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international trade in musk deer pods or medicines containing musk was uncovered in a variety of countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Nepal, the Netherlands, South Korea, the UK and USA.

**Perfume demand:** Today, most perfumes using musk contain synthetically produced musk, but genuine musk is still used in some traditional perfume recipes, particularly in France. Between 1980-1995 France imported about 100 kilograms of raw musk from mainly Hong Kong, the Soviet Union/Russia and Nepal, 90 per cent of which was consumed within the country, most likely in the perfume industry and than possibly partly exported. Synthetic musk is widely used in non-medicinal products such as cosmetics, personal hygiene preparations, shampoos and detergents. The suspected toxicity of some synthetic musk compounds for the environment has not, to date, been adequately documented and requires further investigation.

**Recommendations** for action to promote the future conservation of musk deer are based following areas of focus:

**Improvement of scientific information on the conservation status of musk deer:**

Accurate assessments of musk deer populations and their conservation status are crucial to effective conservation of the species and this assessments should be undertaken urgently in the known range States – Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Vietnam, North, and South Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (possible range State), China, Mongolia, India and Nepal. Most urgently, these are needed in China, Mongolia and Russia. In addition the taxonomy of various musk deer species should be clarified, in particular because recommendation for action under CITES are established at species level.

**Investigation of harvest, trade and demand in musk deer range countries:**

Surveys of domestic markets for musk deer in China, South Korea, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Mongolia and Russia, should be undertaken as priorities because these domestic markets seem to be of high relevance. However, the demand for musk, and its harvest and legal and illegal trade should be surveyed in all musk deer range countries. For example, the level of demand for musk and the characteristics of the market for traditional East Asian medicines containing musk should be examined and studies are needed to clarify the scale of illegal trade in musk along Russia's eastern borders.

**Improvement of legal protection for musk deer in range countries:**

Appropriate measures to protect musk deer need to be taken in musk deer range countries, including the further establishment of protected zones; protecting species and subspecies of musk deer by law, where this is not already the case; revising the regulatory systems for the exploitation of musk deer and export of musk in Russia; establishing such a system in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (if this is a range country); and encouraging the accession to CITES of the musk deer range countries Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, and North Korea.

**Sustainable use initiatives and farmed deer:**

The Chinese policy on musk deer farming needs to be reviewed and, where applicable,

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developed into an economic and species-appropriated management concept, while plans for the extraction of musk from captive musk deer in Russia should be supported and, if economically feasible, used in private business with management plans and initiatives. Projects that can demonstrate sustainable harvest of musk from farmed and/or wild animals should be promoted as model to emulate. China and Russia should exchange knowledge and share experience relating to the management and breeding of musk deer on farms and make the same available to other relevant countries, for example, North and South Korea, and Mongolia.

**Regulation of trade in musk in non-range countries:**

Importing countries should be required to assist source countries to safeguard and monitor wild musk deer populations, by means of financial or technical assistance. While all CITES Parties trading internationally in raw musk should enforce all CITES provisions pertaining to musk. The role of Cambodia should be singled out for further investigations and the significance of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and Cambodia in the international trade in, and use of, medicine containing musk should be examined in greater detail. Enforcement problems relevant to the international trade in musk deer derivatives should be detected and eliminated – for example, proposals for labelling of musk specimens and products containing musk should be developed jointly with the traders and authorities in the countries of origin and forensic techniques should be developed and shared among CITES Parties to determine the presence or absence of musk in derivatives.

**Use of musk in medicinal products and perfumes:**

The level of Asian medicinal consumption of musk needs to be ascertained to better understand the existing and expected market needs. Until the presence or absence of genuine musk in medicines is clarified, all items that claim to contain musk should be traded with CITES permits. Simultaneously, research on musk substitutes for use in TEAM needs to be encouraged.

Although it seems likely that the demand for musk in the perfume industry in Europe is decreasing, this requires monitoring, particularly since there are reports that natural musk is used in the Russian perfume industry. The possible use of natural musk in Chinese, Japanese and Arabian perfume manufacture also requires monitoring. Perfumes that contain natural musk should be subject to permitting requirements when in international trade, as are other products containing the ingredient. The amount of musk used in homeopathic medicine is, however, very low and it is not recommended that homeopathic products containing natural musk need CITES permits when in international trade.

**Review of Significant Trade:**

The Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES, that will be held in April 2000, should direct the Animal Committee to review as a matter of priority the impact of trade in musk deer species in the context of the Review of the Significant Trade pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9. Results should be presented and recommendations formulated so that remedial actions may be undertaken prior to CoP 12. Pending the results of such a review, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and

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the Russian Federation should follow the example of China and suspend exports of natural musk until reliable non-detriment findings can be made.

*The TRAFFIC Europe report: 'On the Scent: Conserving Musk Deer. The uses of musk and Europe's role in its trade' can be requested from TRAFFIC Europe, 608, Chaussee de Waterloo, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, Tel.: +32-2-343 82 58, Fax: +32-2-343 25 65, email: [traffic@traffic-europe.com](mailto:traffic@traffic-europe.com); or from a TRAFFIC office in your region (check at [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)).*

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**Trade status of wild ginseng *Panax ginseng* in the Russian Federation**

**by A. Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia**

It seem to be the most probably that Russian Far east is only place now where Oriental Ginseng (*Panax ginseng* C.A. Mey) can be found in the wild. Unfortunately during the last decades we face with the degradation of natural populations of the wild ginseng. The main reasons for this are:

- > Over-harvesting
- > Timber cutting
- > Fires

To make ginseng more protected, it was enlisted in The Red Data Book of the USSR and The red Data Book of The Russian Federation. In nowadays conditions *Panax ginseng* steels to be in new edition of The Red Data Book of Russia. This status means that any harvest of ginseng is strictly prohibited. Only very limited stock can be bagged by special licenses issued by The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection.

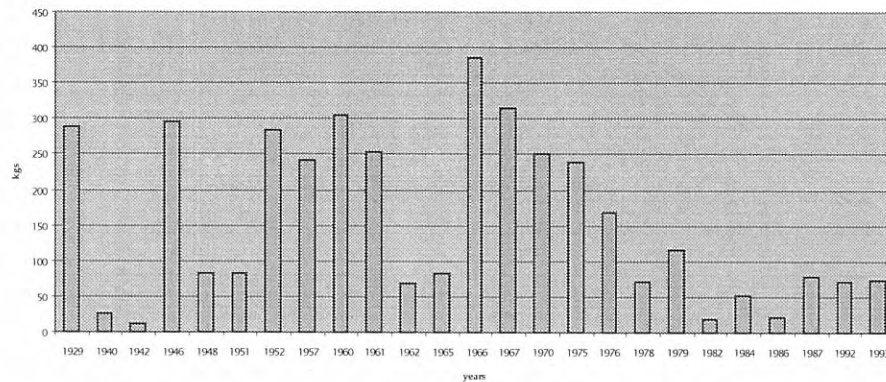
Always in Russia ginseng was collected for export mainly. Only few percent was bagged for home using. Beginning from the annexation of Far-Eastern territories to the Russian Empire ginseng was exported to oriental countries, to China and Korea. It's impossible to say how much ginseng was exported from Russia before early 30-ties of XX century, but it's known that more then 400 kg of fresh roots was exported annually via Vladivostok only. The number of collectors was believed as 450 to 500 (Bayanova, 1941).

That time the collection of ginseng wasn't controlled by the agencies. So nobody knew about the volume of harvesting. It's only known that in early 30-ties the total profit of all ginseng collectors in Iman district (the central part of RFE) only reached 250,000 roubles (for comparison: that times the price of good cow was no more then 70 roubles) (Shishkin,1930). In 40-50-ties the harvesting of ginseng became the state monopoly. At that time 500 to 700 root collectors got the licenses. In total the harvested about 130 kg of fresh ginseng root annually (Malyshev, 1991).

In 70-80 the state environmental agency issued licenses for 40-60 kg of fresh roots annually. At this period a lot people started to breed and grow ginseng in small private plantations. And some number of large state ginseng breeding farms appeared, too.

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Dynamics of the harvesting and export of wild ginseng from Russia (kgs).



During all Soviet period the illegal collection of ginseng roots had place but wasn't common. People collected ginseng illegally for self-using mainly. The borders were closed and any kind of international trade was the state monopoly. Only beginning from early 80-ties domestic demand for the ginseng roots appeared. It was the reason for the rising of the over-harvesting of the roots by official collectors, who started to share their job with "black" private ginseng business.

After the collapse of the USSR the state control upon the harvesting of ginseng became very weak. The state system for harvesting was destroyed because of the economical reasons. Borders were opened. A lot of private people became to operate in international trade. On Russian Far East plenty of traders are interested in the trade in ginseng. Neighbouring China is unlimited market for wild ginseng from Russia. The China market demands the wild ginseng only. Russian factories don't buy bred and/or grown ginseng from private people. So people dropped their business. State farms scramble through economical and administrative difficulties.

