Germany) are more and more popular in Estonia. Tortoises are also becoming popular and are sometimes sold, possibly illegally, in pet shops. In 2003, caviar was confiscated in Estonia in transit from Russia to the UK. According to the Estonian Management Authority illegal caviar can be found on the market but legal caviar is also present.

Table 14
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Estonia in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	0	1
2001	0	0
2002	0	2
2003	0	2 and 342 g caviar
2004	0	22 and 53 jars of sturgeon meat

Source: CITES Management Authority of Estonia.

HUNGARY

Background

In 2005, the estimated population of the Republic of Hungary was more than 10 million. The capital is Budapest and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 93 030 km² and shares borders with Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Ukraine, with a total border length of 2000 km (Anon., 2005d).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

Hungary acceded to CITES on 29 May 1985 and the Convention entered into force on 27 August of the same year. Hungary is a range State to 142 CITES listed species including 62 plants, six mammals and 67 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The Law No. 2003/32 on CITES (adoption: 2 June 2003, c) re-promulgates the Convention in Hungary. The *Government Decree No. 271/2002 on the implementation and enforcement of CITES* (adoption: 20 December 2002, www.ktm.hu/cimg/documents/271_2002.__XII._20.__Korm._rendelet_2.doc) lays down the provisions concerning implementation of CITES, gives jurisdiction for seizure and confiscation, and *inter alia* provides for sanctions.

Government Decree No. 283/2004 amending Government Decree No. 271/2002. (adoption: 20 October 2004, www.ktm.hu/) designated the national park directorates as the regional Management Authorities responsible for internal controls and inspections, for keeping the register of CITES specimens and for issuing special domestic documents such as breeding certificates and certificates of origin (previously these were part of the duties of the Management Authority at the Ministry). This decree designates the Office for Nature Conservation as the CITES Scientific Authority. The regulation also lists the Customs offices designated to carry out the checks and formalities for the introduction and (re-)export of specimens of CITES-listed species. It also requires DNA tests for birds of prey listed in Annex A (except for Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*) as a proof that the offspring had been bred in captivity. Moreover, it provides sanctions against offenders breaching the rules as well as provisions for seizures and confiscations.

According to *Government Decree No. 340/2004 amending Government Decree No. 271/2002.* (entry into force: 1 January 2005) the Environmental, Conservation and Water Management Inspectorates (instead of the national park directorates) are designated as the regional Management Authorities (with responsibilities specified in *Government Decree No. 283/2004*).

Other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Hungary are *Act No. 53 on Nature Conservation* (adopted in 1996); *Decree of the Minister of Environment No. 13/2001 (KöM) on the Protected and Strictly Protected Plant and Animal Species, Strictly Protected Caves as well as on the Plant and Animals Species of Community Importance (9 May 2001)* and *Government Decree No. 8/1998 (I.23.) about the Detailed Rules on Protection, Keeping, Display and Utilisation of Protected Species*.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Ministry of Environment and Water, Department of International Nature Conservation Treaties is the designated CITES Management Authority and issues CITES permits and certificates. The Environmental, Conservation and Water Management Inspectorates are the regional Management Authorities responsible for

internal controls, inspections, keeping the register of CITES specimens and for issuing special domestic documents such as breeding certificates and certificates of origin.

Scientific Authority

In 2004, the Ministry of Environment and Water, Office for Nature Conservation was appointed as the new Scientific Authority by *Government Decree No. 283/2004*. One staff member has been employed part-time to act as the co-ordinator for the Scientific Authority. The Scientific Authority consists of experts consulted on a case-by-case basis who have expertise in botany, ecology, forestry, zoology, etc. CITES species native to Hungary are all classified as either *strictly protected* or *protected* in Hungary (except for Snowdrops, Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus* and Medicinal Leech) and as such, are not allowed to be exported (except for special purposes). Thus, the Management Authority usually requests the opinion of the Scientific Authority in case of imports (and not exports) and when determining or approving housing facilities for live specimens before import.

Enforcement Authorities

Environmental, Conservation and Water Management Inspectorates
These enforcement bodies were established in January 2005. There are 12 regional inspectorates and one staff member is employed part time (25%) for dealing with – amongst others –CITES issues. They can check breeders and shops and seize those species which are protected by both CITES and national legislation. They carry out the registration of breeders, keepers and specimens and issue internal certificates (certificate of origin and breeding certificate). The inspectors get regular training courses from the Management Authority every year. There is close consultation between the inspectors and the Management Authority especially concerning registration of – a relatively new task for the inspectors that used to be carried out by the Management Authority – and checks on breeders and keepers.

Customs
A memorandum of understanding was signed in 1996 on co-operation between the Customs and the Ministry of Environment (CITES Management Authority) which was renewed in 2002. Customs officers can seize at the borders. Following a seizure they can initiate a criminal procedure. They usually consult the Management Authority for help with species identification. There is a person at the Customs headquarters who has been designated to co-ordinate (among others) CITES-related activities. The co-operation with the Management Authority is good and regular training courses are organized.

Police
A memorandum of understanding was signed in 1995 between the police and the Ministry of Environment on their co-operation; however co-operation takes place only on a case-by-case basis. The renewal of this agreement is in process. Moreover, a special unit for environmental crime was established in July 2005 within the National Office of Investigations, Division of Economic Protection, Department against Wildlife Crime and Corruption. This unit, that currently employs about four staff members, will focus on all types of environmental crime including CITES-related crime. The Unit has established contacts within the Management Authority. One staff member at each of the 20 county level police headquarters has been employed to co-ordinate work on environmental crime at the local level. In June 2006 all these people were trained by the CITES MA and by foreign trainers.

Nature Protection Guards (rangers) of the National Parks
In Hungary, rangers have special powers and are entitled and obliged to take action in case of petty offences or crime concerning species protected by the *Nature Conservation Act* or international conventions. In such cases rangers have the power to stop persons or vehicles, to carry out identity checks, to retain illegally acquired natural values and tools, to initiate prosecution, to penalize by on-the-spot-fines and even to detain a person in case of wildlife crime. They can seize and are responsible for the safe placement of seized (non-live) specimens until the court decision.

Government Veterinary Service
The service has not been involved in the implementation of the Convention so far (Anon., 2005c). To increase their involvement in CITES implementation, regional training courses were organized from January 2006 (see details under capacity building and training needs).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Registration

According to the national CITES regulation (*Government Decree No. 271/2002*) registration is required for all Annex A vertebrate specimens and specimens of mammal, bird and tortoise species listed in Annex B (with some exceptions)[14] within 30 days and requires compulsory individual marking of the registered specimens. The Environmental, Conservation and Water Management Inspectorates issue breeding certificates for animals that were born at a Hungarian breeder and certificates of origin for specimens coming from abroad (or an EC certificate for Annex A species). Since not only the breeding, but also the acquisition and selling of such specimens has to be declared, the owner and location of all specimens are known and each registered specimen possesses an (internal or EU) document. The Management Authority co-ordinates the registration carried out by the inspectorates. A new computerized central database has been developed that is expected to be fully operational in spring 2006. The server that stores the data about the keepers, breeders, specimens and their marks will be located at the CITES Management Authority, the Ministry of Environment and Water and the inspectorates, as regional authorities responsible for registration, will provide the data to the system.

Marking

In Hungary *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006* sets down the detailed rules for the marking of specimens of species listed in Annex A. Besides this, *Government Decree No. 271/2002* (as amended by *Government Decrees No. 283/2004* and *No. 340/2004*) requires that live specimens of vertebrate species listed in Annex A as well as mammals, birds and tortoises listed in Annex B (with the exceptions listed in footnote under registration) have to be registered as well as marked with seamless closed rings and/or microchip transponders (other methods can also be permitted if they are in line with EC Regulations). In the regulation, the numbering appearing on the rings is also regulated. Concerning tortoise species, the use of photo-documentation is permitted (instead of placing microchip transponders) until the specimens reach a plastron length of 10 cm.

[14] Baikal Teal *Anas formosa;* Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba;* Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melanocorypha;* Black-billed Wood-Duck *Dendrocygna arborea;* Comb Duck; Knob-billed Goose *Sarkidiornis melanotos;* Chestnut-breasted Tree-Partridge *Arborophila charltoni;* Bar-backed Partridge *Arborophila orientalis;* Argus Pheasant *Argusianus argus;* Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonnerati;* Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus;* Bulwer's Pheasant *Lophura bulweri;* Diard's Fireback *Lophura diardi;* Crestless Fireback *Lophura erythrophthalma; Lophura haitiensis;* Crested Fireback *Lophura ignite;* Salvadori's Pheasant *Lophura inornata;* Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos;* Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus;* Common Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum;* Germain's Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron germaini;* Crested Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron malacense;* Bornean Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri;* Grey-headed Lovebird *Agapornis canus;* Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri;* Black-masked Lovebird *Agapornis personatus;* Peach-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis;* Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis;* Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus; Aratinga* spp.; Barnard's Parakeet *Barnardius barnardi barnardi; Barnardius barnardi macgillivrayi; Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus; Barnardius zonarius zonarius;* Barred Parakeet *Bolborhynchus lineola;* Golden-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris chrysopterus;* Canary-winged Parakeet *Brotogeris versicolurus;* Burrowing Parakeet *Cyanoliseus patagonus;* Yellow-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps;* Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus; Forpus* spp.; Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolour; Myopsitta monachus;* Black-headed Conure *Nandayus nenday;* Blue-winged Grass-Parakeet *Neophema chrysostoma;* Elegant Grass-Parakeet *Neophema elegans;* Rock Parrot *Neophema petrophila;* Turquoise Grass-Parakeet *Neophema pulchella;* Scarlet-chested Parrot *Neophema splendida;* Bourke's Parrot *Neopsephotus bourkii; Pionites* spp.; *Pionus* spp.; Adelaide Parakeet *Platycercus adelaidae;* Mealy Rosella *Platycercus adscitus;* Green Rosella *Platycercus caledonicus;* Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans;* Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*; Yellow Rosella *Platycercus flaveolus;* Stanley Parakeet *Platycercus icterotis;* Northern Rosella *Platycercus venustus;* Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus;* Alexandra's Parrot *Polytelis alexandrae;* Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus;* Barraband Parakeet *Polytelis swainsonii; Psephotus haematogaster;* Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus;* Many-coloured Parakeet *Psephotus varius;* Moustached Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri;* Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala;* Derbyan Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana;* Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria;* Pileated Parakeet *Purpureicephalus spurious; Pyrrhura* spp.; Green-naped Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus;* Yellow-faced Siskin *Carduelis yarrellii;* Hwamei *Garrulax canorus;* Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa;* Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris;* Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea; Padda orizyvora;* Yellow-billed Cardinal *Paroaria capitata;* Red-crested Cardinal *Paroaria coronata;* Southern Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta cincta.*

Capacity building and training needs

Since 2001, the Management Authority has organized CITES training courses for Customs officers at least once a year, sometimes with the involvement of international experts. These training courses provided preparation for the changes in CITES enforcement that were brought along with Hungary's accession to the EU. Since 2003, regular training courses have also been organized for environmental inspectors when they became legally involved in CITES issues. A training session on CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations for Customs officers, border guards and border veterinarians working at the designated CITES border-crossing points was organized in January 2006, with one training session at each border-crossing point plus training courses to the mobile groups. As of March 2006, 490 persons have been trained at 10 different occasions and training courses are arranged at another five places (Levente Kőrösi, CITES Management Authority of Hungary, *in litt.* 2006). Moreover in June 2006, a three-day training course was given by the Management Authority and by foreign trainers to police officers appointed to co-ordinate work on environmental crime at the 20 county-level police headquarters.

Reported illegal trade

The seizures and confiscations data included in **Table 15** comprise both seizures carried out at borders and inside the country. The table does not, however, contain all seizure data concerning traditional Asian medicines (TAM). The high number of live specimens seized in 2001 was largely due to two significant cases: one was a seizure of 445 Hermann's Tortoises and Spur-thighed Tortoises; the other was a seizure of 360 Hermann's Tortoises. Other frequently seized live animals included parrots (for instance *Pyrrhura* spp*., Aratinga,* Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri, Agapornis* spp*., Platycercus* spp. and *Cacatua* spp.) and some reptile species (e.g. Rainbow Boa *Epicrates cenchria maura,* Asiatic Rock Python and tortoises). Non-live specimens confiscated and seized ranged from wolves and reptile skins (e.g. crocodile and python species) and leather products, to corals, ivory and TAM. There was an increase in the seizure of TAM products in recent years. No plants were reported to be seized between 2000 and 2004.

Table 15
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Hungary in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	17	27
2001	904	12
2002	36	65
2003	196	166
2004	100	12

Source: CITES Management Authority of Hungary.

LATVIA

Background

The population of the Republic of Latvia is estimated to be around 2.3 million. The capital is Riga and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 64 589 km² and shares its borders with Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation, with a total terrestrial border length of 1150 km. In addition, Latvia has 531 km of Baltic Sea coastline (Anon., 2005d).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

Latvia acceded to CITES on 11 February 1997 and the Convention entered into force on 12 May 1997. Latvia is a range State to 98 CITES-listed species including 30 plants, six mammals and 59 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Latvia:
The *Law on 1973 Washington Convention* (adopted: 03 January 1997, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=41732) promulgates CITES in Latvia.

Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 133 on order by which the international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora is secured (adoption: 6 April 1999, entry into force: 9 April 1999, www.likumi.lv) determines the order through which the international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora included in the Appendices of CITES is secured. *Amendment of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 133 No. 234* (adoption: 1 April 2004 www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=86629) designates one more Scientific Authority – the Natural History Museum of Latvia (under the Ministry of Environment), and designates the Management Authority as the Nature Protection Board.

By-law of Nature Protection Board of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development No. 80 (adopted: 6 May 2002) stipulates that one of the duties of the Nature Protection Board is the implementation of CITES.

The other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Latvia are for example *The Nature Protection Board Statute No. 147* (Cabinet of Ministers Regulations, adopted: 22 February 2005, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=102561) that regulates the duties of the Nature Protection Board. The *Species and Biotope Protection Law* (adopted: 05 April 2000, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=3941); *Order of Issuance of Permits for Obtaining Non-game Species and for Introduction, Reintroduction into the Wildlife of Latvia Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 34* (adopted: 23 January 2001, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?i d=2326); the *Hunting Law* (adopted: 23 July 03, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=77455) and the *Animal Protection Law* (adopted: 29 December 1999, www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14940).

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Management Authority is the Nature Protection Board of Latvia which is an institution under the Ministry of Environment. Two staff members are employed to carry out the tasks of the Management Authority among others.

Scientific Authority

In 1999, the Institute of Biology and the Faculty of Biology of the Latvian University, which belong to the authority of the Ministry of Education and Science, were appointed as the Scientific Authority. These institutions work on CITES issues in addition to their work in research and teaching. In April 2004, one more Scientific Authority was designated – the Natural History Museum of Latvia, which is under the authority of the Ministry of Environment so it is easier for the Management Authority to motivate the museum's staff to work on CITES issues. There are no full-time staff working for CITES. As there are not many cases involving CITES, it is difficult to estimate the time the staff of the Scientific Authority spend on CITES. The Management Authority is also in contact with experts on different taxa (especially for taxa for which experts are not available from the designated Scientific Authorities). The Natural History Museum of Latvia is actively engaged in awareness raising activities, mostly targeting schools (teachers as well as pupils).

Enforcement Authorities

The State Environmental Service
(Before 1 January 2005, the State Environmental Service was called the Environmental State Inspectorate.) The Nature Protection Supervision Division of the State Environmental Service is responsible for CITES enforcement in Latvia. The central office of the service is located in Riga, with eight regional offices. Two or three inspectors in each office are responsible for CITES enforcement. State environmental inspectors have a wide range of powers which may be exercised across the country including powers of entry, arrest (and conveyance to the police), seizure and confiscation, suspension of activities not concluded in compliance with the regulations. The national parks and the biosphere reserve also employ State environmental inspectors with similar powers. These powers for State environmental inspectors (employed by the service, administrations of the national parks and biosphere reserve) are guaranteed by the *Law on Environmental Protection*. Inspectors from the central office of the service may exercise their power within the whole territory of Latvia, inspectors from the service regional offices – within the borders of their corresponding regions, and inspectors from administrations of national parks and biosphere reserve – within their territories.

Police
There is good co-operation between the central office of economic police, environmental inspectorates and the Management Authority. There are divisions at the economic police that work with environmental issues such as illegal hunting. They also co-operate with environmental inspectors when their assistance is needed. A specific working group was established to analyse data on trade in exotic animals. This group also co-operates with the sanitary inspectorate. Two police officers in each of the 26 regions are partly responsible for CITES enforcement. They co-ordinate checks and address problems regarding illegal hunting as well, with support provided by the central police office.

Customs
Customs are responsible for controls at the borders. In 2001 and 2002, in the framework of DANCEE, Customs officers were trained on CITES matters and, to a lesser extent, on EU Regulations (see below).

Sanitary Border Inspectorate
The Sanitary Border Inspectorate is also involved in border control. They help and assist Customs officers with the identification of live animals. Officers from the Sanitary Border Inspectorate are trained in identifying CITES specimens.

State Food and Veterinary Service
The State Food and Veterinary Service together with the inspectors of the State Environmental Service and the Management Authority check that the premises where certain species are bred in captivity are appropriate. The service also participates in pet-shop checks.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

New regulations are being drafted on the registration of commercial breeding facilities, breeders and keepers. It will cover registration and welfare of animals used in sport and attractions and as pet animals. The Management Authority has officially sent several drafts to the Ministry of Environment that is responsible for the formulation of the legislation however; there are ongoing negotiations about the present form of the draft legislation between the Ministry of Environment and the Management Authority. Until March 2006 not much progress was made (concerning the list of species to be marked, designation of authority responsible for the registration, etc.) and no date has been proposed for the adoption of this regulation. The Management Authority is expected to be designated as the authority responsible for registration. Regarding marking, currently there are no obligations that are stricter than the EU Regulations.

Capacity building and training needs

In 2001 and 2002, within the framework of the DANCEE project, environmental and sanitary border inspectors as well as Customs and police officers were trained on CITES issues and, to a lesser extent, about the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Twelve training courses were organized during that period. In 2003 and 2004 the Management Authority organized several training courses for Customs officers and the representatives of the State Environmental Service as well as the Food and Veterinary Service. A CITES quick manual and CITES checklist based on a Norwegian version have been elaborated. Folders with relevant material were compiled, distributed and used at the training courses. All the materials have been handed to the Customs training centre. The Danish CITES Management Authority has offered confiscated CITES items to their Latvian colleagues on permanent loan, to use for educational purposes. The items can be used by all CITES enforcement authorities while arranging CITES training courses for their officers and inspectors.

A document with CITES-related notes based on the tariff numbers in the Customs nomenclature (combined nomenclature) was elaborated and translated into Latvian. In addition an outline procedure for Customs on handling cases at the border was produced. In order to enable Customs to check live animals that have been marked at the border, 12 microchip readers have been acquired and distributed to border-crossing points. In order to assist the State Environmental Service and police in CITES enforcement and wildlife crime prevention, 23 copies of a CITES manual were produced. The computer-based identification programme, the *Green Parrot*, was bought, contracts and subcontracts have been arranged and the programme has been distributed to licensed authorities (Management Authority, Scientific Authorities, State Revenue Service, State Environmental Service, Sanitary Border Inspectorate and State police).

Reported illegal trade

Confiscations and seizures in 2003 and 2004 consisted mostly of reptile skin products (bags and wallets made of crocodile skin), shells (Queen Conch *Strombus gigas*) and corals. There was one case of a seizure of 24 specimens of Horsfield's Tortoises in 2003 (**Table 16**).

Table 16
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Latvia in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	n.a.	n.a.
2001	n.a.	n.a.
2002	n.a.	n.a.
2003	24	22
2004	0	21

Source: CITES Management Authority of Latvia.
n.a. – not available

LITHUANIA

Background

The Republic of Lithuania has an estimated population of around 3.5 million. The capital is Vilnius and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 65 200 km² and it shares borders with Belarus, Latvia, Poland and the Russian Federation, with a total terrestrial border length of 1273 km. In addition, it has 99 km of Baltic Sea coastline (Anon., 2005d).

Lithuania acceded to CITES on 10 December 2001 and the Convention entered into force on 9 March 2002. Lithuania is a range State to 104 CITES-listed species including 36 plants, eight mammals and 57 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook, CIA, 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Lithuania:
According to the *Act of the Republic of Lithuania on the Ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora No. IX-337* (adoption: 22 May 2001, entry into force: 9 March 2002) Lithuania became a Party to CITES.

According to the *Law on Wildlife of the Republic of Lithuania No. VIII-498* (adoption: 6 November 1997) the Ministry of Environment together with the Customs department under the Ministry of Finance and the State Food and Veterinary Service are entitled to establish the rules for trade in wild animals by separate pieces of legislation and implementing orders (see below).

Rules on Trade in Wild Animals - Common Order of the Ministry of Environment, Customs Department and the State Food and Veterinary Service on approval of Order No. 658/831/743; 21/12/2002 No. 658/831/743 No. D1-274/1B-532/B1-507 (adoption: 18 May 2004) set the rules, which are obligatory for all natural and legal persons within the territory of Lithuania, for trade in wild animals according to the requirements of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. The *Draft Rules on Trade in Protected Wild Plants* cover internal rules for trade, export and import of protected wild plant species which are included in the Lithuanian Red Data Book and provide references to CITES and EU Regulations. According to these rules, the provisions of CITES and EU Regulations should be applied for trade in species included in the CITES Appendices and Annexes of the EU Regulations. This regulation was planned to be adopted in spring 2006. *Resolution of the Government of Republic of Lithuania on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora No. 261* (adoption: 20 February 2002) designates the Ministry of Environment as Management Authority which is responsible for issuing permits and certificates according to CITES (until 31 December 2004), for communicating with the CITES Secretariat and other CITES Parties, and for preparing and transferring reports concerning the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. From 1 January 2005 the State Environmental Protection Inspectorate was authorized to issue CITES permits and certificates by the resolution and it designated the Institute of Botany and Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University as the Scientific Authorities.

