



Second Meeting of the African Elephant Coalition

The Africa Regional Bureau of the Species Survival Network (SSN) would like to use this issue of *CITES Afrique* to warmly congratulate members of the African Elephant Coalition for the success of their second meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya, in June 2008.

In this issue, you will find information about the re-

sults of this meeting and about the CITES Standing

Committee's recognition of China as an ivory trading partner. You will also find information about newly protected wetlands in the DRC and about the importance of honoring wildlife enforcement heroes.

Kind regards,

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



Delegates surrounding Honorable Aghatam AG Alhassane, Malian Minister for the Environment and Sanitation, and Honorable Dr. Noah Wekesa, Minister for Forestry and Wildlife in Kenya at the African Elephant Coalition meeting.

Latest CITES Postings and Notifications

◆ The CITES Secretariat asked range States of timber species listed in Appendices II and III, to submit information before 15 September 2008 on whether existing annotations for those timber species appropriately focus on specimens that initially appear in trade from the range States, and on specimens that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resources. (CITES Notification No. 2008/046)

◆ The CITES Secretariat requested Parties trading in Orchidaceae spp. to send to the Secretariat identification material and technical information on artificially propagated orchid specimens exempted from CITES requirements as well as on specimens from the wild. To monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, the CITES Secretariat invited Parties to respond to a questionnaire on the matter by 31 October 2008 and to submit their responses to the Secretariat. (CITES Notifica-

tion No. 2008/045)

◆ The CITES Secretariat asked Parties to submit, before 4 August 2008, case studies on the development of non-detriment findings for shark species for consideration at the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to be held in Mexico in November 2008. (CITES Notification No. 2008/044)

◆ The CITES Secretariat transmitted to Parties one copy of the *Identification Guide for Aloe and Euphorbia* of CITES Appendix I and the *Genus Pachypodium* and one copy of the *Interactive training course for enforcement officers and information module for prosecutors and the judiciary on CD-ROM*. (CITES Notification No. 2008/043)

◆ The CITES Secretariat asked range States of succulent *Euphorbia* species to indicate "species that are actually or potentially negatively impacted through harvest from the wild for international trade" to facilitate implementation of CITES Decision 14.131.

This information will be submitted to the Plants Committee. Parties have until 30 September 2008 to report their findings. (CITES Notification No. 2008/042)

The CITES Secretariat withdrew the recommendation to suspend trade with Rwanda, but confirmed the recommendation to suspend trade with Gabon and Somalia for failure to submit the questionnaire on the control of ivory trade by 31 December 2007. (CITES Notification Nos. 2008/040/041)

◆ The CITES Secretariat informed Parties of its interpretation of Resolution Conf. 14.7 on export quotas and noted that when it receives from a Party a list of annual export quotas for a specified year, it now assumes that the list contains all of the export quotas set for that year unless otherwise indicated. This means that, if the list of export quotas for the year excludes species for which quotas were set in the previous year, it will be assumed that no quota has been set for these species in the current year. (CITES Notification No. 2008/039)

Inside this issue:

Honoring Wildlife Enforcement Heroes	2
World's Largest Protected Wetlands in the DRC	2
Elephant Conservation	3
Capacity building corner	3
SSN member of the month	4
CITES species of the month	4

Important CITES Dates

- **4 August 2008:** deadline to submit case studies on the making of non-detriment findings for sharks (CITES Notification 2008/044)
- **15 September:** deadline to submit information on annotations to the listing of timber species (CITES Notification 2008/046)
- **30 September 2008:** deadline to report which *Euphorbia* 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 2008/045)

Honoring Wildlife Enforcement Heroes

Wildlife enforcement officers in the African region are now confronted with very well-armed and dangerous poachers and traffickers increasingly linked to transnational organized crime. These officers frequently put their lives on the line to protect wildlife and uphold the rule of law. The heroic efforts of wildlife enforcement officers working for the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) have led the Kenyan government to honor those who have died in the line of duty since the formation of KWS in 1990 and since modern conservation began in Kenya in 1945. Every year, December 16 ("Heroes' Day") is devoted to the celebration of such heroes by KWS. A special Guard of Honor is mounted in front of a monument that bears the names of the fallen. Their families receive certificates and tokens of gratitude and remembrance for the sacrifice made by their loved ones.

