



WILDLIFE TRADE MONITORING UNIT

Traffic Bulletin

**Publication of the TRAFFIC Bulletin is funded by
THE PEOPLE'S TRUST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Date of publication : 9 December 1982

Vol. IV

Nos. 4/5

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
- Sudan Ratifies CITES North Yemen Bans Importation of Rhino Horn Slaughter of Black Bears Rare Butterflies for Sale EEC Conflict over Seals Pangolin Scales Seized	39
- A Review of International Trade in Marine Mammals by Jonathan Barzdo and John Caldwell	40-60
- 1979 International Trade in Crocodylia Reported by CITES Parties	60-62
- South African Fur Seal Harvest Amphibia-Reptilia Red Data Book	63
- Mammal Red Data Book Also Available US Wildlife Auction Result Outcome of the IWC Whale Moratorium	64

Publication of the Traffic Bulletin is funded by the People's Trust for Endangered Species, 19 Quarry St., Guildford, Surrey, UK.

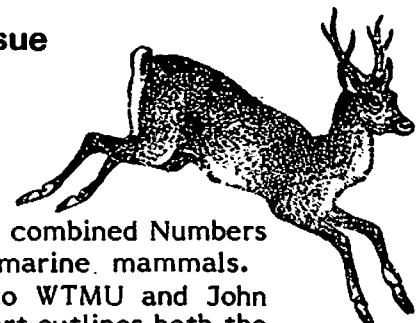
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Published by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, U.K. Tel: Camb. 277427.

Printed by Foister & Jagg Ltd., Abbey Walk, Cambridge.

ISSN 0144-0896

Special Christmas Issue



In this edition of the Traffic Bulletin we have combined Numbers 4 and 5 to include a special report on marine mammals. Compiled by Jonathan Barzdo, Consultant to WTMU and John Caldwell, our new Trade Researcher, this report outlines both the killing of, and trade in, all marine mammals.

We would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sudan Ratifies CITES

On 26 October 1982, Sudan became the 78th Party to CITES. The ratification becomes effective on 23 January 1983.

North Yemen Bans Importation of Rhino Horn

The Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) has decreed a total ban on the importation of rhino horn. The decree, issued by the Ministry of Economy and Industry in Sana'a, follows diplomatic efforts by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation (AWLF). Hussein M. Almagbaly, the Yemen Ambassador to International Organizations in Geneva said that the Government's decision is "in keeping with its endeavour to protect endangered species throughout the world" and that "the Government of Yemen fully supports the conservation activities of WWF and IUCN which have drawn attention to such important issues".

North Yemen has been the world's largest single consumer of rhino horn. The horn is fashioned into handles for daggers called 'djambias' and traditionally worn by Yemeni males as a symbol of manhood. A single dagger made with rhino horn can cost from \$300 to \$13,000. According to Dr Esmond Bradley Martin, whose book 'Run Rhino Run' was reviewed in the last issue of the Bulletin, 22,645 kilos of rhino horn were imported to North Yemen between 1969 and 1977, which were derived from about 8000 rhinos.

The ban has been praised by the CITES Secretariat as the most important single step taken to stop illegal trade in rhino horn. Eugene Lapointe, the Secretary General of CITES, said "Arguments put forward by AWLF and the insistence of the CITES Secretariat has succeeded in convincing the Yemen Government that international co-operation to protect endangered wildlife by far exceeds requirements to maintain traditions having no relationship whatsoever with basic human needs."

... no evidence to support fever remedy

WWF/IUCN have sponsored a pharmacological study by Hoffman-Laroche and Co. (a pharmaceutical concern) and this research has found no evidence that rhino horn has any medicinal effect as an antipyretic and would be ineffective in reducing fever. Tests have also demonstrated that rhino horn contains no analgesic, anti-inflammatory anti-spasmodic, diuretic or bactericidal properties. According to Dr Martin "rhino horn on its own is used primarily for the purpose of reducing high fever ... some 60 per cent of all rhino horn sold is used for medicines."

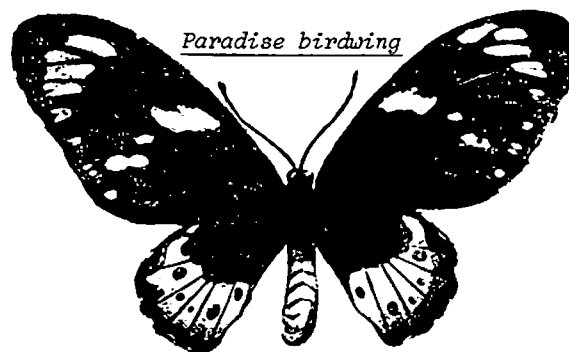
Esmond Bradley Martin, who is Vice Chairman of the IUCN African Elephant & Rhino Group, is currently in Asia on a WWF/IUCN project to persuade dealers and medicinal retailers to stop using rhino horn and find alternatives.

Slaughter of Black Bears

The Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly, Vol. 31, No. 3 reports that many Californian Black bears, *Ursus americanus* have been killed by poachers operating throughout the bear country of California and other US states and that this slaughter appears to be increasing. It is suspected that the bear paws, claws and gall bladder, highly prized amongst Orientals, are exported to the Far East. There, a bear's gall bladder, believed to be a cure for a number of ailments ranging from hepatitis to toothache, can fetch as much as \$3000; the bear paws are considered a delicacy and the claws are valued as jewellery.

Rare Butterflies for Sale

Rajah Brooke's birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana* from Malaysia, and *Ornithoptera* birdwing butterflies from New Guinea are amongst several rare butterfly species for sale as mounted souvenirs in Malaya, according to a report in The Malay Mail (1.10.82). A spokesman for the firm producing the souvenirs claims that the Rajah Brooke's birdwing species is not in any danger of extinction. "Certain other species that we don't sell are even more rare. In fact, Malaysia has an abundance of species. What we are selling are just common and cheap species for decorative purposes."



All Birdwing butterflies are on Appendix II of CITES.

EEC Conflict over Seals

The UK, at the meeting for the Council of Ministers on the proposal for the banning of seal skin imports into EEC countries, held on 3 December, has agreed to a 12-month voluntary ban. However the decision for a total ban has been put off because the British government does not believe that the EEC should interfere with trade on moral grounds. France and West Germany also oppose a total ban. The Netherlands, the Irish Republic and Italy, want a total ban similar to the one already imposed on whale products into the EEC.

The Commission has chided ministers for seeking a legal loophole to avoid an effective trade ban and warned that a vague package of voluntary restrictions would only lead to greater confusion.

Source: The Guardian, 4 December 1982

Pangolin Scales Seized

\$60,000 worth of pangolin scales have been seized from a lorry in Penang by the Dept of National Parks, Malaysia. Packed in 94 sacks, the scales are believed to have been smuggled from Thailand and were probably intended for export to Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries. The Malayan pangolin, *Manis javanica*, is a CITES Appendix II species and protected in Malaysia. According to the State Deputy Director of the Department, Mr Encik Rapih bin Mundah, anyone found catching this rare animal can be fined up to \$3,000, jailed for two years, or both. The owner of the lorry is soon to be charged.

The scales of the Malayan pangolin, or scaly ant-eater, are used as medicine in powdered form and it is also believed that boxers in Thailand drink the blood of the animal to cure internal bleeding! The skin is used for leather goods.

Source: The Star, 21 July 1982