



## Strengthening the Fight Against Wildlife Crime

In this issue of *CITES Afrique*, the Africa Regional Bureau of the Species Survival Network (SSN) celebrates the creation of a new alliance among CITES, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization. Together, they have formed an International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), a collaboration which SSN enthusiastically welcomes. We hope that it will result in stronger CITES enforcement worldwide.

This issue also introduces a collaborative program between the ITTO and CITES to assist countries in implementing the Convention for tropical timber species.

We also use this issue to congratulate warmly the government of Tunisia for its designation of new protected areas in the country, and the government of

Gabon for bold enforcement measures that led to the arrest of 16 ivory dealers.

Thank you for your commitment to wildlife conservation. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Warm wishes.

*Will Travers, Shelley Waterland and Alice Stroud, SSN Africa Regional Bureau*



CITES Secretary-General John Scanlon with Ronald Noble, Secretary-General of Interpol © CITES Secretariat

## Latest CITES Postings and Notifications

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties that the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee will be held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 18 to 21 April 2011. Participants must register by 19 March 2011 by filling in the Registration form online (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/index.shtml>) or returning the registration form to the Secretariat. Before registering, observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations must request an invitation from the interim Chair and, if granted, forward it to the Secretariat (CITES Notification 2010/033)

◆ The Secretariat reminded Parties that a caviar trade database has been developed for their use by UNEP-WCMC. The purpose of the database is to record near-real-time information relating to exports

and re-exports of caviar. Parties are encouraged to make use of the database and to submit information to UNEP-WCMC for inclusion in the database about permits and certificates authorizing trade in caviar (CITES Notification 2010/034)

◆ The Secretariat distributed information about the new sections on the CITES website on e-commerce and on the *CITES e-permitting toolkit* (CITES Notification 2010/035)

◆ The Secretariat provided guidance on the interpretation of the annotations to the listings of Brazilian rosewood (*Aniba rosaeodora*), palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) and candelilla (*Euphorbia anti-syphilitica*). The interpretation provided by the Secretariat is to serve as interim advice until an interpretation of the annotations is

agreed by the Conference of the Parties (CITES Notification 2010/036)

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties of applicable size limits for skins of spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) or parts thereof that can be exported from Colombia. Parties are requested to assist Colombia in enforcing these size limits (CITES Notification 2010/037)

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties that the Philippines has adopted stricter domestic measures to prohibit the export for commercial purposes of wild-caught specimens of wild terrestrial fauna and to prohibit the fishing or harvesting, possession, selling and export of specimens of CITES-listed aquatic species (CITES Notification 2010/038)

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### Important CITES Dates

- **6-7 December 2010:** 9th meeting of the MIKE Technical Advisory Group, Nairobi, Kenya
- **31 December 2010:** deadline for African elephant range States that wish to authorize export of raw ivory in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) to communicate in writing to the Secretariat export quotas for raw ivory for 2011
- **15 January 2011:** date by which the Secretariat requests Parties to submit information on a number of subjects to the CITES Secretariat for the 19th Plants Committee and the 25th Animals Committee meetings (CITES Notification 2010/027)

# The ITTO-CITES Collaborative Program

More than 30 tropical tree species are now listed in the CITES Appendices. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and CITES have a well-established relationship. Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber* “Directs the CITES Secretariat to cooperate closely with the Secretariat of ITTO on matters related to tropical timber species threatened by international trade and sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests”. The two organizations have been collaborating since 2006 on a large capacity-building project to assist countries in implementing CITES regulations for the tropical timber species in Appendix II that are the most traded internationally. In Africa, this program covers the afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) and the African cherry (*Prunus africana*), a species highly sought after for its medicinal bark.

dicinal bark.

The goals of the collaborative program are to:

- improve management and regulation of trade in tropical timber species
- improve forest management to ensure survival of threatened species and sustainable incomes for local communities and others involved in timber trade
- increase regional cooperation in research, silviculture and CITES compliance
- integrate knowledge on sustainable forest management and species conservation to provide a coherent policy framework

In addition to country-level activities, the program also addresses information sharing and closer cooperation among agencies responsible for enforcing CITES-related legislation. It also ad-

dresses capacity-building for CITES Scientific Authorities on the making of non-detriment findings.

SSN is highly supportive of the joint ITTO-CITES program, and encourages donors and the broader CITES community to increase their support for its activities. Please contact SSN if you have questions about the CITES protection of tropical timber species.

