

Between the Conferences Of the Parties

of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

A Publication of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

August 2003, Issue #2

Understanding the Impact

Trafficking in Infant Elephants

Dr. Christopher Tuite, Director of Wildlife and Habitat Program, USA

Wildlife dealer Riccardo Ghiazza has been convicted of criminal violation of South Africa's Animals Protection Act, ending a four-year case that calls into question South Africa's implementation of CITES.

The text of the Convention seems clear. Article VIII.3 states, "*The Parties shall ensure further that all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding or shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.*"

The facts of the Ghiazza case are also clear. In July 1998, thirty young elephants were captured from the wild in Botswana's Tuli region and transported to Mr. Ghiazza's African Game Services, near Brits, South Africa. Information concerning the physical abuse of these animals at Mr. Ghiazza's facility quickly became known. On 2 September 1998, the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) obtained a warrant to enter Mr. Ghiazza's property to document the abuses. The South African courts granted NSPCA's application to seize the elephants on 14 October.

A six-week court battle ensued; during that time Mr. Ghiazza appealed the court seizure and re-exported seven of the animals to zoos in Germany and Switzerland.

The court battle continued for another four years. But as far as the ele-



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phants were concerned, it was mostly an academic exercise. Mr. Ghiazza had disposed of all of them by December 1999.

On 7 April 2003, Pretoria Regional Court handed down guilty verdicts to Riccardo Ghiazza and his colleague, Wayne Stockigt, for criminal violation of the Animals Protection Act.

Presiding Magistrate A.C. Bekker said there was "persuasive evidence unreasonable and unlawful acts" had been committed against the young elephants and that management tools had been used "as an assault weapon." Mr. Ghiazza and Mr. Stockigt had been responsible for shackling the elephants with chains that cut flesh and caused wounds. There had been "beatings with broomsticks and sjamboks (heavy whips) and the kicking of genitals." There was evidence one infant elephant had been "hit 29 times in the face with a sjambok... It is clear the elephants were terrified."

IFAW supported the NSPCA in its long struggle through the court system. Appeals were made to block Mr. Ghiazza's export of these CITES-listed elephants. Nevertheless, the South African CITES Management Authority (MA) issued re-

export permits that allowed shipment of the animals to zoos in Europe.

In May 2003, once the guilty verdict was handed down by the South African court, IFAW petitioned the CITES Secretariat to act under Article XIII.3, which provides for redress when "*provisions of the Convention are not being effectively implemented.*" IFAW argued that the elephants were in "*transit*" when the abuse occurred, having recently been captured in Botswana, and transported to South Africa while Mr. Ghiazza was negotiating with various international buyers.

Under Article VIII.3, it is the responsibility of the MA to "*ensure*" live animals are protected "*during any period of transit.*" The South African MA failed to comply with the Convention by issuing re-export permits, even when presented with compelling evidence of cruelty toward these animals. IFAW believes this constitutes blatant non-compliance. However, the CITES Secretary General does not share this opinion. Replying to our petition, Mr. Willem Wijnstekers claimed the cited provisions of Article VIII.3 must be read within the context of the preceding passages. IFAW does not agree. The provision

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states, "Parties shall ensure further that ..." with "further" indicating the intention of the text to go beyond the preceding passages.

Mr. Wijnstekers wrote, "the Convention has only limited provisions in relation to animal welfare and all of these are narrowly related to actual movement of specimens in international trade." But the text of Article VIII states, "during any period of transit" - which does not limit application to "actual movement of specimens."

He said Article VIII, "refers to what occurs whilst the trade is taking place and does not relate to a preparatory period." IFAW argued that the elephants' sojourn in South Africa was part of the transit period for trade. The cruelties were inflicted while Mr. Ghiazza was conducting sale negotiations with various zoos; negotiations between buyer and seller are part of trade.

IFAW calls attention to the contradictions between Mr. Wijnstekers' response to IFAW and what he wrote in his book, *Evolution of CITES*. He clearly states in Chapter 10, *Transport of live specimens* that "Article VIII.3 requires that Parties ensure the proper care of all living specimens during any period of transit..." and further specifies, "...which should cover the above cases for which there are no specific provisions."

It is IFAW's view that the South Africa CITES MA clearly violated the Convention when issuing the re-export permits for the Tuli elephants. According to Article IV.5, a re-export certificate "shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met: ... (b) the management authority of the State of re-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."

The South African courts have now verified - with a criminal conviction - that those living specimens were indeed prepared with cruel treatment. In such a case, CITES re-export certificates should never have been issued.