In these conditions the ginseng poaching raised dramatically. Sure, now the poaching is the main reason for ginseng population degradation. By preliminary data of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia the volume of illegal collection of ginseng on the Russian Far East fluctuates from 1500 to 2000 kg annually. For comparison: the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection annually issues licenses for 65-75 kg, only; no more than 15 kg of roots was seized annually during the post-Soviet period. In 1996-98 the stock of seized ginseng dropped to 2kg. At the same time the poaching activity advanced greatly. Experts believe that nowadays number of ginseng roots collectors increased fivefold in comparison with the beginning of the century.

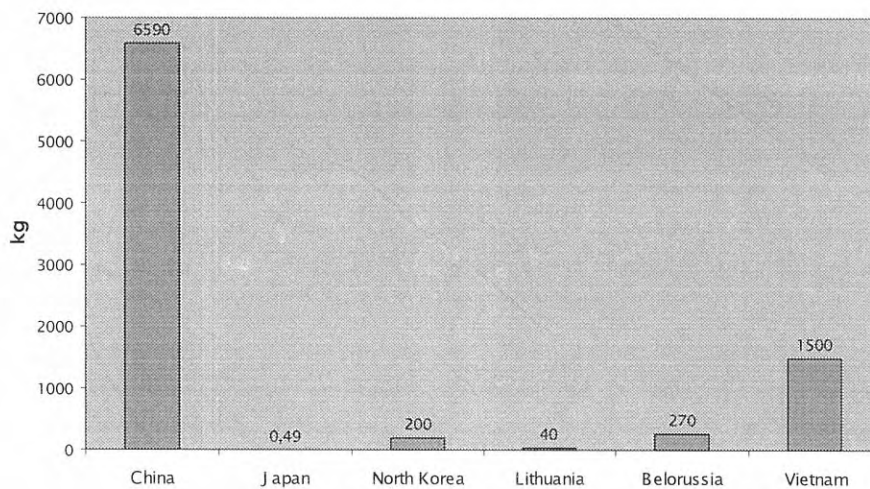
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All these facts make us to believe Oriental Ginseng to be the most threatened plant of Russian Far East and one of the mostly threatened plants of the world.

**The legal trade in Oriental Ginseng in Russia.**

Being the only exporter of the wild ginseng and producing the cultivated ginseng, too, Russia is the large importer of cultivated ginseng. During the period of 1995 – 1998 Russian Federation exported 29.972 kg of roots of the wild ginseng and 102.04 of cultivated ones (only in 1995). At the same period Russia imported 8,600.49 kg of ginseng roots. The main exporters are China, North Korea, Vietnam and Belorussia.

**The main exporters of Ginseng to Russia**



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**Trade in marine species in the Russian Far East**

*by A. Vaisman (TRAFFIC Europe-Russia)*

The Far East of Russia is strongly associated with a sea, fleet and fishery. The history of sea fishery is in fact very short. Before the Russians come to the Pacific Ocean shores and about 200 years after that event, population of the far-eastern edges of Russia contented with fishes migrating annually for spawning in the rivers. In the extreme North the Eskimos and coastal Chukcha hunted the marine animals, in the south local tribes were engaged in subsidiary gathering the marine products.

Marketable fishery in the Far East of Russia goes back to the last decade of the last century. This was a period, when the companies involved in fishing and stocking up the fishes for further export in the Asian countries, first of all in Japan, were established. Initially the fishery was oriented on producing the salted products and only through some times, after coming into being the new technologies of fish processing, the first tinned factories provided with American equipment were built. This fact initiated the export of fish products in America. Japanese market was also opened for the new kind of production. The first factories produced the canned caviar and salmon. Then catching and canning the crabs began to develop intensively, that caused sharply decrease of their population. The canned crabs were exported mainly in America.

*History of the name of Russian canned crab – CHATKA is closely connected with that period. Initially it was planned to name the canned crab by the name of the peninsular, where the crabs were harvested – KAMCHATKA. A lot of labels was ordered . Printing house made a wrong size of the labels, so they were too long. A gap between label sizes and tin sizes was revealed too late. It was decided to cover the first three letters. A first lot of canned crabs CHATKA made a success in America. So, it was decided not to change the name.*

Large-scale sea fishery in the Russian Far Eastern water area originated in 30-ty years of the century. Extremely intensive catching was carried in a second half of 40-ies.

**What are the results?**

**Marine fishery and trade in its products**

Intensive marine fishery, including the expedition one, is performed over a whole water surface of the far-eastern seas of Russia. Major commercial fishes are six species of migratory far-eastern salmons from *Oncorhynchus* genus, sole, plaices, halibut, Alaska pollack, cod, Oliutorskaya and Karaginskaya herrings. Major commercial invertebrates are squids, king crab and blue crab .

Fishing is performed only in Russian economic zone both by Russian and foreign ships.

Since late 80-ies, because of the weakening of military control over the Okhotsk Sea, foreign ships, first of all from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Poland and Norway, have began to visit a central part of the sea, which is surrounded by the economic zone of Russia (so called

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“Okhotomorskiy banana”), following the principle of freedom of fishery in the opened sea. The same situation is observed in the opened part of the Bering Sea, known among the fishers as “Doughnut Hall”. Both these water areas are the key territories for spawning migration of the Alaska pollack, which is a major commercial species in Northern Pacific. According to international agreement, the opened part of the Bering Sea was closed for fishery. In order to entice the foreign ships from the opened part of the Okhotsk Sea, the Russian government is forced to give them a considerable quotas for catching fish and harvesting other marine products in Russian economic zone.

Since 90-ies sale of shares of fishery companies and fish processing plants have been taken place. Fish Survey is not ready to work in a new economic conditions. Current situation in the seas of the Far East of Russia can be characterised as catastrophic. The results of the inspection of the fishery carried out in the Russian part of the Bering sea are presented bellow. The Bering Sea reflects the most problems, that are typical for all far-eastern seas.

In 1996 and 1997 industrial fishing took from 581,630 to 957,896 m.t. of biological resources in the Russian part of the Bering Sea each year. In addition, a gradual increase in the quota volumes was seen over the course of the period we examined. We must point out that three fish – Alaska pollack, cod, and herring – accounted for more than 85% of the entire amount of biological resources harvested. Gradual declines in the shares of Alaska pollack and cod but a 3-fold to 25% increase in herring's share in the catch were also seen. The number of enterprises engaged in fishing also increased over the years, from 77 in 1996 to 127 in 1999.

Kamchatka's fishing sector, like that of Russia as a whole, is in a crisis situation characterised by a sharp drop in the production potential and worsening financial status of the majority of its economic operators. This often encourages the organisation of illegal harvesting of the marine biological resources and concealment of catches. The exports of marine products caught in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Bering Sea have been rising each year. However, their corresponding contributions to the budget have not risen, and since 1995 the fish sector has been running a deficit. From this it follows that a large part of the catch is spirited away without being entered in the ledgers, either through smuggling or customs violations.

The reserves of one of the most significant resources in the Bering Sea have fallen by at least 50 percent over the last decade. Yet against this backdrop the quotas for harvesting this species have continued to rise, slowly but surely. According to the fishermen and inspectors, making these quotas without large-scale harvesting in the areas that are closed to fishing simply is not physically possible.

Analysis of the fishing violations showed that the most widespread types of violation are:

- > distorting the data about the size and quality of the catches' compositions;
- > giving incorrect production coefficients;
- > fishing in areas where fishing is banned; and
- > giving false information about the fishing sites logged in the ship's records.



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At the end of the day, all of this makes it possible to conceal the boat's work in areas off limits to fishing, to amass surpluses for unreported sale for cash "under the table" in the fishing areas themselves (payment of so-called "black bread"), and to take the unaccounted-for production to foreign markets. Fish protection bodies place most of these violations in the summer season. Current nature conservation laws are not sufficient to tackle the problems of safeguarding Russia's marine resources. The RF bill "On fishing" has been in the Duma, where it has gotten bogged down in countless consultations, for years. Informed sources assert that this ceremonial crawl is well paid by the "fish mafia," which is suited best by the current confusion.

The volumes of the illegal catches, expressed as percentages of the quotas for allowed harvesting, are hard to determine. For Alaska pollack the figure ranges from 15% (an optimistic assessment made by Interior Ministry staff) to 50%, which in our view appears to be much closer to reality. For the salmon this index ranges from 50% for the sockeye to 100% for the pink salmon. Judging from value indicators, this coefficient may be as high as 300% for crabs.

Illicit activity concerning the preparation and production of amounts above the quotas and simply illegal harvests and products exists on all levels and on all scales, starting from the sailors on small seiners and ending with organised groups of ships.

Unreported and/or above-quota catches are sold in foreign ports or transferred to foreign or Russian ships that put in at foreign ports. In these cases payment is made, as a rule, in cash (in dollars).

The system of surveillance of fishermen's activities in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone is weak, but in any event it clearly is not up to dealing with the magnitude of the calamity. The actions of the departments that are supposed to protect the country's marine resources are not coordinated. These offices are not equipped with the necessary technology to handle the complicated problems that they face. The technical features and physical condition of the patrol boats do not enable them to carry out their mission of stopping poachers effectively.