Other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Lithuania are the *Amendment to the Law on Wildlife of the Republic of Lithuania No. VIII-498* (adoption: 6 November 1997) introducing fines for infractions on CITES; the *Customs Law No. IX-2183* (adoption: 27 July 2004); *Administrative Law Violations Code No. X-4449* (adoption: 13 December 1984); the *Penal Code No. VIII-1968* (adoption: 26 September 2000); the *Resolution of Government on the Restriction of Import of Certain Goods into the Republic of Lithuania, their Export from and Transit to the Republic of Lithuania No. 718* (adoption: 19 May 1995); the *Environment Protection Law No. I-2223 21* (adoption: January 1992); *Regulation of the Government*

of Republic of Lithuania on Designated Border-crossing Points for Accomplishing Checks and Formalities on Import into and Export from Lithuania of Species Covered by (EU) Regulation No. 338/97 and CITES No. 904 (adoption: 14 July 2003); *Rules on Realization of Exhibits, Confiscated or acknowledged as items not having ownership, which are not Community Goods, approved by the Order No. 1B-1204 Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of 29 December 2004 as amended by Order No. 1B-189* (adoption: 23 March 2005).

In February 2005, an 18-month Phare project was started that addresses the protection of endangered species of flora and fauna and their habitats through implementation of CITES, the Bern and Bonn Conventions and related EU legislation. During this project the existing national legislation will be reviewed, gaps will be identified and amendments will be proposed to various national legal acts, which transpose the requirements of CITES and related EU Regulations.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The *Governmental Resolution on Amendment of Governmental Resolution No. 261* changed the structure and also the issuance of CITES permits: it designates the Ministry of Environment to execute the functions of the Management Authority foreseen in the Convention but limits these to exchange of information with other Parties of the Convention and the CITES Secretariat and to regularly preparing and submitting reports on the implementation of the Convention to the CITES Secretariat. It authorized the State Environmental Protection Inspectorate to issue CITES permits and certificates.

Scientific Authority

Two institutes have been appointed as the Scientific Authority – the Institute of Botany and the Institute of Ecology of the University of Vilnius. The staff of both institutes are full-time researchers and work on CITES issues in addition to their duties. However, the Scientific Authorities emphasized that there is not much CITES work to do because there is little trade in Lithuania and few permits are issued. There is no regular consultation between the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority, and the Scientific Authority is mostly consulted to assist in species identification. The Scientific Authority has not yet participated in the meetings of the Scientific Review Group. The Management Authority participated at the 33rd SRG meeting only (until March 2006).

Enforcement Authorities

Customs
Customs carry out the checks at border-crossing points and are entitled to make seizures. There are five territorial Customs houses and there is a person working on CITES at the violation prevention division at these Customs houses. After EU Accession, there was a decrease in the number of Customs officers but most of them stayed on and were re-organized into mobile Customs groups. There is also one person responsible for CITES at Customs headquarters in Vilnius.

Police
There are 50 police districts and each district houses a person who is responsible for environmental issues, including CITES. According to the current legislation, the police and the State and regional environmental protection inspectorates can impose fines but do not have the right to make seizures. This has been identified as an important gap in the legislation and steps have been taken to change the present situation. Interpol Lithuania has not been involved in CITES investigations but they have participated in the Inter-Sectoral Phare project co-ordination group on CITES.

State Environmental Protection Inspectorate
The eight regional departments of the State Environmental Protection Inspectorate are responsible for a wide range of environmental issues like forestry, fishery, hunting and nature protection including CITES and they issue permits for the keeping of animals that have been taken from the wild. They are also responsible for the

procedure in cases of administrative violations related to CITES and perform checks with the police. Most of the training courses in the framework of the Phare project will therefore be organized together with the police. The State and regional environmental protection inspectorates report regularly to the Management Authority. During inspections of outlets by the inspectorate after the Convention entered into force, both owners and employees of shops were informed of the legal requirements for trade in wild animals and on the documentation needed for the export and import of animals.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

There are no legal obligations for commercial breeding facilities, breeders or keepers of CITES-listed specimens to be registered. However, according to the Management Authority, there are not many breeders of CITES-listed species in Lithuania. Similarly, the registration of Appendix I specimens bred in captivity (for commercial purposes) is not legally required. The premises where the animals (all specimens taken from the wild, including non-CITES species) will be kept must be registered by the State Environmental Protection Inspectorate. The inspectorate informs the Management Authority about all permits issued for the keeping of wild animals. Private collections consisting of parts and derivatives of CITES-listed species must also be registered and the legal origin of the specimen has to be proven by the owner.

In the framework of the Phare project, guidelines and recommendations will be developed for the marking of certain specimens of protected wild fauna and flora species included in Annexes A, B and C of *Council Regulation No. 338/97* and Appendices I and II of CITES. The list of species subject to these marking requirements is currently under discussion. The creation of a specific database is planned which will include species listed in the Appendices of CITES and information about the implementation of the marking system for certain animal species. It is hoped that once developed, the database will be accessible to the Lithuanian Management Authority and other enforcement agencies such as Customs and border posts of the food and veterinary services.

Capacity building and training needs

At the Customs training centre, there are frequent qualification-raising courses that also cover CITES issues. Usually five to 30 people participate in such training courses and 20 officers per week are trained on average. Currently, it is estimated that 50% of Customs officers know about CITES and have participated in some training courses on the Convention. There are also specialized courses on CITES, however, CITES is not included in the official curriculum of the Customs training centre.

Lithuania participated as an observer country in the DANCEE project which took place from 2000 to 2002 in the other Baltic States. At that time, Lithuania was not a Party to CITES. Within the framework of this project, several specialists and officers from implementing institutions took part in two seminars. During 2003 and 2004, officials from the Ministry of Environment and the Customs Department gave comprehensive lectures to Customs officers. Furthermore, four seminars on CITES were held for inspectors of environmental protection and one lecture for officials in the department of tourism. In addition Customs officers themselves also held lectures on CITES regulations in the course of eight seminars organized by the Customs department. During the aforementioned Phare project, training programmes and modules related to the implementation of CITES and relevant EU regulations will be developed for the staff of the Management Authority, Scientific Authorities, Customs, police, State food and veterinary service, plant protection service, State and regional environment protection inspections and training courses will be delivered for relevant institutions.

Reported illegal trade

Although Lithuania became a Party to CITES in 2002, data about seizures of CITES specimens could only be obtained from 2004 (**Table 17**). The seizures included some live parrots: one Grey Parrot and three Orange-winged Amazons *Amazona amazonica*. The same year, 22.5 kg of caviar was also seized. Apart from these, some non-live specimens, consisting mainly of shells, were seized. The Management Authority suspects that there is substantial illegal trade in caviar from the Ukraine to the EU with Lithuania as a transit country.

Table 17
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Lithuania in 2002–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2002	n.a.	n.a.
2003	n.a.	n.a.
2004	4	7 + 22.5 kg caviar

Source: CITES Management Authority of Lithuania.
n.a. – not available

MALTA

Background

In 2005, the number of inhabitants in the Republic of Malta was estimated to be almost 400 000. The capital is Valletta and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 316 km² and the island's coastline stretches for 196.8 km (excluding 56 km for the island of Gozo) (Anon., 2005d).

Malta acceded to CITES on 17 April 1989 and the Convention entered into force on 16 July 1989. Malta is a range State to 106 CITES-listed species including 25 plants, seven mammals and 59 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook, CIA, 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The Environment Protection Act (CAP. 435), *Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations*, 2004 (Legal Notice 236 of 2004, adoption: 30 April 2004; www.mepa.org.mt/environment/index.htm?CITES/legislation/chapt435_2001_E.pdf) is the primary CITES legislation in Malta. It designates the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority and prohibits trade which violates the provisions of *Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97* (referred to as the principal regulation) and *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006* (referred to as subsidiary regulation). It also sets the sanctions in case of illegal trade and regulates seizures of specimens illegally traded or possessed. This Act also stipulates stricter domestic measures: the Scientific Authority and the Management Authority shall advise the Minister responsible for the Environment to prohibit the import, export or re-export in or possession of any species of fauna and flora if in their opinion, or in the opinion of any of them, such import, export, re-export or possession would endanger the biological identity or any ecosystem or any species of fauna and flora of Malta. The import of any species which is protected in the country of origin, even if it is not listed in the Annexes of the principal regulation, and even if that country of origin is not a Party to CITES, shall require an export authorization from that country.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Environment Protection Directorate has been designated as the CITES Management Authority. Four people work at the CITES MA, one of them full-time, another one half time and there is also an assistant director.

Scientific Authority

The CITES Scientific Authority consists of a pool of individuals with certain expertise in botany, ecology and zoology. In 2003–2004 the Scientific Authority was consulted 24 times.

Enforcement Authorities

Environmental Inspectorate
The environment inspectors within the CITES Management Authority are responsible for CITES-related enforcement. The Management Authority is responsible for the enforcement of the EU Regulations and the national *Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations*. Environment inspectors assist both the Customs and police in the implementation and enforcement of these provisions.

Customs

The role of border inspection in relation to Customs offices designated in accordance with Article 12 (1) of Council Regulation has been a constraint in the implementation of the EU Regulations. The authority responsible for inspection at the border inspection posts finds it problematic that the list of Customs offices designated for carrying out the checks and formalities for the introduction into and export from the Community of CITES-listed specimens differs from the list of approved border inspection posts for Malta. It is observed that even though the list of all Customs offices in all the other Member States differs from the list of approved border inspection posts for that relevant country, Malta is still requested "to correct the list of entry points for CITES-consignments to bring it in line with the border inspection posts listed in Decision 2001/881/EC". Presently Malta has six designated Customs offices for carrying out the checks and formalities for the introduction into and exports from the Community of CITES-listed specimens.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Currently, there is no legislation on registration. At present, there is only one commercial breeder and keeper of Appendix I species in Malta. The CITES Management Authority has the records of this breeding facility filed and the facility is frequently inspected by environment inspectors to ensure that the provisions of the EU regulations and the national legislation are observed. The marking of Annex A listed specimens is carried out in accordance with *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006*.

Capacity building and training needs

In 2003 and 2004 no CITES training courses were organized for Customs owing to lack of funds. A series of seminars on the implementation and enforcement of the EU Regulations for Customs is envisaged for the near future. The staff of the Management Authority has benefited from the advice and technical assistance provided by the CITES team at HM Revenue and Customs (UK) and the CITES Secretariat. The Management Authority also participated in a training course about the EU Regulations organized by the Management Authority of Germany in May 2003.

Reported illegal trade

Between 2000 and 2004 there were a significant number of seizures of bird skins, especially ducks (e.g. Common Pintail *Anas acuta*, Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata*, Common Teal *A. crecca*) and some birds of prey (e.g. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*, *Milvus* spp.) in Malta. Some Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* and White Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* skins were also reported to be seized in 2003. Some pieces of watch straps made of skins of alligators, crocodiles and *Varanus* spp. were equally seized. There were also some cases of seizures of live tortoises and other live reptiles. In 2002, 678 Kleinmann's Tortoises *Testudo kleinmanni* originating from Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were seized. Each year between 2000 and 2004, the large majority of the seizures of live specimens consisted of live plants especially different types of live cacti, *Euphorbia* spp., *Aloe* spp., *Cyclamen* spp. (1221 specimens of *Cyclamen* spp. seized in 2000, 382 specimens in 2002 and 276 specimens in 2004), as well as seeds (**Table 18**). Most of the seized plants arrived from the Netherlands. Apart from seizures at borders, several seizures were made in pet shops inside the country.

Table 18
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Malta in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	6131	107
2001	1766	53 and 126 kg Crocodile meat
2002	4290	199 (mostly skins)
	and 500 seeds (*Pachypodium ambongense*)	and 100 kg feather of (Muscovy duck *Cairina moschata*)
2003	716	276
	and 105 cacti seeds	and 0.43 kg caviar
2004	n.a.	n.a.

Source: CITES Management Authority of Malta.
n.a. – not available

POLAND

Background

The number of inhabitants in the Republic of Poland is estimated to be 38.6 million. The capital is Warsaw and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 312 685 km² and shares its borders with Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia and the Ukraine, with a total terrestrial border length of 2888 km and a coastline of 491 km (Anon., 2005d).

Poland ratified CITES on 12 December 1989 and the Convention entered into force on 12 March 1990. Poland is a range State to 139 CITES-listed species including 51 plants, 15 mammals and 70 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The primary CITES legislation in Poland is the *Nature Conservation Act* (16/04/2004) which regulates, among others, CITES issues according to the respective EU Regulations on international trade in wild fauna and flora.

The other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Poland are the *Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 28 September 2004 on Protected Indigenous Animals (28.IX.2004),* the *Animal Protection Act (21 VIII. 1997), the Act on Penal Liability of the Collective Persons (28. X. 2002.) and the Penal Code (06.VI:1997).*

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Ministry of the Environment, Department of Nature Conservation has been designated as the CITES Management Authority in Poland. Five staff members worked around 150 hours a week at the Management Authority in 2005.

Scientific Authority

The State Nature Conservation Council, composed of 30 members, has been appointed as the Scientific Authority but in practice, only four members of the council work directly on CITES issues. The Scientific Authority is an advisory body of independent experts. The members are appointed for three years by the Minister of Environment but receive no payment for their work on CITES. The Management Authority is obliged to consult the Scientific Authority in case of export and import of Annex A species, export of Annex B species and on cases concerning species native to Poland.

Enforcement Authorities

Customs
There are 17 Customs chambers; each containing one CITES co-ordinator, and a central unit at the Ministry of Finance. At the Ministry there is also one person responsible for CITES issues but this person works on other topics as well. There are several sub-committees within each chamber and Customs officers belong to these sub-committees. There are 31 Customs offices that have been designated as CITES entry points. Information is relayed from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Finance, then to the co-ordinators and the Customs chambers. There are 46 Customs offices in the whole territory of Poland, one for each of the Customs chambers. Customs can only make seizures because confiscations require a court decision. The identification of live

specimens is sometimes a problem, especially as the decision has to be made within two hours of detection. Veterinarians decide if there is time to call an expert for identification. Identification of species is carried out with the help of research institute experts. It is up to the co-ordinator to develop co-operation with research institutes or experts. Training modules that can be used for identification are accessible at border-crossing points 24 hours a day. The co-ordinator can also be called 24 hours a day.

Police
Until 2003, there was no regular co-operation between the Polish Management Authority and the police. Training courses for the police on CITES issues and the relevant EU regulations started in 2005. Currently, there are 17 CITES co-ordinators at the police departments. The police headquarters in Warsaw has a representative responsible for the co-ordination of the above personnel. According to the *Police Act* of 6 April 1990 and the *Code of Penal Procedure Act* of 6 June 1997, the police are empowered to perform operational-intelligence activities and to conduct investigation in preparatory proceedings in all wildlife crime cases, particularly described in the *Nature Conservation Act* of 16 April 2004. The environmental crime unit was established on 20 October 2004 within the Combating Crime Tactic's bureau of the general headquarters of police and is mandated to deal with cases of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Its main role is to co-ordinate and monitor field police units' activities in the area of environmental-wildlife crimes. Additionally, the unit co-operates with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and organizes specialist training courses for police officers (primarily regional co-ordinators) engaged in combating the above-mentioned criminal activities. There are 17 police co-ordinators in each regional police headquarters designated to environmental-CITES problems. Those officers co-ordinate and monitor sub-units in the field of wildlife crimes and also organize specialist training courses for lower-level police officers.

Veterinary Inspection
The Inspection is a government agency authorized to inspect conditions for the keeping of live animals. Local administrations also check pet shops, for example, and such checks can also be undertaken by Customs officers from mobile groups (Anon., 2005).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Since May 2004, registration has been obligatory for live specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians listed in Annexes A–D of the EU Regulations. Registration however, as pointed out by the Management Authority, does not mean legalization; it is merely the first step to find out what kind of CITES specimens are kept and bred. The registration is carried out by the local authorities (i.e. more than 300 self-governing bodies), by local officers not trained in CITES. There is no central database; the data are available at the district level. The registration obligation refers only to private keepers but not to zoos, companies or shops which specialize in the trade of live animals. Both zoos and companies are obliged to posses and deliver the original or copy of a document proving the legality of the specimen for each sold animal (CITES import permit; permit for taking animals from the wild; in the case of a captive-bred animal – the document signed by the regional veterinary inspector or any other document proving the legality). The *Nature Conservation Act* also requires the registration of commercial breeding facilities of Annex A species that are native to Poland.

The marking of specimens is carried out in accordance with *Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006*. There are no stricter regulations.

Capacity building and training needs

Until 2003 the Polish Customs organized and financed training courses on CITES for themselves on a regular basis. The representatives of the Management Authority took part in these training courses as lecturers, along with other experts. The training courses focused on CITES legislation and the identification of different taxa, such as birds of prey, parrots, reptiles, plants, hunting trophies, skeletons and bones. The Ministry of Environment also organized training courses for representatives of the veterinary and phytosanitary inspection, the police and border guard services between 2002 and 2004. The Scientific Authority also took part in international specialized training courses in 2003 and 2004. Partly with the financial help of the Ministry of Environment, several training courses have been organized, and in 2005 several training courses for CITES co-

ordinators at the police and Customs (altogether 200 officers participated) were financed by the Polish Government (GAA), the German Ministry of Environment, UNDP GEF, WWF-Germany and WWF-Poland involving international (e.g. Italian and German) experts as lecturers. Furthermore, with the financial support of the Italian CITES enforcement agency, the Forestry Corps, eight Polish Customs co-ordinators participated in a training course organized in Italy with the assistance of TRAFFIC Europe-Italy in June 2005.

Customs have prepared two training modules for the training of Customs co-ordinators. The introductory and basic level Module 1 is a 42-hour training course, while Module 2 contains information for higher level students that can be covered in a 30-hour training course. CITES is also included in the curriculum of Customs education (in the framework of a general course) and comprises eight hours of training on this subject.

Reported illegal trade

Many tourist souvenirs (e.g. corals, shells, leather products, hunting trophies) were confiscated in Poland between 2000 and 2004. Caviar was also seized in significant amounts during this period: 607 kg of caviar in 2000, 64 kg in 2001, 43 kg in 2002, 220 kg in 2003 and 48 kg in 2004 (**Table 19**). Most of the caviar originated from Russia and the Ukraine. Poland seems to be an important transit country for terrestrial tortoises taken from the wild in the former Soviet Republics and large quantities of live terrestrial tortoises were confiscated in Poland. In 2000, 1011 Horsfield's Tortoise were seized mostly at the Ukrainian border. In 2001, 649 specimens of *Testudo* spp. were seized on transit from Syria to Lithuania. In 2002, 1304 specimens, in 2004, 514 specimens of Horsfield's Tortoises coming from the Ukraine and from other Central Asian countries were seized. The number of live birds seized originating from the Czech Republic was also significant. The birds involved were mostly commonly bred species without certificates. There is no information whether these birds were destined for the Polish market or were transited through Poland. With regard to the seizures of plants, there was a significant case in 2002 when 10 000 bulbs of snowdrops were seized.

Table 19
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in Poland in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	1 097	491 and 607 kg caviar
2001	829	563 and 64 kg caviar, 80 kg traditional Asian medicine
2002	11 468 (incl. 10 000 snowdrop bulbs)	7800 (incl. 7552 specimens of Scleractinia spp.) and 43 kg caviar
2003	25	680 and 220 kg caviar
2004	546	2521 and 48 kg caviar, 30 kg other products and 18 m^3 African Teak, sawn wood

Source: Management Authority of Poland.

ROMANIA

Background

The number of inhabitants in the Republic of Romania is estimated to be slightly more than 22 million. The capital is Bucharest and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 237 500 km^2 and shares its borders with Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro and the Ukraine, with a total length of terrestrial borders of 2508 km and 225 km of Black Sea coastline (Anon., 2005d).

Romania acceded to CITES on 18 August 1994 and the Convention entered into force on 16 November 1994. Romania is a range State to 173 CITES-listed species including 74 plants, 10 mammals and 70 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Romania: the *Law No. 69/1994 for Ratification of the Convention* (adoption: 1994) designates the Management Authority and Scientific Authorities of Romania and sets the framework for their role concerning the implementation of the provisions of CITES in Romania.

The *Ministerial Order No. 647/2001 of Water and Environmental Protection Approving the Authorization Procedure for Harvesting, Capture and Acquisition and Trading on the Internal Market or at Export of the Plants and Animals of Wild Fauna and Flora, as well as their Import* (adoption: 2001) refers to plants and animals of wild fauna and flora that are listed in Appendices I, II and III of CITES. It covers conditions for the issuance of permits for the export, re-export or import of CITES specimens through the Ministry of Environment and Water Management. In order to control the export, import and transit operations, the National Customs Authority established the Customs points through which these operations are made, taking into consideration the proposals of the concerned economic operators.

This ministerial order bans the harvesting, capture, purchase and trade of wild plants and animals that have a special protection regime according to international conventions including CITES, regardless of the area or land where they are found. Nevertheless, plant and animal species that are native to Romania can be gathered or captured, under certain circumstances, with the special authorization of the central authority for environmental protection and with the scientific approval, previously issued, of the Commission for Protection of the Natural Monuments within the Romanian Academy (one of the designated CITES Scientific Authorities).

Another primary CITES legislation is the *Order of the Minister of Water and Environmental Protection No. 117/2003 for modification of Annex No. 12 of the Authorization Procedure for Harvesting, Capture and Acquisition and Trading on the Internal Market or at Export of the Plants and Animals of Wild Fauna and Flora, as well as their Import* (adoption: 2003) that modifies the *Ministerial Order 647/2001* and covers the prices for issuing permits.

The other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Romania are for example the *Governmental Ordinance Regarding the System of Protected Areas, Conservation of Natural Habitats, Wild Flora and Fauna No. 236/2000*; the *Law on Environmental Protection as amended by Emergency Governmental Ordinance 91/2002, approved by Law No. 291/2003) No. 137/1995* (adopted in 1995); the *Law on Hunting Fund and Protection of Game, republished No. 103/1996* (republished in 2002); the *Law No. 103/1996 by the Administrators of Hunting Funds, with Responsible Authority Guidance and Control;* the *Order No. 297/2004 on the Conservation of Hunting Fund and Approval of the Capture Quotas of the Species whose*

Hunting is Permitted for the Hunting Season (Order 338/2003 Order 421/2002, Order 161/2001, Order 1240/2000); the *Law on Ichthyologic Fund, Fishing and Aquaculture No. 192/2001* (republished in 2003, modified by *Emergency Governmental Ordinance No. 69/2004).*

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Management Authority is the Ministry of Environment and Water Management. Three persons are employed at the CITES Management Authority, one of which works full-time on CITES issues while two others are employed part-time for CITES.