IFAW calls upon the CITES Secretariat to uphold the integrity of the Convention and address the non-compliance of South Africa's CITES MA. We urge the Secretariat to investigate the infractions by the South African MA and offer recommendations that can ensure proper implementation of the Convention.

On a related matter, IFAW applauds Mexico's CITES MA which, upon the recent importation of four young South African elephants, discovered a number of irregularities in the transaction. Mexico took the responsible action and promptly seized the animals.

IFAW Stands Firm on Strict Conditions Before Any Ivory Trade

Grace Gabriel, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Habitat Program, USA

To facilitate implementation of the CoP12 decision to allow a conditional one-off sale of elephant ivory from three southern African countries after May 2004, IFAW produced a briefing paper outlining the minimum conditions that should be met before the sale



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occurs. Entitled "Defining and Implementing Conditions for the Proposed Sales of Ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa as Approved by CoP XII of CITES," the full IFAW brief is available at <http://www.ifaw.org/page.asp?id=1217>.

At the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) in Geneva, (22-25 April 2003), Japan distributed a document (SC49 Inf. 4) that criticises IFAW's briefing paper. We believe Japan's remarks are unfounded. Because IFAW's response was only distributed as an unofficial document at SC49, we refer to some of the points below.

Japan stated that "IFAW has long been known as totally opposed to any wildlife trade whether sustainable or not," [hence

IFAW] "...opposes the proposed sale." This statement perpetuates a misconception.

IFAW's opposition to international ivory trade is based on field experience and knowledge of wildlife market dynamics. When there are no adequate protection and verification systems in place, any opening of the trade will bring disastrous consequences for both African and Asian elephants. IFAW maintains constructive participation within the CITES framework on both national and international levels on all continents. Our work involves all aspects of elephant conservation.

Japan commented that the IFAW briefing paper "was designed to prevent any future trade in ivories." In truth, the IFAW paper is specifically designed to assist the Standing Committee in fulfilling its task of defining strict conditions and guidelines to prevent detrimental impacts of trade (CoP12 Dec. 12.34).

Japan stated, "IFAW's document is not appropriate to be used as a base of further deliberation of this issue..." because "allegations" from a report jointly published by IFAW and the Japan Wildlife Conservation Association (JWCS) have not been proven.

Actually, this joint report, "Black and Grey: Illegal Ivory in Japanese Markets," was applauded by Japan's Director of the Wildlife Division of Ministry of Environment (ME) on 14 March 2003. In a letter to JWCS, he wrote, "Your organization has rich expertise and achievement regarding wildlife conservation and presents detailed investigation reports and proposals... regarding implementation of CITES especially"

It seems highly inconsistent for the government of Japan to compliment the joint report, then refer to it as unsubstantiated and full of allegations one month later.

In SC49 Inf. 4, Japan also incorrectly stated that CITES only requires border controls from Parties to deal with international trade. The impression is given that internal market controls, legislation, and implementation measures are purely voluntary matters for the Party itself. This fails to take into account Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) *Trade in elephant specimens: regarding compliance with*

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control of internal trade and related Decisions 12.36, 12.37, 12.38 and 12.39.

Japan tried to mask its lack of enforcement against illegal ivory trading by blaming tourists for a larger portion of ivory smuggling. Yet today - one year after the Singapore seizure of 6.5 tons of ivory bound for Japan - no investigative results or prosecutions have been made public. This illegal shipment, which contains 40,810 Japanese-style hanko cylinders, represents the largest ivory smuggling case in history!

Most of the statements contained in SC49 Inf. 4 are erroneous. Even though IFAW believes the ivory trade today cannot be controlled and therefore is not in the best interest of elephant conservation, our paper reflects our full respect to the decisions of the CITES Parties and our continuous interest in contributing constructively to the process as agreed at CoP12.

CITES' Responsibility for Marine Fish

Peter Pueschel, CITES Coordinator, Germany

Parties at CoP12 took courageous and responsible decisions when they listed on Appendix II the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and all seahorses (*Hippocampus spp.*). These decisions recognise the important role CITES can play in the conservation of marine fish species subject to international trade.

The Appendix II listing of seahorses deserves special attention. The problem of over-fishing seahorse populations for international trade has been on the Parties' agenda since CoP10 in 1997. Discussions among Parties, IUCN and Project Seahorse led to the Cebu workshop (Philippines; 27-29 May 2002), which recognised the critical state of many



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populations. It was concluded a CITES listing will assist seahorse fisheries management efforts by controlling and regulating international trade. Listing the entire genus, because individual species identification is difficult, is compatible with the precautionary role of CITES.