The automated system "*Rybolovstvo*" (Fishing) that is being set up today will make it possible to raise the effectiveness of surveillance of the fishing vessels' activities greatly, especially when it comes to determining the vessels' actual positions.

The jobs of the on-board observer-inspectors, given the fact that they are paid by the very firms that they are supposed to inspect, are degenerating into pleasant, profitable ways of spending time during which the inspectors are not obligated to do anything. Under such conditions, the inspector's main duty becomes not to notice violations.

Loopholes in the customs legislation in effect today – for example, the absence of requirements for the compulsory customs clearance of fish and seafood caught and produced in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone but outside its territorial waters – create the right conditions for exceeding the allowed catches and trading in fish products for which there are no records.

The volumes of illegal exports of fish and seafood from the Russian Far East are estimated to be worth from 2.5 billion (data of the Kamchatka Regional Administration of the Federal

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Security Service) to 4.5 billion US dollars, according to the estimates of independent experts. In this way, one can talk about an illegal hemorrhage of some 0.5 to 0.9 billion US dollars from the Russian part of the Bering Sea.

South Korea's ports, especially Pusan, offer all the right conditions for clearing "direct exports" of fish and seafood from Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone through customs quickly and without obstacles.

**Recommendations**

To put an end to the uncontrolled harvesting and exporting of marine resources from the Russian part of the Bering Sea, the following measures are recommended:

- Plug the legal loopholes as quickly as possible, after taking the necessary and appropriate legislative and normative actions to regulate fishing in Russia's EEZ and territorial waters.
- Improve the existing laws regulating the activities of the various departments' inspectorates and the ways they check for the exploitation and transfer of marine resources. This includes: adopting normative instruments that clearly define the powers, spheres of activity, and areas of responsibility of each office that is responsible for checking the harvesting, processing, and shipment of marine products.
- drafting and adopting a system of awarding bonuses to the fish protection inspectors so as to improve the material benefits of their work and stimulate their interest in discovering violations and collecting fines and reduce the degree of corruption among their ranks; putting 30% of all the fines and court-ordered damages paid by the lawbreakers in an inspectors' bonus fund and not setting limits on the one-time bonus payments.
- settling the question of the inspectors' being treated like civil servants (state officers/employees??) so as to raise their status.
- making the necessary changes in the current Customs Codex of the RF and extending its scope to include the EEZ with the aim of having all loads caught in and taken out of these waters go through customs.
- to this end, studying the issue of creating a state service of on-board inspectors with full powers, fish protection inspectors, and customs inspectors. This body should be responsible not only for checking catches, processing, and transshipments, but also clearing the ships' cargoes through customs.
- setting rules whereby the inspectors will be paid a percentage of the value of the cargo on which they carry out the customs formalities so as to escape the development of corrupt dependence on the fishing companies for the payment of their work.
- make it compulsory for all ships working in Russia's EEZ to have GPS transmitters on board to complement the automated control system "*Rybolovstvo*" currently being implemented. If such transmitters are not present on board, then the ship will not be allowed to fish.
- Have the Russian Federation's State Fisheries Committee start putting the satellite monitoring system of the dislocation and changes in fishing fleets' positions into service without delay and requiring first and foremost all foreign and high-tonnage Russian ships to be fitted with the corresponding devices.
- Have the RF's Federal Border Office, State Fisheries Committee, State Ecology Committee of Russia, and RF's State Customs Committee start getting down to business to devise a

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single Federal Information System on Fishing, likewise called "*Rybolovstvo*," that includes the necessary information about the awarding and transfers of quotas, authorizations granted, accounts on the harvesting, processing, and transport of bio-resources, ship registration, and violations of fish protection laws; consider this work to be one of the highest State importance to strengthen the protection and surveillance of the utilization of its aquatic biological resources.

- Convene an international meeting of specialists from the interested countries, *i.e.*, Russia, Japan, the USA, China, South Korea, North Korea, Canada, Poland, Norway, and others, to discuss the most acute problems linked to the threats to the conservation of the Northern Pacific's marine biological resources and develop the principles of their sustainable exploitation, that is, without depleting them.

**Coastal fishing**

Being most high-priced the invertebrates (crabs, scallop, trepang (sea cucumber), sea urchin, to a lesser extent the prawns) prevail in the illegal trade.

Trepang can be called also sea ginseng. It contains terpene glycosides. Its major volumes are transported to China. This species is gathered by scuba divers mainly in the south part of Primorskiy Krai (closeness to Chinese Market). Catching the trepang is now a criminal business. Presently, about 80% of adult male population are engaged in it in some districts. By its biology, trepang forms the aggregations in autumn months in strictly specified places at a small depths. Thus, the divers easily collect it during this period. Boiled and dry trepang is exported. Average price of 1 kg of dry trepang is \$100. According to our calculations, based on the interview data, trepang daily harvest from the waters of Khasanskiy District is 15 t during a season, that can make up about \$1.000.000.

The region Sakhalin-Kurile is specialised on the prawns, scallops and sea urchins, that can be explained by Japanese market orientation. Live invertebrates (crabs) are transported from the South Kurile to the ports of Hokkaido Island. It is extremely criminal business. Russian and Japanese (*yakudza*) criminal structures work under mutual agreement. There is information, that a lot of high-priced goods are some times illegally transported under protection of soldiers from the Russian Frontier Military Forces. Administration of Japanese ports do not pay any attention on the facts, when the laws and rules are violated. Trade in invertebrate is performed through the restaurants. It is the water area at the Kurile Islands, where the permanent conflicts with the Japanese poachers take place.

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**Traditional East Asian Medicine (TEAM)**

*by Vincent Chen, Senior Program Officer TRAFFIC East-Asia Taipei*

In East Asia users of Traditional Medicine are among the major consumers of wildlife products

Traditional East Asia Medicine includes several Traditional Medicine Systems e.g.:

- TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) which is one of the major origin, TJM (Japan), TKM (Korea), TVM (Vietnam) etc.
- TCM has over 2000 years history. The earliest texts available now is *Huangdi Neijing* (Yellow Emperor's Inner Cannon) and it dates from around 200 BC
- Over 400 years ago, Ming Dynasty, Mr. Li Shizhen (1518-1593) set up the solid base of TCM from only superstition(folk medicine). His masterpiece *Bencao Gangmu* (Outlines of Roots and Herbs Studies) was a true encyclopedia of *materia medica* and make Chinese pharmacology reached its climax. This also affected many TEAMS a lot (although *Bencao Gangmu* still has some superstition but more clarify the definition of TEAM, it is different from the folk medicine).
- Most of TCM medicine are plants(90%), over 2000 plants was used in TCM, but common used range 300 to 500 plant species.
- TCM have different Philosophy from the western medicines. TCM regard human being as a "little nature", and TCM always treat illness as unbalance of system. However, western medicine tend to find the reason cause the disease, like the bacteria, viruses, and always thinking if get rid of these causes then the ill can be cured.
- The comparison of the characteristics of the Oriental medicine(TEAM) and the Western medicine:

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>Western medicine</b>
➤ comprehensive	➤ analytical
➤ holistic	➤ local
➤ pattern	➤ disease
➤ theoretical	➤ experimental
➤ individual medicine	➤ social medicine
➤ constitutional prevention	➤ bacteriology
➤ subjective symptoms stressed	➤ objective symptom stressed
➤ natural materials	➤ chemical medicine

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- TCM store and practitioners:
  - Hong Kong ~3,000
  - Taiwan ~10,000
  - Korea 6% of GNP used for medical care, and among it 15% use in TKM
  - China has about 232,000 TCM doctors
  - Australia has about 2500 TCM doctors (it is the first western countries that admits and has TCM laws)
  - South east Asian countries, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia. If there is Chinese, there is TCM

- Estimated the trade value of TEAM market in 1997 (billion USD)

China	2.9
Japan	1.5
Korea	1.0
Taiwan	0.7

- TCM and CITES endangered species:

animals:

Rhino horn  
Tiger bone  
Musk  
Bear bile

Plants:

about 14 categories species.(e.g. *Dendrobium* spp. attribute into one category, *Aloe* spp. also belong one category and so on)

The problem of substitutes:

It is already exist in TCM, not exact the new idea. Many material was widely use to substitute the genuine one. E.g. The animals bones, like leopard bone, ox bone, dog bone etc., had widely to substitute the real tiger bone. However, whenever they use these bones. They will always say this is cheaper "tiger bone", because patient/customers always believe the power of tiger, and also not willing to buy e.g. dog bone to cure its own disease. The following list was the substitution of endangered species. Of course, there are lots modern approach to the substitution of endangered species. To develop the substitution may help the conservation the endangered species, but also need to face to change the concept of people.