Scientific Authority

The Commission for the Protection of Natural Monuments within the Romanian Academy and the forest research and planning institute have been appointed as the Scientific Authorities. The Danube Delta Research and Development Institute have been designated as the Scientific Authority for sturgeons. The commission consists of nine permanent members (experts in botany, zoology, forestry, paleoarcheology, geomorphology, hydrology, etc.) and the head of the Scientific Authority. An impact assessment is carried out prior to the import or export of all wild specimens. The Scientific Authority meets every three months or more frequently if needed. Only the president and the vice-president of the Scientific Authority are paid staff. At the Danube Delta Research and Development Institute there are ten people working full time on research related to sturgeons. They establish the catch quotas for Romania in co-operation with Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. At the Forest Research and Management Planning Institute, Department of Wildlife, there are 20 persons who also work on CITES-related issues (development of the methodology for population estimates for Brown Bears).

Enforcement Authorities

National Customs Authority
There is one person at the Customs headquarters who co-ordinates the activities related to CITES (among others). The co-ordinator has only recently been appointed for this position. There is one inspector at each of the 10 regional Customs directorates who co-ordinates the work at the border-crossing points. There is an electronic alerting system for Customs, which is available through Customs intranet. The Customs have the right to make seizures.

National Environmental Guard
This agency has been under the Ministry of Environment and Water Management since March 2005. New staff for the enforcement of CITES were recruited (partly from Hunting Associations) during the summer 2005. The guards control the internal commercial activities by inspecting markets and pet shops. They have offices in each of the 42 counties in Romania. Sometimes they go on inspection with Customs officials.

Police
The Management Authority reported that the police has not been involved in CITES issues but they would like to involve them more in the near future.

Environmental Protection Agencies
There are 42 county level offices of the Environmental Protection Agency in Romania and each of them has a department on biodiversity conservation. They authorize catch and harvest activities at county level. They also support the National Environmental Guard in their work on CITES and provide experts who co-operate with Customs officers. The environmental protection agencies staff work on CITES part time.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Registration and marking of CITES specimens are not required according to the current CITES legislation in Romania. According to provision of *Order 742/2004,* specimens in zoos must be individually marked, if it is suitable. By the time of EU accession, the Management Authority plans to enact regulations on the registration and marking of CITES Appendix I specimens, with registration to be carried out by local environment protection agencies and by the veterinary authority. Captive-breeding facilities of Appendix I species have not been established in Romania to date.

Legally captured specimens of sturgeons must be marked with individual marks, which are distributed by the competent authority, the authority of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the national company for administration of fishing fund (http://rosturgeons.danubedelta.org).

Capacity building and training needs

There have not been any CITES training courses organized for Customs in Romania. There is a bilateral agreement between the Ministers of Environment of Romania and Hungary, whereby Hungary has proposed to assist Romania with training.

Reported illegal trade

Romanian Customs officials seized some sturgeon meat that originated from Italy (declared as captive-bred) that was intercepted at the border-crossing in Nagylak (Romanian-Hungarian border) in May 2005. No other seizures of CITES specimens have been reported either at the borders or inside the country. As all of the neighbouring countries, such as Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary have seized and confiscated several CITES specimens both at their land borders and airports, the lack of seizures in Romania reflects a major problem in enforcement and control rather than the lack of illegal trade. One of the possible reasons behind this problem is probably the lack of training courses for enforcement officers. Another significant problem is that the disposal of confiscated live specimens has not been solved. Additionally, according to the Scientific Authority, internal and international trade in as well as collection of medicinal and aromatic plants (e.g. Spring Adonis, App. II, Arnica *Arnica montana*, Annex D) is also a problem in Romania.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Note: In June 2006 Serbia and Montenegro became two independent States. However, this report describes the status during the period when the two States still formed the Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Background

In 2005 the number of inhabitants in the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro was estimated to be 10.8 million. The capital of Serbia and Montenegro is Belgrade and the government type is a federal republic. The country covers an area of 102 350 km^2 and shares borders with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, FYR of Macedonia and Romania (Anon., 2005d).

Serbia and Montenegro acceded to CITES on 27 February 2002 and the Convention entered into force on 28 May 2002. Serbia and Montenegro is a range State to 143 CITES-listed species including 53 plants, six mammals and 69 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

As Serbia and Montenegro is a federal republic, part of the legislation is federal while the other part of the legislation is valid for the relevant republic. Unless otherwise indicated, the statements below refer to the federal legislation.

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Serbia and Montenegro:
The Law on Ratification of CITES (adoption: 5 November 2001, entry into force: 28 May 2002, Yugoslav Official Register, International Agreements, No.11/2001,) ratifies the Convention. *The Constitutional Charter of State Union of Serbia and Montenegro* (Official Register (OR) of Serbia and Montenegro (SM) No. 1/2003, adoption: 28 January 2003) stipulates that the competencies in the field of the implementation of international environmental agreements, including CITES, are transferred from the federal level to the two republics.

Serbia

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Serbia:
The *Law on Environment Protection* (OR of the Republic of Serbia (RS) 135/04) regulates trade (import, export and transit) in endangered and protected species of wild flora and fauna. Fines, which range from CSD 150 000 to 3 000 000 (approx. EUR 1800-36 000) can be imposed for the import, export and transit of endangered and protected species of wild flora and fauna without the relevant permit from the Ministry.

Montenegro

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Montenegro:
The *Environmental Law* (Official Gazette (OG) of the Republic of Montenegro (RM) 12/96) regulates trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna. It stipulates that sanctions can be imposed on offenders who kill and capture protected animal species, harm or eradicate protected plant species as well as collect or destroy their development forms, and export of protected movable natural resources unless the approval thereof is granted by the Ministry.

The *Decision on Control List for Import and Export of Goods* (OG of the RM No. 44/04) states that the list of protected wild plant and animal species for which permits for export and import are issued in accordance with the law on confirmation of CITES, is included in Annex 6 of the control list for export and import.

The *Law on Foreign Trade* (OR of RM 55/00 adoption: 2004) stipulates that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning is responsible for issuing CITES permits.

Other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Serbia and Montenegro are: the *Resolution on Policy of Environment Protection in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;* (Yugoslav OR 31/93) and the *Resolution on Policy of Biodiversity Protection in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (Yugoslav OR 22/94).

Serbia

Similarly, in Serbia other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement are: the *Decree on Controlling of Exploitation, Trade and Protection of Wild Plant and Animal Species* (OR of the RS 31/05) controls the over-exploitation and trade of wild plant and animal species native to Serbia, the *Decree on Protection of Natural Rarities of Republic of Serbia* (OR of RS 50/93, 93/93); the *Resolution on Policy of Environment Protection in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;* (Yugoslav OR 31/93)*;* the *Resolution on Policy of Biodiversity Protection in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;* (Yugoslav OR 22/94); the *Decree on Closed Game Hunting Season* (OR of RS 84/93, 5/98, 22/99, 32/99); the *Decree on Establishing Closed Seasons for Specific Fish Species on Defined Fishing Areas;* (OR of RS, 12/95, 100/03); the *Law on Customs;* (Yugoslav OR 45/92, 16/93, 50/93, 24/94, 28/96, 29/97, 59/98, 23/2001 and 73/03); the *Criminal Law* (OR of the RS, 67/2003, adoption: 1 July 2003).

Montenegro

Other regulations that have provisions related to CITES implementation and enforcement in Montenegro:
The *Decree on Protecting Rare, Reduced, Endemic and Endangered Animal and Plant Species* (OR of RM 36/82); the *Law on Hunting* (OR of the RM 47/99); the *Bylaw on Control of Use and Trade in Unprotected Plant and Animal Species* (OR of RM 27/02, 64/03); the *Law on Customs* (OR of RM 007/02, 038/02, 021/03, 031/03, 029/05); the *Criminal Law* (OR of RM 070/03, 013/04).

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

Serbia

The Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Directorate for Environmental Protection is the CITES Management Authority for Serbia and also the co-ordinator or focal point for the republics of Serbia and Montenegro.

Montenegro

The Republic of Montenegro has a separate Management Authority, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, that has been issuing CITES permits since 2005.

Scientific Authority

Serbia

Serbia has a scientific advisory council for the implementation of CITES. The representatives are from different scientific institutions that have different taxonomic expertise. The council is a committee of experts who are consulted from time to time but are not paid for their CITES-related work. The only scientific advisory institution obliged to give its opinion on CITES issues is the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Other institutions can be consulted on a voluntary basis only.

Montenegro

There are two Scientific Authorities: the Institute for the Protection of Nature of the Republic of Montenegro and the Institute for Marine Biology of the Republic of Montenegro. The employees in these institutes are consulted from time to time.

Enforcement authorities

Serbia

Environmental Inspectorate
The Environmental Inspectorate lies under the authority of the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Directorate for Environmental Protection. The inspectorate is responsible for conducting surveys, controlling the use of natural resources, protected areas and wild flora and fauna. The inspectorate works both within the territory of the country (16 persons) and at the borders (30 persons). The inspectors are authorized to confiscate and impose penalties for illegal trade.

Customs
Customs control the shipments at the borders. Officials contact the environmental inspectorate in case assistance is needed with the identification of species and also inform the Management and Scientific Authorities.

Police
The police are involved in CITES investigations if necessary. However, it is not common for the police to undertake controls at local markets or pet shops with the environmental inspectorate.

Montenegro

Customs
Customs officers control import, export and transit of protected animals and plants, dead or alive, and their parts or derivatives. They perform Customs control according to the *Customs Code* on the whole territory of the Republic of Montenegro. There are mobile groups organized within the Customs enforcement sector known as anti-smuggling groups but these are not specialized in CITES offences. Authorized Customs officials can examine business and other premises, which are used for business purposes. They co-operate with border authorities (police, environmental inspectorate, veterinary and phytosanitary inspectorates) and consult the Scientific Authority as prescribed by the legislation.

Environmental Inspectorate
There are two inspectors employed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning responsible for conducting checks on the territory of Montenegro. There are no local offices. The inspectors can seize only together with the police.

Police
The police are involved in CITES implementation as they control the borders of Montenegro together with Customs. Police officers and environmental inspectors sometimes conduct checks together.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

There is no legislation in Serbia and Montenegro regarding registration or marking of specimens of species listed in the CITES Appendices. However, information about keepers and breeding agencies is being collected by the Directorate for the Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia and by the Institute for the Protection of the Nature of the Republic of Montenegro.

Capacity building and training needs

In 2004 and 2005 two basic level training courses on CITES implementation were organized for the representatives of the different enforcement agencies with a particular focus on Customs. These were assisted by experts from the CITES Secretariat and the Slovenian Management Authority. In 2003, some training courses were provided for border inspection and Customs by an international consultancy from the Netherlands (DHV), in the framework of an environmental capacity building programme, financially supported by the European Agency for Reconstruction.

Reported illegal trade

Serbia

There were only three seizures of CITES-listed specimens reported in 2004 but the number of cases rose to 24 in 2005 (January–September). During 2004 and 2005, 37 live specimens were seized, consisting of mainly bird species such as Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*, Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and Goshawk. Additionally five specimens of Green Iguana were seized in 2005 (**Table 20**). Parts or derivatives were not reported to be seized in the period examined.

Montenegro

No seizures of CITES-listed specimens have been reported in Montenegro.

Table 20
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Serbia in 2003–2005

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2003	n.a.	n.a.
2004	5	0
(January–September) 2005	32	0

Source: CITES Management Authority of Serbia.
n.a. – not available

SLOVAKIA

Background

The Republic of Slovakia has an estimated population of 5.4 million. The capital is Bratislava and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers a total area of around 48 845 km^2 and shares its borders with Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Ukraine, with a total border length of 1524 km (Anon., 2005d).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

Slovakia became a Party to CITES in May 1992 as a part of the former Czechoslovakia. CITES entered into force on 28 May 1992. Slovakia confirmed its membership in January 1993. Slovakia is a range State to 156 CITES-listed species including 70 plants, six mammals and 75 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation are regarded as primary CITES legislation:
The *Act on the Protection of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by Regulating Trade Therein No. 15/2005* (adoption: 2 December 2004) includes measures for ensuring the protection and registration of CITES species in Slovakia. It also defines the competencies of the State administration authorities and the responsibilities for violations of this Act and of the EU Regulations. Additionally, the Act designates rescue centres for confiscated specimens. It also provides some stricter measures than the EU Regulations, such as the restriction of export of native protected species if they are not born and bred in captivity; the obligatory unambiguous marking of live vertebrates listed in Annexes A and B; obligatory DNA tests for specimens of Annex A species if they are used for reproduction and for all native species listed in Annex A; and obligatory registration of all CITES specimens.

The *Regulation on Implementation of some Provisions of the Act on Protection of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by Regulating Trade Therein, Ministerial Decree No. 110/2005* (entry into force: 1 April 2005) lays down detailed rules concerning the implementation of some provisions of *Act No.15/2005*. It provides details of requirements for application for import and (re-)export permits, exemptions of commercial prohibitions and approval for movement within the European Union. The decree regulates the registration of scientists and scientific institutions and lists species that it is forbidden to keep. The regulation provides samples of forms, e.g. registration documents and certificate of origin as well as lists species which do not need to be registered. The details of registration of specimens and marking are also specified in the decree and CITES entry points are designated.

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The designated CITES Management Authority is the Department of Nature and Landscape Protection of the Ministry of Environment where four full-time staff members are employed to work on CITES issues.

Scientific Authority

The Scientific Authority of Slovakia has been established within the State Nature Conservancy where three full-time staff members are employed with expertise in zoology (two persons) and botany (one person). The Scientific Authority is in regular and close contact with the Management Authority and other CITES authorities. They are responsible for making the non-detriment finding for export and import applications (export of Annex A–C species; import of Annex A, B species; exemptions for commercial purposes and for movement inside the EU), helping the inspectorate, district officers, police and Customs with identification, (24 hour emergency

phone for Customs), giving opinions on prices for criminal cases for the police or the Customs, updating the central database of keepers and breeders as well as giving opinions on the appropriate marking methods.

Enforcement Authorities

Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (SEI)
It is a control body of the Ministry of Environment. There are four inspectorates in Slovakia and within each there is a person that deals with CITES issues. They control the enforcement of *Act No 15/2005, Decree No 110/2005* as well as the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. It is the responsibility of the SEI to perform controls inside the country. They check breeders, keepers and traders, as well as the marking of specimens. They can give fines of up to 300 000 SKK (7300 EUR) for private persons and up to 1 000 000 SKK (24 300 EUR) for legal persons[15]. The SEI co-operates with Customs and police. The officers of the SEI are entitled to confiscate specimens. They can enter businesses or premises used for business. They are not entitled to search houses but, upon request, they can accompany the police and Customs as experts. They can mark the specimens during the control, if they are not marked by the keeper.

Customs
The Customs Criminal Office is the independent investigative body for Customs, established on 1 January 2003. It has seven regional offices in the country and they have jurisdiction over the entire country. At the three designated CITES border-crossing stations with special veterinary service and premises where animals can be placed, there is a Customs co-ordinator (not of the Customs Criminal Office) who checks CITES shipments. Most (90%) of the co-ordinators have been trained in CITES and species identification. They also have identification manuals in the Slovak language. (Cases for which the sanction is less than three years' imprisonment can be fully investigated by this office without the involvement of the police.) The tasks of the Customs Criminal Office include the assessment of illegal trade and on the basis of this assessment, the development of a system to fight illegal trade. The Customs Criminal Office is also responsible for issues not related to CITES. Customs officers work all over the country and have the right to enter businesses and to confiscate specimens. They usually consult the Scientific Authority for help in identifying species. The Scientific Authority has a 24-hour mobile service for Customs to provide assistance with the identification of species. In some cases, the Scientific Authority goes to the border station, other times they try to help over the phone or Customs officers send digital photos to them by e-mail. The Management Authority reported that digital cameras are not always available. Co-operation with the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) is good. There is also good co-operation with police units in investigations particularly related to special cases. The Customs have extensive CITES guidelines which serve as an internal law (i.e. compulsory).

Police
Since 2000 the Slovak Police have been more involved in investigating CITES crimes according to the Management Authority (pers. comm. to TEUR-CE, 2005). Due to the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and NGOs, in 2000 the co-operation with the police could begin. The Management Authority noted that more serious cases are investigated by the police rather than the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate, however; investigations by the police usually take longer. During the initial period of 2000–2001 the following primary problems were discovered: problems with the legislation, absence of co-operation between the police and other organizations such as Customs, environmental inspection and Management Authority, lack of specialists, corruption and lack of information about CITES crime in Slovakia. During 2001 to 2003 certain measures were taken to fight CITES crime, for example changes in legislation (e.g. the approval of the *Act on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora No. 237/2002* and the amendment of the *Penal Code*), good specialist training courses for Customs and police staff in co-operation with NGOs were organized and one specialist from the Ministry of Interior was assigned to CITES crime and an interagency co-ordination organ for CITES crimes was established. Since then, the police have been involved in several successful investigations in co-operation with the Customs Criminal Office and the Slovak environmental inspectorates.

[15] Legal persons are companies, body corporate, etc.

Environment District Office
The Environment District Office is a State authority and is responsible, according to *Act 15/2005,* for registration of specimens in the territory of Slovakia and for the control of obligations laid down in the Act. There are 46 district offices in Slovakia supervized by the Ministry of Environment.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Registration

It is obligatory to register all specimens (including live as well as parts and derivatives) and keepers of specimens of species listed in Annexes A, B, C and D in Slovakia, with some exceptions[16]. Each keeper is responsible for keeping records of the specimens he/she keeps. The copies of records of mammals, birds and reptiles (from Annex A–D) are sent by the keeper through the Environment District Office to the central database at the CITES Scientific Authority. Records of other species (amphibians, fish and invertebrates) must be kept by the keepers of specimens who are obliged to submit them to the enforcement authorities during a control. The keepers of the specimens are obliged to prove the origin of the specimens to the State authorities whenever they are asked. The keepers of live mammals, birds and reptiles must also have a certificate of origin confirmed by the Environment District Office. For parts and derivatives, the owner should prove their legal origin and keep records of them. Until 2003, approximately 2200 keepers of Annex A–D listed species were registered but the actual number was estimated to exceed 20 000. The Slovakian CITES legislation also regulates the registration of scientists and scientific institutions.

Marking

Unambiguous marking of live vertebrates listed in Annex A and B is obligatory in Slovakia with the exception of those species that do not fall under the registration requirement (see footnote). The keepers of selected live specimens are obliged to mark these in the presence of the district office (obligatory for Annex A species) or by its authorized organization (Annex B species). It is possible that the persons who should be present during the marking decide not to be there (Annex B species) but they are nevertheless responsible and they have to sign the certificate indicating the code number of the mark. Marking is usually done by closed rings or microchips (see also **Table 21**). Tortoises have to be marked by microchips. For tortoises with a plastron smaller than 10 cm, no marking is required, only photos of the plastron. However, the Management Authority is not fully satisfied with this method. In cases where the ring or microchip is not appropriate for a certain specimen, district offices determine the most appropriate marking method on a case-by-case basis, after consultation with the Scientific Authority. In some cases, especially with birds under 100 g, veterinarians are also involved. In 2002 a training seminar was organized for veterinarians on marking with microchips.

[16] Fischer's Lovebird; Black-masked Lovebird; Peach-faced Lovebird; Australian King-Parrot; Red-winged Parrot; Black-billed Wood-Duck; Celestial Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis;* Spectacled Parrotlet *Forpus conspicillatus;* Blue-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus cyanopygius;* Green-rumped Parrotlet *Forpus passerinus;* Grey-breasted Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus;* Black-headed Conure; Elegant Grass-Parakeet *Neophema elegans; Neophema chrysostoma;* Turquoise Grass-Parakeet; Scarlet-chested Parrot; Bourke's Parrot; Bluebonnet *Northiella haematogaster;* Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora;* Adelaide Parakeet; Mealy Rosella; Green Rosella; Crimson Rosella; Eastern Rosella; Yellow Rosella; Stanley Parakeet; Australian Ringneck *Platycercus zonarius;* Alexandra's Parrot; Regent Parrot; Barrabant Parakeet; Red-rumped Parrot; Many-coloured Parakeet; Moustached Parakeet; Plum-headed Parakeet; Alexandrine Parakeet; Ring-necked Parakeet; Pileated Parakeet; African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens;* African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea;* Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata;* Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis;* Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea;* Boa Constrictor; Veiled Chameleon*;* Striped Trinket Snake *Elaphe taeniura;* Madagascar Day Gecko *Phelsuma madagascariensis;* Asiatic Rock Python.

Table 21
Marking in Slovakia according to *Decree No. 110/2005*

Category	Marking technique	Authority in charge
Mammals (Annex A)	microchip transponder (if not possible – label, mark, tattoo or other suitable method)	district offices
Birds born and kept in captivity (Annex A, B) and birds born in captivity (Annex B)	seamless closed ring (if not possible – microchip transponder)	district offices
Birds born in captivity or taken from the wild (Annex A)	microchip transponder	district offices
Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish (Annex A, B)	microchip transponder (if not possible – label, mark, tattoo or other suitable method)	district offices

Source: CITES Management Authority of Slovakia.

Capacity building and training needs

In the framework of the training project of DANCEE eight CITES training courses were organized between 2001 and 2003 for the Customs, police and the environmental inspectorate. After the training courses, the Customs co-ordinators organized training courses in their districts. In 2003, eight training courses, funded by Phare, were organized for the police on the subject of bird crime. In 2005, three basic training courses were organized which targeted the State Nature Conservancy, the environmental inspectorate, environmental district offices and officials from zoological gardens to introduce the relevant EU legislation and the new national CITES legislation. CITES is included in the curriculum of Customs education. However, prosecutors and judges have not been trained on CITES issues. The Green Parrot software has been installed at the Scientific Authority, police, environmental inspectorate and the Management Authority.

