THE TRAFFIC REPORT

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Global Network to Stop IUU Fishing

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The International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Network is an association of over 40 nations working together to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing throughout the world. The MCS Network was established to provide a mechanism for fisheries law enforcement professionals to share information and experiences as they monitor the increasingly complex harvesting and marketing of fish internationally. The rise in illegal activities that has accompanied globalization underscores the need for cooperative law enforcement across national borders.

IUU fishing often occurs when a vessel enters the national waters of another country, without the legal right to fish there, and unlawfully harvests vital natural marine resources. IUU fishing also occurs on the high seas outside the jurisdiction of any one nation. IUU fishing costs the world's fishing nations an estimated $4 billion to $9 billion dollars a year and harvests living marine resources in an unsustainable manner.

The key to detecting and preventing IUU fishing is for governments and regional fishery management organizations to work together to determine where suspected IUU vessels are fishing, what they are catching, who is benefitting, ('beneficial owner') and how fish product is moving in the global marketplace. Ultimately, fish needs to be tracked from harvest to consumption (ocean to plate tracking). It must also be determined where IUU fish product is comingled with legitimate fish product.

Obtaining this level of information poses significant challenges and requires that governments have collection and analytical capabilities that may far exceed their current resources. Where such information gathering is attempted, governments focus their resources on illegal activities within their home waters. Currently, the information gathered by governments is not readily shared and is unavailable in a single, globally accessible database.

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The ability to act decisively once illegal activity is detected is critical to combating IUU fishing. As the collection and sharing of accurate and timely information on IUU activity increases, the monitoring of both legal and illegal operations is facilitated. Effective monitoring, control, and surveillance is at the heart of effective fisheries management.

But regardless of the laws and regulations enacted and the technology brought to bear on the IUU fishing dilemma, if the means and will to enforce those policies is absent the illegal operators will prevail. Effective MCS increases the risk of detection and prosecution for IUU operators, while giving the economic advantage back to legal fishers.

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It is the goal of the MCS Network to unite nations against the common threat of IUU fishing. Success cannot be achieved by any one country acting unilaterally, but requires a partnership of nations willing to maintain a strong, united front. The network seeks to reach this lofty yet achievable goal through

- efficient information exchange
- facilitation of communication between member nations
- development of cooperation and information sharing capabilities among members
- fisheries data analysis
- joint training opportunities to enhance operational effectiveness and enhance the skills of enforcement personnel

Common problems exist in fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance all over the globe, no matter what resources are available. This year the MCS Network is sponsoring the 2nd Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, which will be hosted by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate in Trondheim, Norway, August 7-11, 2008 (http://www.gfetw.org/). This workshop is designed to bring together MCS practitioners from around the world to share information, enforcement techniques, and strategies and also to build a more cohesive international fisheries enforcement community. At the workshop, both traditional enforcement methods and innovative new approaches will be presented. Workshop topics range from MCS National, Regional and International Cooperation to The Future of IUU Deterrence.

In today's global economy countries face a multitude of challenges to fisheries-related MCS. IUU fishers can be well financed and are often difficult to detect and apprehend on vast oceans. Illegal product can be moved fairly easily through unscrupulous markets and is often comingled with legal product, making it even more challenging to identify. These challenges, combined with weak fisheries laws and lack of adequate enforcement resources make the fight against IUU fishing extremely difficult. It is critical to use all the tools available and partner with colleagues worldwide to address the global IUU fishing crisis. It is the goal of the International MCS Network to facilitate this much-needed cooperation and win the fight against IUU fishing in the global arena.

For more information please go to http://www.imcsnet.org/ or contact MCS.Network@noaa.gov

Contributed by Beth Lumsden, MCS Network Coordinator, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

TRAFFIC and Partners Develop Standards for Sustainable Collection of Medicinal Plants

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) are collected around the world for a variety of purposes including traditional health care, herbal dietary supplements,

food ingredients and natural beauty products. The international MAP market is a multibillion dollar trade network and millions of people, especially in developing countries, depend on MAP as their primary source of health care. MAP consumption is also high in developed countries, where the popularity of traditional medicine and herbal remedies is growing rapidly.