Unfortunately, some Parties continue to oppose CITES involvement in marine (or aquatic) species as a matter of principle. Japan, Norway, Iceland, Indonesia and South Korea have since taken reservations to the CoP12 decisions on marine fish species.

To ensure progress in the debate, IFAW believes there is an urgent need to dispel misconceptions and improve communications.

The claim that CITES may intend to take over fisheries management is unwarranted. CITES has a concrete role to play as a constructive and complementary support to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Increasingly, there is open and positive communication between the Secretariats of these three autonomous conventions.

A lack of communication does exist, however, on a national level amongst different ministries and departments, particularly of Parties with serious fisheries interests. Fisheries agencies and experts often lack knowledge about CITES and its unique, complementary role in regulating international trade.

The lack of progress in the FAO-CITES debate about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the last FAO Committee on Fisheries meeting and at CITES SC49 again highlighted the unwillingness of some Parties to accept that marine fish species need the additional protection of CITES international trade regulations.

Even worse, some attempts were made to move CITES away from its autonomous conservation and precaution-

ary-based role through proposals to accept fisheries institutions' dominance over CITES listings. Many of the same Parties that oppose progress on the MOU and took reservations on the CoP12 decisions are key fishery nations. These nations have failed to safeguard worldwide fish populations, as revealed by the current decline in global catches.

IFAW believes CITES can be an effective conservation tool by regulating the international trade in species, marine or terrestrial, which may face detrimental impacts caused by trade. We urge the major fishing nations to give up their reluctance to fully cooperate with CITES. ■

Enforcing the Law

Seven Elephants Gunned Down in Uganda

In late March 2003, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) reported seven elephants were gunned down by a gang of ivory poachers in Murchison Falls National Park. The brutal killing of the one calf and six adult elephants was the worst incident of elephant poaching in Uganda in 20 years.

So far, six suspected poachers have been taken before a military court martial and charged with the offence.

Kenyan Rangers Killed by Poachers in Tsavo East

Kenya Wildlife Service rangers Mohammed Sombwana and Corporal Maina Ngare were killed by elephant poachers inside Tsavo East National Park, Kenya, on 10 and 11 May 2003. They were part of a security team pursuing a band of poachers suspected of being from one of Kenya's war-torn neighbours. Two poachers were killed in the fierce battle. Two others are believed to have escaped.

KWS recovered an M-16 and a G3 as a result of the incident. These powerful and accurate fully automatic weapons are superior to the AK-47s poachers generally use. Manufactured in the United States

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Enforcing the Law

Kenyan Rangers Killed continued from page 3

and Germany and restricted to authorized military organizations only, these weapons are non-standard issue for Kenya's armed forces. Their acquisition by poaching gangs in East Africa is a disturbing expansion of illegal trafficking in contraband firearms.

This tragic poaching event adds to the growing number of indicators that suggest elephant-related crime is on the increase since the decisions taken at COP-12 in Santiago.

To reinforce Tsavo Park security, on 17 June 2003, IFAW delivered a patrol airplane to KWS. The aircraft donation was made possible by a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



archive photo

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Escalating Elephant Poaching in South Africa

A May 2003 *Sunday Independent* report highlighted the serious poaching problems KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa, has been experiencing in recent months. A recent seizure by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife and the South African Police of two elephant tusks from four men in a Durban city street exemplifies the problem. The tusks were from two different elephants aged between 6 and 10 years.

Conservationists are alarmed because elephant poaching seems to be on the increase in the region, yet South Africa still has not adopted local CITES legislation to implement the Convention.

Tortoises Rescued in Russia

On 25 April 2003, IFAW's CITES Animal Shelter in Moscow accepted 1,660 Central Asian tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*) confiscated by the city environmental police.

The tiny tortoises - listed on CITES Appendix II - were packed tightly in huge bags, each covered with scotch tape, to restrict their movement and facilitate illegal transport. Five died before they reached the Shelter and 19 did not survive the next month. At least 100 tortoises suffered severe shell deformities; salmonella was discovered in all of them.



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An Uzbekistani man was arrested in connection with the illegal shipment. According to him, the tortoises were collected in Kazakhstan and were on their way to Ukraine. This incident marks the first time criminal charges against illegal wildlife trade have been brought in Moscow.

Currently, 1,636 tortoises are being cared for at the IFAW shelter while they await further investigation of their origin. Hopefully, after rehabilitation and quarantine, they can be returned to the wild.

