CATCA

CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



Report 2009

Internet trade of CITES species of animals in Ecuador




Research done and Report prepared by
Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals

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INTRODUCTION

E-commerce is an ever accelerating phenomenon. People can find and buy almost anything on the internet. Among the large scale buying and selling of goods and services taking place on the internet, animals, plants, and their derivatives have become a widespread commodity in this type of trade. As the internet knows no borders, it causes several new problems regarding the enforcement of the protection of endangered species. It comes as no surprise that among animals listed on the World Wide Web, protected animal species are commonly found on buy and sale offers. Due to the widespread ease and the unregulated nature of the internet, e-commerce is of great concern to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

To deal successfully with the threat facilitated by the e-commerce on protected species, it is crucial to know and regularly monitor the level and trends of this problem. Therefore, several attempts to assess this trade have already been attempted. Most of these studies were conducted in North America, Europe and Asia[3,7]. It was expected that Latin America would have a low internet trade on protected animal species and the results of the first research done in Latin America supported this opinion[4]. However, the preliminary review done in 2008 by CATCA showed that the internet trade across Latin America is more widespread and numerous than expected. Some Latin countries showed a staggering number of protected animal species for e-sale. Furthermore, the legal origin of many of the specimens offered on sites has been dubious at best. This is why we decided to start a more developed monitoring system, which can provide the data allowing both, a qualitative and a quantity analysis.

Latin America has a wide range of cultures and economic development levels. As a result, the use of the internet varies in scale from country to country. We decided to limit our scope to a single country and chose Ecuador as the first country where we would

monitor, test and record the levels of internet trade on protected species of animals.

Why Ecuador? This country is not very developed in the internet trade; it is located in South America, close to Central America and has an amazing array of animal species, many of which are unique in the animal world.

The majority of the inhabitants of Ecuador are indigenous, but there is also a minority, which are European descendants.

We expected that the level of trade would not be too large, but it could be evidence for the characteristics typical for this part of the word.

To conduct this research we chose the method developed in Poland by the Polish Society for Nature Conservation SALAMANDRA and presented during the CITES e-commerce workshop in Vancouver, Canada on the 24-26 February 2009[8]. This method allows the observation of current activity, the tracking of changes, as well as the estimation of the current and projected e-trade levels. So far, this method has already been used in nine European countries[6,7], which allows the equitable comparison of the results.

We will address the results of this research not only to the proper enforcement and management authorities of CITES in Ecuador and other Latin American countries, but also to the internet service providers, NGO's, and all institutions and experts involved in the monitoring and management of the trade in endangered species. We hope our results can be of widespread use to create awareness of this growing problem.

This research was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Rufford Small Grants, as well as the training and expert advice of SALAMANDRA.

METHOD

CATCA followed the methodology developed by SALAMANDRA, Poland. This methodology is described in detail in the reports of the monitoring done by CEEweb[6,7]. The research done according to this methodology consists of two parts: the main monitoring and the testing search.

Main monitoring - It consists of taking snapshots of the internet at regular intervals (e.g. every 1 or 2 months or every year), to make an inventory of the sale offers of animals from CITES species (both alive and products or derivatives). It is done on 15-25 selected websites of different kinds per country. Each website is surveyed no longer than one day each time.

For Ecuador, 19 internet services were chosen for the main monitoring (tab. 1). According to the methodology, these services were chosen where the higher number of sale offers of CITES animal species has been noticed. The snap-shots on these websites were done once a month, July - December, 2009.

Testing search - The effectiveness of the main monitoring is tested by the intensive search for 5-7 species (or groups of species) on the whole web in the country. This is done parallel to each main monitoring. The results of these tests are used for calculating the coefficient of correction data from the main monitoring. This coefficient is calculated from the formula:

X = (Fm + Ft) : Ft

X - the data correction coefficient,

Fm - the total number of offers of test species found during the main monitoring,

Ft - the total number of offers of test species found during the testing search, which were not detected during the main monitoring.

Since the species found in the internet trade in Latin America differ a lot from the ones found in Central and Eastern Europe, distinct species to the ones in Europe have been chosen for the testing search. For Ecuador, we used the following six taxa: ocelot, elephant (ivory), capuchin monkey (*Cebus* spp.), blue-and-gold macaw, grey parrot and tortoises (Testudinidae spp.). In our result we got a coefficient X = 2.3. This is similar to coefficients received in the European countries, which range between 1.2 and 3.1.

