



CITES Convention with its developments

Ida Partl

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1. TIMELINE OF THE LEGISLATION

- Croatia has ratified the CITES Convention in September 1999 and from June 2000 it was directly implemented in the national legislation
- May 2001 - Croatia has undersigned Memorandum of stabilization and accesion
- February 2003 - Croatia applied for EU membership
- May 2004 - Croatia was given a status of „candidate country”
- During the accession negotiations a screening process of the legislation was made
- 2005-2011- harmonization of the Croatian legislation with the *acquis communautaire*
- December 2011 - The Treaty of Accession of Croatia to the EU was signed
- July 1 2013 Croatia has became 28th EU Member State

2.DEVELOPMENT OF LEGISLATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

- direct implementation of CITES Convention: 2000 - 2006
- 2006: *Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade on endangered species* (OG, 34/2006)
- 2009: new *Ordinance on transboundary movement and trade on endangered species* (OG, 72/2009)- indirect application of EU wildlife trade Regulations
- in 2009 MATRA project: Implementation of Environmental Acquis protection of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (funding cca 300.000,00 EUR)

Goal:

- Strengthening of relevant governmental institutions in their development,
- Establishing of the CITES office within the Directorate for the Protection of Nature

Activities:

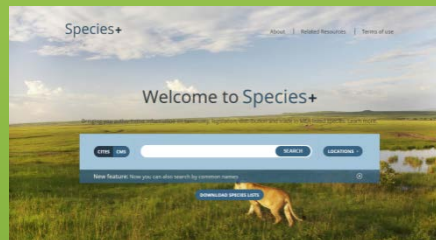
- Development of computer data base within the CITES
- Development of computer network for data exchange between relevant stakeholders
- Design and distribution of CITES manual
- Rising public awareness- CITES information corner

3.CURRENT LEGISLATION

- on July 1th 2014 (EU accession)-7 EU WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS are implementing CITES Convention on the EU level
- Regulations do not contain designation of management, scientific or enforcement authorities nor misdemeanor provisions

National Act on Transboundary Movement on Wild Species (OG, 94/2013)-
Croatian MA, SA, EA, misdemeanor charges

- Web application for issuance of permits and certificates: [CITES - Ministarstvo kulture](#)
- Checklist: [Species+](#)
- EU legislation: [EU Wildlife Trade Legislation - Environment - European Commission](#)
- Extranet: [Council of the European Union - Extranet version 5.2.2 - L site](#)



4. TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS

- in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 within **MATRA project** workshops were held for the inspection (veterinary, phytosanitary, nature protection), police, customs, MA, SA, judiciary
- in 2008. **TAIEX** workshop for inspection (veterinary, phytosanitary, nature protection), police, customs, MA, SA, judiciary
- in 2012, 2013 and 2014 within the **EU Natura 2000 Integration Project – NIP** granted by World Bank over 500 officers dealing with CITES were educated through one-day workshops



5. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

CITES INFO CORNER

- opened in September 25 2013 in International Airport Zagreb
- leaflets and posters



6.CROATIAN CITES COMMITTEE

Committee for CITES implementation

- established in 2003
- advisory role in preparation of expert base for secondary legislation
- meetings: 1-2 times/year
- members from all relevant institutions :
 - 2 from the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (CITES MA)
 - 2 from the State Institute for Nature Protection (CITES SA)
 - 2 from the Nature Protection Inspection (CITES EA)
 - 2 from the Ministry of Finance, Central Customs office (CITES EA)
 - 1 from the Crime Police Directorate
 - 2 phytosanitary border inspectors
 - 2 veterinary border inspectors
- continuous cooperation among members of the Committee
- between the meetings MA and SA exchange information when needed and on daily and case-by- case basis

7.EC CITES COMMITTEE (COM)

Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

- the European Commission is assisted in its work by the Committee on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora
- it is composed of representatives from Member State Management Authorities and chaired by the Commission
- meetings: 3-4 times/year in Brussels
- since 2011 Croatia attended the meeting as the passive observer
- from the accession we participate as the active member
- at the meetings MA exchange information when needed and on a case-by-case basis

8.EUTWIX

- closed e-mail list
- consist of MS CITES MA officers, police, customs and inspection officers, INTERPOL
- exchange of information on seizures, help with the identification of specimens
- exchange of views and experience

CROATIA MESSAGE ALERT 06/2012

Based on a tip from the Scientific Authority, Croatian Management Authority reported to the Nature Protection Inspection a sale of two elephant tusks in Croatia for 5.000 €. The sale was announced on the online advertisement site.

Since the seller, who is a Croatian citizen, had no documents proving the origin of the tusks or a permit for their trade, the tusks were seized. Each tusk weighs 12 kg and has a length of about 120 cm with 10 cm in diameter.

The bill of indictment will be placed against the seller.



THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS INTENDED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY.

CROATIA MESSAGE ALERT 05 / 2014



On June 1st 2014 in a routine traffic control Croatian police officers stopped the car of Croatian citizen in the town of Vukovar and in the trunk of the car they found six jute bags with 220 live turtles and tortoises and 20 dead ones. No documents of the origin of the animals were presented. The animals were seized and criminal charges were placed against the perpetrator. Subsequently it was determined that there are 110 specimens of *Testudo marginata* (Annex A, Appendix I), 101 specimens of *Emys orbicularis* and 29 specimens of *Mauremyia rivulata* (both strictly protected species in Croatia). All animals were placed in the registered rescue center but due to dehydration, malnutrition, poor transport conditions and infestation by ticks 96 animals have died.

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CROATIA MESSAGE ALERT 01 / 2014



On March 14th 2014, two tanned skins of *Crocodilus siamensis* (Annex A, Appendix I) were declared to the Customs at Zagreb Airport on arrival from Thailand. CITES export permits were presented for these skins, with special condition "For tourists". Export permits have a Croatian company and a private person (company owner) with passport number filled in as a consignee. The importer was not able to present CITES documents for import of this shipment into the EU.

The shipment was seized and charges were placed against the offender.

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CROATIA MESSAGE ALERT 02 / 2014



On January 14th 2014 Croatian customs stopped a Croatian citizen at Zagreb Airport and found a tooth from *Physeter macrocephalus* (Annex A, Appendix I) in passenger's luggage without accompanying CITES documents. The passenger was working outside EU on a whaling ship and claimed that he took the tooth as a souvenir. The tooth was seized and charges were placed against the offender.

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9. SEIZURES AND RESCUE CENTERS

Seized animals are placed in 5 regional rescue centers:

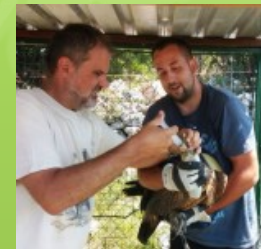
1. The Association Falconry Centre from Šibenik

- provides care for birds of prey



2. Centre for Protection of Birds of Prey „Grifon“

- provides care for birds of prey, focused on griffon vultures



3. AWAP – Association for Wild Animals Protection

- provides care for birds, reptiles and small mammals



4. The Animal Protection Association Ruščica

- provides care mostly for various animals

5. Marine Educational Centre (MEC) from Pula

- provides care for sea turtles



9. SEIZURES AND RESCUE CENTERS

Position of rescue centers in Croatia



10. LESSONS LEARNED

BEFORE EU	AS EU MS
„third country” - borders	MS with the wide and long teritorial border to „third countries” but no borders to MS
Large number of import, export and re-export CITES permits	Reduction of the number of CITES permits
No documents for CITES I (Annex A)	Large number of EU Certificates for Annex A specimens (proof of legal aquisition, commercial activities or movement of live specimens)
No documents for strictly protected native species	Large number of certificates for strictly protected native species

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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