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Unfortunately, this extensive worldwide consumption has led to the unsustainable harvest of many MAP species-an estimated 15,000 are threatened to some degree as a result of overharvesting and ecosystem loss. The majority of MAP species are collected from the wild. Cultivation is not a practical solution for many MAP species, due to technical, economic and ecological factors that hinder cultivation practices. It is therefore imperative to ensure the sustainability of wild collection.

In February 2007, version 1.0 of the **International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants** (ISSC-MAP) was officially launched. The development of the ISSC-MAP is a joint initiative of the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (a division of IUCN's Species Survival Commission), WWF Germany, TRAFFIC and Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, or BfN) in cooperation with several other partners.

The new standard can be used by a wide range of MAP industry stakeholders, including private companies, government agencies and communities of MAP collectors. The purpose is to provide stakeholders with a set of practical, detailed guidelines on which to base their policies, management plans and sourcing practices. The ISSC-MAP implementation process is currently in the trial and development stage. A diverse set of trial projects have begun, and the subsequent feedback will be incorporated into version 2.0 of the ISSC-MAP, which is set for release in 2009.

Contributed by Tamar Norkin, University of Maryland Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Graduate program, as part of a larger research project prepared for TRAFFIC North America.

TRAFFIC and WCS Join Forces to Standardize Trade Data Collection

In March 2008, nine TRAFFIC experts from around the world joined experts from the Wildlife Conservation Society for a workshop in Thailand focused on improving research methods in wildlife trade monitoring. Both organizations have recognized the need to address increasingly complex wildlife trade issues as well as the need to be able to compare data, and the workshop focused on developing standard tools for use in monitoring wildlife trade chains. Experts in multiple disciplines including economics, biostatistics, species identification, veterinary medicine and wildlife trade monitoring participated in a critical evaluation of current monitoring methods and discussed practical ways to achieve our goal of constantly improving the rigor of our research.

Shannon Barber-Meyer

The eventual output of this workshop will be a research methods handbook, *Monitoring Wildlife Trade Chains from Source to Consumer* (working title). TRAFFIC and WCS are striving to use the best scientific methods available to analyze trade data so that this information has a stronger impact when presented to decision makers involved in the conservation of wildlife and the regulation of wildlife trade. Working collaboratively is proving highly cost effective at resolving some of the more complex challenges posed by the monitoring of wildlife trade and countering illegal and unsustainable elements.

By Dr. Shannon Barber-Meyer, TRAFFIC North America

Did You Know?

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Even though all seven species of marine turtles are listed in Appendix I of CITES and are classified as endangered or critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, a number of factors still present a threat to their survival. Major threats include harvesting/poaching of turtle eggs; use of turtles for food, oil, leather, shell; accidental bycatch; and pollution. Turtles take a long time to reach maturity and breed, hence the increasing pressures on populations lead to declining numbers. Marine turtles play a vital role in the marine ecosystem, feeding on smaller prey as well as providing food for larger predators. Buying sustainably produced souvenirs and avoiding products made from threatened species such as marine turtles is an easy way to conserve these amazing creatures.

Contributed by Aradhna Mather, intern, TRAFFIC North America

U.S. Congress Holds Hearing on Illegal Wildlife Trade

On March 5, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing titled "Poaching America's Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade." The purpose of the hearing was to identify possible links between illegal wildlife trade and national security, and explore possible links to terrorism. Witnesses representing the U.S. government, the CITES Secretariat, and various NGOs outlined the critical conservation issues posed by illegal wildlife trade and the difficulties in ensuring that adequate laws are on the books to address it, adequate enforcement of those laws is implemented, and follow-through on prosecution is thorough. A supporting research document was produced by the Congressional Research Services to explore the issues and provide evidence of links (http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34395_20080303.pdf).

Links were drawn between the trade and organized crime, as well as health-related threats such as communicable diseases transmitted by wildlife, but it seemed that few direct connections to funding terrorism through wildlife trafficking could be established. However, links could clearly be made between illegal wildlife trade and organized crime, and organized crime and terrorism, so the general message coming out of the hearing was that resources should be allocated to explore this possible connection further.

TRAFFIC and our partner organizations provided recommendations to the Committee for follow-up, and we hope that the hearing will prove to have been an important step in getting all branches and levels of the U.S. government to recognize the severity and implications of the issue of illegal wildlife trade and to begin to work collaboratively toward more holistic, well-resourced solutions.

Contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America

Elephant Ivory Case Results in Donation to TRAFFIC in Canada

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In 2005, Canada Border Services Agency officers detected a parcel of small carvings at the International Mail Center in Vancouver, British Columbia. Environment Canada officers were contacted to identify the contents of the parcel, which were found to be made from ivory of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), a CITES-listed species.

Further investigation revealed that while in Hong Kong, Yuk Ming (Peter) Ho sent the parcel in question to his residence in Richmond, British Columbia, using a fake name and Hong Kong address. In October 2007, Mr. Ho pleaded guilty to illegally importing

over 30,000 pieces of African elephant ivory.

The defendant was ordered to pay a CAD$9,000 fine, forfeit all of the seized ivory (worth over CAD $100,000 retail), and pay an additional CAD $9,000 to TRAFFIC in support of conservation programs related to African elephants. During the investigation, TRAFFIC provided information and documentation on the conservation impacts of illegal trade in elephant ivory. This was one of the largest ivory cases ever investigated by Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Division. The last major seizure of elephant ivory was in 2000, when over 4,300 items were seized in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Contributed by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America

National University of Mexico Develops Economic Model to Finance Ecosystem Restoration

© Anthony B. Rath / WWF-Canon

Adding value to natural resources and ensuring sustainable use can be a way to discourage the illegal trade in wildlife and encourage long-term viability of species. For example, hunting in the United States generates about US$20 million a year. In Mexico, the hunting market is still emerging and the legal framework under which hunting is managed is the Management Unit for Wildlife Conservation (Unidad de Manejo para la Conservacion de la Vida Silvestre, or UMA). Under this legal framework, the holder is the owner or legal tenant of the land (no matter the type of tenure) where the activity takes place.

The National University of Mexico (UNAM) has formed a task force headed by Dr. Raul Garcia Barrios to develop a mathematical model to explore the initial conditions necessary for a UMA to become an economic tool to finance and promote ecological restoration.

The UMAs have generated important economic and environmental benefits in the northern part of Mexico, while reducing poaching, improving environment health, and maintaining environmental goods and services. A single hunting season in northern Mexico produces an economic input of around MX$120 million, which is considered only 13 percent of its potential. The use of UMAs as a management tool has also become popular in northeastern Mexico, and they are beginning to be used in the central and southern parts of Mexico.

The UMA management framework still needs to integrate significant environmental, social and economic considerations, as well as strengthen the administrative structure and process for the consolidation of this scheme. Additionally, the UMAs need to address negative impacts such as social polarization, introduction of exotic species and translocations of subspecies.

Model results show that the hunting of white-tailed deer in UMAs can provide an economic incentive for ecological restoration, because restoring habitat can support a larger population of deer. However, the scheme only works if a balance between the habitat and the hunting activity is maintained to ensure sustainability.

In order for this approach to be used as a tool for sustainable use and ecological restoration, it is necessary to (a) encourage policies that support hunting, (b) reduce the opportunity costs for the hunter, (c) ensure that the holder of the UMA receives payments for environmental services, and (d) reduce the cost of habitat restoration. Currently, the model has many limitations, but the results provide a new working hypothesis that can contribute to ecological restoration efforts in Mexico.

For further information please contact Luz Marie Arguelles at luzmaria@ciencias.unam.mx

Contributed by Luz Marie Arguelles, Graduate Student, UNAM

Mexico Implements Marine Turtle Protection Program

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The Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) is implementing programs to protect marine turtle nesting beaches on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. PROFEPA, along with the Mexican Navy and personnel of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), are conducting a number of activities, including

- night patrols along the nesting beaches to ensure that no poaching of turtles or turtle eggs occurs
- protection of egg nesting areas
- patrols to ensure that fishing vessels are using Turtle Excluder Devices as required by legislation NOM-002-CFSP-1993
- patrols of markets and restaurants in ports and beaches to stop the consumption of turtle eggs and meat
- road checkpoints to prevent the trafficking and sale of sea turtles or sea turtle products

Seven species of marine turtles visit nesting beaches in Mexico. The best known are the leatherback, olive ridley, and green turtles. Harvest of all species has been prohibited in Mexico since 31 May 1990. Destroying nesting sites or collecting, possessing or capturing marine turtles or their eggs is punishable in Mexico by fines of between 300 and 3,000 days' minimum wage, and a prison sentence of between one and nine years. In 2007, PROFEPA conducted a total of 1,178 surveillance patrols at major Mexican beaches and marine areas, contributing to the protection of more than 1.3 million nesting females and the seizure of 62,634 eggs that were being sold illegally.