The data from the main monitoring is multiplied by the data correction coefficient. This is done to estimate the average total number or total value of internet sale offers of CITES animals species present on Ecuadorian web services at a given moment. This tracking analysis allows for a com-parison with the results from other countries done with the same methodology. In the future, it will also allow us to better observe and chart the changes in the scale of animal e-commerce in Ecuador.

Additionally, we attempted to assess the legal origin of the specimens for sale. A sample of over 10% of the specimens for sale (253) were chosen for analysis. If the assessment was impossible to be done because of the lack of information provided in the seller's offer (which was the case in most of the offers), we tried to contact the seller(s) to ask questions about the specimen's origin and the kind of documents provided to the buyer.

Tab. 1. Numbers and percentages of sale offers of CITES animals species found on services searched during the main monitoring in Ecuador in 2009

Name of the service	URL address of the main page	Number of offers on this service	% of offers in main monitoring	Estimated % of offers in Ecuador
Bacan	www.bacan.com	400	17,7	7,7
Que barato	www.quebarato.com.ec	394	17,5	7,6
Cittys	www.cittys.ec	340	15,1	6,6
Compra-venta en Ecuador	www.compra-venta.org/ecuador	266	11,8	5,1
Adoos	www.adoos.ec	231	10,3	4,5
(e)visos clasificados	www.evisos.ec	149	6,6	2,9
Anuncioses.com	www.anuncioses.com/Ecuador	130	5,8	2,5
A anuncios	www.anuncios.ec	126	5,6	2,4
OLX	www.olx.com.ec	54	2,4	1,0
Campus Anuncios	quito.campusanuncios.com	27	1,2	0,5
Mundo Anuncio	www.mundoanuncio.com	21	0,9	0,4
Venta publica	www.ventapublica.com	20	0,9	0,4
Anuncios.com.ec	www.anuncios.com.ec	16	0,7	0,3
Tu aviso	ec.tuaviso.net	16	0,7	0,3
Latinoamerica perfecto	latinoamerica.perfeto.com	15	0,7	0,3
Mercado	mascotas.mercado.ec	15	0,7	0,3
Mercado Libre	articulo.mercadolibre.com.ec	15	0,7	0,3
A cambiode	ecuador.acambiode.com	10	0,4	0,2
Clasificados.st Ecuador	ec.clasificados.st	10	0,4	0,2
Together on the monitored services:		2252	100	43,5

RESULTS

Scale and intensity of trade

Altogether on the 19 World Wide Web services in Ecuador searched during the 6 repetitions of the main monitoring, 2252 sale offers of specimens of CITES animals species have been found. The estimated number of specimens offered on these advertisements was almost 16,500, and their estimated total value was over 6,650,000 USD. In the table 1 the list of monitored services is given, with numbers of offers found on each of them.

According to these results, nine services gather over 40% of the internet trade on CITES animal species in Ecuador (fig. 1). All of them are general advertisement services, where all kinds of products and other items can be bought. The rest of the trade is dispersed among many other services and private pages, with single offers on each of them. Out of these nine services, we didn't find any other service in which more than a 1% of trade would be present. Such concentration is characteristic for this new developing internet market. In the years to come, we can expect the development of new services, out of which some will be specialized on the trade of animals.

To estimate the scale of the trade and to be able to compare the results with the ones from other research studies, the average level of e-trade on all internet web pages must be estimated. It can be done with the use of the data correction coefficient, calculated according to the method described on the page 2. In 2009, the estimated average of the total number of sale offers on