Hong Kong Commended for Exemplary Enforcement Action

In May 2003, Hong Kong became the first recipient of an award initiated by the CITES Secretariat for exemplary wildlife law enforcement actions. A Certificate of Commendation was given to the Customs and Excise Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China for their excellent coordinated

effort in the October 2002 seizure of 506 kilograms (1,116 pounds) of elephant ivory from a fishing vessel at sea and the subsequent prosecution of the smuggler.

Ivory Smugglers Sentenced in Shanghai

The Shanghai Intermediate Court in April 2003 handed down sentences to the two suspects involved in the biggest illegal ivory trafficking case in China, according to the Shanghai Environment Hotline. Wenjian Li and Zhiqiang Liang were found guilty of smuggling 3,334.6 kilograms (7,351 pounds) of African elephant ivory in August 2002. Li was given the death penalty with a two-year delay and Liang was sentenced to life in prison.

Tibetan Antelope Poaching and Wool Smuggling Continues

On 10 May 2003, patrol teams from the Kekexili Nature Reserve in Qinghai, China, encountered two poaching gangs in the core-protected area of the Tibetan antelope. They pursued the groups, arrested nine suspected poachers, and confiscated more than 700 Tibetan antelope skins and numerous weapons. Most of the animals killed were pregnant females on their migration to calving grounds.

Two days later, India's Central Bureau of Investigation seized 47 shahtoosh shawls in a series of raids conducted in Delhi. This follows a seizure of 215 kilograms (474 pounds) of raw shahtoosh wool in April 2003 and a February seizure of 26 shahtoosh shawls in Delhi.



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In response to escalating poaching, IFAW in May pledged further financial

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support to strengthen wildlife law enforcement in the region, specifically to protect the calving grounds of this endangered species. The CITES Secretariat plans to conduct an enforcement needs assessment in August 2003. The CITES Management Authority of China will also organize an enforcement workshop.

Enforcement Action Uncovers Wildlife in India

A tiger skin, one leopard skin, and a pair of tusks were seized in the Kannur Forest Division in Kerala, India on 23 June 2003. The operation was carried out by the Forest Department with the assistance of the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). The accused illegal traders claimed they had collected the goods from the town of Sulthan Bathery in the District of Wynad.

Sulthan Bathery, which lies near the state border with Karnataka, is a known centre for wildlife crime. Two elephants, a leopard and a bear have been found dead in the Wynad District within the last four weeks. ■

Applying Science to Conservation

Forest Elephants in Danger

Dr. Katy Payne and Melissa Groo, the *Elephant Listening Project*
<http://www.elephantlisteningproject.org/>

Found in Central and West Africa, forest elephants may number as few as 25,000 (Dudley, 2002) or as many as 150,000 (Eggert, 2003). The dramatic difference between these estimates underscores the need for better understanding of this species, especially in the face of alarming trends in habitat loss and poaching.

Forest elephants are smaller than savannah elephants, with more rounded ears, and straighter, thinner, downward-pointing tusks. Only males have large tusks. Families travel in groups of three to seven individuals, fewer than savannah elephants, but in other respects their social structure and life history are similar. An important keystone species, forest elephants range over large areas and open up clearings to take advantage of mineral-rich soil, giving other species access to concentrated minerals and light-dependent vegetation. They affect forest composition through the dispersal of many kinds of seeds.

In West Africa, forest elephant populations have declined due to hunting and human encroachment on their habitat. They are now found only in small and isolated forest fragments. In Central Africa, logging roads are penetrating at a rapid rate, making remote areas more accessible, and bringing in people who kill elephants for meat as well as for ivory.



Recent DNA studies show extensive genetic differences between African forest and savannah elephants, resulting in general agreement that these represent two species rather than one as previously thought. In 2004, the foremost reference on mammalian taxonomy, *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*, to be published by the Smithsonian Institution, will list forest elephants as a separate species (*Loxodonta cyclotis*).

Lower numbers for each species means a higher level of endangerment; thus the new listing provides an unprecedented challenge for the next CITES CoP.

The recent CITES decision to conditionally allow sales of ivory in 2004 poses a severe threat to forest elephants. They are especially at risk because much of their habitat lies in dense forests outside protected areas and within countries plagued by civil unrest and poverty. This combination of factors makes law enforcement impossible on a wide scale and increases the incentive for poaching. Under current conditions, extensive poaching in the forest can occur without detection. The recent CoP12 decisions were focused on one elephant species but have placed another in great danger.