Reported illegal trade

Most of the specimens reported to be confiscated in 2000 and 2002 were live birds (parrots) coming from the Czech Republic, the majority of which was destined for Bulgaria and Slovakia. Some reptiles, such as *Varanus* species (e.g. Emerald Monitors) from Indonesia were also confiscated over this period. The high number of seizures in 2003 was largely due to a larger number (several hundreds of specimens) of live plants (orchids, cacti, *Euphorbia* spp., snowdrops, etc.), mostly originating from the Netherlands (**Table 22**). As a result of systematic investigations and house searches carried out jointly by the police, Customs and environmental inspectorate inside Slovakia, there have also been some significant seizures of Tortoises (e.g. Radiated Tortoise *Geochelone radiata,* Star Tortoise *Geochelone elegans,* Spur-thighed Tortoise*,* Hermann's Tortoise in 2004).

Table 22
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Slovakia in 2000–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2000	131	0
2001	88	30
2002	314	0
2003	2216	29
2004	266	23

Source: CITES Management Authority of Slovakia.

SLOVENIA

Background

The Republic of Slovenia has an estimated population of around 2 million. The capital is Ljubljana, and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. Slovenia covers an area of 20 273 km^2 and borders the Adriatic Sea, between Italy and Croatia, with a coastline stretching for 46.6 km. Slovenia shares its borders with Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Italy, with a total border length of 1334 km (Anon., 2005d).

Slovenia became a Party to CITES on 24 January 2000 and the Convention entered into force on 23 April 2000. Slovenia is a range State to 148 CITES-listed species including 69 plants, six mammals and 60 birds (see Annex A).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The following pieces of legislation can be regarded as primary CITES legislation in Slovenia:
The Nature Conservation Act (OG of the RS 119/02, 22/03, 96/04) is the framework Act regulating nature protection in Slovenia. Anyone who keeps animals of indigenous or non-indigenous species in captivity with the purpose of public exhibition or breeding must obtain a permit from the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The import, export and transit of species specified in the ratified international treaties can only be permitted by the ministry. The implementation of the provisions of this Act, and regulations issued pursuant to it, is supervised by the inspectors responsible for nature conservation, and in the case of provisions concerning other sectors, also by the inspectors of these sectors. This Act also defines the competencies of Customs, which include the seizure and confiscation of animals and plants or their parts and products. This Act also lays down sanctions.

The Act Amending the Nature Conservation Act (OG of the RS, 41/04) stipulates that the ministry responsible for nature protection issues permits, certificates and other documents in accordance with EU regulations governing the protection of plant and animal species or for the purpose of implementing the ratified and published international treaties.

The Decree on the Course of Conduct and Protection Measures in the Trade in Animal and Plant Species – Trade Decree (OG of the RS 52/04) lays down a detailed course of conduct and protection measures for the purpose of implementing EU Regulations as well as other regulations. It lays down the conditions for the breeding of wild animals and for the artificial propagation of wild plants. Furthermore, the decree governs the registration of scientists and scientific institutions, the disposal of seized and confiscated specimens, the competencies of authorities (management, scientific and enforcement authorities) and sets penalties.

The *Rules on the Marking of Animals of Wild Species Kept in Captivity* (OG of the RS 58/04) lays down detailed rules for marking.

Other pieces of legislation that also assist in the implementation and enforcement of the Convention are the *Order on the Living Conditions for and Care of Animals of Wild Species Kept in Captivity* (OG of the RS 90/01), the *Decree on Protected Wild Plant Species* (OG of the RS 46/04), the *Decree on Protected Animal Species* (OG of the RS 46/04), the *Decree on Zoos and Similar Facilities* (OG of the RS 37/03), the *Rules on the Assessment of Risk to Nature and on the Authorisation* (OG of the RS 43/02), the *Penal Code* (63/94, 70/94, 23/99, 60/99), the *Decree on the Rescue Centre for Animals of Wild Species* (No 98/2002), the *Public Administration Act* (OG of the RS 67/94, 20/95, 29/95, 80/99, 52/02, 56/02) and the *Act on the Government* (OG of the RS 4/1993, 71/1994, 23/1996, 47/1997, 23/1999, 119/2000, 30/2001, 52/2002, 123/2004).

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

The Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy is responsible for international co-operation and inter-sectoral co-ordination while the Environmental Agency, which is the body under the Ministry, is primarily responsible for issuance of documents and processing of seizures (Anon., 2005c). There are three persons employed full time at the Management Authority.

Scientific Authority

The Institute for Nature Conservation has been designated as the Scientific Authority. It has one permanent, full-time staff member as well as a part-time staff member dealing with CITES issues. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning finances the greatest part of the institute's budget. The institute also works with external experts from different scientific organizations in the country.

Enforcement Authorities

Customs
On the basis of the *Nature Conservation Act* and the *Trade Decree*, the Customs authorities have the powers to control the import, export and transit of species listed in Annexes A, B, C and D. They check whether the specimens crossing the national border are accompanied by appropriate and valid permits, certificates or other documents. They can also order the seizure and confiscation of animals, plants or their parts and derivatives, when appropriate, and hand over seized animals to a rescue centre and order the sale of the plants. Customs officers can also propose the initiation of a prosecution against the offenders or impose a penalty. Equally, a Customs officer may seize objects used for, intended for or originating from an offence. Customs officers may give or issue a payment order for an on-the-spot-fine or collect a fine of EUR 150 from an individual caught committing an offence involving the attempted or realized export, import, carrying out of transit of plants or animals or their parts and products without a permit if a permit is required. In co-operation with the border veterinary and phytosanitary inspectorate, Customs also check whether the transport of live animal specimens complies with transport requirements laid down in the accompanying documents. A mobile Customs group conducts checks within the country (Anon., 2005c). There is close collaboration between Customs and the Management Authority by way of a 24-hour mobile phone service and an e-mail address for identification which is aided by the use of digital photographs sent to the Management Authority by Customs. The Customs authority must inform the Management and Scientific Authorities of any discovery or declaration of specimens that could be subject of the decree and of violations of the decree or Customs regulations concerning specimens of species listed in Annexes A, B, C or D.

Inspection
In accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act*, inspectors have the authority to control the exploitation or use of valuable natural features and biodiversity components. They also have the power to seize objects with which the offence has been committed or originating from the commitment of the offence; to seize animals and plants when they are treated in defiance of the provisions of the Act; to hand over these animals to a rescue centre if they are not capable of surviving in the wild; and to sell the plants. Inspectors may request police assistance when they face or can justifiably expect physical resistance while carrying out the inspection.

Police
A police officer may give an on the spot fine or issue a payment order of EUR 125 to an individual caught committing an offence under the *Nature Conservation Act*. Prior to proposing the initiation of a prosecution due to an offence, the police officer may seize objects used for, intended for or originating from the offence. In 1999, the Ministry of Interior and the police drafted an international project for integrating European standards into police academies' curricula on prevention, detection and investigation of crime related to the environment, with a view to improving the effectiveness of the police in this field. Due to the numerous training courses, the police have a good awareness of CITES (Anon., 2005c).

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

Registration

Registration of specimens of large mammals, birds, reptiles and species specified in the ratified international treaties is required under the *Nature Conservation Act*. Whoever intends to keep animals of indigenous or non-indigenous species in captivity with the purpose of public exhibition or breeding must obtain a permit from the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning. The central database is held at the Management Authority (Anon., 2005c).

According to the *Trade Decree,* a permit must be obtained prior to the start of any captive-breeding or artificial propagation activity. By obtaining a permit, the commercial breeding facility is also registered by the Management Authority. In case of nurseries, the Management Authority registers a commercial producer of plants listed in Annexes B and C and hybrids of species listed in Annex A without annotations. The commercial producer has to submit, amongst others, the following information with the application: the date of establishment of the operation; a description of the facilities and propagation techniques; data on the artificially propagated species; a list of scientific names of the species currently propagated; a description of the breeding stock specimens taken from the wild, including the quantity and proof of legal acquisition; the expected annual quantity of specimens intended for sale or export. Upon entry in the register, the Management Authority assigns a unique registration number to the producer. The Management Authority can authorize a person employed by the registered commercial producer to fill out the forms for export permits. The Scientific Authority monitors artificial plant propagation at the registered commercial producers and during each inspection checks the size of the breeding stock of wild origin. The Management Authority submits information on all commercial producers registered to the CITES Secretariat.

Scientists and scientific institutions are also registered in Slovenia in accordance with the *Trade Decree.* They are required to draw up an inventory of specimens of the species listed in Annexes A to C, prior to registration, and make it available to the Management Authority that then submits the names and addresses of registered scientists and scientific institutions to the CITES Secretariat and to the European Commission.

Marking

The *Rules on the Marking of Animals of Wild Species Kept in Captivity* lists the species that have to be marked. According to these Rules the animals that need to be marked are the following: mammals, birds and reptiles that are listed in Annexes A; mammals, birds and reptiles that are listed in Annex B and are part of a breeding stock; animals protected by a regulation governing the protection of wild animal species; and selected species of birds[17]. The rules lay down the methods of marking and the types and quality of marks (**Table 23**). For all the marking techniques detailed in **Table 23**, the authority in charge of marking is an authorized veterinarian, which is registered by the Management Authority. Young tortoises with a plastron length of less than 10 cm, which have been bred by breeders having a breeding permit, are not required to be marked. Animals marked with marks approved by the competent authorities of other countries which are equivalent to marks specified in the rules are also acceptable. The rules also state that animals that weigh less than 200 g and birds that are marked by a closed ring should not be marked and that birds hatched in captivity must be marked with closed rings. A bird must be marked with a ring with the inner diameter as specified in *Annex 2* of the rules. The leg bearing the ring must be undamaged. If the inner diameter of the ring is not specified, the bird is marked with a microchip or an open ring appropriate for the size of the leg or with a description.

[17] *Ara* spp.; *Amazona* spp.; Ambon King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis;* Cuban Conure *Aratinga euops;* Umbrella Cockatoo *Cacatua alba;* Ducorps's Cockatoo *Cacatua ducorps;* Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita; Cacatua galerita triton;* Leadbeater's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri;* Bare-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua sanguinea; Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata;* Helmkakatoe *Callocephalon fimbriatum;* Long-billed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii;* Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus;* Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii;* Cardinal Lory *Chalcopsitta cardinalis;* Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma diophthalma;* Hawk-headed Parrot *Deroptyus accipitrinus fuscifrons;* Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus;* Biak Red Lory *Eos cyanogenia;* Kea *Nestor notabilis;* Bluebonnet *Northiella haematogaster naretha;* Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides;* Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda; Psittacula erithaceus;* Crimson-bellied Conure *Pyrrhura rhodogaster.*

Table 23
Marking in Slovenia according to the *Trade Decree* and the *Rules on the Marking of Animals of Wild Species Kept in Captivity*

Taxa	Marking technique
Mammals (all Annex A and breeding stock animals listed in Annex B)	Microchip transponder, minimum body weight of 200 g before a microchip can safely be inserted (body tissue sample (e.g. fur, hair, blood) deposited at the MA)
Birds (all Annex A and breeding stock animals listed in Annex B)	Closed ring, microchip transponder, open ring, other documentation (description – sex, age, weight, length – ID photo, drawing), minimum body weight of 200 g before a microchip can safely be inserted
Birds- Falconiformes, Psittaciformes (Annex A)	Closed ring, microchip transponder, open ring, other documentation (description – sex, age, weight, length – ID photo, drawing) (For captive-bred specimens also a body tissue sample (e.g. feathers) deposited at the MA)
Reptiles (all Annex A and breeding stock animals listed in Annex B)	Microchip transponder, other documentation (description – sex, age, weight, length – , ID photo, drawing), minimum body weight of 200 g before a microchip can safely be inserted

Source: CITES Management Authority of Slovenia.

In the case of parrots and lories (order Psittaciformes) listed in Annex A, and birds of prey (order Falconiformes) and owls (order Strigiformes), a deposit of body tissue samples (e.g. feathers) for molecular and genetic analysis is mandatory. Samples are taken when the specimen has grown sufficiently such that it is impossible to take off its ring.

Only the persons authorized by the Environmental Agency to do so may supply the marks and carry out marking. The environmental and veterinary inspectorate supervises marking. The breeder must mark the animal within 10 working days from its acquisition or within five working days after the quarantine has been concluded if this is longer than 10 working days. The marker issues a marking certificate after each marking and enters it in an electronic database on marking, which is access-secured. This marking database is fully accessible to officials of the Management Authority, while other users (markers and suppliers of marks) have limited access only.

Capacity building and training needs

The Slovene Management Authority regularly organized training courses for all the enforcement agencies involved in CITES enforcement (Customs, police, environmental inspection, veterinary and phytosanitary inspections). Experts from abroad (e.g. from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, HM Customs and Excise, UK and the Italian Forestry Corps have been invited as speakers at the courses. Heads of Customs offices who have attended training courses transmit their knowledge to their employees. The Management and Scientific Authorities have also participated in several international training courses and study visits, for example in Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. Most of these training courses and visits provided appropriate preparation for the changes that came along with the EU Accession. Other international training courses in which Slovenia participated focused on the judiciary sector. Representatives of this sector (e.g. prosecutors) have also been invited by the Management Authority to participate in some of the national courses. The head of the Management Authority has obtained a Master's degree on management, conservation and control of species in international trade at the International University of Andalusia, Spain. Moreover, in recent years the Slovene Management Authority is involved to a great extent in the training of enforcement officials in other countries, particularly in South-Eastern Europe (namely Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro).

Reported illegal trade

In 2001, the Slovenian Police reported only two CITES-related seizures while in 2002, the Slovenian Customs reported 15 cases of CITES seizures (**Table 24**) involving three specimens of Hermann's Tortoise from Serbia and Montenegro, some *Tridacnidae* spp. shells from South-East Asia and corals mostly from the Philippines and the American continent. Thirty-three CITES-related cases were reported in 2003 and there was an increasing number of corals and shells, for instance 486 specimens of *Scleractinia* spp. were seized in total. Apart from these, 136 kg of Date Mussels (listed in CITES Appendix II in 2004) originating from Croatia were stopped at the Slovenian border. In 2004, Slovenian Customs reported 57 cases of CITES seizures. The appearance of traditional Asian medicines (for instance plasters and capsules containing American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius*, Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla*, Musk Deer *Moschus* spp. and Leopard *Panthera pardus* parts) can be noted with several hundred specimens mostly seized at Customs post offices and Ljubljana Airport. The seizure of corals (e.g. 650 specimens of Scleractinia spp.) and shells was also significant. Most seizures involved tourist souvenirs at Ljubljana airport.

Table 24
Summary of seizures and confiscations in Slovenia in 2002–2004

Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
2002	4	74 and 6 kg caviar
2003	136 kg Date Mussel	521
2004	14 and 56 kg Date Mussel	2151

Source: Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.

TURKEY

Background

In 2005, the number of inhabitants in the Republic of Turkey was estimated to be almost 70 million. The capital is Ankara and the government type is a parliamentary democracy. The country covers an area of 780 580 km². Turkey shares its borders with the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Iraq and Syria, with a total terrestrial boundary length of 2648 km. Furthermore, there is 7200 km of Aegean Sea and Black Sea coastline (Anon., 2005d).

Source: The World Factbook. CIA. 2006.

Turkey acceded to CITES on 23 September 1996 and the Convention entered into force on 22 December 1996. Turkey is a range State to 249 CITES-listed species including 145 plants, 15 mammals and 64 birds (see Annex A).

National CITES/Wildlife Trade legislation

The *Regulation on the Implementation of CITES No. 24623* (adoption: 27 December 2001) designates the Management Authorities and the Scientific Authority of Turkey. It approves the Appendices of CITES and also regulates the procedures for import and (re-) export including information about permits and certificates. It also stipulates that the Management Authorities are entitled to designate rescue centres. It orders the registration of keepers and breeders as well as scientific institutions at the relevant Ministry. Violation of these regulations is punishable with seizure of specimens by the Customs.

The *Regulation on Possession, Breeding and Trade of Game and Wild Animals and their Products* (OJ 25847, adoption: 16 June 2005 www.milliparklar.gov.tr) adopted most issues related to wildlife trade. It regulates the establishment, management and control of captive breeding operations, import, export and re-export of species and their products (skins, furs, meat, etc.) of CITES and non-CITES species and sets the rules for obtaining licences for some operations, certification and marking methods of animals and for keeping records of breeding animals.

In accordance with the *Regulation on Establishment, Management and Investigation of Ranching, Breeding Stations and Rescue Centres* (OG 25656, adoption: 30 November 2004; www.milliparklar.gov.tr), some ranching and breeding stations have been established by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This regulation set the principles of the establishment of such operations. In addition, it also regulates the establishing of new rescue centres, the determination of suitable places as rescue centres, and rules on their conditions and working procedures.

Other pieces of legislation that also assist in the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Turkey are the *Animal Protection Law* (code: 5199, OJ 25509, adoption: 1 July 2004; www.milliparklar.gov.tr), the *Regulation Pertaining to Uprooting, Production and Trade of Natural Flower Bulbs* (OJ 25563, adoption: 24 August 2004) and the *Land Hunting Law* (code: 4915, OJ 25165, adoption: 11 July 2003; www.milliparklar.gov.tr).

National CITES authorities and interagency co-operation

Management Authority

Currently there are two Management Authorities in Turkey: one is the Ministry of Environment and Forestry which is responsible for the permit issuance for mammals, birds and reptiles (Nature Protection Division, Game and Wildlife Department) and for timber (Forestry Division). The other Management Authority is the Ministry

of Agriculture and Rural Affairs that issues permits for aquatic species (Fisheries Department) and for live plants (General Directorate of Agricultural Production). There are plans to establish a so-called 'CITES Office' to co-ordinate the work of the different CITES Management Authorities better. However, this will be quite difficult as the various ministries and their departments have different pieces of legislation making them responsible for their fields of work (pers. comm. to TEUR-CE, 2005), and therefore the establishment of the 'CITES Office' cannot be expected before mid-2006 or 2007. Even when such an office is established, at first it would mean that the officials of the two ministries would merely be located in one office and only later could all the responsibilities be allocated to one ministry.

Scientific Authority

The designated CITES Scientific Authority is the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (*Tubitak*). There is a central focal point at this institution who can contact the specific focal points for animals or plants who are scientific experts from different universities with backgrounds in botany and zoology. The focal points for botany and zoology can contact the relevant specialists required from all over Turkey. This co-ordination work is not formally regulated but works well in practice. Neither the focal points nor the other experts are paid for their work on CITES issues. However, if their assistance is needed for an inspection in another city, their travel costs are covered by the State. The Scientific Authority is mostly consulted for assistance in the identification of species (direct contact from Customs) and sometimes for making non-detriment findings. The Scientific Authority is involved in quota setting for CITES species native to Turkey e.g. Medicinal Leech and snowdrops.

The Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council is responsible for keeping a record of the specialist researchers who have expertise on different taxa. A specific database is under development on this subject. *Tubitak* has also developed a special programme for Customs officers for the identification of CITES species most frequently appearing in trade in Turkey. This programme was tested by Customs during the summer of 2005. The programme will be available on the Intranet of the Customs as well as a twin system for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and its 81 local offices.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is responsible for co-ordinating the quota setting for bulbous plants listed in CITES. When export quotas are to be determined, each region's characteristics (topographical, geographical and climatic) related to natural reproduction and artificial propagation are taken into consideration. Exporter companies and collectors are also consulted. CITES-listed plants native to Turkey include *Galanthus* spp*., Cyclamen* spp*., Sternbergia* spp. (App. II) and orchids (App. I). In recent years half of all cyclamens exported were artificially propagated (Turkish Management Authority, *in litt.*). For this reason propagation by the companies are monitored by scientists who are designated by the Scientific Authority and officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for each period. A report is prepared, which is later discussed at the technical committee. The export quotas are determined according to these reports. The same process is used for snowdrops. The Management Authority informs the CITES Secretariat of the total quotas for CITES species. However, according to a decision made by the technical committee (the committee that sets quotas), to prevent uprooting from the wild the export of plant specimens of species native to Turkey will not be allowed from 2010 if they are of wild origin. In 1974 Turkey banned the export of orchids (including tubers and products).

Enforcement Authorities

Customs

Two regulations, the *Customs Code* and the *Law on the Prohibition and Investigation of Smuggling* regulate Customs procedures in Turkey. The Customs carries out control of CITES specimens at the border-crossing points. There are approximately 138 Customs offices and 20 more border-crossing points (land borders, sea ports, airports) with 10 000 Customs officers working at the borders. According to the Customs, approximately 90% of all CITES trade goes through Istanbul airport where the Customs officers are regularly trained. Customs contact the Scientific Authority directly to seek assistance with the identification of specimens. In cases where urgent identification is required Customs officers have been trained to enable them to distinguish artificially propagated from wild plants. The placement of confiscated live animals is problematic but it is hoped that the new regulation will solve this problem.

Police
The police are involved in the implementation of CITES inside the country. Police officers usually go on inspections with the local officials of the relevant ministries.

Local offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Local officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry can control pet shops and breeders. They have the right to seize illegal specimens but a court decision is needed for confiscation. Because they cannot arrest individuals, they usually go on checks together with the police. There are 81 local offices and in each of them there are one or two part-time staff responsible for CITES implementation for all types of specimens of reptiles (non-aquatic), birds and mammals.

Local offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Local officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs have the same powers as those of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry but deal with all types of aquatic species and live plants.

Registration and marking of CITES specimens

According to the *Regulation on Possession, Breeding and Trade of Game and Wild Animals and their Products*, all captive-bred specimens listed in CITES as well as non-CITES species under the protection of the *Land Hunting Law* will be certified and marked. This procedure will be controlled by Game and Wildlife Department and related offices in provinces. A six-month transition period ending in December 2005 was set but it was extended for another three years owing to a lack of awareness, after which marking of all Appendix I and II captive-bred specimens is obligatory.

Capacity building and training needs

In 2004 and 2005 there were a number of training courses for Customs, local offices of the ministries, as well as the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. According to Customs, 90% of the trade is going by air through Istanbul. Thus the training of Customs officers is focused on Istanbul's Atatürk airport. The last training course for these Customs officers was held in April 2005. CITES is not included in the curriculum of the general education of Customs officers but specialized training courses were organized instead.

Reported illegal trade

According to Turkish Customs, several seizures of CITES specimens were made, however no further information could be obtained.