PROFEPA Press Release 11 March 2008

Enforcement Successes in the News

International Queen Conch Smuggling Operation Busted Open

© Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon

Canadian and U.S. courts recently handed down several decisions as a result of Operation Shell Game, an 18-month-long investigation into the unlawful import and export of queen conch *Strombus gigas*. This was one of the largest U.S.-Canadian endangered species smuggling cases in years, with over 111,000 pounds (50,349 kilograms) of endangered queen conch shipped to the United States and Canada from Colombia and Haiti without the proper permits. The investigation involved federal wildlife officers in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, as well as special agents from both the USFWS and NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in New York and Florida.

In January, two defendants, Janitse Martinez, 34, and Ramon Placeres, 58, both of Miami, were sentenced to two months imprisonment and one year of supervised release in federal District Court in connection with a conspiracy to smuggle large quantities of queen conch in violation of U.S. laws. Additionally, a criminal fine of US$10,000 was imposed against Placeres.

Also in January, Pacific Marine Union Corporation of Vancouver, British Columbia, entered a guilty plea in Vancouver Provincial Court to two counts under the Wild

Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and was fined a total of CAD$78,566.94 (~US$77,048) of which CAD$10,000 (~US$9,806) will be paid into the Environmental Damages Fund. In 2005, Pacific Marine Union Corporation unlawfully imported and re-exported over 24,000 kilograms (52,911 pounds) of queen conch from Haiti to the United States. The queen conchs were declared as either clams or whelk meat, which are not endangered species.

Queen conch is a commercially valuable seafood product and is a protected species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Since 1992, queen conch has been listed on Appendix II of CITES so to engage in trade in queen conch, all imports or exports must be accompanied by a CITES export certificate from the country of origin, or a re-export permit from a country of re-export. The USFWS's National Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, conducted DNA analysis of the seafood product and confirmed that the product was queen conch and not whelk as indicated on the shipping documents.

Department of Justice News Release, 25 January 2008; NOAA News Release, 11 October 2007; Environment Canada News Release, 8 January 2008

NOAA Assesses Half Million Dollar Penalty

NOAA has assessed a US$510,000 civil penalty and two-year permit suspension to the operator of the fishing vessel *Western Sea* for multiple violations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The 51-count Notice of Violation and Assessment alleges that Daniel S. Fill, the vessel's operator, failed to report roughly 15 million pounds (6.8 million kgs) of herring (*Clupea spp.*) harvested in the Gulf of Maine between May and August of 2007.

© NOAA NMFS

NOAA requires owners or operators of herring vessels issued a federal fishing permit to report all species caught during each trip, regardless of whether they are retained or discarded. "Herring in the Gulf of Maine is managed by a quota system," said Special Agent James MacDonald of NOAA Fisheries Service's Office of Law Enforcement Northeast Division. "Non-reporting on this scale significantly undermines NOAA's ability to effectively manage and conserve this fishery."

NOAA News Release, 17 October 2007

Environment Canada Seizes Endangered Marine Species

Environment Canada has laid 14 charges against Jayson Daeninck and Saltwater Connection of Winnipeg for allegedly illegally importing protected wildlife species from Indonesia. Ten of the charges stem from the alleged importation without a permit of approximately 9,508 kilograms (over 20,000 pounds) of live rock and stony corals, as well as live species of giant clams and seahorses. These species are protected under CITES and Canadian legislation - WAPPRIITA.

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Environment Canada News Release, 12 March 2008

Florida Aquarium Shop Owner Illegally Harvests Corals

A Florida man was sentenced to three months in federal custody and fined US$2,000 for illegally harvesting and transporting live corals from the Bahamas. The defendant, Lawrence W. Beckman, 57, of Lake Park, was sentenced in federal District Court in West Palm Beach in connection with his illegal importation of approximately 500 pounds (227 kg) of live rock, coral, and sea fans illegally

harvested from Bahamian waters.