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Global News

SARS and Endangered Species

China began promulgating regulations banning endangered species from restaurant menus after the link was established between Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and wildlife consumption. In May 2003, the World Health Organization (WHO) traced the SARS virus - which has killed more than 800 and infected more than 8,000 people worldwide - to civet cats, considered a delicacy in Chinese cuisine.

People in southern China have a particular penchant for eating civet cats, turtles, snakes, badgers, frogs and other wildlife. Thousands of wild animals of different species are transported, caged, sold and slaughtered daily in public markets, which could be perfect breeding grounds for viruses and bacteria. Indeed, preliminary studies of early SARS victims in Guangdong Province, where the outbreak

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is believed to have started, have found an unusually high percentage were in the catering profession.

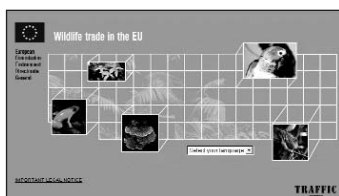
It is illegal to sell and consume protected wildlife species in China, yet the laws are rarely enforced, as the trade is a lucrative business. Since the start of the outbreak, however, law enforcement agencies have conducted thousands of raids all over China, closing down wildlife markets and confiscating animals from hotels and restaurants, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. New regulations are being drafted in southern China and in Beijing aiming to ban "wild-delicacies" in restaurants and endangered species in markets.

Conservation organizations applaud the law enforcement actions and urge the government to update the Wildlife Protection Law, close loopholes in the regulations, and make long-term enforcement commitments to protect the health of both people and the planet.

EU Launches New Web Site to Promote Wildlife Trade Controls

The first Web site providing information on wildlife trade controls in the European Union (EU) is now online at www.eu-wildlifetrade.org. The Web site is designed to raise the awareness of those involved in wildlife trade, from importers, wholesalers and retailers to consumers and travellers, by informing them about their legal responsibilities under the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

The web site, in 11 EU languages, is financed by the European Commission and managed by TRAFFIC Europe, with support from the CITES Management Authorities of all EU Member States. (Source-CITES Secretariat at www.cites.org)



Historic Turning Point for Whale Conservation

Conservationists fighting for the survival of whales and dolphins around the world will remember the Berlin 2003 meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as a historic turning point.

The Berlin Initiative, passed by a clear majority, heralds a significant move towards conservation by the IWC. Growing environmental threats to whales, dolphins and porpoises will now become the responsibility of a new conservation committee.



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IFAW President Fred O'Regan said, "Whales around the world face a safer future thanks to this landmark decision. It marks a move from centuries of exploitation to a new century of whale protection."

The impacts of marine pollution, collisions with ships, climate change and, most importantly, accidental bycatch in fishing nets are likely to be the focus of new research and action plans to mitigate their effects. It is estimated that 300,000 cetaceans die in fishing nets around the world every year.

In the past, whaling nations have argued that small whales, dolphins and porpoises have no place on the IWC agenda. The Berlin Initiative explicitly includes them within the IWC's conservation remit.

Icelandic proposals to resume whaling were widely criticised during the meeting. The UK Commissioner, Richard Cowan, highlighted the economic importance of eco-tourism in Iceland and pointed to the likelihood of a serious backlash from tourists if "scientific" whaling goes ahead.

Whale watching brings in about US\$8 million a year to Iceland's economy

according to the Icelandic Whale Watching Association. The whales attract more than 60,000 tourists annually. Nearly 40 percent of all overseas visitors to Iceland take part in whale watching.

Proposals to establish whale sanctuaries in the South Pacific and South Atlantic were defeated by Japan and its voting partners, nations that receive millions of dollars in Japanese fisheries aid. Japanese bids to kill 150 Bryde's whales and 150 minke whales in an extended coastal whaling programme failed as well. Whale-friendly nations will reintroduce sanctuary plans next year.

India Declares Amnesty Period for Wildlife Products

India issued a government notification on 18 April 2003 giving 180 days for owners of wildlife products to register them. The amnesty provides owners of unregistered shahtoosh shawls, tiger skins, deer antlers or other trophies with a final chance to make their possessions legal.



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The registration of existing wildlife products will ensure that no new products can be brought into the market. Henceforth, any products that are not registered will be illegal and the penalty for owning or trading unregistered wildlife products could be as high as seven years' imprisonment and a fine up to Rs. 25,000 (US\$520).

