

LEGISLATION UPDATE

AFRICA - IVORY AND RHINO HORN

Poachers in Swaziland are to face tough new legislation which lays down a minimum sentence of five years in gaol, without the option of a fine. The law stipulates that people found guilty of trading in elephant or rhino products will face gaol terms of between seven and 15 years, without the option of a fine.

Namibia has increased the maximum penalty for rhino and elephant poaching to 20 years in prison or a R200 000 (US\$80 000) fine, or both. In terms of the Nature Conservation General Amendment Bill adopted in the National Assembly in Windhoek, those convicted of poaching or trading illegally in other protected game products face a maximum six years imprisonment or a R20 000 fine.

The Province of Natal in South Africa has amended the Provincial Government Act, 1974 (Ordinance No. 15) to impose stricter penalties for the poaching of rhino and elephant or illegal trade in related products. Proclamation No. 70, issued on 14 December 1990, declares an increase in fines for such offences to a maximum of R100 000 or imprisonment for up to ten years, or both.

Argus (South Africa), 15 November/1 December 1990; Cape Times (South Africa), 27 November 1990; The Official Gazette of the Province of Natal, 10 January 1991

FIJI - RAW TURTLE SHELL

On 25 October 1990 the Fijian Cabinet approved amendments to the *Fisheries Act 1942* to prohibit the export of raw turtle Cheloniidae shell, the selling of turtles during the months of January to February and November to December, and the selling of turtle eggs or under-sized turtles at any time.

These amendments, which came into force on 1 January 1991, are additional to existing protective measures for turtles which prohibit the export of their flesh (meat) and impose restrictions on hunting and domestic utilisation. The Cabinet also endorsed research working towards a total ban on exploitation of turtles (other than ceremonial indigenous use), and means for more effective protection of nesting beaches and the breeding population.

TRAFFIC Oceania

HONG KONG - SNAKES

In order to comply with CITES, the Hong Kong Government, on 21 December 1990, implemented trade controls for three species of snakes which are listed in CITES Appendix II.

Traders must now apply for an import license from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and obtain a legal export permit from the country of origin in order to import Asiatic Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus*, Indian Cobra *Naja naja* and King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah*. Until applications for such licences are granted, the immediate effect of these controls has been a 40% drop in the supply of snakes to Hong Kong and a price rise of 20%.

New Evening Post (Hong Kong), 29 December 1990

Psittaciformes Quotas for Argentina

On 31 January 1991, the Management Authority of Argentina communicated to the CITES Secretariat the quotas granted for the export of parrots for the period of 1 January to 31 December 1991 (Resolución No. 142/91).

The species subject to quotas are as follows:

Blue-fronted Amazon	
<i>Amazona aestiva</i>	23 000
Blue-crowned Conure	
<i>Aratinga acuticaudata</i>	15 000
White-eyed Conure	
<i>Aratinga leucophthalmus</i>	3000
Mitred Conure	
<i>Aratinga mitrata</i>	7000
Nanday Conure	
<i>Nandayus nenday</i>	14 000
Scaly-headed Parrot	
<i>Pionus maximiliani</i>	7300
Maroon-bellied Conure	
<i>Pyrrhura frontalis</i>	2250
Green-cheeked Conure	
<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i>	2250

The following species are subject to a zero quota:

Peach-fronted Conure
<i>Aratinga aurea</i>
Yellow-collared Macaw
<i>Ara auricollis</i>
Green-winged Macaw
<i>Ara chloroptera</i>
Mountain Parakeet
<i>Bolborhynchus aurifrons</i>
Sierra Parakeet
<i>Bolborhynchus ayмара</i>
Canary-winged Parakeet
<i>Brotogeris versicolorus</i>
Austral Conure
<i>Enicognathus ferrugineus</i>
Blue-winged Parrotlet
<i>Forpus xanthopterygius</i>

The species which may be exported without limitation in numbers are:

Monk Parakeet
<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
Patagonian Conure
<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i>

CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 626, 8 April 1991