Endangered species	Traditional substitution
➤ tiger bone	➤ leopard bone, lion bone, ox bone, dog bone
➤ rhino horn	➤ Seiga horn, buffalo horn
➤ bear bile	➤ pig bile

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**An example: The use and Trade of Asian Ginseng in Taiwan**

**Asian Ginseng** is a very important TCM medicine. Here ginseng trade served as an example of wildlife trade in this region:

Import data of Ginseng in Taiwan (in 1000kg/ton)

	1997	1998	average market price (per kg)
CHIELIN ginseng	1145	844	\$26~104.2/kg
Korean Red	62	91	\$333~1250/kg
Korean White	4.6	11.6	
Japan Red	0	0.15	\$41.7~250/kg
Japan White	1.8	3.4	
total	1214	951	

- Korean's Red ginseng is regarded as the best quality ginseng in Taiwan's market. They were classified as three major grades(6 year old), the first grade is heaven grade(with the shape of human being two legs, price \$808/kg), then earth grade(only with one leg, price \$593.4/kg) and good grade(unlike the shape of human being and lower quality, price \$378.9/kg)
- Wild ginseng  
There was a long history for Chinese to believe the magic function of wild ginseng. People believe ginseng even can prolong the life of dying person, and also believe wild ginseng has special strength for weak patient. Also due to its very rare, wild ginseng become the collection target of rich peoples. There is obvious no price list in Taipei's market for wild ginseng, because the price is too high to offer for usual people. However, there are still such trade happened we believed. The price for wild ginseng ranges \$4167 to \$125000/kg. In Beijing, a 10 year old wild ginseng was listed for \$2750, and a over hundred year old ginseng was listed up to \$43750! No matter it is illegal to trade wild ginseng in China. It can be told from the top part of ginseng root to know its ages.
- TCM and its culture value, concept versus modern conservation idea
- **TRAFFIC and TCM**  
TRAFFIC East Asia drafted the proposals to urge each countries to co-operate with TCM community in conservation of its medicinal resource at CITES COP 10,1997.

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**Halting the illegal trade in animals and plants in Russia: the role of the WWF Russian Programme office**

*by A. Shestakov, WWF RPO RFE*

Russian Programme office of the World Wide Found for Nature (WWF RPO) has been promoting the projects focused on inter-Departmental interactions and improvement of Russian legislation in order to increase the efficiency of control over the trade in rare and endangered wildlife species. These efforts are directed mainly on meeting the international commitments of Russia within the framework of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of March 3, 1973 WWF RPO works in close co-operation with State Environmental Committee of RF, Administrative office of CITES in RF, State Customs Committee and its regional departments, other governmental authorities both at regional level and in the subjects of RF. Most qualified scientists and specialists are engaged in the work under the projects. In an effort to improve interaction between WWF RPO and other governmental supervision bodies number of agreements (with State Environmental Committee, 1998, with the Far-Eastern operative customs, 1999) on co-operation in protecting the rare and endangered species and controlling the biological resources movement across the state border have been concluded. They provide a wide spectrum of joint actions from information interchange to technical assistance and organisation of the personnel training for environmental bodies and customs.

Methodical assistance to customs and Administrative office of CITES is an important direction of WWF RPO activity. Assistance in preparing number of publications (3 books<sup>1</sup>) was rendered within the framework of that direction. They comprise the following materials:

- > a complete register of the CITES listed species (according to CITES Appendix);
- > CITES permission forms of some countries (first of all the countries, that most often export species in Russia);
- > list of the all countries participating in CITES (thus, it is possible to determine a set of permission forms, that could be presented at customs control);
- > complete texts and text extraction from most important legal documents of RF concerning the trade in CITES listed species;
- > review of Russian legislation providing application of the CITES provisions and comments;
- > the text of the Convention;
- > recommendations of the State Environmental Committee on preservation of the live specimens

These issues are intended for customs officials, regional departments of the State Environmental Committee, CITES Administrative offices and other interested departments as methodological, informational and ancillary material.

<sup>1</sup> Register of the CITES listed species. - M.: State Environmental Committee, 1998.

Recommendations providing the meeting of CITES requirements in the subjects of Russian Federation. -

M.:Administrative body of CITES in Russia, 1999.

Il'yashenko V.Ju., Il'yashenko E.I. Russian legislation providing the meeting of the CITES requirements. - M.: World Wide Found for Nature, 1999.

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Besides, a unique guide<sup>2</sup> on CITES listed species was published in co-operation with State Environmental Committee and State Customs Committee of RF. It contains well illustrated and logically presented material. This guide allows to identify quickly the specimens (including some parts and derivatives), in order to make a decision on confiscation, or necessity of additional expertise.

Presently regulation of the trade in CITES listed wildlife species is performed basing on a number of by-law acts, including the following:

- Statement of Government of Russian Federation "On measures, that provide meeting the international commitments of Russia within the framework of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of March 3, 1973 " of September 13, 1994<sup>1</sup>;
- Order of the State Environmental Committee of "On the procedure of executing and issuing permits for the import and export of wildlife species, their parts and derivatives, listed in CITES" of March 19, 1999<sup>1</sup>;
- Order of the State Environmental Committee of Russian Federation "On the procedure of payment for the permission to export, or to import wildlife species, their parts and derivatives, listed in CITES" of March 21, 1998<sup>1</sup>
- and some other legal documents.

Nevertheless, there are many problems related with control, division of powers between different governmental bodies, ground for ownership and use of the specimens, for example the following:

- concept of specimen turnover and possible variants to use the specimens, that are under state supervision;
- clear identification the objects needing to be regulated, or excluded;
- list of permission documents, grounds for their taking out and for their nullification;
- authorities of the Federation and its subjects, and also of governmental and local self-administration bodies on regulation and control over specimen turnover;
- obligations of the Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation;
- special features of trade in specimens listed in different appendixes to CITES;
- establishment of the well defined requirements to legal trade in specimens;
- list of violations the legislation concerning the trade in specimens, that require legal responsibility;
- grounds for specimen confiscation and subsequent fate of the confiscated specimens;
- requirements to registration and marking on the specimens;
- using the money received for selling the confiscated specimens, and also using the compensation payments and fines.

<sup>2</sup> Brief guide on CITES listed species of plants and animals. Educational and methodical aid under edition of V.Ju.II'yashenko. - M.:State Environmental Committee of Russia/WWF, 1999.



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Meeting the Convention requirements and resolutions provides for development and introduction of the national legislation regulating the trade in and use of wild animals and plants, of their parts and derivatives listed in CITES Appendices. This regulation includes a certain restrictions for civil turnover of wildlife species and also responsibilities for violation the rules of specimen turnover and use.

Thus, improvement of Russian legislation to meet the CITES requirements at all levels is still one else important direction of work of WWF RPO. Law of Moscow "On regulating the use of rare and endangered species of wild animals and plants within the area of Moscow" (of 30.06.1999 128) was developed and passed on WWF RPO's initiative. This Law is the first in Russia, that establishes permission procedure for wide spectrum of activities on using the CITES listed species, appoints the supervision bodies and their authorities etc. Major trans-shipment point for international trade in wildlife in the country is for the first time provided with real legal mechanism restricting and regulating this process.

However, number of restrictions could be introduced at a federation level only. This fact significantly reduces effectiveness of regional laws in circumstances, where federal legislative basis for CITES implementation is lacking.

Thus, a draft of the Federal Law of the Russian Federation on regulating the trade in rare and endangered wildlife species has been prepared within the framework of WWF project. This law has to establish general legislation limits for all users of the specimens (first of all the commercial ones). According to the civil legislation (Article 1 of the Civil Code), restrictions of turnover of commodities and services can be introduced by federal law only. In particular, necessity to protect life and health of population and to protect nature is a ground for introducing these restrictions. CITES objects are related with protection of wild flora and fauna, and biodiversity. Furthermore, establishing the clearer rules for trade in both live and dead specimens of wildlife will facilitate reducing the risk of infections and epizootics.

This Law is aimed on establishing the strict state control and unified rules for regulating the turnover of the CITES listed species within the all Russia Federation. Introducing the provisions of the Law will allow to reduce the illegal using of the specimens, will also facilitate conserving rare species of flora and fauna both in Russia and in the whole world, will provide meeting the international commitments of Russian Federation within the framework of CITES and other international agreements, will create favourable conditions for financial support of Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation and will provide additional income in budgets at all levels.

Draft of the Federal Law "On regulating the turnover of the rare and endangered species of flora and fauna" is composed of 8 sections. Objects and field to be regulated, authorities of different bodies, major transactions with rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, licenses and responsibility for violation the legislation are successively defined in these sections.

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Limitation of civil turnover of the specimens, i.e. strict requirements to registration, declaration, marking and transportation documentation is a principle point. Trade conditions differ greatly depending on belonging the animals and plants to one of the CITES Appendixes. Most strict regime is established for the species listed in Appendix I. A number of exclusions, for which the easing of turnover is provided (e.g. articles of personal use, animals and plants bred and cultivated in artificial conditions, specimens for scientific use, specimens belonging to the zoos) are introduced by the draft of the law. Restrictions for commercial turnover is a key provision. Along with this, any additional restrictions for citizens used the specimens personally are not provided.

Concepts of turnover, specimen and other are clearly defined to avoid misunderstanding the law provisions.