Beckman had pled guilty in October 2007 to failing to obtain written permission from Bahamian authorities to harvest hard and soft coral species within the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, all in violation of the U.S. Lacey Act. According to the indictment filed in this matter, and statements during court proceedings, in October 2002 Beckman made a commercial harvesting trip to the area of West End in the Bahamas in order to acquire merchandise to sell in his aquarium supply business in Lake Park.

After securing 500 specimens of gorgonians (commonly referred to as sea fans) and 500 pounds of live rock and coral, Beckman returned to Florida. En route, the Coast Guard spotted his boat running without required navigation lights and intercepted the vessel.

During a safety and document check, Coast Guard boarding officers located the contraband corals in specially equipped “live wells” and in a converted fuel tank below a hatch cover in the main cabin, and took the vessel to the Coast Guard Station at Lake Worth Inlet. Beckman admitted to the Coast Guardsmen that he had been on a commercial harvesting trip in the Bahamas and that he did not possess the necessary permit allowing him to harvest marine resources.

Department of Justice News Release, 20 December 2007

Caimans Found Slaughtered in Brazil

The state Environmental Protection Agency in the Brazilian state of Amazonas reported that the skinned and salted corpses of over 700 black caimans (*Melanosuchus niger*) were found in a nature reserve in Brazil's Amazon jungle, apparently destined to be used as food in local restaurants. The dried caiman corpses weighed around eight tons and were discovered in the 2.5 million-acre (one million hectacres) Piagacu-Purus Sustainable Development Reserve.

The caimans were found during ordinary enforcement inspections on floating barges that are typical in that region. Agency directors expressed surprise at the find and suggested that it was indicative of a large-scale commercial operation.

Associated Press, 1 April 2008

Operation Toothwalker Successful

From 2003 to 2008, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) in Manitoba, Canada, worked with WED officers from other regions, headquarters and the USFWS in order to further an investigation related to potentially illegal activities involving walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) hunting and trophies exported from Nunavut.

© Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon

This investigation resulted in the seizure of two walrus skulls with tusks, four individual tusks, one walrus baculum, one individual walrus tooth and one illegally imported cheetah skin. Numerous charges were laid in the United States which resulted in fines totaling US$18,325. All seized items were forfeited to the U.S. government.

Submitted by Richard Labossiere, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, Environment Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ivory Seized in Southern China

On March 19, forestry policemen in the Guangxi Autonomous Region of southern China, seized 790

kilograms of ivory, including 139 whole elephant tusks, from a truck on the local highway from Pingxiang to Nanning. The longest tusk was 1.83 m in length and the diameter of the thickest one was 20 cm. Overall, the value of the seizure was over CNY 36,000,000 (~US$5 million). The confiscated ivory was transferred to the provincial wildlife rescue center according to China's policy. The case is under further investigation.

© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Translated by Xu Ling, TRAFFIC East Asia, from http://www.news.sina.com.cn/ and http://www.news.gxnew.com.cn/

Tonnes of Pangolins Discovered in Vietnam

The seizure of 23 tonnes (50,706 pounds) of pangolins (*Manis spp.*) in a week by enforcement officers in Vietnam was an alarming reminder of the huge scale of the illegal trade in these animals between Southeast Asia and China. On March 6, Customs inspectors and enforcement officers seized more than 16 tonnes (35,274 pounds) of pangolins at the port of Hai Phong, 100 km east of Hanoi. It was the largest seizure of pangolins, or scaly anteaters, ever in Vietnam.

© Mark Auliya/TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Only a week earlier, on February 29, around 7 tonnes (15432 pounds) of pangolin carcasses and scales were seized by customs at Hai Phong. This seizure was estimated to contain around 2,460 pangolin carcasses and 900 kg (1,984 pounds) of scales. Both of the shipments originated in Indonesia, where pangolins are completely protected by Indonesia's national law. Vietnam is known as an important transit point in the illegal wildlife trade network in Asia. Since 2000, pangolins have been under a CITES Appendix II "zero quota," meaning no commercial international trade is allowed. However, pangolins continue to be reported for sale as meat and traditional medicines in many Asian countries. No suspects have been detained, but investigations are ongoing.

