

# Minutes of Meeting between UK CITES Management Authority, Scientific Authorities and SUN Representatives

10.00 – 12.00 Tuesday 10 June 2008  
Conference Rooms 4 & 5, Temple Quay House

Present:

John Hounslow (JH)	Animal Health (Chair)
Sophie Bird (SB)	Animal Health (minute taker)
Trevor Salmon (TS)	Defra (only for items 1- 4 a-c)
Vin Fleming (VF)	JNCC
Claire McLardy (CM)	JNCC
Madeleine Groves (MGr)	Kew
Lucy Garrett (LG)	Kew
Nevin Hunter (NH)	Animal Health
Jessica Abrams (JA)	Animal Health
Tom O'Hanlon (TO)	Defra (Year in industry student)
John Clorley (JCl)	Defra
Jim Collins (JC)	SUN co-ordinator
Mike Gates (MG)	International Owl Society & World Owl Trust
Keith Davenport (KD)	OATA
Manue Hooper Bue (MHB)	OATA
Kim McDonald (KM)	Taxidermy Law
Aeron Williams (AW)	Parrot Society UK
Nick Kester (NK)	Hawk Board
Dr John C David (JD)	Head of Botany, RHS Garden, Wisley
Martyn Denney (MD)	Cyclamen Society
Neil Fowler (NF)	IBR
Roger Butler (RB)	IHS
Dave Royans (DR)	IHS
Dr Miranda F. Stevenson (MS)	Director BIAZA

## 1. Apologies for Absence and Introductions

Apologies were received from: Jemima Parry-Jones (International Centre for BOP), John Spires (British Orchid Council), Robert Morgan (British Fur Trade Assoc.) and Chris Newman (REPTA and FBH)

All attendees introduced themselves.

## 2. Previous minutes and action points

It was decided that only the minutes of the joint meetings (animal and plant) would need to be agreed at future SUN meetings.

### Actions from 31 Oct Animals meeting:

Purpose Codes – COPXIV didn't reach an agreement. It is still on the agenda.

Habitats Directive – JC commented that Jean Smythe from WSC1 had agreed to obtain a legal definition.

**Action: TS to report back from CBD COPIX.**

Quarantine of Owls – JH had provided a Balai contact.

Upgrading species on Appx II to Annex A – TS reported that the effectiveness study hadn't moved forward much. It is on the agenda for Monday's EU Management Committee meeting (16 June).

Worked Items – Also on the agenda for Monday's EU Management Committee meeting when it will get discussed.

**Action: TS to report back from EU Management Committee meeting.**

Actions from 11 July Plants meeting:

SUN Meetings - Organogram had been circulated to illustrate structure of CITES policy and delivery.

Fees consultation - consultation paper didn't reach all contacts.

**Action: SB to re-circulate SUN member list to everyone to update and agree (completed at meeting).**

Habitats Directive – **Action: Report back required from WSC1**

RHS shows – MGr confirmed that Wildlife Inspectors had attended some orchid shows to make checks and report back.

**Action: JD to let WLRS know if there are any plant shows for WLRS to attend to raise awareness eg Chelsea.**

### 3. New EU Regulations 100/2008 & 318/2008

JH provided an overview which had also been publicised in the CITES bulletin. New Commission Regulation 100/2008 implementing CITES came into effect on 25 February 2008. This made some minor amendments to 865/2006.

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 318/2008 came into effect on 11 April. This replaced 1332/2005 and provides details of the species listed on the EU annexes.

**Action: SB to Check MD is on CITES Bulletin list. Send consolidated version of 100/2008 to SUN members (Enclosed). Improve links to regulations within the website (New CITES Legislation area on website see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/cites/legislation.htm>).**

### 4. Progress Report on:

#### a. Charging

TS confirmed that there was nothing to report since the consultation. 58 responses had been received and these had been summarised for the Minister. Defra are waiting to hear back from the Minister. He acknowledged that a delay at this stage increased the likelihood of the October target date slipping to April.

MD was concerned that the narrow consultation didn't take conservation benefit into consideration. TS explained that Defra's hands are tied by Government policy to recover the full cost of a service. SUN pointed out that the data used was out-of-date by 8 years, so the consultation was flawed and Animal Health should be looking at efficiency savings as their costs are too high. TS confirmed that Defra had looked at

efficiency savings and reviewed the data internally. NK pointed out that the Schedule 4 review should make savings. KD asked for conservation benefits to be produced for the EU Stricter measures. TS said any suggestions could be included in the EU effectiveness study and that traders should write to the Minister.