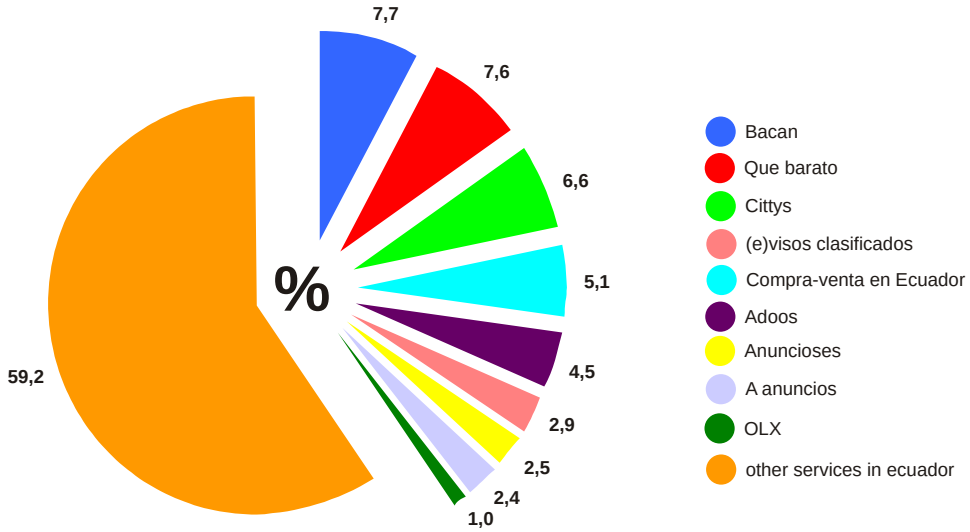

Fig. 1. Estimated share of nine leading services in the internet trade on CITES animal species in Ecuador

CITES animal specimens present at any moment on the internet in Ecuador, is **over 860**. The estimated average total value of these offers is **over 2.5 million USD**.

Following the method used, countries can be divided in 5 categories, according to the average scale of the e-trade on CITES animal species. These categories are shown in the tab. 2.

According to this, Ecuador belongs to the category B (moderate e-trade), but it's approaching the border with category C. This is a surprisingly high result, and shows that the e-commerce on protected species is quite developed in Ecuador. The estimated average amount of offers is 3 times bigger than what was detected in 2009 in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine and 2 times bigger than that in Bulgaria. Out of 6 European countries monitored in 2009 with the same methodology, only in Poland (which is in category C) is the e-trade scale bigger.

When taking under consideration the estimated average total value of all the offers to sell the CITES animal specimens in Ecuador, the comparison with other countries gives an even more interesting result. The scale of trade measured by the total value of offers is much bigger than in any of the six countries monitored with this method in Europe (fig 2).

There are two main reasons why the total value of offers in Ecuador is comparatively large. The first one is the kind of specimens found in trade. The vast majority of the offers (97.6%) involve live animals, often rare species. Products, derivatives, trophies and

Tab. 2. Categories of the countries according to the scale of e-trade on CITES animal species[6]

Sym-bol	Name of category	Range of average numbers of offers to sale animal CITES specimens, present in any day in internet in the country
A	insignificant e-trade	100 ≥
B	moderate e-trade	101-1,000
C	significant e-trade	1,001-10,000
D	vast e-trade	> 10.000 / day

Tab. 3. Average prices of a CITES animal specimen offered for sale in internet in seven countries in 2009. Data from Europe according to CEEweb[6]

Country	BU	CZ	PL	RO	SL	UA	EC
Average price of 1 specimen [USD]	381	328	115	447	281	296	407