OVERVIEW OF COMMON ISSUES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND THE EU WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

This section shifts the focus from the national level to the regional level and aims to provide a more comprehensive overview of some common challenges in the region with regard to the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. The chapter focuses on staff capacities and resources, capacity building and training needs, interagency co-operation and information exchange, a review of detected cases of illegal trade as well as sanctions provided for the prosecution of wildlife trade-related crimes in the different countries. The aim of this chapter is to describe and highlight tendencies typical of the Central and Eastern European region. It will be demonstrated that the region is quite heterogeneous in many ways especially if one takes into consideration that the majority of the countries concerned form a part of the EU and thus have been implementing the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations since 2004. The Acceding and Candidate countries however are aspiring to join the same Union, and therefore it is important to highlight the efforts they have made on their way to EU Accession.

Staff capacities and resources of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities

Structure and staff capacities of the Management Authorities

The structure of the Management Authorities is very similar in all of the countries covered by this report except for Turkey where there are two Management Authorities (one for Plants and one for Animals). In Croatia, the Management Authority is under the Ministry of Culture instead of the Ministry of Environment. In Latvia, the Management Authority is under the Ministry of Environment but it has no power in formulating CITES legislation. Steps should be taken to address these structural problems in order to make communication and co-ordination more effective between these actors.

Since 2001, the number of employees at the Management Authorities and the staff time spent on CITES-related matters have increased significantly in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. In certain countries (Cyprus, Malta and Romania) there was no change in the number of employees working on CITES while in Bulgaria and Estonia, fewer staff were employed for CITES in 2005 than were employed in 2001. However, the total staff time spent on CITES did not decrease significantly (**Table 25**).

Table 25
Staff capacities of the CITES Management Authority and the total time spent by employees working on CITES (hours per week) in 2001 and 2005

Country	Employees (2001)	Time spent on CITES (2001)	Employees (2005)	Time spent on CITES (2005)
Bulgaria	5	n.a.	4	n.a.
Croatia	n.a.	n.a.	3	n.a.
Cyprus	3	18	3	20
Czech Republic	2	85	6	225
Estonia	2	23	1	20
Hungary	3	90	5	144
Latvia	1	4	2	40
Lithuania	2	4	3	64
Malta	4	n.a.	4	Approx. 70
Poland	4	55	5	150
Romania	3	n.a.	3	90
Serbia	Not a CITES Party		3	40
and Montenegro	Not a CITES Party		n.a.	n.a.
Slovakia	2	80	4	160
Slovenia	2	60	3	105
Turkey	31	495	14	n.a.

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.a. = not available

Structure and staff capacity of the Scientific Authorities

The Scientific Authorities are structured quite similarly within the region (**Table 26**). Usually one or more research institutes are appointed as the Scientific Authority (e.g. Lithuania, Latvia, etc.) and other experts are consulted on a case-by-case basis. Another typical structure is that a focal point is employed for co-ordinating the work of the Scientific Authority (e.g. Turkey, Estonia) who can then consult a pool of experts if needed. Often, these experts are working on a voluntary basis. It is problematic that in many countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Lithuania and Turkey) the Scientific Authorities are not regularly consulted to make the non-detriment finding. The Scientific Authority is used more to provide assistance in the identification of species. In contrast to that, in some countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, it is stipulated in the legislation that the Scientific Authority must be consulted in certain cases. The latter two countries have also established Scientific Authorities that employ several permanent full-time staff for dealing with CITES matters.

Table 26
Structure and staff capacities of the CITES Scientific Authorities in 2001 and 2005. Total time spent by these employees on CITES issues is shown in hours per week.

Country	Employees (2001)	Time spent on CITES (2001)	Employees (2005)	Time spent on CITES (2005)	Current Structure
Bulgaria	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Scientific council and a list of experts. No focal point. Not paid
Croatia	n.a.	n.a.	1	n.a.	Institute of Ornithology, Veterinary Faculty and Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Zagreb, Natural History Museum. Not paid
Cyprus	2	10	7	20	4 scientific committees: specialized on aquatic fauna and flora, terrestrial flora, terrestrial fauna and avifauna)
Czech Republic	5	95	7	170	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, CITES Steering Group and external experts
Estonia	1	4	5	5	Scientific committee. Paid focal point
Hungary	5	n.a.	1	28	One paid focal point and a pool of experts
Latvia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Natural History Museum, Institute of Biology, Faculty of Biology Not paid
Lithuania	Not a Party to CITES until 2002		n.a.	n.a.	Institute of Botany, Institute of Ecology, 130 experts. No full-time staff for CITES. Not paid
Malta	2	n.a.	2	n.a.	A pool of experts
Poland	n.a.	n.a.	4	n.a.	State Nature Conservation Council. Not paid
Romania	n.a.	n.a.	39	n.a.	Romanian Academy. (Two paid focal points), Forest Research and Planning Institute, Danube Delta Research and Development Institute
Serbia and Montenegro	Not a Party to CITES 2002		n.a.	n.a.	Serbia: Scientific Advisory Council. Not paid Montenegro: Institute for the Protection of Nature, Institute for Marine Biology
Slovakia	2	85	3	120	State Nature Conservancy
Slovenia	5	45	2	20	Institute for Nature Conservation
Turkey	2	n.a.	1	n.a.	Scientific and Technical Research Council, one paid focal point

Source: CITES Management Authorities and Berkhoudt, 2002.
n.a. = not available

The number of permits issued annually

The reported total number of import, export and re-export permits issued by the 15 CEE countries has increased from 1998 to 2004, although there was a drop in permit issuance from 2003 to 2004 for all three types of permits (see **Annexes B, C, D**). This decrease in 2004 is probably due to the accession of 10 countries to the EU. As many of the new Member States have been important trading partners of other EU Member States, a significant part of the trade within the Community since 1 May 2004 does not require permits (Annex B species) or the issuance of EC certificates (Annex A species) is required (to be discussed later). As most countries only issue CITES permits once they have become a Party to CITES, part of the increase in permit issuance can be attributed to the fact that three countries became CITES Parties between 1998 and 2004 (Croatia in 2000, Lithuania, and Serbia and Montenegro in 2002 – Slovenia became a Party in 2000 but issued CITES permits prior to its accession as well) and were therefore not issuing permits in the first few years of the period covered. In addition, data on permit issuance were not available for certain countries in specific years, which tend to be in the earlier part of the study period. Despite this, the average issuance of import permits per CEE country that reported has increased from 1998 to 2004, and for re-export permits, the numbers have declined slightly. This suggests that the 15 CEE countries' role as an importer has increased in recent years whilst exports may have declined slightly and re-exports not changed noticeably.

The Czech Republic has reported issuing the most import permits between 1996 and 2004 (5418), almost three times more than the next largest issuer of import permits, Poland (1883) (**Annex B**). The number of import permits issued by both the Czech Republic and Poland has increased from 1996 to 2004. Hungary has reported issuing the greatest number of CITES export permits (2537) but this total includes re-export permits, as Hungary reports their export and re-export permits together (**Annex C**). Romania reported issuing 1944 export permits between 1996 and 2004 and the number of permits issued increased from 1996 (159) to 2004 (367). Other countries issuing large numbers of export permits were the Czech Republic (809) and Bulgaria (792).

A specific certificate is also required for internal trade in the EU in species listed in Annex A, and these are therefore not used by Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro or Turkey which are not part of the EU yet. Of the 10 new EU Member States, the Czech Republic, as well as issuing the greatest number of CITES import and re-export permits, issued by far the most EC certificates for internal trade (approx. 4000–5000 in 2004 alone) (**Table 27**).

Table 27
Number of EC certificates for internal trade issued by each of the 10 new EU Member States in 2004

Country	2004
Cyprus	0
Czech Republic	App. 4000-5000*
Estonia	22
Hungary	1167
Latvia	10
Lithuania	0
Malta	n.a.
Poland	43
Slovakia	173
Slovenia	100

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.a. = not available
*42 regional offices issue the EC certificates and there is no central database. However, the CITES Management Authority receives the copies of certificates from most offices. In 2004, approx. 3600 copies of EC certificates were received and therefore the actual number of issued certificates has been estimated by the CITES MA to be between 4000 and 5000 for 2004.

Costs of different types of CITES permits and certificates

The price charged to purchase a CITES permit or an EC certificate for internal trade varies between the different CEE countries (see Annex E) and is free in Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The price may also vary within the issuing country, depending on the purpose of the trade (e.g. commercial versus non-commercial), the type of species traded (e.g. native versus non-native) and the nature of the applicant (e.g. legal versus private person). Permits and EC certificates are most expensive in Serbia and Montenegro and in the Czech Republic.

Management of data and reporting

Data about issued permits are usually stored in electronic tables at the Management Authority (**Annex E**). In some countries more complex databases have been developed (e.g. Slovenia and Slovakia) or are being developed (e.g. Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania). According to the Management Authorities of the former countries, these databases facilitate access to data on permits, make reporting more simple and faster and are definitely worth the investment that was put into developing them.

In Slovenia, a computerized system for the issuance of permits and the registering of trade was developed in 2004. A direct connection with a statistical programme enables more complex functions such as data processing and graphic presentations of the data. The database, which contains information about registered scientists and scientific institutions, EU import notifications and offences, assists enforcers in the monitoring of import, (re-) export and transit of specimens of protected plant and animal species and facilitates the electronic processing and printing of documents. The database facilitates reporting on trade in species listed in the CITES Appendices and Annexes of the EU regulations and helps with data analysis when it is needed for other governmental bodies, national reports or other reports. There are also plans to develop the database by making it accessible to the public via the internet. The next step will be the on-line internet application for permits and certificates. In Slovakia there is a central database of issued permits at the Management Authority. There is also a database about registered keepers and specimens at the Scientific Authority.

Internal market control measures

Marking

The EU Wildlife Trade Regulations require that certain specimens of species listed in the EU Annexes must be uniquely marked, for internal EU trade control purposes (e.g. live Annex A animals) or for the purposes of controlling trade to and from the EU (e.g. crocodile skins and caviar). Ultimately these marking requirements have been developed to prevent fraud and to curtail illegal trade. For example, the details of the mark such as the unique number code have to be provided on the permit or certificate of the specimens and this helps tie up each specimen with its accompanying documentation.

Most new EU Member States implement the marking requirements according to the EU regulations. Exceptions to this are Cyprus and Lithuania where steps have been taken to address this gap. In other countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) there are stricter measures for marking than those specified by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (see **Table 28** and the country reviews section). Similar measures are also planned for in other countries, for instance Turkey and Estonia. In the Acceding and Candidate countries, marking of CITES-listed specimens is not yet a requirement with the exception of Romania where specimens in zoos and legally captured sturgeons have to be marked. Bulgaria has amended its CITES legislation to require the obligatory marking of all CITES Appendix I and II specimens (except for personal and household effects) while Romania is planning to adopt legislation on marking before its accession to the EU.

From 2006, the EU also requires that all caviar containers are marked with a unique label as specified in CITES Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) and several of the EU Member States in the region have been preparing for this requirement. In accordance with the CITES Resolution, Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro as range

States of sturgeon and producers of caviar also require that all primary containers of caviar that are exported are uniquely labelled.

Table 28
Marking in the 15 CEE countries

Country	Marking	Any stricter measures than EU regulations
Bulgaria	All Appendix I and II specimens must be marked (except for personal and household effects)	n.r., labelling of caviar containers
Croatia	No	n.r.
Cyprus	Relevant provisions of EU Regulations not yet implemented	No
Czech Republic	According to the EU Regulations	Selected Annex A and B mammals, birds and reptiles
Estonia	According to the EU Regulations	Stricter regulation is being drafted (Annex A mammals, birds and reptiles)
Hungary	According to the EU Regulations	Annex A vertebrates and Annex B mammals, birds and tortoises (with exceptions)
Latvia	According to the EU Regulations	No
Lithuania	Relevant provisions of EU Regulations not yet implemented	No
Malta	According to the EU Regulations	No
Poland	According to the EU Regulations	No
Romania	Marking of legally caught sturgeons	n.r., labelling of caviar containers
Serbia and Montenegro	No	n.r. , labelling of caviar containers
Slovakia	According to the EU Regulations	Annex A and B vertebrates (with exceptions)
Slovenia	According to the EU Regulations	All Annex A mammals, birds and reptiles and Annex B mammals, birds and reptiles that are breeding stock animals
Turkey	No	All captive-bred specimens listed in CITES will have to be marked from 2006

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.r. – not relevant

Identification of parenthood for specimens bred in captivity for commercial purposes

Commission Regulation (EC) No.865/2006 states that where a competent authority deems it necessary to establish the ancestry of animals through the analysis of blood or other tissue, such analysis, or the necessary samples, shall be made available in a manner prescribed by the Authority. However, neither Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 nor Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 require EU Member States to pass national legislation regarding the identification of parenthood for animals bred in captivity for commercial purposes.

Eleven of the 15 CEE countries do not have legislation regarding the obligatory identification of parenthood for specimens bred in captivity for commercial purposes. However, in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia, there are requirements concerning the identification of parenthood. In the Czech Republic, DNA analysis is usually required for all new-born specimens of strictly protected native birds of prey, with some

exceptions. In Hungary, the offspring of all birds of prey – except for Goshawk – bred in captivity should undergo genetic testing in order to prove that they are captive-bred. In Slovakia, DNA testing is obligatory for all native protected species listed in Annex A as well as all specimens of species listed in Annex A used for reproduction (including offspring) and a certificate of origin can only be issued after such a test has been conducted. In Slovenia, a deposit of samples for molecular and genetic analyses is compulsory for parrots and lories (order Psittaciformes) listed in Annex A, birds of prey (order Falconiformes) and owls (order Strigiformes).

There are, however, some practical problems with such requirements which were highlighted by the 15 CEE countries. Analyses to prove parenthood are expensive and require technical capacities and facilities which may be limited or non-existent in certain countries. In Hungary for example, where legislation exists that requires genetic testing to ascertain whether a specimen is truly captive-bred, this requirement is currently not being implemented due to the lack of capacity of forensic laboratories. The cost of identification of parenthood usually falls with the breeder or owner (Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia) and in cases of seized specimens being tested, with the offender (Slovenia). The methods used to identify parenthood are usually DNA analysis and in Slovakia, more specifically micro satellite analysis.

Registration

Although the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations or CITES do not *per se* require that all holders of specimens listed in the EU Annexes or CITES Appendices register these with the national CITES authority[18], several of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe have been using registration as a tool to control internal trade.

It is required to register at least a selected list of CITES species in Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. In Bulgaria, a wide range of specimens has to be registered at the Regional Environmental Inspectorate (all specimens of any species listed in Appendices I and II of CITES, with the exception of food products derived from CITES species, species covered by the *Hunting and Game Protection Act*, invertebrates, small leather products, captive-bred mutations of birds such as albinos and specimens from the species that are regarded as personal effects and household effects), but this regulation is not fully implemented. In Cyprus, Annex A captive-bred specimens must be registered. In the Czech Republic, a selected list of live specimens of Annexes A and B fall under the registration requirement. In Estonia, legislation ordering the registration of all Annex A mammals, birds and reptiles was adopted in spring 2006; a separate piece of legislation will be drafted on the registration of breeding operations for commercial purposes in the future. In Hungary, there is a regulation for the registration of live specimens of all Annex A vertebrate species and Annex B-listed mammals, birds and tortoises (with some exceptions). In Poland, the registration of live specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians listed in Annexes A, B, C and D of the EU Regulations kept by private persons (but not by zoos, companies or shops) is required. In Slovakia, all specimens (including live as well as parts and derivatives) listed on Annexes A, B, C and D, with some exceptions, must be registered. In Slovenia, whoever intends to keep animals of indigenous or non-indigenous species in captivity with the purpose of public exhibition or breeding must obtain a permit from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The registers of specimens also contain information about the keepers. However, currently a central and electronic registration database exists only in Slovakia and Slovenia. The Czech Republic and Hungary are in the process of developing a central database for information on registered specimens and keepers. The availability of such central and electronic databases is essential for making registration a valuable tool in the control of wildlife trade. Moreover, registration can only be really effective if it is required along with obligatory marking.

[18] Different CITES Resolutions, for example Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12), Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13), Resolutions Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13) and Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP13), recommend that Parties maintain registers of different institutions involved in trade in CITES specimens, for example scientific institutions that exchange CITES-listed specimens, operations that package or re-package caviar, or commercial captive-breeding operations that breed Appendix-I-listed animal species or nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I species. Not all of these provisions are required by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Currently, there is no requirement to register CITES specimens in Croatia, Malta, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro; however Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro register legal caviar producers and exporters. In Turkey, a transition period was set (originally six months long to finish at the end of 2005 but then extended for another three years because of the lack of awareness), after which the registration of all Appendix I and II captive-bred specimens would be obligatory. The countries that register commercial breeding facilities are Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. In Lithuania, the premises where specimens are kept must be registered. Scientists and scientific institutions need to be registered in Slovakia and Slovenia. Croatia, Latvia and Romania are planning to adopt legislation on registration shortly.

Training and capacity building

There are countries within the region (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia) where the CITES Management Authority organizes regular CITES training workshops for enforcement agencies, especially for Customs and environmental inspectorates. There were several training courses organized in Turkey in 2004 and 2005 within the framework of the Phare Twinning project with Germany. Lithuania also planned several training courses for 2005 and 2006 within the framework of a Phare project. With the financial support of the Italian CITES enforcement agency, the Forestry Corps and the German Ministry of Environment, several Polish Customs co-ordinators took part in a training course organized in Italy with the assistance of TRAFFIC in June 2005. However, there are other countries (Cyprus, Romania, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro) where no or only a few training courses were organized. The main reason behind this is lack of funds. Steps have been taken by TRAFFIC to facilitate the organization of a training course similar to the one provided for Polish Customs officers but for Romanian Customs.

Interagency co-ordination on CITES and information exchange

Because of its relevance in the effective fight against illegal wildlife trade, the importance of the establishment of national wildlife crime co-ordination units has been recognised, especially at the time of the last enlargement of the EU (Theile *et al*., 2004). Since the different enforcement agencies that are responsible for controlling wildlife trade work under the mandate of different ministries, communication between their officials and therefore co-ordination of their work can be largely facilitated by the establishment of interagency co-ordination units where the representatives of enforcement agencies meet regularly. There are some good examples of such units in Central and Eastern Europe. For instance, Croatia is one of the three countries in the region where a functioning interagency unit was established at the end of 2003. On the formal invitation of the Croatian Management Authority, the members meet quarterly or more frequently if necessary. In Slovenia and Slovakia there have also been functioning interagency units since 2002 and 2003 respectively (**Table 29**). The Slovenian inter-sectoral committee has been formally established by a legal act.

In other countries, less formalized interagency co-ordination units exist in order to improve co-operation related to CITES enforcement. For instance, the Czech Management Authority organizes monthly official CITES meetings jointly with the Scientific Authority, the Environmental Inspectorate, Customs and other interested agencies. In Estonia, the Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs, Environmental Inspectorate and Veterinary Service communicate regularly via a mailing list and meet once or twice a year. In Lithuania, in the framework of the on-going Phare project, an advisory group has been established with the participation of many different enforcement agencies. Currently, this group meets quarterly but it has not been decided whether the group will keep functioning after the end of the Phare project, in 2006. In Malta, the Management Authority consults the other enforcement agencies on a monthly basis to ensure national co-ordination. The Polish Management Authority consults other enforcement agencies on a weekly basis and meetings are organized on several occasions each year according to need with the participation of the Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and police. However, environmental NGOs are still lobbying for the establishment of a formal unit in Poland.

Some other countries such as Cyprus and Latvia have plans to establish an interagency co-ordination unit for CITES issues. In Latvia, the first steps have been taken by organizing a workshop for the representatives of the

different agencies to serve as a starting point for discussions about the advantages of a co-ordination unit. Additionally, the Czech Management Authority and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate have proposed the establishment of an official CITES Task Force that would also include the Customs and the police. In Turkey, an interagency co-ordination unit should have been established according to the law but in practice this provision is currently not implemented. In four other countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro there is currently neither an interagency co-ordination unit nor are there any concrete plans to establish one in the near future.

Table 29
Interagency co-ordination/co-operation on CITES

Country	Interagency co-ordination unit	Members	Further information
Bulgaria	No	-	-
Croatia	Formal	MA, SA, police, Customs, Nature Protection Inspection, Veterinary Border Inspection and Phyto-sanitary Inspection.	Only the Institute of Ornithology participates at these meetings but there are plans to involve the other SAs, too.
Cyprus	No	-	There are plans to establish a unit.
Czech Republic	Informal	MA, SA, Environmental Inspectorate, Customs and other interested agencies.	The MA organizes monthly CITES meetings. Moreover, the ministry together with the environmental inspectorate has proposed to establish an official 'CITES Enforcement Task Force' which would also comprise the police.
Estonia	Informal	MA, SA, Customs, Environmental Inspectorate, Veterinary Service	Communication via CITES mailing list and meeting once or twice a year.
Hungary	No	-	-
Latvia	No	-	Steps have been taken to improve interagency co-ordination.
Lithuania	No	-	In the framework of the Phare project, an advisory group has been established with the participation of all bodies involved in CITES implementation and enforcement that meets quarterly.
Malta	Informal	n.a.	The MA consults the other enforcement agencies monthly to ensure co-ordination among CITES authorities.
Poland	Informal	MA, SA, Customs and police	The MA consults other enforcement agencies weekly and meetings are organized each year.
Romania	No	-	-
Serbia and Montenegro	No	-	-
Slovakia	Formal	Slovak Environmental Inspection, MA, SA, police and Customs.	An interagency co-ordination body for CITES crimes was established in 2003 that usually meets once a year.

Country	Interagency co-ordination unit	Members	Further information
Slovenia	Formal	Permanent members from the Criminal Police Directorate (Interpol central bureau), the General Customs Directorate (investigation division) and the Management Authority.	An inter-sectoral committee operates to collect data and exchanges information on illegal wildlife trade, to organize joint actions and controls and to offer technical assistance in investigations. The committee is obliged to report to the relevant ministers on its activities every six months. The committee meets when necessary but at least once quarterly and is financed by the relevant ministries.
Turkey	No	-	According to the regulation from 2001 implementing CITES, the MA, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Undersecretary of Customs, Undersecretary of Foreign Trade, the SA and representatives of NGOs should meet at least once a year. However, this provision is not yet implemented.

