

CATCA at the Seminar on the implementation of wildlife trade regulations in Central and Eastern Europe



CATCA participated in a Seminar on the implementation of wildlife trade regulations in Central and Eastern Europe. Representatives from nine Central and Eastern European countries, several non-governmental organizations, including CATCA met last week in Poznań, Poland to examine the ways to improve wildlife trade regulations in the region.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe share similar problems related to an effective enforcement of CITES regulations (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and because of their geographic situation, they have a unique responsibility for controlling the importation of protected animals and plants and their products from Asia.

The delegates examined issues ranging from ownership, registration and commercial trading of protected wildlife to ways of tackling the growing web-organized trafficking of protected species.

CATCA was invited to participate in the meeting, in particular to a session specialized to the illegal trade on the internet. Ericka Ceballos from CATCA presented the results of her last three monitorings of the internet trade in protected species in Latin America.

One of her monitorings was conducted according to the methodology developed by the Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra" and CEEweb for Biodiversity which is widely used in Europe.

The delegates agreed that the requirements for certificates of legal origin for specimens in national and EU trade should be standardized across the region and these are currently being drafted. All participants agreed that the seminar should be held on a regular basis and the next meeting is planned for 2012.

The meeting was held during Poland's current term as the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Seminar was organized by the Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra" and supported financially by the EU and the network of nature conservation NGO's of Central and Eastern Europe: CEEweb for Biodiversity.

The 35 delegates included representatives of CITES scientific and management authorities from nine countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine, and NGOs, were invited to attend by the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation and the Polish Ministry of the Environment.

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