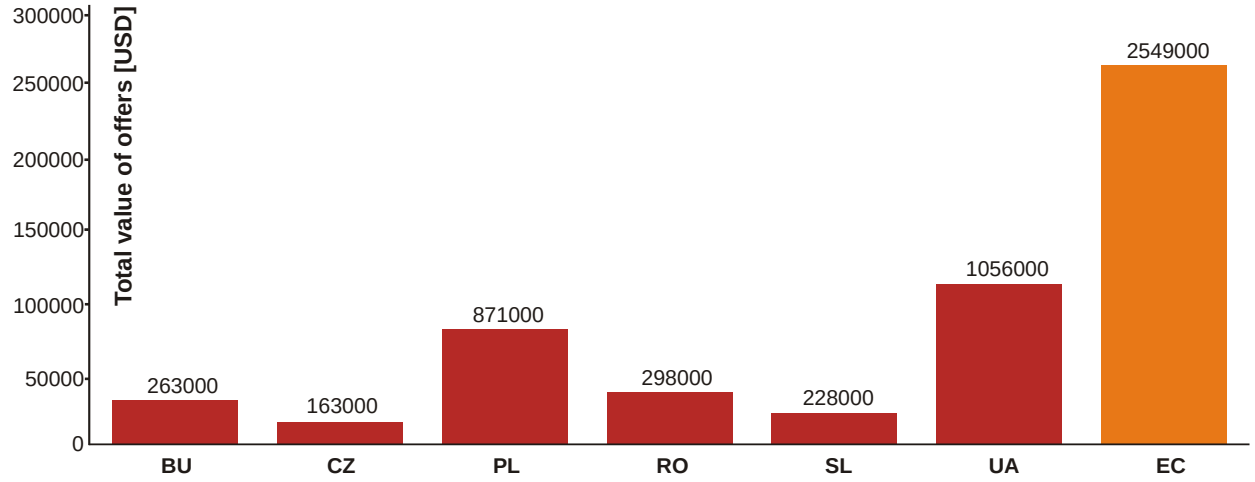

Fig. 2. The average total value of sales offers of CITES animal species in seven countries in 2009. Data from Europe according to CEEweb[6]

other non live specimens are the subject of only 2.4% of the offers. Among the live animals for sale in the internet trade, mostly mammals, birds and reptiles are offered. Other taxa are represented only in about 1% of the offers (fig. 3). This explains why the average price of one specimen is quite large. Usually the prices of invertebrates (e.g. tarantulas from the *Brachypelma* genus) or small derivative items (e.g. watch stripes from crocodile leather or jewellery made of blue corals) are smaller than the ones of live mammals, birds or reptiles. This is why the average price of one specimen in Ecuador is quite high (tab. 3). Only in Romania, where the highest percentage of mammal's offers has been detected (19.6%), the average price of the specimen is higher.

The total number of offers in the country shows the scale of the trade, but it is influenced by the size of the country. To estimate the intensity of the e-commerce, the best indicator is the number of offers which fall on 100,000 citizens of the country. Four categories of intensity were proposed in the method used (tab. 4). In the case of Ecuador in 2009, the average number of offers fallen to 100,000 citizens is 5.9. It means that this country is in the category II (modest e-trade).

Tab. 4. Categories of countries according to the intensity of e-commerce on CITES animal species[6]

Sym-bol	Name of category	Average number of Internet offers of sale of animal CITES specimens, present on any day on the Internet in the country, per 100 000 inhabitants
I	low e-trade	5 ≥
II	modest e-trade	6-10
III	intense e-trade	11-20
IV	very intense e-trade	> 20

The intensity of e-commerce is influenced by the Internet accessibility in the country. According to the Internet World Stats[5], in 2009 in Ecuador only a 12.1% of citizens were internet users. In Ecuador 49 sale offers of CITES animal specimens fall on 100,000 internet users. This is much more, than in European countries covered by the monitoring so far (the highest result was in Poland: 15.3). This is probably caused by the fact that in the Ecuadorian internet services some offers are placed by sellers from other Latin American countries. The use of the same language in most of the countries of the region facilitates such trade.

Species in e-trade

As it was mentioned above, the vast majority of the internet trade on CITES animal species in Ecuador deals with live animals: 73% of the offers are bird's species (fig. 3), and 16% of the offers concern mammals. In comparison with other countries, it is quite a huge result. On the contrary, 10% of offers concerning reptiles are 3 times less than the average share of this class observed in Europe. Protected species of other classes were represented in the internet trade in Ecuador in an insignificant percentage.

At least 101 species of animals protected under CITES have been found on e-trade in Ecuador in 2009. In some cases animals could be recognized only to the level of genus or other higher category, so the real number of species in the trade could be larger. Additionally, 5 kinds of interspecies hybrids were found.