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.a. – not available

Reported illegal trade between 2000 and 2005

This section summarizes some of the existing information on detected illegal trade in CITES specimens in the region. It must be noted that this information is far from comprehensive and can only present a superficial overview of the trends and problems of illegal wildlife trade in the region.

The information has been compiled primarily from CITES Management Authorities. In most of the countries in the region, the Management Authorities collect data about CITES seizures and confiscations in their countries. In Slovenia there is a standardized electronic format for reporting seizures by the Customs and Environmental Inspectorate but not by the police. In Estonia, the CITES authorities have been considering the introduction of a standardized reporting system. None of the other countries have a system similar to that in Slovenia.

The region is quite diverse in terms of the number of detected cases of illegal trade that were reported for the period examined (2000–2004). Some of the new Parties to CITES, such as Lithuania and Serbia and Montenegro, reported only a few CITES seizures. Other countries that reported only a few cases of seizures were mostly the smaller countries, such as Cyprus, Estonia and Latvia. Further countries that reported few seizures included Bulgaria, where the number of seizures has decreased since 2000; Croatia, where the number of cases has increased since 2000; and Romania, where no seizures were reported before 2005 although the country has been a Party to CITES for over a decade. It must be noted that no information on seizures could be obtained from the CITES authorities in Turkey. The countries where there was a steadily significant number of cases between 2000 and 2004 include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Some of the countries (e.g. Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia) reported seizures that were carried out during inland control as well as border control.

Table 30
Summary of reported seizures and confiscations in 2000–2004

Country	Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
Bulgaria	2000	237	0
	2001	50	0
	2002	0	0
	2003	0	0
	2004	5	0
Croatia	2002	100 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	1104 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)
	2003	36 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	6400 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)
	2004	123 (CITES-listed); 5 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)	2356 (bird crime, non CITES-listed)
Cyprus	2000	0	0
	2001	0	201
	2002	0	0
	2003	0	0
	2004	0	0
Czech Republic	2000	31 653	1588
	2001	1412	54 + 8.6 kg caviar
	2002	2127	606 + 0.3 kg caviar
	2003	104*	n. a.
	2004	181*	n. a.
Estonia	2000	0	1
	2001	0	0
	2002	0	2
	2003	0	2 and 342 g caviar
	2004	0	22 and 53 jars of sturgeon meat

Country	Year	No. of live specimens	No. of non-live specimens
Hungary	2000	17	27
	2001	904	12
	2002	36	65
	2003	196	166
	2004	100	12
Latvia	2000	n. a.	n. a.
	2001	n. a.	n. a.
	2002	n.a.	n. a.
	2003	24	22
	2004	0	21
Lithuania	2002	n. a.	n. a.
	2003	n. a.	n. a.
	2004	4	7 + 22.5 kg caviar
Malta	2000	6131	107
	2001	1766	53 and 126 kg crocodile meat
	2002	4290 and 500 seeds (*Pachypodium ambongense*)	199 (mostly skins) and 100 kg of Muscovy Duck feathers
	2003	716 and 105 cacti seeds	276 and 0,43 kg caviar
	2004	n. a.	n. a.
Poland	2000	1097	491 and 607 kg caviar
	2001	829	563 and 64 kg caviar, 80 kg traditional Asian medicine
	2002	11 468 (incl. 10 000 bulbs of Snowdrops)	7800 (incl. 7552 specimens of Scleractinia spp.) and 43 kg caviar
	2003	25	680 and 220 kg caviar
	2004	546	2521 and 48 kg caviar, 30 kg other products and 18 m^3 African Teak, sawn wood
Romania	No seizures have been reported		
Serbia	2003	n. a.	n. a.
	2004	5	0
Montenegro	No seizures have been reported		
Slovakia	2000	131	0
	2001	88	30
	2002	314	0
	2003	2216	29
	2004	266	23
Slovenia	2002	4	74 and 6 kg caviar
	2003	136 kg Date Mussel	521
	2004	14 and 56 kg Date Mussel	2151
Turkey	According to the Turkish Customs, several seizures of CITES specimens were made, however no further information could be obtained		

Sources: CITES Management Authority of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Nature Protection Inspection of Croatia, Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.
* - incomplete data, n.a. – not available

Most countries in Central and Eastern Europe detected illegal shipments of different species of tortoises with species ranging from Hermann's Tortoise (e.g. Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia) and Spur-thighed Tortoise (e.g. in Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia) to Horsfield's Tortoise (the Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland), Kleinmann's Tortoise (Malta) and Radiated Tortoise (Slovakia). Usually, quite high numbers of specimens were involved in these cases, sometimes over 1000 specimens in a shipment. Live exotic birds were mostly confiscated in the

Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. Caviar was confiscated in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovenia and Turkey but the largest amounts were seized in Poland. Tourist souvenirs, such as corals and shells, were also reported to be commonly seized, especially in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia. The Hungarian and Slovenian Management Authorities noted that there were an increasing number of seizures of traditional Asian medicines being made in recent years. Malta seized a particularly high number of bird bodies during the period examined. Only the Czech Republic, Malta, Poland and Slovakia reported seizures of live plants, mostly cacti and other succulents, orchids and snowdrops. Overall, the greatest number of plant specimens was seized in the Czech Republic and in Malta.

Disposal of confiscated live specimens

The adequate disposal of live confiscated specimens often poses a challenge to CITES Parties. There are some cases where specimens have been returned to the country of origin/export, for instance in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. However this is a solution only in specific cases and for a small number of specimens since in most cases the exact origin of the specimens is unknown. Another solution could be the selling of the specimens but that is prohibited in several countries such as Hungary, Malta, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia (**Table 31**). Although the selling of Annex B specimens is allowed in some countries (e.g. Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia) it has never happened. Placing confiscated species in rescue centres is the most common solution. Yet, rescue centres have only been designated in half of the countries in the region (**Table 31**) and even where rescue centres have been designated, their capacity is limited.

According to the Management Authorities, neither the number nor the capacity of rescue centres is sufficient in Bulgaria, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania and Romania. According to the Bulgarian CITES authorities, one of the reasons for not confiscating unregistered CITES specimens is the lack of suitable space in rescue centres. Although the situation will improve in Bulgaria due to the construction of a rescue centre, the capacity for the whole country will still remain insufficient. Another example is Malta, where there are no designated rescue centres and therefore confiscated specimens are usually sent abroad after consulting with the relevant authorities. The CITES authorities in the UK have assisted in finding adequate places for live animals (mainly reptiles and primates) in the UK.

The main reason behind the low capacity of rescue centres is the lack of funding from the government for this purpose. Therefore, all initiatives and support to address this problem by representatives of other sectors (e.g. NGOs) are welcome. In Bulgaria, for example, a rescue centre is being constructed by an NGO (Green Balkans) with the financial support of the Ministry of Environment. In the Czech Republic, in addition to other designated rescue centres (zoos and botanical gardens), there is a voluntary rescue centre run by an NGO (Union for Nature Conservation) that is also financially supported by the Ministry of Environment. In Lithuania, within the framework of the Phare project, an action plan will be developed for the establishment of premises for keeping wild animals at border control posts as well as for confiscated wild animals protected under CITES. The need to fulfil veterinary requirements for quarantine often causes additional capacity problems. In Poland for example, there is no appropriate room for quarantine at some of the border-crossing points. Consequently, it has happened that the seized specimens were kept at the trader's premises. In Hungary a quarantine station was built in 2005 close to the border with Serbia and Montenegro and Romania that is specifically established for seized and confiscated animals.

Table 31
Disposal of confiscated live specimens in Central and Eastern Europe

Country	Designated CITES rescue centre	Possibility to sell confiscated live specimens
Bulgaria	Yes	Yes (but never happened)
Croatia	Yes	Yes (if reintroduction is impossible and the costs of keeping are too high)
Cyprus	No	n. a.
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes (Annex B specimens)
Estonia	No	Yes (but never happened)
Hungary	Yes	No
Latvia	Yes	Yes
Lithuania	No	Yes (after consultation with the MA but never happened)
Malta	No	No
Poland	No	Yes (Annex B specimens)
Romania	No	No
Serbia	Yes	No
and Montenegro	No	n.a.
Slovakia	Yes	Yes (Annex B specimens)
Slovenia	Yes	No
Turkey	No	Yes

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.a. – no information available

Prosecution of wildlife trade crime and sanctions

Table 32 provides information about the different sanctions that can, in theory, be imposed in cases of CITES infringements. The table also indicates specific cases when a certain sanction, fine or imprisonment, was imposed. There are large differences across the region with regard to the type and the scale of the sanctions that can be applied. It must be also noted that no consistent information could be obtained from Romania.

The highest fines for CITES infringements by a private person can be imposed in Slovenia (EUR 20 800), Cyprus (EUR 17 000) and Slovakia (EUR 7150). The minimum fines for private persons are the highest in Croatia (EUR 1000) and in Malta (EUR 465), while the minimum fines are much lower in all other countries, for example Bulgaria (EUR 256), Slovenia (EUR 83) and Slovakia (EUR 12.5). No minimum fine has been defined for CITES infringements in the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey. In case of CITES infringements by corporations, the highest sanctions can be imposed in the Czech Republic (EUR 46 845), Slovenia (EUR 41 600) and Cyprus (EUR 17 000). The minimum fines in case of CITES infringements for corporations are the highest in Slovenia (EUR 4160) and the lowest in Slovakia (EUR 250). In most countries, the level of fines is on average five times higher for corporations than for private persons. Although the level of fines is not very high in Latvia, the maximum fine for corporations is 20 times higher than for private persons. In the case of fines regulated by secondary CITES legislation (e.g. *Penal Code*), the maximum fines for corporations are again the highest in the Czech Republic (EUR 156 250) whilst in other countries this is between EUR 4000–9250. The maximum fines for private persons are the highest in Lithuania (EUR 9250).

Imprisonment can be imposed for CITES infringements in seven of the 15 countries (the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia) and the terms of the imprisonment vary from three months (in Poland) to eight years in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. CITES infringements that can be punished by secondary CITES legislation can be sanctioned with imprisonment in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey. The terms imposed vary from one month (Malta) to eight years (in the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Slovakia). In Latvia no imprisonment can be imposed for CITES infringements, whether it is under CITES legislation or other legislation.

In practice though, no fines or imprisonment for CITES infringements have been reported by the Management Authorities in almost half of the countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro,

and Turkey). The highest fines that have been imposed for CITES infringements were in the Czech Republic both for private persons (EUR 3125) and for corporations (EUR 9375). In the Czech Republic a three-year imprisonment was also imposed for CITES infringements based on the CITES legislation and a two-year imprisonment based on other laws.

There are some countries where the regulations regarding sanctions were changed in 2005. In Lithuania the maximum fines have increased substantially (from EUR 55 to EUR 6392 according to the CITES legislation and from EUR 2900 to EUR 9250 according to other laws). In Estonia on the other hand, the maximum fine for private persons for CITES infringements were drastically reduced (from EUR 6392 to 1150) whilst as a new sanction for corporations, fines were introduced (maximum EUR 3200). In Slovakia the amount of maximum fines remained almost the same but in 2005 minimum fines were also determined for CITES infringements both for private persons (EUR 12.5) and corporations (EUR 250).

It is also worth mentioning sanctions applied for illegal trade in non-CITES-listed bird species (also referred to as 'bird crime') in Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia as these sentences have been imposed on the basis of those laws that also apply for CITES-related crime i.e. infringements against international nature conservation agreements similar to CITES. When the term 'bird crime' is used in Central and Eastern Europe, it usually refers to cases where hunters illegally shoot (mostly non-CITES-listed) bird species and transport them to Italy where they are consumed as a delicacy. Many of the affected species are protected. Some of the most popular destinations for Italian hunters to go and illegally hunt these species are Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The illicitly shot birds are generally frozen and smuggled through Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia to Italy. For such a case, Hungary has charged a particularly high fine (EUR 82 353) and imposed four months imprisonment suspended for 1.5 years. In Slovenia, for similar cases, one year imprisonment suspended for three years and quite large fines (EUR 20 000 and 50 000) have been imposed whilst in Croatia, six months imprisonment suspended for two years and a fine (EUR 10 000) have been imposed with expulsion and a ban on re-entering the country.

As **Table 32** illustrates, information about the imposed sanctions was not available for several countries. This is largely due to the fact that the Management Authorities are usually not informed about the outcome of CITES prosecutions because the co-operation and communication with State prosecutors is usually not sufficient. The Management Authorities of many countries mentioned this lack of co-operation and communication. Even in Hungary, where all wildlife crime cases are dealt with by a single department (the Department of Special and Economic Cases of the State Prosecutions Office), the Management Authority is usually not informed about the criminal procedures and sanctions after a procedure is finished. In Cyprus, although formalized channels of communication between the State prosecutors and the CITES authorities exist, the Management Authority emphasized that this co-operation should be strengthened. In Slovenia the communication between the State prosecutors and the CITES authorities has been formalized by legislation.

Table 32
Sanctions provided for wildlife trade-related crimes under primary and secondary CITES legislation in Central and Eastern Europe, 2005

Country		In theory: Sanctions set out in the legislation					In practice: Sanctions applied		
		Fines in EUR				Imprisonment	Fines in EUR		Imprisonment
		Private persons		Corporations		Private persons	Private persons	Corporations	Private persons
	Type of legislation	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	If yes, how many years?	Max.	Max.	If yes, how many years? Suspended?
Bulgaria	CITES	256	5 128	512	15 348	No sanction	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
	Non-CITES	500	2500	n. a.	n. a.	Penal code: 5 years	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Czech Republic	CITES	n. a.	6 250	n. a.	46 875	8 years	3125	9375	3 years
	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	156 250	up to 8 years	n. a.	n. a.	2 years
Croatia	CITES	1 000	4 000	4 000	30 000	2 years	No sanction	No sanction	No sanction
Cyprus	CITES	No sanction	17 000	No sanction	17 000	3 years	No sanction	No sanction	No sanction
Estonia	CITES (Nature Conservation Law)	n. a.	1150	n. a.	3200	Arrest	115	No sanction	n. a.
	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	Penal Code: Up to 5 years	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Hungary	Non-CITES	20*	4 000*	20*	4 000*	Penal Code: Up to 5 years	n. a.	n.a.	n.a.
Latvia	CITES	n. a.	441	n. a.	8 824	No sanction	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
	Non-CITES	15	750	75	9 000	No sanction	111	No sanction	No sanction
Lithuania	CITES	n. a.	6 392	n. a.	n. a.	No sanction	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
	Non-CITES	n. a.	9 250	n. a.	9 250	Up to 8 years	29	145	n. a.
Malta	CITES	465	4650	n. a.	n. a.	From 1 month to 2 years	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Poland	CITES	n. a.	Petty offences: 250	n. a.	Petty offence: 250	Petty offence: up to 30 days, otherwise from 3 months to 5 years	130	130	n. a.
	Non-CITES	Animal Welfare Act: 6	A. W. Act: 625	A. W. Act: 6	A. W. Act: 625	Penal Code: from 3 months to 5 years	Penal and Fiscal Act: 652, Animal Welfare Act: 174		n. a.
Romania	CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Slovakia	CITES	12.5	7150	250	24 000	No sanction	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	Criminal Law: Up to 8 years.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.

Country		In theory: Sanctions set out in the legislation					In practice: Sanctions applied		
		Fines in EUR				Imprisonment	Fines in EUR		Imprisonment
		Private persons		Corporations		Private persons	Private persons	Corporations	Private persons
	Type of legislation	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	If yes, how many years?	Max.	Max.	If yes, how many years? Suspended?
Slovenia	CITES (Nature Conservation Act)	83	20 800	4 160	41 600	No sanction	n.a.	n.a.	No sanction
	Non-CITES	Customs Act: 126 (in 2004)	Customs Act: 1890 (in 2004)	n. a.	n. a.	Penal Code: up to 3 years, in exceptional cases up to 5 years	n. a.	No sanction	No sanction
Serbia and Montenegro	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a	Serbia: Criminal Law: For Illicit trafficking from 3 months to 5 years Criminal Act. 3 months to 3 years Montenegro: Criminal Law 3 months to 3 years	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Turkey	Non-CITES	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	Environmental Law and Hunting Law: 6 months to 3 years Law on the Prohibition and Investigation of Smuggling: 5 years	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.

Source: CITES Management Authorities.

* amount of fine that can be imposed per specimens

n. a. – not available

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The majority of the 15 CEE countries subject to this report have made progress in strengthening the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the last several years. However, there are still areas where more efforts are needed to ensure that the provisions of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations are fully met. The aim of this section is to highlight some of the progress made and introduce areas that need further attention.

Main areas of progress

Legislation

By the date of their accession the majority of the new EU Member States adopted new national legislation in order to ensure the efficient implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations at national level. However, in some countries, such as Lithuania, the adoption of new legislation to implement certain provisions of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, such as the marking requirement for specimens listed in Annex A was delayed, but these shortcomings are now being addressed.

In addition, there are a number of countries (for example, Slovakia, Hungary, etc.) where the national legislation provides for even stricter measures than those required by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. This is for example the case with regard to the registration of CITES-listed specimens (see details below under Internal market control measures) that is beyond what is required by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Following accession to the EU, these countries had to decide whether they keep the stricter obligations or not, and some countries have raised concerns that a withdrawal of such requirements would weaken their legislation and consequently the control of CITES-listed specimens at a national level.

Information management and exchange

Significant steps have been taken in some of the countries in improving the management of CITES-related information such as CITES trade data and information related to the issuance of permits and certificates. For example, some countries have developed electronic databases that store information on permits issued. In Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, these systems are fully operational while the Czech and the Hungarian authorities are in the process of developing such systems. The Slovenian Management Authority is currently working to extend the current system to allow on-line application for permits on the internet.

In several countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Turkey) at least parts of the national CITES legislation is accessible via the website of the Management Authority in the national language. In Malta, the text of all pieces of legislation can be downloaded from the homepage of the Management Authority in Maltese as well as in English. The availability of the up-to-date legislation on websites enables the public, especially traders, breeders and keepers of CITES specimens, to easily and quickly access this information, and thereby familiarize themselves with the legislation in force in their country.

Enforcement and interagency co-operation

With regard to improving the enforcement of wildlife trade controls at national level, steps have been taken by several CEE countries to designate units specifically responsible for CITES-related crimes. An example of the latter is Slovakia, where a specialist from the Ministry of Interior has been assigned to CITES crimes. Similarly, in Hungary, a specialist unit was set up within the police in 2005 to deal with cases of environmental crime. The Croatian police also employ an officer at its headquarters that is responsible for co-ordinating wildlife crime actions within the country. In Poland, since 2004 the police was assigned with the duty to control the trade in CITES-listed species in the domestic market, which was an important step forward as prior to this, internal wildlife trade in Poland was rarely controlled.

In some countries specialized units that facilitate information exchange and co-ordination between different agencies, for example Customs, police and CITES Management Authority, have been set up with the aim of achieving more concerted action against illegal wildlife trade. In Slovakia, this has resulted in several successful investigations by the police in co-operation with the Customs Criminal Office and the environmental inspectorates over the past few years. In Slovenia, the establishment of such a co-ordination unit is regulated by legislation and the unit has been operational since 2002. Croatia is the only non-EU country within the region that has established a functioning interagency co-ordination unit. The Estonian CITES Authorities are considering the development of a standardized format for reporting seizures by the different enforcement agencies, which would also contribute to improving the co-operation between the agencies involved.

The judiciary sector is involved in the enforcement of CITES in Cyprus, where there are formalized channels of communication established between the Management Authority and the State Prosecutors Office regarding wildlife trade infractions. In some of the countries examined, there have been increases in recent years of sanctions, fines (Lithuania) and prison terms (Czech Republic, Bulgaria).

The designated CITES Scientific Authorities in the region are active and involved in various CITES-related projects. In Turkey, for example, the CITES Scientific Authority has launched a project with the financial support of the government, which has developed a special software to help Customs officers with the identification of the CITES species most frequently appearing in trade in Turkey. The electronic identification guide, available on the Customs intranet, is specially designed to be used by enforcement officers with little or no background in biology. The programme uses pictures and provides information about the scientific and national names of the species and the contact details of experts who can be directly contacted if further help is needed. Bulgaria has adapted and translated an identification manual for Customs officers, that was originally produced by WWF and TRAFFIC for Russian enforcement authorities. It covers CITES-listed specimens most frequently appearing in trade in Bulgaria. Due to its success, two editions have been published. Related to the marking of specimens Romania reported that the Scientific Authority for sturgeons has good experience with the compulsory marking of all sturgeons legally captured (http://rosturgeons.danubedelta.org), which has been implemented since 2002. The Management Authority sees this as an important tool that can be used in controlling illegal fishing and trade of sturgeon on the domestic and international market. Finally, the Natural History Museum of Latvia is actively engaged in awareness-raising activities mostly targeting schools (teachers as well as pupils) and there is a permanent CITES exhibition at the Museum.

In Lithuania and Turkey, problems with CITES implementation were recognised and projects have been undertaken to solve them. In Lithuania, for example, an 18-month long project funded by the EU programme Phare was started in 2005. During this project, the existing national CITES implementing legislation will be reviewed, implementation gaps will be identified and technical support (training courses and equipment) will be provided for the full implementation of the requirements of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Turkey has also been involved in a Twinning project with Germany that has similar aims to the Phare project in Lithuania.

The organization of regular CITES training courses is particularly essential since one of the factors which decreases the efficiency of training courses is the high turnover of staff at Customs. It is also beneficial to include CITES issues in the curriculum of Customs officers' training as is done in Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. The Slovakian and Croatian Management Authorities suggested that prosecutors and judges should also be trained on CITES, in order to raise their awareness about the significance of wildlife crime. In the case of the upcoming Acceding countries (Romania and Bulgaria), special preparation would be needed for EU Accession by providing information on the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Internal market control measures

Some countries have introduced stricter measures than required by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. For example, the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations do not require that CITES-listed specimens are registered with national authorities. However, several of the CEE countries have legislation that requires owners of CITES-listed species to register their specimens with the local CITES Management Authority. For example, there are

provisions on registration of CITES specimens in Bulgaria (although not yet fully implemented), the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Despite the additional administrative work this creates for the authorities, registration (coupled with obligatory marking) of certain specimens can be a useful tool in monitoring trade in specimens that are often the subject of illegal trade. However, the additional administrative burden that this may create has to be taken into consideration. The use of DNA analysis to determine the parenthood of a specimen is a method that is required by law in some countries and is the most appropriate way to establish whether a specimen has been bred in captivity or not. For this reason, Slovakia has introduced obligatory DNA testing for all native protected species listed in Annex A and for all specimens of species listed in Annex A used for reproduction (including juveniles). There are cases when DNA tests are also required in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia.