MG asked whether the actual level of charges likely to be levied had changed. TS indicated that the figures were under constant review but he was able to confirm that Article 10 certificates would have to be paid for and that the objective was to achieve full cost recovery for all services.

#### b. Ports of Entry

TS confirmed that Defra had received responses to the Ports of Entry consultation paper last year and is still considering the replies. Animal and Plant Health are looking at Border Inspection Posts and Defra may have to go out to consultation again. There may be more points of exit than previously consulted on but imports would only be allowed at Border Inspection Posts. Defra are trying to find a solution to the problem with the Isle of Man and Channel Islands and hope to have more news after the summer.

#### c. COTES

Defra are currently looking to review COTES including the enforcement and penalties as they're out-of-date. The review aims to have new regulations in place by next summer. KD stated that just cautioning illegal traders causes frustration to those trading legally. TS explained that the afternoon's JLG meeting would be the best place to raise this point with the enforcement authorities. NH commented that the Wildlife Inspectorate's role is to collect information and they want to focus their effort in conjunction with the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

**Action: NH agreed to bring up enforcement at the afternoon's JLG meeting and report back.**

#### d. Schedule 4 Review

JCI joined the meeting and explained that Defra had received lots of correspondence on the Schedule 4 review since the consultation in 2006. Defra had re-examined the consultation and taken into consideration the conservation value of registration. The Minister had announced earlier in the year that registration of Schedule 4 birds would be retained but would focus on the species that serve a conservation purpose and would not be disproportionate to the regulation imposed. JCI read out the list of species proposed to be retained on Schedule 4. Since this list there had been lots of discussions, mostly about Peregrines which would, subject to Ministerial agreement probably be retained on the schedule together with Merlins. JCI further explained that if retained the aim was that Peregrines and Merlins with CITES paperwork issued by the UK management authority would not be subject to registration in England. The new schedule should come into force on 1 Oct 2008. NK stated that if devolved authorities didn't follow England this would cause problems across non-existent borders. JCI explained that Defra had striven to maintain a common GB approach but has no power to influence the devolved authorities decision on Schedule 4. The actions taken by the Minister has been hugely applauded by Bird of Prey keepers. NK asked whether in future Defra could confirm who they had forwarded consultation responses to in Scotland and Wales as they claimed they hadn't seen them. An announcement on Schedule 4 is expected in July. JCI also pointed out that Bird Registration would eventually have to move to full cost recovery.

**Action: JCI to provide contacts in Wales and Scotland for future consultations.**

## 5. Primate Policy

JH explained that in consultation with SUN the primate policy had been revised and it is now not a condition of CITES licences to require applicants to comply with the Balai Directive. Applications will be processed in the usual way but a letter will be enclosed with any CITES licences advising applicants that the Balai Directive and Rabies restrictions may apply. MS asked for a statement on Balai, but JH explained that this was dealt with by another part of Animal Health.

## 6. Improving Contact with Customers

JH explained that WLRS had launched a new website and are currently working on improving the import ban list so that an interactive database would be available online. KD thought the new website was a very good development. JH explained that he welcomed any feedback on the service provided by WLRS and asked for volunteers to be contacted as part of the telephone survey exercise. KMcD volunteered.

NK asked about Defra's stakeholder database.

**Action: MS to let NK have a contact for the stakeholder database.**

## 7. Any other business

MG asked if there was any news on the bird import ban. MS stated that birds can be imported under certain conditions and JH confirmed that there wasn't a complete ban on imports.

**Action: JH to provide contact for bird imports in Chelmsford.**  
([AHITChelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:AHITChelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk))

JC asked why it takes the SRG so long to de-regulate when reviewing the species list. Specifically he was concerned about the situation with species of Mantella frogs, day geckos, chameleons and other Madagascan reptiles and amphibia which had been subject to an international review of experts and for many had been concluded that they were of least concern or possible concern but the SRG had not removed them from the EU's Negative Opinion list. VF stated this would be raised by the JNCC for review at the next appropriate meeting but explained that the import ban regulation only changes every 6 months. Decisions made at the last animals committee will be considered in time for the next revision of the regulation. KD asked if the SRG can make public the decisions made on Annex D listings.

**Action: JC to raise this with TS for a response.**

NK asked whether the problem of hand-written Article 10 certificates from Ireland had been resolved and JH confirmed that they are considered valid.

## 8. Date and place of next meeting

Back to back separate meetings for plants and animals with a lunch will be held at Kew Gardens on 14 October.