The CITES Secretariat, in correspondence with IFAW, acknowledged that the use of an amnesty period can be a useful tool in law enforcement, especially when it is linked to the enactment of new legislation. But it warned that amnesty may be open to abuse, allowing people an opportunity to purchase contraband wildlife and subsequently make them legal. Such a last chance system may prompt an increase in poaching and smuggling.

While the amnesty may legalize the possession of wildlife products on a national level, the Convention takes no ac-

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count of it. “Consequently, even though an individual’s possession of, for example a shahtoosh shawl, might become lawful in his country of residence, this does not mean that he/she could travel internationally with it, since CITES might still regard the shawl as unlawful,” commented the Secretariat. ■

Recommended Reading

Eating Apes

Dale Peterson. Photographs: Karl Ammann. Published by University of California Press

“I applaud Dale Peterson for taking on this challenging subject with courage and honesty. [...] I recommend it most highly to anyone who wishes to be let in on the secrets of Africa’s biggest conservation crisis.” Marcellin Agnagna, Regional Coordinator of the CITES Bushmeat Working Group and former Director of Wildlife and National Parks for the Republic of Congo.

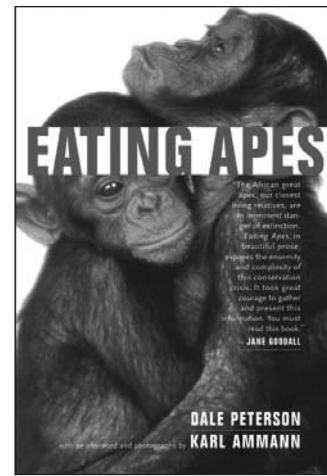
“Eating Apes” gives a fascinating and controversial overview of the impact of the bushmeat trade on Africa’s great apes - bonobos, chimpanzees and gorillas. Dale Peterson explores the origins of the trade and the factors behind its recent commercial explosion. He also considers the ethics surrounding the consumption of apes and argues powerfully for the immediate protection of these species.

Peterson worked closely on this issue with Swiss photographer, Karl Ammann, one of the first to raise the alarm about the effects of the bushmeat trade. The book charts Ammann’s efforts to generate international awareness and action; it includes many of his hard-hitting photographs.

“Eating Apes” strongly criticises the partnerships between some conservation organisations and logging firms, arguing that these partnerships have compromised the integrity of the NGOs while failing to

significantly control the bushmeat trade. Worse, donors rather than logging firms are covering the costs. This leads Peterson to call for the conservation community to be more cautious in promoting “sustainable development” and to avoid “feel-good conservation,” which focuses on fundraising success rather than reversing the worsening situation of global wildlife.

While opinions may vary about the text, the issues raised in “Eating Apes” merit debate among all those engaged in conservation, development and logging in Africa. Available in bookstores and from Amazon at www.amazon.com. ■



In Memory of a Fallen Defender of Wildlife

We mourn the 19 April 2003 passing of Eddie Brewer at the age of 83. Eddie was the first director of the Wildlife Department in The Gambia and head of that country’s CITES delegation. He was a well-known, well-liked participant at several CITES CoPs during the 1970s and 1980s.

Eddie was an invariably cheerful delegate, who was absolutely serious when it came to matters of wildlife conservation and animal welfare. Many of his interventions were quixotic -- such as the Gambian proposal to forbid trade in furs and leathers of Convention-listed animals caught in cruel traps. It was clear to all that Eddie read the text of the Convention through compassionate eyes.

Eddie’s finest hour at CITES came in 1989 when The Gambia was one of seven countries to propose listing all populations of African elephants on Appendix I. Until his dying day, Eddie had no doubt whatsoever that any legal trade in elephant ivory contributed to elephant poaching and illegal trafficking.

May Eddie rest in peace.



Upcoming Workshops

Croatia Gives Priority to Building CITES Enforcement Capacity

Joining the Convention just two years ago, Croatia has committed to implement and enforce CITES regulations. Management Authority and Customs representatives have already participated in CITES training in Hungary and Slovakia. In September 2003, the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, in cooperation with Danish experts, will conduct a CITES training course for Croatian Police. Its objective is to make the police aware of CITES and the importance of combating cross-border wildlife crime.

Correction

In the first issue of *Between the CoPs* in the "Sending Signals" article by Jason Bell-Leask (page 2, paragraph 2, line 8), we made a statement regarding the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) that we wish to clarify. The sentence said, "... but after more than five years this mechanism is not yet in place." The point we were trying to make is that ETIS was not yet developed fully enough to operate as intended.

This publication is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress.

IFAW seeks to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people.



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