Training and capacity building

It is a common practice in at least half of the countries within the region (Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia) to organize regular CITES training workshops for enforcement officers. The countries where the most significant number of cases of illegal wildlife trade was detected in the past five years include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. These countries largely coincide with those where regular training workshops on CITES matters are organized.

Main areas for improvement

Legislation

According to the CITES Management Authorities of Lithuania and Croatia, gaps have been identified in their legislation. In Lithuania for instance, police officers and environmental inspectors do not have the right to seize CITES-listed specimens. However, steps have been taken to amend the Lithuanian legislation in the framework of the current Phare project. In Croatia, according to the Management Authority, new CITES legislation is accepted almost every other year, yet the new regulations only contain very brief provisions related to CITES despite the demand for more detailed provisions articulated by the CITES authorities. In Latvia, the CITES Management Authority (Nature Protection Board) does not have the competence to formulate legislation. According to the Latvian Management Authority, communication with the Ministry of Environment, which is the competent authority for the formulation of legislation in Latvia, is time consuming, and as a result, the drafting of legislation has been postponed.

Administrative structures

One of the obstacles to effective implementation and enforcement of CITES that was most frequently cited by the CITES Management Authorities in the region, is the frequent re-structuring within the authorities which causes instability and decreases human capacity. This has been the case for example in Croatia, Romania and Turkey. In Croatia, the CITES Management Authority (Nature Protection Division, Department of Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation) has been under the competence of the Ministry of Culture for the last few years and not under the Ministry of Environment. In Romania it is predominantly the enforcement agencies which are affected by repeated re-structuring, while in Turkey, attempts to re-structure the organization of the authorities have mostly affected the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Additionally, in Turkey, there are two designated Management Authorities located at four different departments at two ministries (one department for timber species, one for aquatic species, one for bulbous plants and one for all other specimens). Communication among these Management Authorities, and especially between local enforcement bodies, is difficult.

Some of the Management Authorities of the region (Latvia, Croatia, Poland and Romania) mentioned that the insufficient number of staff at the Management Authority was also a challenge. Often one or two staff members are responsible for the implementation of all multilateral international environmental agreements for which the country is a signatory, resulting in a very high workload for the staff.

As shown earlier, the CITES Scientific Authorities in several countries in the region work on a voluntary basis i.e. receive no payment for their CITES-related work. This is for example the case in Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia,

Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey. For these reasons, the travel costs of CITES experts, for example to assist enforcement officers with on-site identification of specimens, cannot be covered. Lack of funds may also be one of the factors explaining the low rate of consultation of the Scientific Authority by the Management Authorities for example for making non-detriment findings, which is typical of almost the whole region.

Enforcement and interagency co-operation

Although there are good examples of co-operation and information exchange between the different authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in the region, in the majority of the countries under review, such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey, this is an area that needs to be improved, for example through the establishment of informal or formal interagency co-ordination units. In addition, there is very little co-operation with the border veterinary and phytosanitary services in most countries. Moreover, only one of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Slovenia) has developed a standard electronic format for reporting seizures made by the different enforcement agencies.

Some countries mentioned other problems related to the enforcement of CITES and the lack of co-operation between the different law enforcement authorities. The Czech Environmental Inspectorate, for example, reported that their inspection of shipments of live CITES animals are carried out only after veterinary controls, which may provide a possibility for manipulation. They added that if a case goes to court, inspectors must testify in court as private persons and their private identity is fully disclosed to criminals, without being given any protection from the State. The Polish authorities reported that the identification of live CITES specimens is especially problematic for the Customs as the identification has to be made within two hours of detection. Veterinarians decide if there is time to call an expert for identification.

Internal market control measures

Some of the new EU Member States (e.g. Cyprus and Lithuania) do not yet implement the marking requirements specified in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, although they have taken steps to improve the situation. Some other countries have stricter measures with regard to the marking of CITES-listed specimens, however there are some exceptions that could be misused and thus undermine the stricter provisions. For instance, marking is not compulsory in the Czech Republic if a veterinarian issues a certificate stating that the animal cannot be marked due to animal welfare reasons.

Turkey and Bulgaria have adopted legislation requiring that certain live specimens of species listed in CITES Appendix I and II are marked, however, the requirement is poorly enforced. In Romania, there are currently only plans to adopt legislation that will implement the marking requirements set by the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Training and capacity building

To date, very few or practically no CITES training courses for enforcement officers have been conducted in Cyprus, Malta, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro. With the exception of Malta, the number of detected illegal wildlife trade in these countries is also very low. In Malta, a series of CITES training workshops for Customs officers was conducted in 2001 and possibly as a consequence, the number of seizures increased the following year.

Sanctions

Although the level of sanctions for the prosecution of wildlife trade crimes are quite diverse across the region, there are relatively stringent sanctions set for CITES infringements by the law in several countries. However, in recent years, only very few cases of CITES infringements have ended with a conviction. In almost half of the countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey) no imposed sanctions (fines or imprisonment) were reported by the Management Authorities. Sometimes, the reason why

CITES Management Authorities are unable to report on sanctions applied for wildlife trade-related crime is due to insufficient communication between the prosecutors and CITES authorities. Another reason behind the lack of reported sanctions in so many countries is the low awareness amongst prosecutors and judges of the extent and significance of wildlife trade crime.

Disposal of live specimens

Another common problem within the countries of the region is the insufficient capacity for disposing of live specimens in rescue centres. Some CITES authorities reported that the low capacity of existing rescue centres sometimes prevent them from seizing live animals because of a lack of adequate space to place them. Many countries in the region have not designated any rescue centres for the placement of live specimens of species listed in CITES.

Public awareness

The most commonly mentioned problem by the CITES Management Authorities in the region was low public awareness of the provisions of CITES.

EU accession

Although steps have been taken by the current EU Acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania) and Candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) to prepare for the effective implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, more efforts are needed from the countries in question and more support is needed from EU Member States in many fields ranging from training of enforcement officer and, adequate legislation to development of internal trade control measures such as marking and DNA controls.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The majority of the changes required to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in Central and Eastern Europe are applicable to all 25 Member States of the EU. These include amongst others, the need for improved co-operation, co-ordination and information exchange among the different CITES authorities involved, not only at national but also at international level. Consequently, the following recommendations are not only directed to policy makers and CITES authorities in Central and Eastern Europe but also to their counterparts in the other Member States, to the European Commission and other relevant institutions, for example agencies and programmes that provide technical and financial support, and research institutions and NGOs working in the field of nature conservation and animal welfare.

Moreover, one common factor that underpins the majority of the recommendations below is the relatively low level of political priority and support given to issues related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations by higher governmental representatives. Again, this is a problem that is not only specific to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, but has also been recognised for the whole of the EU (Parry-Jones *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, one important pre-requisite that will enable countries in Central and Eastern Europe to strengthen their implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations is to increase the level of recognition by senior governmental and law enforcement policy and decision makers of the importance of effective control and management of wildlife trade at national and European level.

Legislation
Individual governments, especially those of the upcoming Acceding countries such as Bulgaria and Romania, should ensure by formulating corresponding legislation, that all the obligations arising from the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations are met by the time of their accession to the EU.

Administrative structures
The Ministries and governmental institutions in Central and Eastern Europe that oversee the operations of their national CITES Management Authorities should ensure that their authorities are adequately staffed and equipped in order to secure the proper implementation and enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. This is of particular importance for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro, where current staff capacities need to be strengthened and additional resources are needed such as microchip readers, identification guides, etc.

These Ministries and governmental institutions should also allocate sufficient funding to ensure that representatives of their CITES Authorities are present at the meeting of the Committee on Wildlife Trade, the Scientific Review Group and the EU Enforcement Group in Brussels. In addition, they are encouraged to send representatives of the relevant enforcement authorities such as the Customs, police or the inspection services to the meetings of the EU Enforcement Group to ensure adequate representation of 'operational' law enforcement personnel in this group.

CITES Management Authorities in the region should ensure that they regularly consult their CITES Scientific Authorities when considering permit applications in order to make non-detriment findings. This is of particular relevance with regard to exports of CITES specimens, considering that the Central and Eastern European countries are range States for a number of CITES-listed species. In addition, designated CITES Scientific Authorities should be allocated a minimum budget that allows them to cover basic expenses related to their duties.

The CITES Secretariat, the European Commission and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations should, wherever possible, highlight the importance of effective implementation and enforcement as well as compliance with CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to decision makers in Central and Eastern Europe and request that CITES implementing authorities are adequately equipped and have the necessary technical and financial resources.

Enforcement and interagency co-operation
Wildlife trade law enforcement authorities in Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to establish interagency co-ordination groups or units for national CITES enforcement agencies in order to facilitate the co-operation and information exchange between the different agencies involved in the enforcement and control of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Existing groups and units, such as the units in Croatia, Slovakia or Slovenia, could serve as examples and best practice models.

The European Commission, the UK Government and other EU Member States should ensure that the recommendations contained in the Statement and Action Plan that was concluded at the "EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop" that was organized under the UK's presidency of the EU in October 2005 (see Annex G) are implemented and acted upon.

CITES Management Authorities as well as enforcement agencies responsible for the enforcement of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations should strengthen and promote the exchange of intelligence and other information regarding illegal wildlife trade at the regional and wider EU level through the use of existing tools such as the EU-TWIX database and the related e-mail list server. CITES Management Authorities that have not yet done so should designate national enforcement focal points for wildlife trade and should communicate their contact details to the CITES Secretariat.

CITES Management Authorities and relevant law enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe should, where appropriate, allocate funding for the establishment of central electronic databases to monitor CITES trade and facilitate the exchange of information among different authorities (such as CITES Management Authorities and environmental inspectors). Countries that have such systems already in operation are encouraged to inform other countries about these and to provide these if possible in order to adapt them to the specific needs and to the languages of other countries.

Enforcement authorities working on the new and future external borders of the EU should carefully monitor and control wildlife trade entering the EU, in particular in areas bordering Belarus, the Russian Federation (including Kaliningrad), Ukraine and the Balkan States, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. The relevant agencies of other EU Member States, the European Commission and other relevant bodies should assist the authorities in the acceding countries in fulfilling this task by providing training courses and expertise and facilitating co-operation and information exchange.

Internal market control measures
EU Acceding and Candidate countries should take steps to implement fully the marking requirements as outlined in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations before they join the European Union. Where appropriate, existing EU Member States should assist the Acceding and Candidate countries in their efforts to develop legislation on marking and provide information on the most suitable marking techniques.

The CITES Management Authorities of the 25 EU Member States and the European Commission should work towards a more streamlined implementation of the marking requirements for Annex A specimens, i.e. use common marking techniques, and should establish guidelines on how to ensure individual identification of juveniles that cannot be marked.

CITES Management Authorities of the 25 EU Member States and the European Commission should consider undertaking a review of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations in order to address problems in the control and monitoring of intra-community trade in certain Annex B specimens. This may include an assessment of the costs and benefits of expanding the requirement of individual marking of certain specimens to other species as is currently the practice in some of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and in some existing EU Member States.

Training and capacity building
The EU Member States, the European Commission and other relevant bodies should ensure the continuation, further development and funding of existing and new capacity-building and training initiatives aimed at assisting

new EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate countries in building their expertise and knowledge in implementing and enforcing the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. This should build upon experiences made in pre-accession assistance programmes, such as the Phare Twinning programmes, TAIEX workshops, study visits and secondment of experts and other bilateral or multilateral initiatives from 'old' to 'new' Member States and Acceding countries such as activities between Italy and Poland, Germany and Turkey, Denmark and the Baltic States or the UK and Bulgaria.

Regular CITES training courses for officers of enforcement agencies responsible for the enforcement and control of CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations should be conducted, in particular in countries where such courses have not yet been undertaken, e.g. Cyprus, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro. The involvement of experts from the 'old EU Member States' is encouraged to facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise.

Sanctions
CITES Management Authorities and relevant enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe should strengthen links with prosecutors and judges to raise their awareness of wildlife trade-related issues and the relevance of illegal wildlife trade and crimes, in order to ensure that any sanctions imposed for such crimes are proportional to the gravity of the infringement. For this purpose, a European-wide workshop should be organized for representatives of the judiciary, building on the experiences gained from similar events organized by TRAFFIC and others in 2001 and 2004.

Countries in Central and Eastern Europe, that have not yet done so, should amend their national legislation to provide for adequate fines and sanctions (including imprisonment) for wildlife crimes.

Disposal of live specimens
NGOs working in the field of animal welfare should assist CITES Management Authorities, zoos and relevant enforcement agencies in Central and Eastern Europe with the adequate placement of live specimens that have been seized. For example, NGOs could assess the feasibility of establishing a central database that contains information on existing rescue centres in the EU Member States, their capacities and costs as well as a central contact point that could assist enforcement agencies in finding adequate housing facilities for CITES specimens.

Public awareness
The European Commission and CITES Management Authorities in Central and Eastern Europe should allocate funding for awareness raising activities related to wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES. Countries should make use of existing materials that have been used in other countries and that can be easily adapted to other European countries.

CITES Authorities in Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to co-operate more frequently with the media and press, e.g. by informing them about wildlife trade-related seizures and publishing information about cases involving illegal wildlife trade.

NGOs should co-operate with CITES authorities and where appropriate the public sector to run effective informative campaigns for travellers, tourists and for the wider public on the importance of CITES and the regulation of wildlife trade and of the threat that illegal wildlife trade can cause to biodiversity and livelihoods.

EU enlargement
The Governments of Acceding countries and countries that will prospectively accede to the EU should ensure that their border controls at the new external borders of the EU are appropriately equipped and trained. Individual governments of the EU Member States, especially the current EU Members that are neighbouring Accession countries, should provide technical advice, guidance and training in the form of joint activities to support the process of their preparation for the EU Accession.

REFERENCES

Anon. (2004). *The Green Pages of the Montréal Botanical Garden.* www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/info_verte/cyclamen/cyclamen.htm

Anon. (2005a). *The List of Contracting Parties*. CITES Secretariat. www.cites.org/eng/disc/parties/chronolo.shtml on 7 October.

Anon. (2005b). Downloaded from Medicinal leech – *Hirudo medicinalis* http://www.leeches.info/ on 1 October.

Anon. (2005c). *EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop 25th – 27th October 2005, Country Profiles.*

Anon. (2005d). *The World Fact book*. CIA, USA. www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook on 6 October.

Anton, M., Dragffy, N., Pendry, S. and Young, T.R. (Eds) (2002). *Proceedings of the International Expert Workshop on the Enforcement of Wildlife Trade Controls in the European Union, 5-6. November 2001, Frankfurt/Germany.* TRAFFIC Europe and IUCN-ELC.

Berkhoudt, K. (2002). *Focus on EU Enlargement and Wildlife Trade: Review of CITES Implementation in Candidate Countries.* TRAFFIC Europe, Brussels, Belgium.

Bernáth, J. (1996). Situation report on the Hungarian medicinal and aromatic plant section. Unpublished report. TRAFFIC Europe, Brussels.

CITES (2005). Export Quotas. Downloaded from the CITES website: www.cites.org/eng/resources/quotas/quotas.shtml on 10 August 2005.

Lange, D. (1998). *Europe's medicinal and aromatic plants: their use, trade and conservation*. TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, UK.

Lange, D. (2002). The role of east and southeast Europe in the medicinal and aromatic plant's trade. *Medicinal Plant Conservation* 8: 14–18. IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, Ottawa.

Lange, D. (2003). The role of East and Southeast Europe in the Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Trade. In: Kathe, W., Honnef, S. and Heym, A. *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.* Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn (BfN-Skripten 91).

Lange, D. (2004) Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Trade, Production and Management of Botanical Resources. *Acta Horticulturae* 629:177–197.

Lange, D and Mladenova, M. (1997). Bulgarian model for regulating the trade in plant material for medicinal and other purposes. In: Bodeker, G., Bhat, K.K.S, Burley, J. and Vantomme, P. (Eds). Medicinal plants for forest conservation and healthcare. *Non Wood Forest Products* 11: 135–146. FAO, Rome.

Parry-Jones, R., Barnaby, J. and Theile, S. (Es) (2005). *Proceedings of the EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop*, 25–27 October 2005, Buckinghamshire, UK. Defra, Bristol, UK.

Schippmann, U. (2004). BfN, talk at 2nd ISSC-MAP workshop on Isle of Vilm, Germany, December 2004.

Schippmann, U., Leaman, D. and Cunningham, A.B. [In press]. A comparison of cultivation and wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants under sustainability aspects. In: Bogers, R., E**.** Proceedings, Frontis Workshop on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. Wageningen, The Netherlands, 17–20 April 2005.

Steinbergs, A. (2001). *Snowdrops. The plant expert*. Downloaded from www.theplantexpert.com/springbulbs/Snowdrop.html on 6 October 2005.

Steiner, A. and Kecse-Nagy, K. (2004). Final Project Report of TRAFFIC Europe-Candidate Countries programme. March 2004, Unpublished report.

Theile, S., Steiner, A. and Kecse-Nagy, K. (2004). *Expanding borders: New challenges for wildlife trade controls in the European Union.* TRAFFIC Europe, Brussels, Belgium.

UNEP-WCMC (2005). *Species Database*. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK. www.unep-wcmc.org on 10 December 2005.

ANNEXES

Annex A
Selected CITES-listed species in the 15 CEE Countries and the number of CITES-listed species occurring in each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries

Annex B
Number of CITES import permits issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Annex C
Number of CITES export permits issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Annex D
Number of CITES re-export certificates issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Annex E
Management of data on CITES permits and certificates

Annex F
Prices of different types of permits and EC certificates

Annex G
Statement and Recommendations of the "EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination workshop" and Action Plan for Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in the EU, 2006–2010

Annex H
Abbreviations

Annex I
Map of Europe

ANNEX A

Selected CITES-listed species in the 15 CEE Countries and the number of CITES-listed species occurring in each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries

Taxa	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LT	LV	MT	PL	SI	SK	BG	SCG	HR	RO	TR
Mammalia															
Hyperoodon ampullatus			X		X	X		X							
Mesoplodon bidens								X							
Delphinapterus leucas			X		X			X							
Delphinus delphis							X	X			X			X	X
Globicephala melas							X								
Grampus griseus							X								
Lagenorhynchus albirostris								X							X
Pseudorca crassidens							X								
Stenella coeruleoalba	X												X		
Steno bredanensis							X								
Tursiops truncatus							X	X			X			X	X
Phocoena phocoena					X			X			X			X	X
Balaenoptera borealis								X							
Balaenoptera physalus	X							X					X		X
Megaptera novaeangliae								X							
Canis aureus				X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Canis lupus		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ursus arctos		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lutra lutra		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Caracal caracal															X
Felis chaus															X
Felis silvestris		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lynx lynx		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Panthera leo															X (ex)
Panthera pardus															X
Panthera tigris															X (ex)
Monachus monachus	X						X				X		X	X	X
Ovis orientalis ophion	X														
Birds															
Pelecanus crispus	X	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Bubulcus ibis	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Casmerodius albus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Egretta garzetta	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ciconia nigra	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Geronticus eremita															X
Platalea leucorodia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Phoenicopterus ruber	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alopochen aegyptiacus				X			X								
Anas acuta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anas clypeata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anas crecca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anas penelope	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anas querquedula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aythya nyroca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Branta ruficollis	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Oxyura leucocephala	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pandion haliaetus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Accipiter brevipes	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Accipiter gentilis	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Accipiter nisus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aegypius monachus	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aquila chrysaetos	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aquila clanga	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Taxa	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LT	LV	MT	PL	SI	SK	BG	SCG	HR	RO	TR
Aquila heliaca	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aquila nipalensis		X	X	X				X		X	X		X	X	X
Aquila pomarina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buteo buteo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buteo lagopus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Buteo rufinus	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Circaetus gallicus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Circus aeruginosus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Circus cyaneus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Circus macrourus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Circus pygargus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Elanus caeruleus		X						X			X			X	X
Gypaetus barbatus	X	X									X	X	X	X	X
Gyps fulvus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Haliaeetus albicilla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hieraaetus fasciatus	X	X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X
Hieraaetus pennatus	X			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Milvus migrans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Milvus milvus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Neophron percnopterus	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pernis apivorus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pernis ptilorhyncus															X
Falco biarmicus	X	X					X			X	X	X		X	X
Falco cherrug	X	X		X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Falco columbarius	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Falco concolor	X						X								X
Falco eleonorae	X			X			X	X			X	X	X		X
Falco naumanni	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Falco pelegrinoides							X								X
Falco peregrinus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Falco rusticolus		X	X		X	X		X			X				
Falco sparverius			X				X								
Falco subbuteo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Falco tinnunculus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Falco vespertinus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tetraogallus caspius															X
Grus grus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grus virgo	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Chlamydotis undulata	X	X				X	X	X	X	X				X	
Otis tarda	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tetrax tetrax	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Numenius tenuirostris	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Columba livia	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oena capensis	X														
Streptopelia senegalensis	X						X								X
Streptopelia turtur	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tyto alba	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aegolius funereus		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Asio flammeus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Asio otus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Athene noctua	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bubo bubo		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glaucidium passerinum		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nyctea scandiaca		X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X		
Otus brucei															X
Otus scops	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strix aluco		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strix nebulosa			X		X	X		X							
Strix uralensis			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Surnia ulula		X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
Reptiles															
Testudo graeca	X										X	X		X	X

Taxa	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LT	LV	MT	PL	SI	SK	BG	SCG	HR	RO	TR
Testudo hermanni							X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Testudo marginata															X
Caretta caretta	X						X	X	X			X	X		X
Chelonia mydas	X						X				X				X
Eretmochelys imbricata							X								
Lepidochelys kempii							X								
Dermochelys coriacea							X								X
Chamaeleo chamaeleon	X						X								X
Varanus griseus															X
Eryx jaculus											X			X	X
Vipera ursinii				X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vipera wagneri															X
Fish (Acipenseriformes only)															
Acipenser gueldenstaedtii											X			X	X
Acipenser naccarii									X			X	X		
Acipenser nudiventris				X						X	X			X	X
Acipenser persicus															X
Acipenser ruthenus		X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X
Acipenser stellatus		X		X						X	X	X		X	X
Acipenser sturio		X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Huso huso		X		X					X		X	X	X	X	X
Invertebrates (selected species only)															
Hirudo medicinalis									X			X	X		X
Lithophaga lithophaga	X						X		X				X		X
Flora (selected species only)															
Galanthus elwesii											X	X		X	X
Galanthus ikariae															X
Galanthus nivalis		X		X				X		X	X	X		X	X
Galanthus woronowii															X
Cyclamen hederifolium											X	X			X
Cyclamen persicum	X														X

Number of CITES species per country	CY	CZ	EE	HU	LT	LV	MT	PL	SI	SK	BG	SCG	HR	RO	TR	Total
Mammals	4	5	6	6	8	6	7	15	6	6	10	6	9	10	15	**28**
Birds	66	70	55	67	57	59	59	70	60	75	70	69	67	70	64	**84**
Reptiles	4	0	0	1	0	0	7	1	3	1	5	4	3	4	11	**13**
Fish	3	4	1	5	2	2	3	1	7	3	8	9	6	7	11	**12**
Invertebrates	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	1	3	1	1	2	3	8	3	**10**
Plants	59	66	35	62	36	30	25	51	69	70	66	53	60	74	145	**213**
Total	**137**	**146**	**97**	**142**	**104**	**98**	**106**	**139**	**148**	**156**	**160**	**143**	**148**	**173**	**249**	**-**

Source: Orchid data within the plant category were obtained with the permission of the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The rest of the data has been kindly provided by Tim Inskipp of UNEP-WCMC.