SSN strongly supports initiatives such as Heroes' Day that recognize the sacrifices and achievements of wildlife enforcement officers. SSN wholeheartedly congratulates the government of Kenya for its tribute to the people who are on the front lines of wildlife enforcement.

SSN, in cooperation with the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), coordinates the

presentation of the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards. These awards are presented to individuals who engage in exemplary law enforcement actions to protect species of wildlife listed in the CITES Appendices. The Bavin Awards are named in memory of the late Chief of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Law Enforcement, who pioneered the Division's highly effective use of covert investigations and "sting" operations to uncover illegal wildlife trade. The awards have traditionally been presented by the Secretary-General of CITES during meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Conserving wildlife is frequently difficult, dangerous and sometimes deadly. Since 1997, the Bavin Awards have recognized the extraordinary efforts that law enforcement officers and other field-based individuals are willing to make in order to protect the world's wildlife. 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).

SSN and AWI are now accepting nominations of enforcement officers to receive the 2010 Bavin Award. We welcome — and strongly encourage — countries in the African region to send their nominations to the SSN Africa Regional Bureau (alicestroud@ssn.org) by 31 August 2009 (please provide information about each enforcement officer nominated and why they should receive the award).



Conservation Heroes Monument, Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya.

World's Largest Protected Wetland in the DRC

On July 24, 2008, the Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe area, a 6,569,624-hectare (65,696km²) site (more than twice the size of Belgium) located in the Central Western Basin of the Democratic Republic of Congo, became the world's largest wetland protected by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This area is situated in the Lake Tumba region, which encompasses one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity in the world and includes numerous CITES-protected species such as forest elephant, leopard, crocodiles, hippopotamus and great apes including gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*), bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), and chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*). It also contains about 150 fish species and numerous bird species. The region also includes the largest freshwater body in Africa, (Environment News Service, 2008 and Tshimanga *and al*, 2007).

Recognition of the Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe area as protected land under Ramsar comes after several years of collaboration between the DRC authorities, the Ramsar Convention, the Central African Regional Program for the Environment, and WWF. SSN warmly congratulates the DRC government and its partners for the success of this initiative, one that is likely to contribute greatly to bringing the numerous threats affecting wildlife in the region, such as illegal log-

ging, fish and poaching for international



Lake Tumba, Democratic Republic of the Congo © Judith Rose

trade, under control.

Notes on the collaboration between the CITES and Ramsar Conventions:

One of the goals of the CITES Strategic Vision is to "Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive" (CITES Resolution Conf. 14.2). Linkages between the Ramsar and CITES Conventions have been established for a long time, and address mutual concerns about the extraction, use and trade of numerous wetland-dependent species and the need to protect their wetland habitat

(Bridgewater 2007). A Biodiversity Liaison Group, designed to coordinate the actions of all major Biodiversity Conventions, has been established between the heads of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Ramsar Convention, and the World Heritage Convention (see <http://www.cbd.int/blg/> for more information). When addressing the CITES Parties at CoP14, Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of Ramsar, declared that "The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands sees the ongoing cooperation with CITES and the other biodiversity-related Conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group as a key means of enhancing cooperation and reducing the burden of overall work - and especially reporting - on our numerous contracting parties. In this spirit the Ramsar Convention invites CITES to look for new opportunities to develop joint work on monitoring trade in wetland-dependent species over the next triennium, and perhaps even by enhancing the sound and responsible trade in some species where this trade does not pose a threat to the conservation of the species involved."

Latest Developments Affecting Elephant Conservation

In June 2008, delegates from nineteen African elephant range States representing the Central, Eastern and Western African subregions met for the second time this year to discuss what joint initiatives to adopt on behalf of the African Elephant Coalition. SSN participated in the meeting of the African Elephant Coalition through the Born Free Foundation along with IFAW. The Coalition's Chairman, The Honorable Aghatam AG Alhasane, Mali Minister for Environment and Sanitation, and The Honorable Dr Noah Wekesa, Minister for Forestry and Wildlife in Kenya and Co-Chair of the African Elephant Coalition, joined participants in proclaiming the need to give more priority to stronger elephant conservation measures instead of focusing on ivory trade. In a joint statement (the Mombasa Declaration) presented to the Mali and the Kenya Ministers, members of the African Elephant Coalition affirmed that,

inter alia:

- ◆ the CITES framework should give preference to "[issues related to] elephant conservation such as human-elephant conflict, law enforcement, building capacity of range states, translocations and other elephant management challenges" instead of focusing excessively on ivory trade
- ◆ The Coalition opposed the possible designation of China as an ivory trading partner, as proposed by the CITES Secretariat in a document prepared for the 57th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC57)
- ◆ any consideration of proposals for further ivory trade and/or approval of ivory trading partners can only be made after: 1) the one-off sale approved at CoP14 has taken place, and the effects of that sale are documented and understood; and 2) the

implementation of Decision 14.77, which calls for the "adoption of a decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties."