The Law establishes the authorities for Government of Russian Federation, subjects of Russian Federation, state environmental bodies, customs, internal security organs, veterinary and phytosanitary services. Clear division of powers and inclusion of law provisions, that provide joint actions, will promote better effectiveness of control and regulation of specimen turnover. Inter-informing on the cases of illegal trade in specimens, on issuing the permissions and licenses, joint control over situation are the important aspects of the Law.

The Law establishes clearly the responsibilities and authority of Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation.

The Law presents a complete list of permission documents, that are required for legal turnover of the specimens. This list meets both the requirements of the Convention and the requirements of current Russian legislation and real practice. Clear rules for invalidating the permission documents are also provided by this Law.

Infringements in the field of turnover of rare and endangered animals and plants are listed in the law for the first time. In this connection it is required to develop a set of alternations and amendments to Code of RF on administrative infringements and to Criminal Code of RF, in order to provide realization of the provisions of the law.

One of the requirements of the Convention is to establish clear national rules for confiscation of illegally moved specimens. The Law establishes the grounds for confiscation, bodies authorised to confiscate, subsequent fate of the confiscated specimens.

Realization of the provisions of the Law will make it possible to receive additional financial support due to payment for registration, consideration of the applications, licensing, permission documents, compensations for damage, compensation for temporal keeping the animals, satisfying the claims, fines. These funds will be invested in support of Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES, rescue centers, in compensation of budget expenses for keeping,

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return to nature, or to a country of origin the live specimens. Besides, these funds will come in budgets. A part of received funds could be given to the persons, which revealed the facts of law infringements. This measure can significantly increase the effectiveness of the Law.

The Law comes into force through 6 months from a moment of its signing, that provides possibility for federal executive bodies to prepare required amendments in normative and legal acts being in force, that will also increase effectiveness of the Law.

Effectiveness of CITES requirements depends greatly on the interaction between the participating countries. Thus, WWF RPO pays special attention to development of international collaboration. WWF RPO in co-operation with TRAFFIC initiated the development of multilateral agreements between the countries of Far-Eastern and Altay-Sayan ecoregions (Russia, China, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan) on collaboration in biodiversity conservation. The agreement includes three major directions: protection of migrating species and their habitats, formation and maintenance of trans-boundary nature protected areas and control over illegal movement of biological resources, first of all CITES listed ones. A draft of special agreements on collaboration between the customs bodies of the named countries in control over illegal movement of endangered wildlife specimens has been developed within the framework of the general agreement. Draft of the documents with the main provisions on co-operation in this sphere has been distributed in the countries of the region for primary familiarization and discussion.

WWF RPO will continue to work on introducing the CITES provisions both in Russia and CIS - countries. The following urgent directions of the work can be named:

organisation of training courses for customs officials from Russia and neighboring states (especially in the Far East, Altay-Sayjan region, Central Asia) on meeting the CITES provisions (e.g. organisation of joint training courses and training courses in different countries, but based on unified program);

further improvement of legislation on application of CITES provisions in Russia, Byelorussia and Central Asia. Co-ordination of legislations of these countries between themselves and with the Convention requirements. Development and introduction of the model normative acts according to the recommendations of CITES Secretariat;

rendering the methodological, technical and expert support for customs, Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES;

wide spread of information on CITES, problems on illegal trade in wildlife. Improvement of knowledge and awareness of the problems, concerned with turnover of rare and endangered wild animals and plants, among population, commercial organisations and personnel of state authorities.

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**Part III:**

**Improving wildlife trade controls in the Region**

*Moderator:*

*A Shestakov (WWF RPO)*

**Discussion forum:** *Regional collaboration for a better implementation of CITES and to improve wildlife trade controls.*

Discussion of the further ways of collaboration focused on the effective implementation of the CITES provisions and on strengthening the control over wildlife trade in the region.

Introduction of the Moderator who proposes to discuss the following items:

1. major directions and objectives of the collaboration;
2. levels of the collaboration;
3. methods and forms of collaboration.

**People's Republic of China**

The Chinese delegates express their appreciation of this form of discussion. They express their interest in improving the co-operation between the participating agencies and delegates and propose to organise such a co-operation among the attending organisation on a permanent basis. The information exchange among the organisations should be regular. As a priority list should be exchanged listing priority species and or specimens for each country which should be under specific control.

They state that information on smuggling of CITES specimens along with information on seizures, confiscation and infringements would also be very important. The channels of permanent collaboration for a successful revealing of violations should be organised. However, there are also some problems related to such a co-operation. For example, receiving a permission from the agencies of state security to exchange information, since the information is often of secrete status and confidential. Proposes to address this issue to the World Customs Organisation.

The Chinese delegate would welcome if meetings like the current could be held regular. He inquires which organisation would be responsible for organising such regular meetings and who may cover the expenses.

Moderator aggress that meetings like this should be held more regular but asks the delegates to consider and discuss this issue at a later point in time, as the answer will depend on the proposals made by the parties.

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**Republic of Korea**

The Korean delegate express their appreciation for this meeting and stress the great importance of such meetings. They state that the meeting addressed all question the Korean delegation had and that the open discussions during the last days covered the most important issues related to the wildlife trade controls in the region. The delegate propose to establish a close collaboration among the countries exporting and importing live animals within the region.

As an example, he explains that he recently verified CITES export documents for live specimen issued by the Management Authority of Thailand and Hungary. All necessary permits were available, but no invoice was presented. The required documents were obtained later and in the meantime the animals died.

He stresses that collaboration between the exporting and importing countries is very important and that it is required to provide the necessary conditions and documents in the country of import before an animal will be exported.

He underlines that representatives of the customs and environmental organisations involved in activity within the framework of CITES are presented at this meeting. He mentions a program on information exchange that focuses for example on illegal trade in drugs that exist at a regional level among the customs in Korean, and stresses that such informational exchange is lacking in case of CITES related issues. Therefore, he would appreciate to discuss the potential exchange of information about the trade in CITES specimens among the authorities of Russia, Korea and China. He says that the establishment of an international body to exchange CITES related information, to start with possibly only for the Pacific Region, is required, but also sees as the Chinese delegate the obstacles surrounding the development of such and information exchange (exchange of confidential information).

Therefore it would be important to provide for the legal basis of such an informational exchange. He underlines the importance to exchange information quickly in order to analyse the information and to be able react accordingly. Not governmental, but the CITES bodies should be engaged in establishing such structures, in his view.

He stresses the need for an mutual agreement between customs bodies who are controlling the sea route from Vladivostok to Pusan, in order to allow the a timely information exchange about certain shipments.

**Russian Federation (*Customs*)**

The Russian delegate stresses the importance of co-operation on a governmental and no-governmental level. Those could be establish on the basis of agreements with non-governmental organisations. Explains that signing an agreement with the WWF gave them the opportunity to communicate with non-governmental organisations in other countries and by doing so information the relevant bodies about certain legal or illegal shipments.

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He considers an agreement among the customs committees of China, Korean Republic and Russia as extremely important and urges the heads of the CITES administration bodies to raise this issue before the customs administration. Other agreements e.g. on drugs, weapons exist already, and the co-operation needed here could be at regional level (among neighbouring countries).

**Russian Federation (CITES MA of Russia)**

He acknowledges the problems involved in exchanging information among Custom bodies and proposes to develop national agreements between the Parties involved. Such agreements between Administrative bodies and customs exists in many countries. Mentions as an example the agreement between the CITES Secretariat and Interpol, and between the CITES Secretariat and WCO. He stresses the importance of regional agreements and remembers the participants that certain legislation provide for information exchange for neighbouring countries.

Mentions that contacts and information exchange between certain custom department do exist already, e.g. between the custom office of Moscow Airport with customs of Heathrow Airport in London.

He propose to prepare a press-release about the results of this workshop and to distribute this at national and at a regional levels. He also recommend to appeal to the CITES Secretariat and other international organisations with a request for support in holding such meetings like this annually and to make a request to international organisations for financial support.

**People's Republic of China**

Informational interchange is of great importance. It will help to control smuggling, but for joint investigation, special legislation will be required. First of all we should implement the provision of the national legislation. Basic agreement between the WCO and the CITES Secretariat should be a background for new legislation.

**Republic of Korea (CITES Ma)**

There are the laws regulating the CITES in every country. In order to avoid that confidential information gets into the wrong hand it is necessary to discuss on what stage the CITES relevant information should be exchanged. Collaboration should be close and well skilled specialists should be engaged in this activity.

**Republic of Korea (Customs)**

Information on the traded Specimen, on the person exporting or importing the shipment and on the person transporting the smuggled goods is needed.

First of all it is required to solve the problems discussed previously. These problems should be solved at national level, then it will be possible to consider informational interchange.

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**Russian Federation (Customs)**

Underlines the need for better information exchange and makes the following suggestions:

1. information should be circulated in accordance with the standards of national legislation of each country;
2. additional information is needed:
  - a) information on illegal transportation of CITES listed objects
  - b) information on the legal measures in relation to the transported goods listed in CITES appendixes, and also on administrative, or legal measures undertaken following the seizure and prosecution
  - c) information of operative interest: a direction of illegal transportation.