ISO codes used are: CY (Cyprus), CZ (Czech Republic), EE (Estonia), HU (Hungary), LT (Lithuania), LV (Latvia), MT (Malta), PL (Poland), SI (Slovenia), SK (Slovakia), BG (Bulgaria), SCG (Serbia and Montenegro), HR (Croatia), RO (Romania), TR (Turkey).

ANNEX B

Number of CITES import permits issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Bulgaria	156	155	6	3	3	8	8	**339**
Croatia	Not a CITES Party until 2000		n. a.	n. a.	26	55	110	**191**
Cyprus	74	84	40	74	54	87	40	**453**
Czech Republic	569	648	506	710	1064	1089	832	**5418**
Estonia	16	7	50	25	10	6	16	**130**
Hungary	128	96	91	65	56	283	364	**1083**
Latvia	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	9	36	**45**
Lithuania	Not a CITES Party until 2002				20	46	42	**108**
Malta	0	0	0	n. a.	n. a.	0	20	**20**
Poland	124	185	225	208	366	456	319	**1883**
Romania	0	0	14	40	22	41	54	**171**
Serbia and Montenegro	Not a CITES Party until 2002				7	5	13	**25**
Slovakia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	97	94	101	46	**338**
Slovenia	5	8	11	8	17	14	90	**153**
Turkey	5	44	36	32	73	96	97	**383**
Total	**1077**	**1227**	**979**	**1262**	**1812**	**2296**	**2087**	**10740**

Source: CITES Management Authorities.
n.a. = not available

ANNEX C

Number of CITES export permits issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Bulgaria	5	3	245	131	149	187	72	**792**
Croatia*	Not a CITES Party until 2000		n. a.	n. a.	84	77	n.a.	**161**
Cyprus*	2	-	8	10	8	6	8	**42**
Czech Republic	155	172	147	70	88	136	41	**809**
Estonia	82	51	8	43	41	38	16	**279**
Hungary*	335	387	412	444	443	307	209	**2537**
Latvia	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	44	9	**53**
Lithuania	Not a CITES Party until 2002				6	9	11	**26**
Malta	159	86	57			9	19	**330**
Poland	62	72	88	51	92	99	33	**497**
Romania	159	159	232	335	385	307	367	**1944**
Serbia and Montenegro	Not a CITES Party until 2002				25	50	32	**107**
Slovakia	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	52	64	74	34	**224**
Slovenia	9	34	39	47	107	67	28	**331**
Turkey	155	136	143	4	7	17	13	**475**
Total	**1123**	**1100**	**1379**	**1187**	**1499**	**1427**	**892**	**8607**

Source: CITES Management Authorities.

n.a. = not available.

* For these countries, the totals include re-export permits.

ANNEX D

Number of CITES re-export certificates issued by each of the 15 Central and Eastern European countries (1998–2004)

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Bulgaria	3	5	7	4	3	8	11	**41**
Croatia*	Not a CITES Party until 2000							**0**
Cyprus*								**0**
Czech Republic	569	659	601	743	827	1043	890	**5332**
Estonia	2	3	11	36	21	12	13	**98**
Hungary*								**0**
Latvia	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	13	22	**35**
Lithuania	Not a CITES Party until 2002				8	12		**22**
Malta	4	12	3			17	4	**40**
Poland	61	118	63	71	89	80	32	**514**
Romania	7	4	12	22	36	38	61	**180**
Serbia and Montenegro	Not a CITES Party until 2002				n. a.	n. a.	7	**7**
Slovakia	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.	23	32	15	7	**77**
Slovenia	11	15	25	20	26	39	32	**168**
Turkey	33	143	19	16	20	21	31	**283**
Total	**690**	**959**	**741**	**935**	**1062**	**1298**	**1112**	**6797**

Source: CITES Management Authorities.

n. a. = not available.

* Re-export permits are added to export permits and the total is listed in the table on export permits.

ANNEX E

Management of data on CITES permits and certificates

Country	Central database about CITES permits issued	Further information
Bulgaria	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	Data about issued permits are also sent to Customs and are available for Customs Officers through the Customs Intranet.
Croatia	No	-
Cyprus	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	Database includes details of the import and export certificates (date, Appendix, species, description, quantity, country of export or re-export, permit or certificate number, country of origin of re-exports, purpose, source).
Czech Republic	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	Since 2004, a new system is being developed as an independent database application to which all State authorities will be connected on-line.
Estonia	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	According to the Management Authority, a more complex database has not been necessary as the number of permits issued per year is relatively low and the electronic tables allow the efficient management of data.
Hungary	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	The establishment of a computerized system to issue and store CITES permits and certificates is in progress. The MA will manage the system centrally. A database about the registered specimens and keepers is also developed.
Latvia	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	According to the Management Authority, due to the relatively low number of permits issued per year, a more complex database is not needed.
Lithuania	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	A database will be developed including data on permits issued as well as data on registered and marked specimens. The database will allow the quick preparation of the annual reports.
Malta	Electronic format	-
Poland	Electronic central database	There is software for permit issuance which is connected to this central database.
Romania	Electronic table (Microsoft Access) at MA	-
Serbia and Montenegro	Electronic table (Excel) at MA	-
Slovakia	Central database at MA	There is also a database about the registered keepers and specimens at the Scientific Authority.
Slovenia	Computerized system for the issuance of permits	The Management Authority hosts the database. There is a direct connection with the statistical programme which enables data processing and its graphic presentation. The database enables among others: electronic processing and printing of documents; compilation of national reports and other reports. The next step will be the on-line internet application.
Turkey	Electronic table (Excel) at the four Management Authorities	-

Source: CITES Management Authorities.

ANNEX F

Prices of different types of permits and EC certificates (in EUR)

Country	Import permit	Export permit	Re-export certificate	EC certificate
Bulgaria	For native species: 11.8 EUR, for non-native species: 20.5 EUR, for zoos, botanical gardens, circuses, travelling exhibitions, museums and scientific institutions: 11.8 EUR			n.a.
Croatia	10	10	10	n.a
Cyprus	Free	Free	Free	Free
Czech Republic	33.8	33.8	33.8	16.9
Estonia	Free	Free	Free	Free
Hungary	20	20	20	8
Latvia	Free	Free	Free	Free
Lithuania	Free	Free	Free	Free
Malta	11.6	11.6	11.6	Free
Poland	26	26	26	2.8
Romania	Free	Depends on specimen, quantity, etc. – e.g. one kg of caviar: 3 EUR; hunting trophy: 42 EUR		n.a.
Serbia and Montenegro	Non-commercial import : 60 EUR ; Commercial import: 107 EUR	Non-commercial export : 60 EUR ; Commercial export: 107 EUR	Non-commercial re-export: 60 EUR ; Commercial re-export: 107 EUR	n.a.
Slovakia	For private persons: 5 EUR, for legal persons: 50 EUR			
Slovenia	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7
Turkey	All permits were free until July 2005. Since then a new price system has been established with prices depending on the value of the species and purpose of the trade			n.a.

Source: CITES Management Authorities of the CEE countries.
n.a. = not applicable

ANNEX G

European Union Wildlife Trade Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop

Statement and Recommendations

In recognition of the need for co-ordinated enforcement of the European Union Wildlife Trade Regulations – Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and associated Commission Regulations – to safeguard global biological diversity, enforcement experts, including representatives of the European Commission, the CITES Secretariat, Interpol, the CITES Management Authorities, Customs, police and environmental inspectors from each of the 25 Member States of the European Union, met from 25–27 October, at Latimer House, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom. The workshop resulted in the following statement and recommendations.

NOTING that the European Union is one of the main global markets for wildlife and also one of the most complex, being one trading block with one set of comprehensive Regulations and yet 25 different sets of measures and procedures for controlling the trade and enforcing the Regulations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that, owing to such high levels of trade in wildlife, it is incumbent upon Member States and the European Commission together with producer countries to ensure that trade is legal and sustainable and that measures adopted and implemented by the EU support conservation in producer countries;

RECOGNISING that illegal trade in specimens of species included in the Annexes of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations causes serious damage to wildlife resources, reduces the effectiveness of wildlife management programmes, undermines legal trade and threatens sustainable development particularly in the developing economies of many producing countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING that regulation of international trade requires international co-operation, that enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations is fundamental to fulfilling the objectives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and that this can not be achieved without proactive communication and co-ordinated action amongst the EU Member States and with other CITES Parties;

NOTING that it is the responsibility of EU Member States to take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations including the imposition of adequate sanctions for infringements of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and, where necessary, to instigate legal action;

RECOGNISING the conservation actions and commitments that have already been made with respect to species regulated by CITES through its Resolutions and Decisions;

AWARE of the importance of involving relevant governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in these efforts;

CONVINCED of the need for increased co-operation amongst EU Member States through the sharing of resources, information and intelligence in order to strengthen enforcement of the EU Regulations; and

CONSCIOUS that increased co-operation amongst the EU Member States will also assist enforcement at the global level and support the efforts already taken by the CITES Parties to improve enforcement worldwide through enhanced co-operation and co-ordination;

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP

CONCLUDE that:

1. Illegal trafficking into and within the EU of wild fauna and flora is of growing concern and increasingly involves organised criminal networks using sophisticated techniques, and that increased attention must be given by the Member States to illicit trade across EU borders and inside the EU;

2. The lack of recognition by many senior governmental and law enforcement policy and decision makers of the seriousness of illicit trade in wildlife into and within the EU is severely hampering present efforts to combat such criminal activities;

3. Differences in national legislation and in implementation among the EU Member States may facilitate illicit trade and that legislative deficiencies should be identified and addressed by the EU Member States and the European Commission as a matter of priority;

4. Formal and informal channels of communication between authorities at a national and an international level are required to co-ordinate the efforts of enforcement bodies of EU Member States, to ensure efficient actions, to avoid duplication of effort, and to alert relevant agencies of illegal trade operating in other countries. Mechanisms for ensuring co-ordination of national enforcement efforts among all relevant authorities therefore are critical to inform and support the work of the European Union Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group;

5. Many authorities are not suitably resourced or experienced to address illegal wildlife trafficking and this challenge must be addressed through training and equipping professional law enforcement officers and agencies;

6. Awareness among civil society of the wildlife trade regulations and awareness of the negative impact of illicit trade should be enhanced.

RECOMMEND that:

1. Member States which do not yet have procedures for co-ordinating national enforcement among all relevant national authorities including ground-level enforcement staff do so as a matter of priority;

2. Member States appoint national focal points for national and international exchange of wildlife trade information and intelligence and these focal points meet regularly through the Enforcement Group;

3. Ministers, Directors General of Customs, Commissioners of police and other relevant policy and decision makers be encouraged to allocate a higher priority to the enforcement of CITES, the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations and relevant national legislation;

4. Member States explore innovative means of increasing capacity and improving enforcement, for example through the secondment of experienced wildlife trade enforcement staff to assist the exchange of intelligence and expertise at the national and EU level and to support the Member States' enforcement staff on the ground;

5. Strategic action plans be devised for co-ordination of national enforcement and also for the activities of the EU Enforcement Group. These should have clearly defined objectives, outputs and time-frames, and where possible should be harmonised.

6. The European Commission, as chair of the Enforcement Group, should ensure co-operation with relevant national authorities, WCO, Interpol, Europol, the CITES Secretariat, inter-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations;

7. Member States and the European Commission review legislation to ensure consistency in relation to wildlife trade enforcement;

8. Member States of the EU which have low sanctions in their national legislation and Member States where sanctions imposed are significantly lower than existing laws provide for, take steps to ensure that sufficiently high penalties are legislated and encourage their implementation to act as a deterrent against wildlife trade crime.

9. Wildlife law enforcement officials have parity in training, status and authority with their counterparts in Customs and the police;

10. Member States and, where appropriate, the European Commission, carry out focused national, regional and, where feasible, EU-wide capacity building activities with particular focus on fostering inter-agency co-operation and improving knowledge of legislation; species identification; risk analysis and investigation of criminal actions; where possible such workshops could be convened in Customs and police facilities;

11. Member States and the European Commission should, whenever appropriate and possible, liaise closely with CITES Management Authorities and law enforcement agencies in consumer, source and transit countries outside the borders of the European Union to help detect, deter and prevent illicit trade in wildlife through the exchange of intelligence, technical advice and support.

AND recommend the further development, endorsement and implementation of the following draft Action Plan for Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in the European Union *(Draft see below)*

Action Plan for Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in the European Union, 2006–2010

Objective 1

To assist EU Member States in strengthening co-operation and communication within and beyond the EU through:

- Developing methods of co-operation throughout the EU, taking into account, national, regional and international variations;
- Strengthening the role and work of the EC CITES Enforcement Group through development and implementation of a strategic action plan with clear priorities, objectives and time-frames;
- Exchanging information and intelligence through tools already established or currently in development, and through information systems such as the EU TWIX database and CIRCA, as well as informal means of communication.

Action points	Action to be done by	Time-frame
Identify roles and resources of international agencies / organisations, including Interpol, Europol, Enforcement Group (EG), European Commission, WCO, CITES Secretariat, and NGOs, involved in wildlife trade enforcement at the international level.	Commission & Enforcement Group and Management Authorities	Short
Formulate a 3 to 5 year strategic work plan for the EG including key objectives, priorities, time-frames and mechanisms.	Commission and Enforcement Group	Short
Ensure involvement of ground level staff, through focal points, in preparation for and delivery of outputs at the EG.	Member States	Short–medium
Increase effectiveness of the EG through regular and open exchange of information between meetings.	National Focal Points and Enforcement agencies	Short
Explore the feasibility of conducting joint investigative operations.	Commission & Enforcement Group	Short–medium–long
Explore the feasibility of secondment and exchange of staff to facilitate enforcement at the EU-level.	Member States through established mechanisms such as the Enforcement Group and Management Committee.	Short–medium–long
Further develop sub-groups of the Enforcement Group, where necessary, and identify lead Member States.	Commission and Enforcement Group	Medium
Designate focal points for international exchange of information and intelligence.	Enforcement Agencies and Management Authorities	Short
Commit to contributing to and maintaining the EU TWIX database, CIRCA and other relevant databases (WCO, CITES Secretariat, Interpol, etc), including funding to ensure continuation of EU TWIX.	National enforcement focal point(s); Management Authorities	Short–long

Objective 2

To assist national enforcement coordination within the EU Member States through:

- Establishing multi-sectoral national structures to coordinate enforcement activities at the national level;
- Appointing national focal points to coordinate communication and exchange of information at the national and international level;
- Developing and endorsing a national strategic action plan with clear terms of reference, objectives and time-frames;

Action points	Action to be done by	Time-frame
Identify stakeholders involved (directly or indirectly) in wildlife trade enforcement at national level and clarify roles ensuring full range of views.	Management Authorities	Short
Identify and designate focal points for different agencies and create a communication network (list of contacts) within each agency.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Medium
Develop multi-agency national enforcement teams and meet regularly to co-operate on wildlife trade enforcement with defined protocols.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short
Ensure key ground level enforcers within police, Customs, environmental inspectorates, etc., are engaged in national enforcement initiatives.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short
Form links with NGOs, where appropriate, with clearly defined boundaries and roles.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short–Medium
Establish MoUs between relevant agencies where required and feasible.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Medium–Long
Member States with existing structures to contribute documentation of best practice in establishing national co-ordination structures.	UK and other Management Authorities with existing structures and Enforcement Group	Short
Identify or create lead co-ordinating agency(ies) for national enforcement teams	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short–medium
Develop a national strategic action plan on wildlife trade crime including targets and roles and feedback mechanisms, for example risk/threat assessment to prioritise enforcement action. Use existing and further develop national threat assessments.	UK and other Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies and CITES Secretariat	Medium
Raise political support for the need for efficient wildlife trade enforcement and understanding of wildlife trade crimes.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short–long
Identify and encourage specialised prosecutors and judges.	Member States	Medium–long
Raise awareness within the judiciary.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Medium
Raise awareness amongst the public and political spheres regarding the link between organised crime and wildlife crime.		Long
Define / agree legislative responsibilities, e.g.: powers of inspection and seizures.	Member States	Short

Objective 3

To increase the capacity and ability of Member States to implement and enforce the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations through:

- Raising awareness of existing resources, tools and channels of communication, and facilitate access for all wildlife trade enforcement agencies;
- Identifying gaps and needs for building capacity and improving information exchange.

Action points	Action to be done by	Time-frame
Identify existing resources, materials, tools and expertise	Member States	Short
Collate list of available resources and expertise	Management Authorities and Enforcement Group	Short–long
Identify capacity building gaps and needs and set priorities for addressing such needs.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short
Establish and circulate directory of focal points as well as other enforcement and expert contacts.	Management Authorities and Commission	Short–medium
Collate information on different practices to implement the EU regulations, such as registration, marking, permitting and share best practices.	Management Authorities and the Commission	Medium
Provide information to national authorities and to the European Commission on existing channels of communication with WCO, Interpol, Europol, CITES Secretariat, etc.	Management Authorities and Enforcement Agencies	Short–medium
Raise awareness amongst trading partners outside of the EU about EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to prevent illegal trade.	Commission and Management Authorities	Medium–long
Engage and support future EU accession candidate countries and the EU's new neighbours in capacity building, making use of TWINNING projects and materials developed for this purpose.	Commission and Member States	Short–long
Conduct focused CITES training workshops at national and international levels, for example regarding legislation.	Member States, the CITES Secretariat, the Commission (int'l) and other relevant bodies	Medium

Objective 4

To ensure the further development of legislation is in place so that Member States are able to effectively implement and enforce the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations through:

- Review of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to ensure harmony with other EU Regulations, such as the Customs Code;
- Review of national legislation to ensure harmony and consistency with the EU Wildlife Regulations;
- Review of national legislation within the Member States of the EU to ensure that deficiencies in one Member State do not negatively impact implementation in other Member States.

Action points	Action to be done by	Time-frame
Reach common understanding regarding the necessity of sufficiently high penalties and ensure proper implementation of Article 16 of (EC) No. 338/97 regarding 'appropriate' sanctions, and exchange examples of best practice.	Member States for best practice. CITES MA, Enforcement Group, Management Committee; European Commission and the CITES Secretariat.	Long
Review import and export procedures of CITES and Customs implementation (e.g.: electronic / paper systems) with a view to greater integration, where possible. Disseminate examples of best practice.	Management Authority; Customs; European Commission.	Long
Make efforts to simplify procedures, within, for example, CITES and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, such as: 1) derogations; 2) trade in consignments arriving in one country when destined for another.	European Commission Member States	Medium
Examine whether amendments to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to ensure better control of internal trade would be appropriate (for example registration and improved methods of marking).	European Commission with input from the Enforcement Group and Management Committee, as well as from the CITES Secretariat.	Long

ANNEX H

Abbreviations

CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEE5	Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMECON	The Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation
COMTRADE	Commodity Trade Statistics database
DANCEE	Danish Co-operation for Environment in Eastern Europe
EA	Enforcement authority e.g. Customs, police, etc.
EU, EC	European Union, European Community
EU10	The 10 new Member States of the European Union (Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia)
EU15	The 15 Member States of the European Union prior to the enlargement in May 2004 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK)
EU-TWIX	European Union – Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange
GAA	Government and Aid Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ID	Identification
IUCN	the World Conservation Union
MA	Management Authority
MAP	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MoE	Ministry of Environment
OG	Official Gazette
Phare	EC programme for financial and technical assistance to the countries in Central and Eastern Europe
RCD	Regional Customs Directorate
SA	Scientific Authority
SEI	Slovak Environmental Inspectorate
SR	Slovak Republic
SRG	Scientific Review Group of the EU
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
TAIEX	Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office
TAM	Traditional Asian Medicine
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre

ANNEX I

Map of Europe

Source: http://www.milenkarealestate.com/images/map_europe.gif.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. It has offices covering most parts of the world and works in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

For further information contact:

The Executive Director
TRAFFIC International
219a Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
UK
Telephone: (44)1223 277427
Fax: (44)1223 277237
Email: traffic@trafficint.org

The Director
TRAFFIC Europe
Boulevard E. Jacqmain 90
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Telephone: (32) 2 343 8258
Fax: (32) 343 2565
Email: traffic@traffic-europe.com

TRAFFIC

is a joint programme of

WWF IUCN The World Conservation Union