More information about the ITTO-CITES collaboration is available on the CITES website at <<http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/timber.shtml>> and on the ITTO website at <[http://www.itto.int/cites\\_programme/](http://www.itto.int/cites_programme/)>

## Activities of the ITTO-CITES Collaborative Program in Africa

Country	Species	Activity
Cameroon	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of plantations</li> <li>• Sustainable management in forest concessions</li> </ul>
	<i>Prunus africana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-detriment findings</li> </ul>
Congo	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory in a production forest</li> </ul>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of CITES and its implementation texts</li> <li>• Training on the verification of CITES permits and the use of “CITES Wood-ID software” (design to aid in wood recognition by customs)</li> </ul>

Source: P.S. Tong, M.S. Schmidt and S. Johnson, *ITTO and CITES work together to ensure survival of threatened species and sustainable incomes for people involved in timber trade*. *Unasylva* 236, Vol 61, 2010.



Above: African cherry tree (*Prunus africana*) bark harvested in Mount Oku, Cameroon © unknown

On the left: Logging in the Congo basin forest © *The Guardian*

## New International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime

This November, five major international agencies signed a groundbreaking agreement to work collaboratively on combating wildlife and environmental crime. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) represents an alliance between CITES, Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Signatories pledged to protect threatened species and habitats by working towards strengthening national and international efforts to end illegal transnational wildlife trafficking.

Mr John Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES said: "ICCWC sends a very clear message that a new era of wildlife law enforcement is upon us, one where wildlife criminals will face a determined and

coordinated opposition, rather than the current situation where the risks of detection and of facing penalties that match their crimes are often low."

As part of the Consortium's initial efforts, ICCWC provided guidance to the Global Tiger Initiative and drafted a section on combating wildlife crime for the recent Tiger Summit's Global Tiger Recovery Program document.



The creation of the Consortium follows the adoption of a Resolution on Building a Sustainable Environmental

Crime Program by the 188 member countries of Interpol during the 79th Interpol General Assembly meeting held earlier this month. The Resolution calls upon national law enforcement authorities to recognize that environmental crime is not restricted by borders and involves organized crime networks which engage in other crime types including murder, corruption, fraud and theft. It also acknowledges that there is a "vital need for a global response (...) and that Interpol should play a leading role in supporting national and international enforcement."

SSN welcomes the creation of the Consortium and the adoption of the Interpol Resolution, and encourages CITES Parties to continue to intensify their collaborative efforts to combat wildlife crime. See <[http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press\\_release.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml)> for more information.

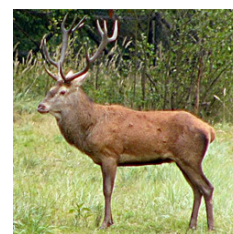
## New Protected Areas in Tunisia

The Tunisian government adopted Decree n° 2010-1695 and Decree n° 2010-1696 on 5 July 2010 to create two new National Parks, Jbel Chitana-Cap Negro and Oued Zeen located in the Kroumerie-Mogods in northwest Tunisia (see <http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/tun96907.pdf>). These protected areas include forested habitat very rich in

biodiversity. In particular, they shelter populations of Barbary red deer (*Cervus elaphus barbarus*), a subspecies endemic to Algeria and Tunisia. The Tunisian government also created 6 new nature reserves, bringing the number of Tunisian National Parks to 12 and Nature Reserves to 22. SSN warmly congratulates the Tunisian au-

thorities for these important steps for conservation.

Barbary red deer (*Cervus elaphus barbarus*) © Par Mus



## Major Arrests of Ivory Dealers in Gabon

On Friday 26th November, officers in Gabon seized 100 kg of ivory and arrested 16 ivory dealers – the result of a groundbreaking wildlife law enforcement initiative for the country.

According to news reports, a possible source of the ivory is Minkebe National Park in northeast Gabon, believed by some to be home to one of the largest populations of forest elephants in Africa. Minkebe is located on the border between Gabon and Cameroon, and while

3 of those arrested were Cameroonian, the majority were from much further afield - Senegal.



Confiscated elephant tusks © AFP

This incident highlights the need for more multi-country law enforcement operations to target organized criminal networks involved in elephant poaching and international ivory smuggling.

SSN applauds the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of Justice in Gabon, for undertaking these vital elephant conservation actions. SSN hopes that those arrested will be brought to justice, and that other criminals will be deterred from operating in the country.