Supports the opinion of the Korean Delegation. It should be provided, that information of operative interest was given only to competent organ. Secondly, investigation should be carried out by taking into account national legislation.

***Moderator***

Third direction is concerning the legislation. It would be rather interesting to know your opinion on the ways of such collaboration.

We can consider the issues concerning the compliance of national legislation with CITES requirements.

And finally, is there any sense in collaboration, e.g. in translating the standard documents of the countries into national languages of the all countries.

Please, make your proposals.

**Republic of Korea**

It is important to co-ordinate the national legislations with the standards of the CITES and with each other. First of all it is important for the countries participating in the Conference. It is rather hard work.

As for interchange of information on legislation of every CITES party, this problem is not complicated. Co-ordination and composing a regional agreement, that could be acceptable for Korea, Russia and China, and also CITES bodies are most complicated problems.

***Moderator***

It seems to me, that this idea can be formulated in a such manner: "Collaboration in

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harmonization of the national legislations of the parties to CITES”.

**Russian Federation (V. Ilyashenko)**

In 1998 yr. the CITES Secretariat prepared the review, where clear recommendations on changes, that should be made in national legislations in order to fulfill the Convention provisions, were given. It was recommended to prepare such review for every country.

“Review of Russian legislation providing the Convention implementation” should be published this year.

A Conference of parties to CITES in Asian region, which took place in 1994 yr. in Israel, adopted the recommendations to prepare a review of national legislations in order to harmonize them in the region.

Russia belongs to European region. It participated in that Conference as an observer. As it is known for me, recommendations has not been performed yet.

Each party should present the development of its national legislation annually. CITES Secretariat, in turn, ranges the countries by provision of the Convention with proper legislation. If a country do not provide the compliance with the Convention, legal sanctions could be applied to it, as for example to Italy. Applying the sanctions to Greece and Malaise have been also discussed.

It seems to me, that it would be reasonable to apply to the Secretariat and non-governmental organisations for technical assistance in preparing the review of the legislations of the far-eastern countries in order to harmonize them.

I suggest TRAFFIC and WWF to be the co-ordinators of the legislation review.

**Moderator**

Thus, we have decided, that the work under legislation could also be a subject for collaboration.

Next direction is the improvement of the ways and methods of control over and identification of the specimens. What do your consider about collaboration in this sphere?

**Republic of Korea**

Increase of professional skills is most important measure to improve methods on control over and identification of the specimens. It would be very useful to organize short-term and even long-term courses, seminars for customs officials represented the CITES bodies, both at international and at national levels. This is a primary task.

**Russian Federation (Customs)**



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I support the previous speech. Visual materials containing description of the CITES listed species, their parts and derivatives are also required. Assistance of the international organisations is important.

There is a desire to CITES Administrative body to have more specialists in environmental protection in our region. These specialists should change the information with the colleagues from the neighboring countries, e.g. on the identification CITES listed specimens.

**Russian Federation (CITES MA)**

Unfortunately the available guides on CITES listed specimens are useless for customs officials. Guide books containing the all CITES species are lacking. The available guide books published in Canada and Mexico by CITES Secretariat require special knowledge to use them. Customs official, as a rule have no biological education, thus it is difficult for them to identify the examined object.

Now we prepare the materials on falsification of the documents and objects. For example, ivory could be passed for wooden bars. These materials will also include the ways of smuggling the species and derivatives. This information is very important at a regional level.

Assistance of WWF, IUCN, TRAFFIC is needed to publish these information guides.

**Russian Federation (Customs)**

I can only add, that our organs work under regional guide of the CITES listed species for customs bodies, but financial support is needed. This guide book has been almost prepared (99%).

**Russian Federation (Customs)**

Responding to identification problems. Modern technologies make it possible to imitate the documents. It would be reasonable to have the forms of the documents issued by the CITES bodies. This measure will facilitate revealing the violations concerning the illegal transportation of the CITES listed objects.

***Moderator***

We have the rest two potential directions of discussion. Let us speak about educational work and staff training.

**Republic of Korea**

Each party has spoken about educational work and work on improvement of the professional skills both of the customs officials and of the representatives of the CITES bodies. International, or may be regional (e.g. far-eastern region) conferences, seminars on improvement of the professional skills of the personnel, first of all of the customs officials are required to be organised.

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**Russian Federation (Customs)**

I have 3 proposals:

1. to find an opportunity to hold the international seminars for the customs officials engaged in control over smuggling;
2. to organize training the heads of the customs bodies, in order to initiate interest to these problems;
3. to give special course on CITES provisions (5-6 lectures) in a system of higher education of the customs officials.

***TRAFFIC Europe, Tom De Muelenaer***

All these ideas are very interesting. I would like to add, that two weeks ago TRAFFIC and CITES Secretariat signed a Memorandum on mutual understanding in training the customs officials. This memorandum is like the memorandum, which was signed by the CITES Secretariat and International Customs Union on joint work and collaboration in identification of the specimens.

Secondly, I know, that European Union is intended to render assistance for customs bodies in the whole world in organisation of the training courses.

By this is meant, that financial support could be render. European union needs only in official request of every country on financial support for training courses.

Question: (China) What is the organisation, that accept the requests?

Answer: It is the Government of the European Union. Government of 15 nations is located in Brussels.

**People's Republic of China**

We should speak separately on training the higher personnel and training on site.

Only one person participated in CITES training on my customs area of 4 thousand km long. A limited number of most professional employees should be trained. Then they will organize training on sites.

Both published materials and CD could be used for education.

There are many problems with the instruments for identification.

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*Informing the public in order to increase educational level of population in relation to CITES provisions*

**People's Republic of China**

We consider, that the work should be carried out both at a local and at international levels. A good idea is the booklets in the airports. Each country should prepare such materials, taking into account the national mentality.

China has become to pay a considerable attention to population education since entry into the CITES.

Each country should educate population independently. Informational materials for population could be distributed at the customs houses.

**Republic of Korea**

Korea consider, that education should be carried out even in the schools. It is required to consider the particular problems concerning the CITES listed objects. Each inhabitants of a country should know, what species are listed in CITES Appendixes, and what species are not included in this list. It was revealed in our country, that people have nothing notions about CITES listed specimens, thus they smuggle the CITES species unpremeditatedly. So, visual materials concerning the CITES listed objects should be distributed among the customs for population.

There is information in our country, that cases of illegal transportation of CITES listed objects reduced greatly, when wide scale informing the population on the CITES provisions had been undertaken through the mass media.

Korean party wants to note importance of the competent bodies, which are responsible for control over trade in wild species of plants and animals, in preparation of such booklets, or radio transmissions on CITES listed objects. We hope on collaboration among the all competent bodies within the country and at international level.

**Russian Federation (Customs)**

We consider, that the work should be carried out by following directions:

1. Agitation and propaganda. A work should be focused on rising a maximum interest to the problem;
2. Educational and training programs: young people education - training of the persons responsible for the problem;
3. Information-instruction work is aimed first of all on the participants of foreign economic

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activity.

Forms of this work are rather diverse: periodical press, radio information, educational literature, guide books, informational booklets, posters, publicity boards.

As for international collaboration, it is possible to make publicity boards with inscriptions in Russian, English, Korean and Chinese languages and to install them at the borders. It is possible to make informational boards on far-eastern ginseng, which is not included in CITES lists, but requires our attention.

I want to note, that these informational boards should be installed both on the Russian territory and on the territory of the adjacent countries.

It is required to install these boards in the airports with the inscriptions in 3-5 languages.

**People's Republic of China**

Since various countries pay special attention to protection of some species, which are not included into CITES lists, it is required to co-ordinate the content of such boards between the CITES bodies of both countries.

Customs' responsibility for installation of such informational boards is limited. Customs receives the documents (lists of the plants and animals included into the CITES Appendixes) regulating the text on these boards. For example, ginseng is not included in these lists and a customs can not decide independently to present this information on a board. Chinese customs has no authority to prohibit ginseng transportation.

**Russian Federation (S. Lyapustin)**

I would like to note the importance of the last proposal. It can be implemented only under close collaboration among the all countries of the region. On my opinion, the last proposal has something common with proposal on informational block, when it was suggested to interchange the lists of species, which are most often exported-imported, including the CITES listed species. And finally, it seems to me, that example with the ginseng is rather demonstrative. I also suppose, that there are certain species of plants and animals in Russia and other countries, which are not included into CITES lists, but are mentioned in the national legislations. Nationals visiting these countries should be informed about this fact.

**Moderator**

In result of our work we have composed a such sheet. I suppose, that it should be reasonable to review it finally. There is a place for additional proposals. Is there any proposals to 6 stated items? There are no additions. Let us consider this sheet to be approved.

**People's Republic of China**

It is well, that out three countries agreed with all items, but haw to include opinion of the

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countries, which did not participate in discussion, but represent the region. I propose to include additional item 7 - to inform other countries about results of our discussion.

