



## Extinction of Western Black Rhinoceroses

The Africa Regional Bureau of the Species Survival Network (SSN) welcomes you to the last issue in 2011 of *CITES Afrique*. This issue examines the difficult challenge illegal wildlife trade presents for CITES Parties. It also reports, with great concern, on the extinction of the West African black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) and the near extinction of the northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*), both victims of the expanding ille-

gal trade in rhinoceros horns. This *CITES Afrique* also provides information on the official launch of the African Elephant Fund and on the conclusion of the

17th meeting of the Directors General of Customs for Francophone countries which took place in Libreville (Gabon) in October 2011.



Western Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) listed in CITES Appendix I © Lilo magazines

Thank you again for your work on the conservation of wildlife.

Warm wishes,

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

## Latest CITES Postings and Notifications

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties about the date, venue and registration procedures for the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee. Participants must register by 14 February 2012 to attend the Animals Committee meeting and by 21 February 2012 to attend the Plants Committee meeting. Documents for discussion at each meeting must be provided to the Secretariat by 15 January 2012 and 22 January 2012 respectively. (CITES Notifications 2011/053 and 2011/054)

◆ The Secretariat distributed a list of Parties currently using security stamps and requested Parties to advise the Secretariat if any corrections should be made to this list. (CITES Notification 2011/052)

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties that, due to the lack of sufficient scientific data, the Animals Committee has encouraged Scientific and Management Authorities to

establish conservative annual catch and export quotas for CITES-listed snake species in trade, and to communicate these quotas to the Secretariat. (CITES Notification 2011/051)

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties that Latvia has entered reservations against the listing of three fox species present in North Africa and 4 weasel species in the CITES Appendices. (CITES Notification 2011/050)

◆ The Secretariat announced the subjects on which Parties should report for the 20th Plants Committee and the 26th Animals Committee meetings; subjects include sharks, sturgeons, orchids, selected tropical timber species, non-detriment findings, *Aloe* and *Euphorbia* species and the application of the definition of 'artificial propagation' to cultivated material in plant nurseries. Reports from Parties are to be provided to the Secretariat by 6 January 2012. (CITES Notification 2010/049)

◆ The Secretariat announced the release of the 2011 edition of the *Checklist of CITES species* (CITES Notification 2011/047)

◆ The Secretariat informed Parties that Guinea is not engaged in any commercial captive-breeding of specimens of CITES-listed species and that, consequently, all exports from Guinea of specimens declared to have been bred in captivity have been illegal. Any Party that, since 2009, has authorized the import from Guinea of specimens of CITES-listed species declared to have been bred in captivity or that suspects the occurrence of illegal trade from Guinea, is requested to contact the Secretariat as soon as possible. (CITES Notification 2011/040)

◆ The Secretariat distributed a list of species selected for periodic review for which reviews are still outstanding. (CITES Notification 2011/038)

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### Important CITES Dates

- **6 January 2012:** Date by which the Secretariat suggests that Parties submit information (ahead of normal deadlines) on a number of subjects for discussion at the 20th Plants Committee and the 26th Animals Committee meetings (CITES Notification 2011/049)
- **15 January 2012:** Deadline for submission to the CITES Secretariat of documents for consideration at the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee
- **22 January 2012:** Deadline for submission to the CITES Secretariat of documents for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee

# Stopping Illegal International Wildlife Trade Still a Challenge for Governments

The value of legal wildlife trade has more than doubled in the last two decades. According to TRAFFIC, the value of the legal international wildlife trade, estimated at USD160 billion in the early 1990s, reached USD342 billion in 2005.

The growth of legal international wildlife trade has been accompanied by thriving levels of illegal wildlife trade, presenting a growing challenge for wildlife authorities. By its very nature, it is almost impossible to obtain reliable figures for the value of illegal international wildlife trade, but some estimates put it between USD10 to USD 20 billion a year. This would rank illegal wildlife trade as among the most lucrative illicit economic activities in the world, behind illegal drugs and possibly arms and human trafficking.