## Capacity-building corner

### Useful publications:

◆ Dr. J.L. Betti, *Non-detriment Findings Report on Prunus Africana (Rosaceae) in Cameroon*, NDF Workshop Case Study 9, available for download at <[http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion\\_internacional/TallerNDF/Links-Documen-](http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/TallerNDF/Links-Documen-)

[tos/Casos%20de%20Estudio/Trees/WG1%20CS9.pdf](http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/TallerNDF/Links-Documen-tos/Casos%20de%20Estudio/Trees/WG1%20CS9.pdf)>

◆ Letter of Understanding Establishing the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, available at <[http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/ICCWC\\_memo.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/ICCWC_memo.pdf)>

### Useful websites:

◆ <[http://www.itto.int/cites\\_programme/](http://www.itto.int/cites_programme/)> The ITTO-CITES collaborative program.

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

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#### 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.

## SSN Member of the Month: Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)

### Organization Profile:

**Chief Executive:** Chris Butler-Stroud

**Date of Creation:** 1987

**Mission Statement:** Dedicated to enhancing the conservation and welfare of all whales, dolphins and porpoises

**Offices Located in:** United Kingdom, Australasia, Germany, Latin America and North America

**Projects in Africa Located in:** Angola and Ghana

**Website:** <http://www.wdcs.org/>

### Project of Regional Interest: Study of Atlantic humpback dolphins in Angola

The Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) has been highlighted as a research priority by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group due to its low abundance, restricted range and potential vulnerability to anthropogenic impacts. Data are therefore urgently required on the population size and structure, distribution and status of these dolphins in all of their known range states, in order to assess and implement appropriate conservation and management plans. WDCS led a study off Flamingos in Namibe Province, Angola, successfully identifying an area of Atlantic humpback dolphin occurrence with some key findings including a total of 48 humpback dolphin sightings and the identification of key habitat types used by humpback dolphins.



Atlantic humpback dolphins, Dauphin à bosse de l'Atlantique (*Sousa teuszii*)  
© WDCS/Caroline Weir

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## CITES Protected Species of the Month



*Eulophia speciosa* included in CITES Appendix II @ Royal museum for Central Africa

◆ **Name:** Orchid; orchidée (no common name) (*Eulophia speciosa*)

◆ **CITES listing:** Appendix II

◆ **CITES export quotas:** No export quotas reported for 2010 (see <<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2010/ExportQuotas2010.pdf>>)

◆ **CITES trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2010):** 22 live specimens exported from South Africa to the United States

◆ **IUCN category:** Least concern

◆ **Threats:** Overcollection for ornamental plant trade; habitat loss from urban residential development

◆ **Range States:** Angola; Botswana; Burundi; Congo; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Saudi Arabia; South Africa; Sudan; Swaziland; Tanzania; Uganda; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

◆ **Useful resources:** IUCN Orchid Specialist Group <<http://www.orchidconservation.org/osg/>>; Victor and Dold, *Threatened plants of the Albany Centre of Floristic Endemism, South Africa*, South African Journal of Science 99, September/October 2003 <[http://eprints.ru.ac.za/345/1/sajs\\_dold\\_threatned\\_plants\\_of\\_the\\_albany.pdf](http://eprints.ru.ac.za/345/1/sajs_dold_threatned_plants_of_the_albany.pdf)>; factsheet on *Eulophia speciosa* <<http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantefg/eulophspec.htm>>



Atlantic humpbacked dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) listed in CITES Appendix I © T. Lindström

◆ **Name:** Atlantic humpbacked dolphin; dauphin à bosse de l'Atlantique (*Sousa teuszii*)

◆ **CITES listing:** Appendix I

◆ **CITES export quotas:** No export quotas reported for 2010 (See: <http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2010/ExportQuotas2010.pdf>)

◆ **CITES trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2010):** between 2000 and 2010 exports of Atlantic Humpbacked Dolphin amounted to 1 skin piece exported from Gabon to the United States

◆ **IUCN category:** Vulnerable

◆ **Threats:** Interactions with fisheries; boat strikes; habitat degradation; bycatch

◆ **Range States:** Angola, Cameroon, Congo (query over status), Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea

Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria (query over status), Senegal, Togo (query over status), Western Sahara

◆ **Useful resources:** CMS factsheet <[http://www.cms.int/reports/small\\_cetaceans/data/S\\_teuszii/s\\_teuszii.htm](http://www.cms.int/reports/small_cetaceans/data/S_teuszii/s_teuszii.htm)>; 2002-2010 Conservation Action Plan for the World's Cetaceans <<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2003-009.pdf>>; proposal for listing the Atlantic humpbacked dolphin in CMS Appendix I <[http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/Proposals/Appendix\\_I\\_&\\_II\\_Proposals.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/Proposals/Appendix_I_&_II_Proposals.pdf)>