World’s Primates in Jeopardy

Greetings from the Africa Regional Bureau of the Species Survival Network (SSN)!

This first anniversary issue of CITES Afrique is written in support of primate conservation. A newly-published study shows that almost half of the world’s primates are in danger of extinction with 48% listed as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List. We also provide information about the

Latest CITES Postings and Notifications

♦ The CITES Secretariat informed Parties that CoP15 will be held in Doha, Qatar from 16 to 28 January 2010. Deadline for the submission of proposals for amendments of CITES Appendices I or II, draft resolutions and documents for CoP 15 is 19 August 2009. Deadline for the submission of a proposal to amend Appendix I or II without consulting all range States of the species concerned is 20 February 2009. (CITES Notification No. 2008/056)

♦ Mali informed the Secretariat that Eus Lassana Diaby Cours et Peaux, a crocodile farm included in the CITES Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes, is now using tags in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.12, and the Secretariat informed Parties that it had amended its register to indicate this. (CITES Notification No 2008/054)

♦ The CITES Secretariat circulated explanatory notes on the yearly publication of export quotas. (CITES Notification No 2008/053)

♦ The CITES Secretariat informed Parties of the adoption by Standing Committee (SC) of a recommendation to suspend trade in grey parrots (Psittacus erithacus) from Equatorial Guinea, in Boettger’s day gecko (Phelsuma v-nigra) and Comoros day gecko (Phelsuma comorensis) from Comoros and in Sudanese Uromastyx (Uromastyx dispar) from Mali until these countries demonstrate compliance with Article IV and provide information to the Secretariat regarding compliance with the recommendations of the Animals Committee. The SC also decided to withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade in guanaco (Lama glama guanicoe) from Argentina, lynx (Lynx lynx) from Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine, poison dart frogs (Dendrobates auratus and D. pumilio) from Nicaragua, red-masked parakeet (Aratinga erythrogenys) from Peru, hippopotamus (Hippopotamus amphibius) from Rwanda, and poison dart frog (Dendrobates tinctorius) from Suriname. (CITES Notification No. 2008/052)

♦ The CITES Secretariat invited Parties to a) Indicate their interest in receiving a current International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations to the CITES Secretariat by the end of October 2008; b) send to the chairman of the Transport Working Group information concerning cases of high mortality of five species; and c) contact IATA’s Manager for Special Cargoes of Live Animals and Perishables concerning opportunities and options for training on compliance with IATA Live Animal Regulations. (CITES Notification No. 2008/050)

♦ The CITES Secretariat invited Parties to inform the Management Authority of the United States of any problems that they have encountered in relation to the implementation of CITES regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings (CITES Notification No. 2008/048)

♦ The CITES Secretariat announced the launching of a new CD-ROM on Presentation skills training for CITES trainers (available in English only). (CITES Notification No. 2008/047)

Important CITES Dates

• 30 September 2008: deadline to report which Eu- phorbia species are actually or potentially negatively impacted by international trade (CITES Notification 2008/042)
• 31 October 2008: deadline to respond to the questionnaire on Orchidaceae spp. (CITES Notification 2008/044)
• 31 October 2008: deadline to notify the CITES Secretariat of the need to receive a copy of the IATA Live Animals Regulations (CITES Notification 2008/050)

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World’s Primates and Gorillas in Jeopardy

In August 2008, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) issued a report based on an examination of 634 species and subspecies of non-human-primates, showing that almost half of the world’s primates are in danger of extinction. 48 percent of primate taxa are listed as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the 2008 IUCN Red List. For Asia alone, the figure is more than 70 percent. In Africa, primates are struggling to survive also diminishing their important role in the health of their ecosystems, where they contribute to the dispersal of seeds and the pollination of plants. Eleven of the 13 African taxa of red colobus monkeys are listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered. Bouvier’s red colobus (Procolobus pannanti bouvieri) and Miss Waldron’s red colobus (Procolobus badiuswaldroni) may already be extinct. (CBC News. August 2008)

Many factors contribute to the alarmingly small populations of threatened and vanishing primate species. These include destruction of their habitat by increasing human population pressures and the burning and clearing of tropical forests; hunting for bush meat or traditional medicine products, and capture and trade, including illegal trade, for sale to research laboratories, exhibits, or as pets. Each year, more than 32,000 wild-caught primates are sold on the international market. According to one conservative estimate, more than 25% of this trade is illegal (Born Free Foundation 2008). Poaching and capture for export are reported to have “an enormous impact on the dwindling numbers of primate species, ranging from the magnificent mountain gorilla to the tiny mouse lemur” (Howard and Jones, 2000).