Despite this very strong stand against the resumption of ivory trade outside of the approved one-off sale, with its call for a stronger focus on elephant conservation within CITES, the CITES Standing Committee (SC) decided in July 2008 to approve China as a trading partner authorized to bid, along with Japan, for over 100 tons of stockpiled ivory from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

SSN warmly congratulates members of the African Elephant Coalition for their commitment to strengthening the conservation of elephants within CITES. SSN reaffirms its commitment to assisting the African Elephant Coalition in this endeavor.

Some Elephant Facts:



Southern Africa:
297,718 elephants
East Africa:
137,485 elephants
Central Africa:
10,383 elephants
West Africa:
7,487 elephants
TOTAL:
472,269 elephants

- ◆ Elephants occur in **37 range States** in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ Southern Africa accounts for 39% of the elephant range, Eastern Africa accounts for 26%, Central Africa for 29% and West Africa for 5%.
- ◆ The area of the African continent is 22.6 millions km² total and 22% of this area (3.3 million km²) constitutes elephant range. **Only 31% of the elephant range area is protected** which represents 9% of the total African continent.
- ◆ Southern Africa has the largest amount of open land available for elephant populations and also the biggest known population of elephants on the continent.
- ◆ Some countries like Senegal and Togo (West Africa) have a **total elephant population of fewer than 10 individuals**.

Source: Blanc, Barnes, Craig, Dublin, Thouless, Douglas-Hamilton, Hart, "African Elephant Status Report 2007: An Update from the African Elephant Database" available at <<http://data.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg/aed/aesr2007.html>>

SSN's View: One Step Forward Two Steps Back...

SSN is deeply concerned by the SC's decision to adopt the Secretariat's recommendation to designate China as a trading partner, a decision which disregards the recommendations of the African Elephant Coalition expressed by the delegates from Kenya, Ghana and Mali during the meeting. We believe that this decision will prove harmful to the conservation of elephants in Africa. Members of the African Elephant Coalition based their recommendation to exclude the designation of China as a trading partner on a number of serious concerns including:

- ◆ The lack of comprehensive Chinese internal law enforcement and trade controls.
- ◆ The steady stream of illegal ivory shipments allegedly destined for China.
- ◆ The increasing involvement of Chinese nationals based in Africa in ivory trafficking.
- ◆ The continued high levels of elephant poaching (estimated to be running at between 20,000 and 25,000 animals a year).
- ◆ The rising price of ivory (poached Sumatran ivory tusks have reportedly increased in value by 300% since 2005).
- ◆ The fragile nature of most African elephant populations (only half a dozen or so African countries have robust and significant elephant herds out of a total of 37 countries that are home to the species).

SSN and its member organizations have comprehensive records relating to massive and entrenched levels of elephant poaching over the last 10 years. Permitting legal import of ivory to China is likely to facilitate laundering of illegal ivory into the Chinese market, and will likely increase the poaching of elephants. SSN notes with concern that MIKE (Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants) cannot provide the fast response mechanism originally intended, as it is not sensitive enough to immediately detect and report on poaching that may take place as a result of this sale. Thus, the effect of this export on elephant poaching will not be "officially" known for years, and may not be reversible.

Capacity-building corner

Useful publications:

- ◆ Blanc, Barnes, Craig, Dublin, Thouless, Douglas-Hamilton, Hart, "African Elephant Status Report 2007: An Update from the African Elephant Database" available at <<http://data.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg/aed/aesr2007.html>>

- ◆ Inogwabini, Matungila, Mbende, Abokome, Tshimanga, *Great Apes in the Lake Tumba landscape, Democratic Republic of the Congo: newly described populations*, Cambridge Journals Volume 41, Issue 04, October 2007.

