

MINUTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE UK CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES, AND SUN REPRESENTATIVES

14.00 – 16.00 Tuesday 1 September 2009,
Temple Quay House, Bristol

Present

Nick Kester	Hawk Board
Jim Collins	SUN co-ordinator
Aeron Williams	Parrot Society UK (Car Space 82)
Kim McDonald	Taxidermy Law Co
Mr Bob Clarke	Chair of the Foreign Bird Federation and NCA Executive Committee Mbr
Vicky Gates	International Owl Society
Mike Gates	World Owl Trust
Martyn Denney	Cyclamen Society
Dave Royans & Roger Butler	International Herpetological Society
Dr Miranda F. Stevenson	BIAZA
Ian Parsons	British Orchid Council
Chris Newman	Federation of British Herpetologists
John Hounslow	Animal Health (Chair)
Caroline Rigg	Animal Health
Sophie Bird	Animal Health
Nina Malecic	Animal Health (Minutes)
Sarah Hill	Animal Health
Trevor Salmon	Defra
Alison Littlewood	JNCC
Janine Robinson	JNCC
Noel McGough	Kew

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Elaine Hiskett	Caviar House & Prunier
W F Maddams	British Cactus and Succulent Soc.
Robert Morgan	British Fur Trade Association
Peter Berry	A. Berry & Son Ltd
Neil Fowler	Independent Bird Register
Tom Blades	BASC
Keith Davenport	OATA
John David	RHS –Wisely
Brian Ritterhausen	British Orchid Growers Association
Ian Plested	British Orchid Growers Association

2. Previous minutes and action points

The previous minutes were agreed. There were no actions outstanding.

3. Progress Reports on:

a. Charging - Treatment of semi-complete permits and certificates, applications for hybrids, reports from traders etc on levels of compliance and significant disruption to trade patterns .

The updated guidance for hybrid & composite specimens and semi-complete certificates was presented at the meeting. This has been added to the Animal Health website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/Charges/citesfees.htm#16>.

Jim Collins and Ian Parsons raised the issue that the export trade in orchids is in demise as a direct result of the increase in charges. It was highlighted that many foreign orchid traders and exhibitors are reluctant to come to the UK due to CITES.

Nick Kester also voiced concerns about the increase in fees, emphasizing the complexity of registering hybrid birds and paying separately for each species. Also that Bird of Prey swabs for VLA require a separate permit. It was called for the system to be simplified. JH said he was addressing these problems.

In response to an issue raised by Nick Kester about a rise in imports from other EU countries due to the increase in CITES fees, Trevor Salmon explained that indications of a change in trade patterns would be of concern to the commission.

Jim Collins emphasised the need to address animal welfare issues as the increase in fees may encourage traders to make less shipments with higher numbers of animals. John Hounslow agreed that this was a significant issue and should be raised at COP XV.

Action: John Hounslow to review guidance on hybrids and update website.

b. Schedule 4 - Amendments to legislation for the registration of captive birds in Scotland and Wales

Scotland

New legislation was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 29 August 2009 which will come into force on 21 September 2009.

This will mean that the registration requirements for Schedule 4 birds will be the same in England, Scotland and Wales.

c. Study to improve importer/exporter experience within AH

The study is proceeding to have an electronic way of applications being exchanged between Carlisle and Bristol.

d. E-licensing Project

John Hounslow explained that the results of the E-licensing project being carried-out by Switzerland and the UK would be presented at COPXV.

e. Tortoise Marking Project

Alison Littlewood reported that the second phase of a project that had been jointly commissioned by JNCC and Defra to find an alternative method of marking juvenile testudinids in trade had now been completed and a report of the findings submitted. The second phase of this project tested the viability of using Nonatec™ mini microchips and Alpha Dots™ as methods of uniquely marking testudinid species from hatchlings. JNCC/Defra are in the process of reviewing the reports recommendations which should be available via their websites in the next month, and hope to submit it to the SRG and EC CITES Committee for consideration at their November meetings.

f. COTES & Ports of Entry Legislation

Trevor Salmon announced that there has been a minor amendment to COTES to remove a loophole from the legislation. Defra will be carrying out a review of COTES (led by Lynn Beaufort) and this should be completed by April 2011. A select number of people will be asked to attend a focus group meeting on 9 October to brainstorm before the consultation paper is published.

Action: Trevor Salmon's branch will invite people to attend the focus group.

4. Compliance and Enforcement of CITES in the UK

John Hounslow is to contribute to the Defra report to the Minister explaining the effect of the fee increase on compliance. He asked that any intelligence about the practice of illegal trade should be sent to him. The use of examples such as the online trade in orchids without permits would be a useful illustration of an increase in the level of non-compliance.

Action: Jim Collins to co-ordinate any evidence of illegal trade due to fee increases and send to John Hounslow by 30 Sept.

Bob Clarke brought up a problem with rings issued by the IOA and BBC for birds.

Action: Jim Collins to write to Trevor Salmon who will take the problem up with Natural England.

Nick Kester left the meeting at 15:20

5. Report back from CITES Standing Committee Meeting, Plants and Animals Committee Meetings.

Summary reports for all 3 meetings can be found at the following weblinks:

18th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, Buenos Aires (17-21 March 2009):
<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/18/E-PC18-sum-DRAFT.pdf>

24TH Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, Geneva (20-24 April 2009) :
<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/24/E-AC24-SumRec.pdf>

58th Meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva (6-10 July 2009):
<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/58/sum/index.shtml>

6. Forthcoming SRG meeting in Sept.

Alison Littlewood informed the meeting that the next SRG would be held on 11 September and then proceeded to go through the agenda highlighting items of potential interest to SUN members, including: a review by UNEP-WCMC of species/countries that had been subject to long standing import suspensions, and a review of non-CITES reptiles & amphibians for inclusion on the EC annexes.

Action: Any comments to be sent directly to Alison Littlewood before 10 September. Alison Littlewood to send Jim Collins a list of non-CITES reptiles being considered.

7. Conference of the Parties XV – likely proposals and resolutions etc.

The EU has not yet decided what proposals are to be taken forward at the next Conference of the Parties (CoP XV) in Qatar next March. Deadline for proposals is October 14th.

Noel McGough reported that there is an ongoing attempt to remove hybrid orchids from the CITES list. The next CoP may see further exemptions for succulent plants but further extension of the exemptions for orchid hybrids is unlikely. Guidance for exemptions will be clarified to make interpretation easier. However there is not likely to be an exemption for herbarium specimens due to lack of support from the CITES regions.

Action: CoP XV timetable to be attached to minutes (see enclosed).

8. AOB

Action: John Hounslow to chase up any further developments with the Lacey Act. Sophie Bird to provide a contact name to Mike Gates for the Barn Owl Release Scheme.

9. Date and Place of Next meeting

The next meeting will be 26 January 2010, at Kew Gardens.