Illegal trade, like the legal international, relies on market demand in consumer countries (China, the United States, the European Union and Japan) and is supplied by producer countries, mainly located in Southeast Asia and Africa. The routes used for this illegal trade are reportedly similar to those used to smuggle illegal

drugs. Wildlife trafficking techniques have become more sophisticated over time including increasing use of the Internet, which offers anonymity for the seller as well as fast and untraceable sales.

Illegal international trade in wildlife is one of the major factors driving species to extinction. The large volumes of seizures in the recent past raise concerns over the growing scale of the illegal wildlife trade for some species. There have

been massive seizures of elephant ivory in 2011 in Asia and Africa, including 695 elephant tusks seized by Royal Malaysian Customs on 5 September 2011, 794 pieces of ivory seized by customs officers in Hong Kong on 29 August 2011 and 1,041 tusks seized by police on the island of Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania, on 26 August 2011. Similarly, the confiscation by Gabonese authorities of 13 great ape heads and 32 great ape hands in January 2011 was the biggest global seizure of endangered ape parts in the last ten years. Escalating levels of illegal trade and its increasing sophistication, represent a very difficult challenge for both wildlife authorities and enforcement experts.

## Selected Illicit Wildlife Trade and Estimated Retail Value

| Illegally Traded Wildlife         | Estimated Retail Value                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elephants                         | \$121-\$900 per kilogram of ivory                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rhinos                            | \$945-\$50,000 per kilogram of rhino horn                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tibetan Antelopes                 | \$1,200-\$20,000 per shatoosh shawl                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Big Cats                          | \$1,300-\$20,000 per tiger, snow leopard, or jaguar skin; \$3,300-\$7,000 per set of tiger bones                                                                                                                                         |
| Bears                             | \$250-\$8,500 per gallbladder                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Sturgeon                          | \$4,450-\$6,000 per kilogram of caviar                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Reptiles and Insects (often live) | \$30,000 per oenpelli python; \$30,000 per komodo dragon; \$5,000-\$30,000 per plowshare tortoise; \$15,000 per Chinese alligator; \$20,000 per monitor lizard; \$20,000 per shingleback skink; \$8,500 per pair of birdwing butterflies |
| Exotic Birds (often live)         | \$10,000 per black palm cockatoo egg (\$25,000-\$80,000 per mature breeding pair); \$5,000-\$12,000 per hyacinth macaw; \$60,000-\$90,000 per lear macaw; \$20,000 per Mongolian falcon                                                  |
| Great Apes (often live)           | \$50,000 per Orangutan                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

Source: Wyler and Sheikh, CRC Report for US Congress, *International Illegal Trade in Wildlife: Threats and US Policy*, 3 March 2008

Security Implications of Illegal Wildlife Trade

**Links to Organized Crime:** According to a series of U.N. studies on the illicit traffic of wildlife, wildlife experts claim that Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and Russian organized crime syndicates are “heavily involved in illegal wildlife trade.” Elephant ivory, rhino horns, tiger products, whale meat, sturgeon and caviar targeted among many others.

**Links to Drug Trafficking:** Key illicit drug production and distribution countries coincide with major source states for endangered wildlife; illicit wildlife has been found to be smuggled along the same routes as narcotics as a subsidiary trade for drug traffickers; wildlife, both legal and illegal, are also used as the means to conceal illegal drugs.

**Links to Terrorism:** According to U.N. reports and Interpol officials, some insurgent groups and possibly terrorist groups are reportedly engaged in illegal poaching for profit in several areas of Asia and Africa. It is possible that terrorist groups or other criminal entities in regions of high biodiversity are taking advantage of porous borders, weak states, and criminal sympathizers.

Source: Wyler and Sheikh, CRC Report for US Congress, *International Illegal Trade in Wildlife: Threats and US Policy*, 3 March 2008

Please contact SSN for more information on illegal wildlife trade and on the resources available to African wildlife authorities to help stop this trade.