***Moderator***

Aim of our Conference is to inform all countries situated in this region.

This final document including the results of the Conference (although it is not an official document) should be distributed. This document is not signed by the countries. Nevertheless, on our opinion, and I hope, that the participants will agree with it, this document is a good example of international collaboration. It can serve as example for other countries, which do not participate in our discussion.

Let us turn back to every item.

1. it is reasonable to interchange the lists of the species included into the CITES appendixes and species, which are lacking their, but attracting special attention to their protection in the countries. This was a proposal of Chinese delegation;
2. interchange of information on transportation of the goods included into CITES Appendixes across the borders;
3. interchange of information on violations and confiscation, which were made at the frontier. This is a problem concerning the relations among the states;
4. information on a system of permission documents, including the forms of the documents and stamps, patterns of signatures. Although this system works within the framework of the CITES Secretariat, probably, in some cases direct informational interchange could be more effective.

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**ANNEX**

**Additional Papers submitted by workshop participants:**

On the status of wild ginseng in Russia

E. Kopaev, *Fund "Phoenix"*

The Trade in wild Plants in the Russian Far East

A. Vaisman, *TRAFFIC Europe-Russia*

**Press release**

**List of Workshop Participants**

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**On the State of wild ginseng populations in Russia**

*E. Kopaev ( Fund "Phoenix")*

Chinese persons used to visit the territory of the Far East and especially its southern part Primorie with the purpose of wild ginseng harvesting even many years ago.

A Russian writer I. Nazarov (1887) in his book "Severo-Ussuryiskiy krai" (North of Ussuryiskiy Krai) wrote: "In 1882 -1883 Chinese persons (250-300) came from Northern China to the North-Ussuryiskiy Krai to harvest ginseng. There were even more Chinese persons harvesting ginseng roots in the North-Ussuryiskiy Krai until it became a part of Russia. The roots were transported to China to Imakhauz for sale (near the confluence of the Ussuri and Bol'shayay Ussurka Rivers). The ginseng market opened at that place on September 15. At that time the root harvester, wholesaler and buyer came that place for trade in ginseng. There I met the dealers from Vladivostok (Russia), Shanghai, Siangsing (China)."

Half a century later a botanist L.N.Shishkin who worked in the Far East (1930) described flora of the Iman River basin: "Wild ginseng is abundant in the mountainous areas of the Iman River basin, comparing to other areas of Primorie. Hundreds of the local people, and also Chinese and Korean persons come here annually for ginseng harvesting. The ginseng main buyers are representatives of the Shanghai Company, Dalgostorg (a Russian trade company) and Hunters Union (the town of Iman, settlements Rakitnoye and Kartun). The loss of the local ginseng resources is insignificant and of an absolutely random character."

Before 1917 about 380 kg of ginseng was exported from Vladivostok. The ginseng was harvested mainly by the Chinese and Koreans (their number is unknown). However, there is the information that about 500 people were engaged in ginseng harvesting annually (Baianova, 1941).

Russian colonists started ginseng harvesting about 1907-1910. In the last 1920s the state trade companies Gostorg (State Trading Organization) and Legtechziriya started the ginseng business. Specialized ginseng roots harvesting teams were organized.

In the 1940s-1950s about 500-700 persons were officially engaged in ginseng harvesting, annually they harvested about 10,000 - 15,000 ginseng roots (about 130 kg (Malushev, 1991)).

In 1978 ginseng was registered in the USSR Red Data Book, and in 1998 - in the Russian Red Data Book.

The situation changed sharply after disintegration of the Soviet Union and establishment of trade contacts between Russia and China. Already in 1991 illegal Chinese dealers appeared in Primorie where they started buying-up ginseng. The black market prices were much higher than the legal ones. The number of ginseng harvesters increased through unemployed people who lost jobs when the state enterprises collapsed.

Before 1993 the situation in the black market was as follows. Five dealers from China worked in

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Ussuriisk. They organized illegal points of trade in ginseng and illegal ginseng transportation to China. Roots were delivered by Chinese dealers who visited the taiga areas and bought ginseng there. Russian dealers started to work at the same time.

In 1993-1994 the actions of the Committee on environmental protection (especially the Kirovsk Regional Committee) caused a considerable damage to the trade. Chinese dealers were discovered, illegally harvested roots were confiscated. Those dealers were subjected to the administrative penalty and deported from Russia. The business was immediately continued by Russian persons. Exposure of their illegal activity is a more difficult task.

In 1994 the "Tiger" Inspection, "a department for protection tigers and other rare and endangered species of flora and fauna" was established within the Primorskiy Regional Committee on environmental protection. Wild ginseng registered in the Red Data Book, became an object of the "Tiger" Inspection control. Official control of illegal harvesting and trade in ginseng started. At the first stage the powerful illegal businessmen were exposed and their activity was taken under control. Some of them were caught at the moment of the crime and were subjected to administrative punishment. At the next stage the places and people engaged in illegal trade in ginseng were discovered in Ussuriisk. By the inspectors' estimates, about 90% of illegally harvested ginseng came through the market of Ussuriisk. In addition, there are places of illegal trade in ginseng in Dal'nerechensk, Lesozavodsk, Arsen'ev. These trade points were established by dealers from Ussuriisk. In 1998 the amount of illegal ginseng stock was about 2000 kg (fresh roots). In 1999 the figure was about 1000 kg.

Illegal ginseng was illegally transported to China. Chinese smugglers are connected with corrupted officials both from Russia and China.

Considering the situation in Hong Kong the following conclusion may be done. Now there exists an illegal trade network like the one that existed before 1917. Smugglers buy ginseng in the Russian territory and transport it across the border in Suyfenhe (China). Dealers from the southern provinces (Shanghai, Guangzhou, etc.) also came there. They buy ginseng they dry it for conservation. The plant part with thin roots is dried wrapped in cotton cloth. Another part is dried under usual conditions. Hereafter the former part (dried in cotton cloth) will be sold as the Russian ginseng. Another part - as the Chinese ginseng. According to our data there is no wild ginseng in China. To our point of view the situation in the market is as follows. There is the demand for Chinese ginseng, but as wild Chinese ginseng does not exist, then the Russian ginseng is sold as the Chinese one. Since the dealers know the demand for ginseng and for the "Chinese" ginseng in particular, so they dry roots in the appropriate way. Hong Kong is the last chain in ginseng trade. Several dealers control this business there. They accumulate 90% of the Russian ginseng and then sell it by retail in the Chinese districts. Chinese people are the main consumers of ginseng. Only a standard ginseng root reaches Hong Kong. This kind of root weights over 10 grams and has no mechanical damages, these being the obvious signs



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that the root was growing under the natural conditions. These roots will be originally packed and sold in the natural form.

A non-standard root (weight below 10 gr, with mechanical damages and marks of illnesses, that pointing out that the root was cultivated) will be sold in China. Probably these roots are used in pharmaceuticals.

Officially Russia did not sell ginseng root in 1998-1999. However, about 10 kg of dry good quality roots are stored in the storage devices of the Primorskiy Forestry Department. This organization is one of the three official companies engaged in ginseng procurement. Business relations with the partners (companies or individual buyers from Hong Kong) have been lost and at present there is no market controlled by the government. Extinction of ginseng trade of the former monopolist "Prodintern Primor'ya" and low activity of the Russian business men is the result of the black market activity. The information obtained in Hong Kong suggests that "Prodintern Primoriya" has a poor reputation in the international market. However, that was the only one company that had a license for trade in ginseng. The dealers from Hong Kong do not want to have any relations with "Prodintern Primoriya", their present-day partners are illegal dealers from Shanghai, Guangzhou and other cities.

In this context it is necessary to organize the legal trade in the Russian ginseng as soon as possible to oppose the black market. It is also necessary to focus the efforts of the "Tiger" Inspection and other controlling bodies on the control of illegal trade. Besides, representatives of CITES in Russia are intended to register the Russian wild ginseng in the CITES list (Appendix II) at the next meeting of the Council in April 2000. If it happens, it will be one more positive factor helping to control illegal ginseng harvesting and trade.

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**The Trade in wild plants in the Russian Far East**

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Available information on collection and export of medicinal plants growing in the Far East shows, that number of species of the collected plants and export volumes have increased greatly. Unfortunately, the increase of volumes of collection and export, including the illegal ones, is typical not only for common species, but for the plants put into the Red Data Book of RF. In 1999 yr. export of wild plants and algae used in pharmaceuticals increased in 22% in comparison with 1998 yr. It is important to note, that there are the facts, when local authorities violate the federal laws and give the permissions for collecting the medicinal plants put into the Red Data Book of RF to different procuring companies and organizations. Illegal collection of the medicinal plants by local population is also typical phenomenon.