TRAFFIC Greater Mekong Program Press Release, 17 March 2008

International Tuna Smuggling Operation Results in Conviction

In March 2008, George. A. Townsend III of St. Petersburg, Florida, entered a guilty plea in connection with his involvement in the illegal importation of more than 11,000 pounds (around 4,989 kg) of yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) from Trinidad and Tobago into Miami, a violation of the U.S. Lacey Act.

© Ezequiel Navio / WWF-Canon

Townsend owned and operated a Canadian registered commercial longline fishing vessel, *UNDA*. As part of its commitment to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Canadian law prohibits any person on board a Canadian vessel such as the *UNDA* from fishing or trans-shipping fish in waters other than Canadian fisheries waters, unless the vessel holds a license issued by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The *UNDA* did not hold the required license, and on 7 June 2005 Townsend caused approximately 11,063 pounds (5,000 kg) of yellowfin tuna to be shipped in foreign commerce from Trinidad and Tobago to a seafood dealer in Miami, contrary to Sections 65.(1) and 68 of Canada's Fishery (General) Regulations. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 2008.

Department of Justice, 10 March 2008

Guilty Pleas in Marine Turtle Smuggling Case

© Peter C.H. Pritchard / WWF-Canon

In August 2007, 11 individuals were indicted in Denver following a multiyear undercover investigation by USFWS Special Operations dubbed *Operation Central*. In January, Jorge Caraveo of El Paso, Texas, and Carlos Leal Barragan of Jalisco, Mexico, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Denver to felony charges in connection with the smuggling of sea turtle and other exotic skins into the United States. Also pleading guilty were Chinese nationals Fu Yiner and Wang Hong, and Oscar Cueva of McAllen, Texas. Caraveo, Leal Barragan and a number of other defendants were arrested on 6 September 2007.

As acknowledged in the plea agreement, Caraveo received sea turtle and other exotic skins and boots from his codefendants in Juarez, Mexico, and brought the skins and boots into the United States in violation of U.S. and international law. Leal Barragan sold sea turtle skins to customers in Mexico and undercover agents in the United States. He then sent the skins to Caraveo for smuggling across the border into the United States. As payment for the skins, Leal Barragan received international wire transfers from Colorado to his Mexican bank account.

According to the plea agreement, Caraveo smuggled into the United States wildlife products with a total fair market value of between US$200,000 and US$400,000.

Department of Justice News Release, 29 January 2008

Trouble for Tigers in Vietnam

© Wil Luitjf / WWF-Canon

Two tigers that died of disease at the Hanoi Zoo were improperly sold to a Vietnamese animal trafficker for about US$8,000 each. Officials discovered this when they were investigating another case, in which two live tigers were found in a car being driven through Hanoi. Further investigation uncovered four frozen tiger bodies at a house where the tigers were most likely going to be used to make traditional medicines.

In September 2007, police discovered two frozen tigers in a fridge and two soup kettles filled with animal bones in an outdoor kitchen in Hanoi. The animal parts were cooked to make traditional medicines which can be sold for about US$800 per 100 grams. Last year, 8 men were jailed for up to 11 years for poisoning a tiger in a zoo and selling it for US$15,000 in southern Tien Giang Province.

Reuters, 10 January 2008

PROFEPA Seizes Birds at the International Airport in Mexico City

© PROFEPA Archive

Inspectors with Mexico's Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) recently seized 37 live birds at the International Airport of Mexico City before they could be illegally taken out of the country by a Mexican citizen destined for Germany. The seized birds included at least one species, Northern Cardinal *(Cardinalis cardinalis)* which is listed as "under special protection" by Mexican legislation and the remainder of the birds (although not considered at risk by the Mexican Legislation and not included in CITES) did not have the required paperwork to certify their legal origin.

This was the third time in less than a year that seizures of wildlife were made at this

airport. The first occurred in May 2007, when a foreign national of German origin tried to transport 63 live birds on a flight to Amsterdam. The second case was in January of this year, when 82 birds of various species were seized before they could be taken on a flight to France.

PROFEPA Press Release, 10 March 2008