The alarming results from the new IUCN study were released shortly after the publication of the results of a 2006-2007 survey that reported the discovery of 125,000 Western lowland gorillas (Gorilla gorilla gorilla) in remote forests of the northern part of the Republic of Congo. This discovery brings the estimated number of Western lowland gorillas to between 175,000 and 225,000 animals.

In September 2008, Rwanda and Burundi signed an historic agreement to safeguard the largest remaining block of mountain forest in East Africa, an area inhabited by endangered primates including chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes), rare owl-faced monkeys (Cercopithecus hamlyn), and other species endemic to the area.

SSN encourages the government of Congo to ensure the conservation of this newly discovered population of Western lowland gorillas. SSN also wishes to salute Burundi and Rwanda for their historic conservation agreement, one that is likely to greatly impact the conservation of primates in the region.

Please contact SSN if you have questions on protecting primates from international trade.

IATA Live Specimens Regulations

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) includes 240 member airlines that conduct 94% of all international air transport. Its mission is to “work with its airline members and the air transport industry as a whole to promote safe, reliable, secure and economical air travel for the benefit of the world’s consumers” (IATA 2008). IATA provides many standards and recommended practices, but does not have the power to regulate its members in any way (such regulation is left to governments and civil aviation authorities).

IATA has produced Live Animals Regulations (LAR) (for animal transport) and Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR) (for plant transport), which are considered by CITES to be the best worldwide standards for safe and humane transport of live animals and plants by air, for the preparation, packaging and handling of such live specimens. The Regulations specify minimum requirements for the international transport of live animals and plants and indicate what precautions airlines, shippers, cargo agents and animal care professionals should take on the ground and in the air.

When shipping live specimens—animal or plants—CITES Articles III, IV and V require that “The Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.” CITES Parties gave special status to IATA’s LAR and PCR by recommending inter alia in CITES Resolution Conf.10.21 9Rev. CoP14), Transport of Live Specimens, that:

♦ “suitable measures be taken by the Parties to promote the full and effective use by Management Authorities of the LAR (for animals) and the PCR (for plants) for the preparation and transport of live specimens and that they be brought to the attention of exporters, importers, transport companies, carriers, freight forwarders, inspection authorities and international organizations and conferences competent to regulate conditions of carriage by air, land and sea or inland waterways;  
♦ as long as the CITES Secretariat and the Standing Committee agree, the LAR (for animals) and the PCR Regulations (for plants) be deemed to meet CITES air transport requirements;  
♦ where appropriate, the LAR (for animals) and the PCR (for plants) be used as a reference to indicate suitable conditions for carriage by means other than air;  
♦ the LAR and the sections of the PCR related to the transport of live plant specimens be incorporated into Parties’ domestic legislation or policies;  
♦ applicants for export permits or re-export or traveling exhibition certificates be notified that, as a condition of issuance, they are required to prepare and ship live specimens in accordance with the LAR and the PCR.”

In April 2008, the Animals Committee (AC) reiterated that the Chair of the Transport Working Group would participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA. The AC also asked the Secretariat to invite Parties in need of a current IATA Live Animals Regulation (which are updated annually) to indicate their interest to the CITES Secretariat before 30 October 2008 and to ask Parties in need of training to contact Eric Raemdonck, IATA’s Manager for Special Cargoes of Live Animals and Perishables (raemdonck@iata.org) concerning opportunities and options for training on compliance with IATA Live Animals Regulations. (CITES Notification No. 2008/50)
Periodic Review of the CITES Appendices

CITES Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of Committees mandates the Animals and Plants Committees (AC and PC) to undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by “establishing a schedule for conducting the reviews, identifying problems, consulting Parties on the need to review specific species and seeking their assistance, and preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the reviews, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties”. The purpose of the periodic review is to determine whether species are appropriately listed on the CITES Appendices in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12) on Criteria for the amendment of Appendices I and II.

Recommendations developed by the AC and PC for conducting the periodic review, including standardized guidelines, were adopted by the Parties in CITES Resolution Conf. 14.8 (available at <www.cites.org/eng/res/14/14-08.shtml>). In Decision 14.81, the Parties decided to exclude great whales from the periodic review, stating that “No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place.”

At its 22nd meeting (Lima, July 2006), the AC agreed on the list of species to be reviewed under CoP13 and CoP15. At its 23rd meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the AC requested the Secretariat to raise awareness of the selected taxa for which no reviewer had been identified, and invited Parties to conduct reviews for remaining species of Felidae which the Committee had been instructed to review in Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14).