Major medicinal species collected both legally and illegally are as following:

- fruits, berries and seeds of brier, magnolia-vine, haw, partridgeberry, barkhat, ephedra, ginseng, Manchurian walnut, lotus, cedar (Korean pine);
- roots and rhizomes of ginseng, *Aralia*, *Eleutherococci*, *Acorus*, *Glycyrrhizae*, inul, zamanikha, *Acantopanax*, *Rnodiolae roseae*, *Paenia*, *Paeonia molokosewitschii*, *Dioscorea nipponica*, thyme, *Astralus*, milkwort, hazelwort, puzatka;
- bark and bast of oak and birthwort;
- leaves of partridgeberry, *Convallaria keiskei*, milkwort, *Aralia*, kalonaponaks, orchides, lotus, rhodendron;
- stems and sprouts of atractilodes, zamanikha, mongolia-vine, *Lespedicia*, boshniakiya, birtwort;
- tubers of *Dioscorea nipponica*, Far-Eastern orchids;
- algae - *Laminaria*, *Anphelcia*.;

Wild ginseng, *Convallaria keiskei*, pine nuts, roots of *Eleutherococci*, *Rnodiolae roseae*, parts of magnolia-vine, *Dioscorea nipponica*, barkhat, all species of *Aralia*, thyme, *Acorus*, *Glycyrrhizae* are most intensively collected species. In 1999-2000 numerous facts, when oak bark was sold by local population to Chinese purchasers, were revealed. The bark is powdered and sold by 2000 rubles per a bag. Export of Korean pine nuts to China was of a mass character in 1998 yr. In 1999 yr. pine nuts of Siberian origin were exported in a great volumes to China.

Generally, the medicinal plants are exported both legally and illegally by eastern and western directions. The plants procured in the territory of the Far East are transported eastward to Japan, China, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Singapore, i.e. in the countries with well

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developed traditional oriental medicine. The medicinal plants are transported also westward to Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Ukraine, Baltic region, the USA. For example, JSC "Pharma" in Kiev and company "Pasinol" in Poltava are the biggest consumers of the far-eastern medicinal plants in Ukraine. The biggest exporters and consumers of medicinal plants in the Far East are JC "Prodinter", production-procurement base of Primorskiy Forest Department, scientific and production company "Amurbiopharm" in Khabarovsk, JC "Ussuriyskiy balzam".

The following parts of plants are legally carried out beyond the Far East territory in a great volumes according to concluded contracts:

- dry roots of *Eleutherococci*;
- dry roots of *Glycyrrhizae*;
- berries and seeds of magnolia-vine;
- leaves of partridgeberry;
- leaves of *Convallaria keiske*.

Different mixtures and teas of wild far-eastern plants and also tinctures and balsams are transported besides the plant parts both abroad and in western regions of the country.

The following instances make it possible to say about the volumes of legal export of the medicinal plants. In 1998 yr. one of the far-eastern companies transported to Ukraine 3000 kg of dry leaves of *Convallaria keiske*. About 12 000 kg. of dry roots of *Glycyrrhizae* were exported to the USA in 1999 yr. by one of the far-eastern companies. In 1998 yr. customs officials revealed and prevented an attempt to export legally, but under violations of some rules established by Russian legislation, 10 000 kg of dry *Dioscorea nipponica* put into the Red Data Book of RF. Legal export of the roots of *Eleutherococci* beyond the Far-Eastern region makes up many dozens tons in some years. In 1995 yr. 110 055 kg of medicinal plants were transported from the Far East abroad.

However, the volumes of illegal export of medicinal plants are considerably greater. Along with this a number of prevented attempts to smuggle these plants is rather low. It is connected with the following facts:

- a) illegal collection and smuggling the especially valuable plants, such as wild ginseng, are extremely criminal business;
- b) environmental bodies in the region pay insufficient attention on rare and endangered species protection;

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- c) normative base on protection of wild plant species in RF is less developed in comparison with that on rare and endangered species of animals;
- d) specialists in botany are lacking both among customs officials and among personnel of other law-enforcement bodies;
- e) preventive activity of the environmental bodies on protecting the rare and endangered plant species (excluding ginseng) is in its infancy;
- f) positive experience of foreign customs (in particular the USA) in counteracting the illegal trade in flora objects is not used in the customs of the Far East.

The far-eastern customs prevented 30 attempts to export illegally the wild plants (29 cases of them were the attempts to export illegally the ginseng) over the period 1996-1999. Along with this, according to the data of Russian office of TRAFFIC Europe, the volumes of annual illegal collection and smuggling the wild ginseng made up 1500-2000 kg of dry roots in 1998-99. Ginseng is most intensively exported in August-October. Dry roots are carried out up to January. For example, in January 2000 the officials of Grodekovskaya customs confiscated 30 pieces of dry ginseng roots. Previously, in December 1999, the officials of Ussuriysk customs confiscated 24 pieces of dry ginseng roots from Chinese resident.

Trade in wild medicinal plants is very popular business in almost all urban markets of the Far East. Permanent increase of the prices for remedies sold in the drug stores makes the far-eastern population turn to traditional medicine, based on using the medicinal plants. Thus, a number of persons engaged in collecting and selling the medicinal plants on urban markets grows from day to day. The plants put in to the Red Data Book of RF have become sold on the markets along with the common ones. There are the roots of *Dioscorea nipponica*, acerose leaves of Japanese yew, stems and roots of birthwort and of zamanikha, sprouts of barkhat Amurskiy, oak bark, flowers of *Tilia*, fruits of the Manchurian walnut, roots of *Eleutherococci* and *Rnodiolae roseae*, seeds and sprouts of magnolia-vine, fruits of *Rosae* and *Crataegi*, rhizomes of *Acorus*, *Astragalus*, thyme, badan, hazelwort, Paenia, valerian among them.

There are information on collection and subsequent export of the seeds, bulbs, tubers, sprouts and seedlings of wild decorative plants, such as:

Lilies: fritillaria ussuriensis, liliium dauricum;

Orchids: showy ladies'-slipper, • • • • • ;

The fabaceous: Siberian pea shrub, Lespedicia, pueraria;

The hydrangeas: deitsiya, syringa etc;

These are the plants having a general run and high price both in internal and external markets,

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because they are necessary components for remedies.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

***The International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia.***

Vladivostok, 18 November 1999

An International Workshop on North East Asian wildlife trade was held in Vladivostok, Russia, from 15 to 18 November, 1999. The Workshop was organised by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection and TRAFFIC Europe. The State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation and the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection invited representatives from the Russian Federation, the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, who agreed to collaborate closely to improve controls of the international trade in wild plants and animals in the region.

The trade in many of the wild species that cross the borders in North East Asia is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), to which all three participating countries are signatory Parties. Still other species that are protected in the Russian Federation, are illegally harvested and exported from there to neighboring countries.

The International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia brought together delegates from the Customs Administrations and the CITES Management Authorities of the three countries, representatives from the Russian Environment Committees from Moscow and Primorsky Krai, and wildlife trade experts and participants from national and international Non-Governmental Organizations.

During the workshop, the delegates reviewed a large amount of up-to-date information on the conservation status and the legal and illegal trade in a number of species that occur in North East Asia, and which are of common concern. These species include Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*; Leopard, *Panthera pardus altaica*; Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*; Asiatic Black Bear, *Ursus tibethanus*; and Musk deer, *Moschus* spp.; which are all listed in CITES.

Attention was also drawn to the trade in Sea cucumbers, which are protected in Russia, but appear to be heavily exploited for export to Asian countries.

It was noted that the Russian Federation had submitted to the next Conference of the Parties to CITES a proposal to include Asian Ginseng, *Panax ginseng*, in Appendix II of the Convention.

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The participants recognised the threats posed to the unique biodiversity of North East Asia by unregulated or unsustainable cross border trade, and agreed that the CITES Authorities, Customs Administrations, and other enforcement bodies in the three countries should co-operate effectively at a national and regional international level to strengthen the implementation of CITES and to stop illegal trade with CITES listed species.

During comprehensive discussions at the meeting, the participants agreed that the following actions would significantly improve CITES implementation and enforcement in North East Asia:

- to organize close collaboration and co-operation between Customs administrations on exchange of information relevant to CITES enforcement and implementation;
- to exchange models of, and official signatures on, CITES permits and certificates, as well as models of any other legal documents associated with or required for CITES transactions;
- to exchange and provide translations in each others languages of the texts of national CITES implementing legislation, and to review the CITES implementing legislation in each of the three countries with the aim to assess their compliance with the provisions of CITES, and to undertake the necessary steps to address possible gaps and weaknesses;
- to provide mutual technical support for monitoring and controlling CITES listed species in trade;
- to organize national and international capacity building and training activities;
- to ensure that public awareness and education activities are conducted.

Finally, it was agreed that the results of the International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia needed to be made available to the relevant authorities in other North East Asian countries.

The participants recognized the great importance of regional collaboration to implement CITES, and appealed to the CITES Secretariat, the Parties to CITES, Governmental and Intergovernmental Aid Agencies, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol), World Wide Fund Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), TRAFFIC and other Non-Governmental Organizations to help and support this effort.

The participants expressed their gratitude to Save the Tiger Fund for the financial support provided for the workshop, and to the main organizers of the workshop, TRAFFIC Europe, in collaboration with Global Survival Network (GSN), Fund Phoenix, the Russian Program Office

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