## Western Black Rhinoceros Declared Extinct

All subspecies of African rhinoceros have been heavily affected by poaching and the illegal horn trade, and the demand for rhinoceros horn is rising. This increasing pressure has had devastating impacts on Africa's most threatened rhinoceros subspecies. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in its latest Red List assessment, published in November 2011, has declared the West African black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) to be extinct and the northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) to be on

the brink of extinction.



Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) listed in CITES Appendix I © green economy

The announcement of the extinction of the West African black rhinoceros came days before a record seizure in Hong Kong of 33 illegal rhinoceros horns concealed in a shipment coming from South Africa.

Members of the Species Survival Network are actively involved in the conservation of rhinoceroses worldwide through the SSN Rhinoceros Working Group.

## Funding Opportunities for African Elephant Conservation

At the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES in 2007, Parties approved the development of an African Elephant Action Plan and the creation of an African Elephant Fund to finance its implementation. African elephant range States finalized the African Elephant Action Plan at CoP15 and presented it to CITES stakeholders as a consensus document laying out range States' priorities for elephant conservation. The first three priority objectives of the African Elephant Action Plan are "to reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal

trade in elephant products", "to maintain elephant habitats and restore their connectivity" and "to reduce human-elephant conflict." A multi-donor trust was launched officially in August 2011 at the most recent CITES Standing Committee meeting, and a Steering Committee was formed to review funding proposals submitted by the range States. This Steering Committee is due to hold its first meeting on 12-14 December 2011, and three donor States (The Netherlands, Germany and France) have already contributed to the new fund. SSN applauds this initia-

tive, which is likely to greatly benefit elephant conservation in



the region, and calls on other potential donors to provide financial support to the African Elephant Fund.

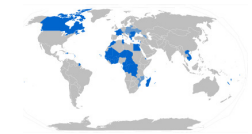
## Directors General of French-speaking Customs Call for Regional Operations to Fight Against Wildlife Trafficking

Representatives from 22 countries and from international, sub-regional and non-governmental organizations met in Libreville (Gabon) during October 2011 for the 17th meeting of the directors general of customs from Francophone countries. One of the themes discussed by the meeting, "Customs and Sustainable Development", focused on the role of customs in the implementation of various international treaties including CITES. Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General for the World Customs Organization (WCO), chaired discussions on this theme and reaffirmed the WCO's commitment to

support its member countries in the fight against illegal wildlife trade. Meeting participants recognized that customs must play a major role in the implementation of international agreements such as CITES, and recognized the need for simplification of the rules in place, better training, stronger coordination between national administrations and international organizations and the education of stakeholders involved in international wildlife trade. The General Secretary of the WCO, with support from meeting participants, called on countries to implement regional operations to fight against

species trafficking.

A presentation on CITES by SSN during the meeting led to animated debates about illegal wildlife trade and the role of customs in the implementation of the Convention. SSN warmly congratulates meeting participants on the outcome of their fruitful debates.



## Capacity-building corner

### Useful publications:

- ◆ Wyler and Sheikh, CRC Report for US Congress, *International Illegal Trade in Wildlife: Threats and US Policy*, 3 March 2008. Available at <<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/102621.pdf>>

- ◆ Fact sheet about rhinoceroses produced by Saving Rhinos <<http://www.savingrhinos.org/RhinoSpecies/Rhino-Facts-Poster.pdf>>

### Useful websites:

- ◆ <<http://www.rhinos-irf.org/afmsg/>>

- ◆ African rhinoceros specialist group
- ◆ <<http://www.wcoomd.org/>> World Customs Organization
- ◆ <<http://www.greencustoms.org/>> The Green Customs Initiative

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

### Anglophone Africa:



Will Travers,  
President



Shelley Waterland,

### 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  
964 NW Ironwood Ave  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
USA  
Tel/Fax: 1 541 758 2049  
Email: al-  
icestroud@ssn.org

[www.ssn.org](http://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 Featured: Greenpeace

### Organization Profile:

**Executive Director:** Kumi Naidoo

**Date of Creation:** 1971

**Mission Statement:** Taking non-violent direct action to raise the level and quality of public debate and end environmental problems.