Useful websites:

- ◆ <<http://otterspecialistgroup.org/>> website of the IUCN otter Specialist Group.
- ◆ <http://www.ssn.org/aboutus_awards_EN.htm> Information on the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Enforcement Awards.



Species Survival Network's Africa Regional Bureau

Working within CITES to facilitate the
participation of African countries

Anglophone Africa:



Will Travers,
President



Shelley Waterland,
Coordinator

Francophone Africa:



Alice Stroud,
Coordinator

Species Survival Network
c/o Born Free Foundation
3 Grove House; Foundry Lane
Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5PL,
UK
Tel: +44-403-240170
Fax: +441-403-327-838
E-mail: willtravers@ssn.org;
Shelley@bornfree.org.uk

Species Survival Network
1340 Wilford Ave
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
USA
Tel/Fax: 1 541 850 9868
Email:
alicestroud@ssn.org

www.ssn.org

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: International Environmental Law Project (IELP)

Organization Profile:

Director: Chris Wold, Associate Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School
Staff Attorney: Erica Thorson, Clinical Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School
Date of Creation: 1996
Mission Statement: Provide legal advice to countries, environmental groups and stakeholders to develop, implement, and enforce international environmental law, and to strengthen the conservation of natural resources.
Offices Located in: Portland, OR, U.S.
Website: <http://www.lclark.edu/org/ielp/>

Project of Local Interest: Capacity-building on the making of non-detriment findings

IELP is working on a range of CITES technical issues, such as introduction from the sea, compliance, and purpose codes. IELP is also helping to ensure the successful implementation of the "non-detriment findings" requirement in the CITES treaty. Prior to the export Appendix I or II specimens, the exporting country must determine that the export is not detrimental to the survival of the species. Many countries do not have the technical or financial resources to implement this obligation. IELP has developed a series of resolutions aimed at improving the enforcement of non-detriment findings and increasing the capacity of countries to make non-detriment findings. One proposal, for example, would specifically allow customs officials to seek verification that the non-detriment and other permit findings have actually been made when they have reason to believe that the findings have not been made. Another proposal recommends criteria for making non-detriment findings. Further information on IELP's recommendations on the making of non-detriment findings is available on the IELP website.



Erica Thorson and Chris Wold,
IELP.

Contact Information:

Chris Wold,
Lewis & Clark Law School
10015 S.W. Terwilliger Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97219
USA
Phone: +1 503 786 6734
Email: wold@lclark.edu

CITES Protected Species of the Month



Euphorbia paganorum
included in CITES Appendix II © University of Cezanne

- ♦ **Name:** Euphorbia, Euphorbe cactiforme (*Euphorbia paganorum*)
- ♦ **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 paganorum* not accessible on the CITES trade database at the time of writing
- ♦ **IUCN category:** Not yet assessed by IUCN
- ♦ **Threats:** Habitat loss/degradation; collection
- ♦ **Range States:** Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal
- ♦ **Useful resources:** <<http://www.aluka.org/action/showCompilationPage?doi=10.5555/AL.AP.COMPI.LATION.PLANT-NAME-SPECIES.EUPHORBIA.PAGANORUM&tab=>>> (fact sheet on *Euphorbia paganorum*)



African Clawless Otter
(*Aonyx capensis*)
listed in CITES Appendix II © John M. Lynch

- ♦ **Name:** African clawless otter; Loutre à joues blanches (*Aonyx capensis*)
- ♦ **CITES listing:** Appendix II
- ♦ **2008 CITES Export Quotas:** 100 live specimens for the United Republic of Tanzania (see <<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2008/ExportQuotas2008.pdf>>)
- ♦ **CITES Trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2008):** Between 2000 and 2007, exports of African clawless otters amounted to 1 body, 12 feet, 21 live animals, 2 skin pieces, 9 skins, 10 skulls, 12 specimens and 10 trophies. Main exporter was South Africa; main importers were the United States, Canada, Singapore and Ukraine
- ♦ **IUCN category:** Least Concern (IUCN 2004)
- ♦ **Threats:** Habitat loss/degradation; humane population growth; pollution; hunting for pelts and medicinal purposes
- ♦ **Range States:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi (?), Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea (?), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- ♦ **Useful websites:** <http://otterspecialistgroup.org/Species/Aonyx_capensis.html> (fact sheet of the IUCN Otter Specialist Group on African Clawless Otter - includes a detailed list of references); <<http://www.otternet.com/index.htm>> (includes fact sheets on otters)