CITES Notification No. 2008/049, Periodic Review of species included in the CITES Appendices (available at <www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/049.pdf>), was issued to alert Parties to selected species for which there was no reviewer. This Notification affects 44 countries in the African region (see frame for a list of countries in the African region affected by CITES Notification No. 2008/049).

SSN strongly encourages countries in the African region to respond to CITES Notification No. 2008/049 before the 2009 meetings of the PC and AC. Please contact the SSN Africa Regional Bureau if you need further information on the procedures governing the conduct of the periodic review of the CITES Appendices.

Capacity-building corner

Useful publications:
- Useful sites:

Please contact the SSN Africa Regional Bureau if you need help with translation.
Species Survival Network’s Africa Regional Bureau

Working within CITES to facilitate the participation of African countries

CITES Protected Species of the Month

♦ Name: euphorbia, euphorbe (Euphorbia sapinii)
♦ CITES listing: Appendix II
♦ CITES export quotas: no export quotas reported for 2008 (see <http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2008/ExportQuotas2008.pdf>)
♦ CITES Trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2007): information on trade in Euphorbia sapinii not accessible on the CITES trade database at the time of writing. 19 live specimens were reported traded by the US and South Africa in 2002 (PC17 Doc 14 p.37).
♦ IUCN category: not yet assessed by IUCN

♦ Threats: Habitat loss/degradation; collection
♦ Range States: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo

SSN Member of the Month: Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)

Organization Profile:
President: Cathy Liss
Date of creation: 1951
Mission Statement: Reduce the sum total of pain and fear inflicted on animals by humans.
Offices located in: Washington, D.C.
Website: http://www.awionline.org/

Project of Local Interest: Remittance of the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards for exemplary law enforcement action.

For several years, the Animal Welfare Institute has presented awards to persons who have engaged in one or more exemplary law enforcement actions to protect species of wildlife listed in the Appendices of the Convention. The presentation of this award has been done in cooperation with SSN. The awards, named after a former head of the law enforcement division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have traditionally been presented by the Secretary-General of CITES during meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Such a presentation will take place during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Qatar in January 2010. The Bavin Awards have been presented to enforcement officers from several countries in the African region including Cameroon (2007), Kenya (2007, 2004, 2002 and 2000), Tanzania (2007), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2007), Uganda (2002), Zambia (2000), Chad (2000), Mali (1997), Senegal (1997) and Ghana (1997).

Nominations for the 2010 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards: CITES Parties are invited to submit the details of potential recipients of such awards to the contact information below before 31 August 2009.

Contact Information: D.J. Schubert, Wildlife Biologist, Animal Welfare Institute, P.O. Box 3650, Washington DC, 20027; USA

Telephone: 1-609-601-2875 E-mail: dj@awionline.org

SSN Member of the Month: Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)

Individuals accepting the 2007 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Awards with Willem Wijnsteekers, CITES Secretary-General and D.J. Schubert of AWI.

Call for local representation

The Species Survival Network’s Africa Regional Bureau is engaged in a capacity building effort which involves local non-governmental organizations and the Press. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help with CITES issues, if you wish to submit article ideas for the newsletter or if you wish to apply for SSN membership.

Useful websites:
- http://www.serval.ch/Serval.htm
- <http://www.catsg.org/catsgportal/20_catsg-website/home/index_en.htm> (IUCN Cat Specialist Group)

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Euphorbia sapinii included in CITES Appendix II © Société Française d’Ethnopharmacologie

♦ Name: serval; serval (Leptailurus serval)
♦ CITES listing: Appendix II
♦ CITES Trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2008): between 2000 and 2007, exports of servals amounted to 11 bodies, 6 garments, 15 leather products, 468 live animals, 2 pairs of shoes, 1 plate, 1 skeleton, 185 skins and skin pieces, 90 skulls, 36 specimens, 592 trophies and 1 unspecified transaction. Main exporters were South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Sudan; main importers were the US and Malaysia.
♦ IUCN category: Least Concern—possibly extinct regionally in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco (IUCN 2002)
♦ Threats: Habitat loss/degradation; trade in pelts and in live animals (as exotic pets); hunting for pelts for ceremonial and medicinal purposes
♦ Useful websites: <http://www.serval.ch/Serval.htm> (fact sheet on serval); <http://www.catsg.org/catsgportal/20_catsg-website/home/index_en.htm> (IUCN Cat Specialist Group)