**Offices Located in:** 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

**Website:** <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/>

### Project of Regional Interest: Conservation of the Congolese forests through youth education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

African teak (*Pericopsis elata*), a highly valued tropical hardwood listed in CITES Appendix II, is under logging pressure in the DRC. Approximately 40 million people in the country depend on the rainforest for their basic needs, including medicine, food or shelter. Greenpeace Africa has launched an initiative to educate and mobilize Congolese youth to preserve their precious forests. Greenpeace activists and volunteers visited schools to raise awareness in Oshwe, in the Bandundu Province of the DRC, and in Kinshasa, the country's capital. The campaign was put into motion with "The Future of Forests", a poetry competition in which DRC schoolchildren and students were encouraged to write original poems about the forests that surround them. 2600 poems were written sending strong messages to governments, policy makers, and donors about how important it is to safeguard these forests.



Logging truck on the Siforco road © Thomas Einberger / Greenpeace

### Contact Information:

Pavel Klinckhamers  
Coordinator Oceans & Toxics Campaign  
Greenpeace Netherlands  
[pklinckhamers@greenpeace.nl](mailto:pklinckhamers@greenpeace.nl)

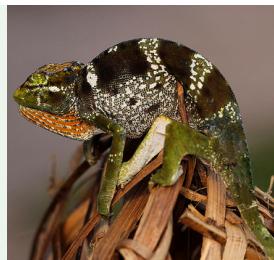
## CITES Protected Species Featured



*Cycas thouarsii* included in CITES Appendix II © Jeffdelongue

- ◆ **Name:** Madagascar cycad (*Cycas thouarsii*)
- ◆ **CITES listing:** Appendix II
- ◆ **CITES export quotas:** No export quotas reported for 2011 (see <<http://cites.org/common/quotas/2011/ExportQuotas2011.pdf>>)
- ◆ **CITES trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2011):** Between 2000 and 2010, exports included 18.5 tons of leaves, 1.2 million leaves, 127,382 live trees, 315 kg of seeds and 15,120 seeds. The main exporters were Costa Rica, Mozambique and South Africa. Mexico and the Netherlands were the main importers.

- ◆ **IUCN category:** Least Concern
- ◆ **Threats:** International trade; habitat destruction; traditional use for magic and medicine; invasive plant species
- ◆ **Range States:** Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania
- ◆ **Useful resources:** IUCN Cycad Specialist Group <<http://www.cycadsg.org/>>; Cycad Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan <<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2003-010.pdf>>; The Cycad Society <<http://www.cycad.org/>>



Owen's Three-horned Chameleon (*Chamaeleo oweni*) listed in CITES Appendix II © Zimbart

- ◆ **Name:** Owen's three-horned chameleon ; Caméléon d'Owen (*Chamaeleo oweni*)
- ◆ **CITES listing:** Appendix II
- ◆ **CITES export quotas:** No export quotas reported for 2011 (See: <http://cites.org/common/quotas/2011/ExportQuotas2011.pdf>)
- ◆ **CITES trade levels (WCMC Trade Database 2011):** Between 2000 and 2010, exports included 86 bodies, 853 live animals and 9 specimens. The main exporter was Cameroon. The main importers were the United States and Ja-

pan.

- ◆ **IUCN category:** Not evaluated
- ◆ **Threats:** Habitat loss and fragmentation; collection for legal and illegal pet trade
- ◆ **Range States:** Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Nigeria
- ◆ **Useful resources:** Basic information about chameleon species (under construction) <[http://www.chameleoinfo.com/Species\\_Profiles.html](http://www.chameleoinfo.com/Species_Profiles.html)>; chameleons photo gallery <<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/chameleons/>>; Akani, Ogbalu, & Luiselli, 2001. "Life-history and ecological distribution of chameleons (*Reptilia, Chamaeleonidae*) from the rain forests of Nigeria: conservation implications." *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation*, 24(2): 1-15.