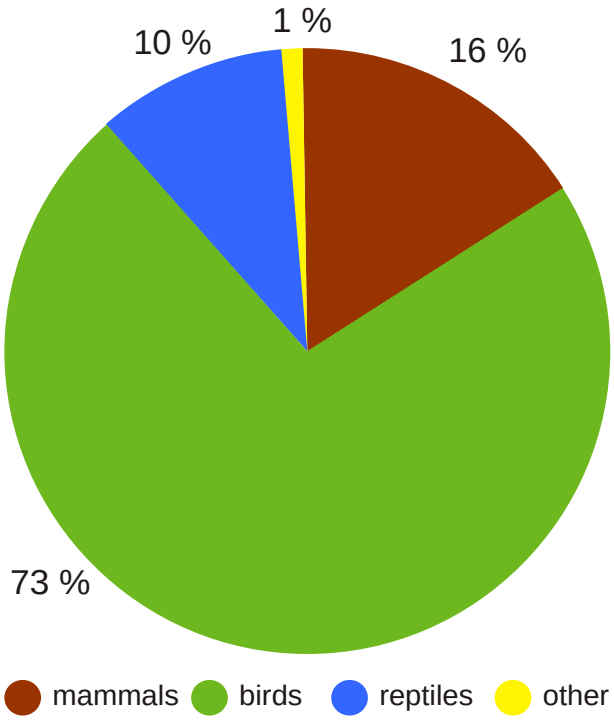

Fig. 3. The share of taxa in the internet offers of sale animal CITES specimens in Ecuador in 2009

Out of the 118 taxa distinguished in the monitoring, 22 species are native to Ecuador and 17 taxa are the groups of species, among which some are native for this country. Together, a 33% of taxa are potentially native for Ecuador and they have been represented in a 37.1% of offers. A high percentage of native species present on the e-commerce means that Ecuador is a potential source country of many wild

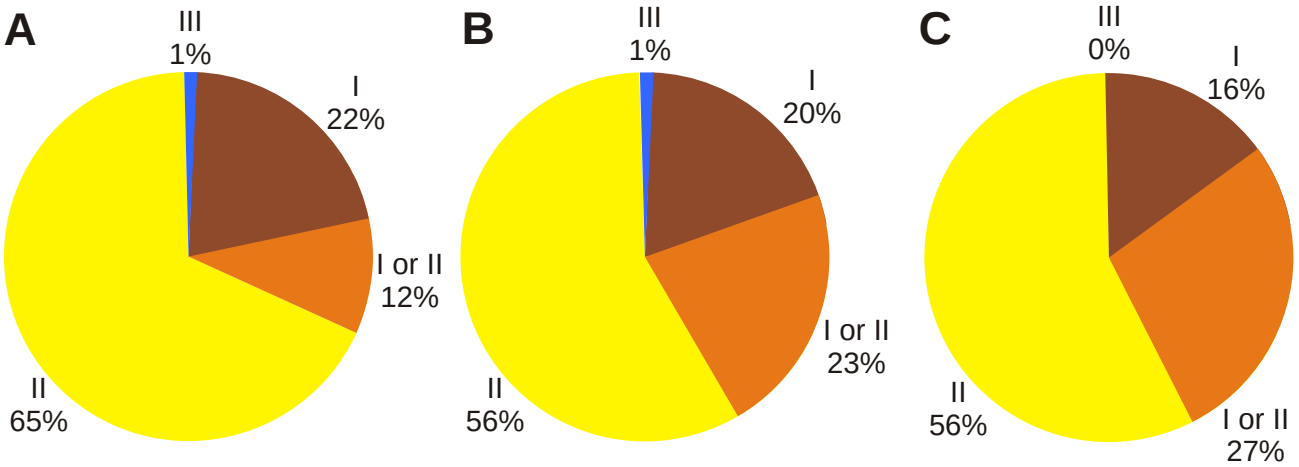

Fig. 4. Share of CITES Appendixes in the internet trade on animal specimens in Ecuador in 2009. A - taxa in trade, B- number of offers, C - total value of offers

caught animals on the international internet trade. In the European countries the percentage of offers of the native species on any country didn't reach 10%. An additional 58 taxa found in the e-commerce in Ecuador (49,2%) are native for Latin America. They have been represented by 47% of the offers.

A 22% of taxa (26 species) distinguished in the monitoring, are from CITES Appendix I. In addition, in the case of 14 taxa (12%), which were distinguished only to the level of genus or higher, there are species from the Appendixes I and II, so the real number in Appendix I species on the e-commerce in Ecuador could be larger. The share in the trade of number of offers concerning Appendix I species is 20% and the share of total value is 16% (fig. 4). The minor total value is the result of the fact that usually the sale offers of animals species from Appendix I deals with a smaller number of specimens. The average prices of Appendix I species specimens is 35 USD higher than the average one for all species. During this monitoring only one species from Appendix III was found in e-trade in Ecuador (brown sea cucumber).

Mammals in e-trade

Mammals are the second largest group of CITES protected animal species found on Ecuadorian internet for sale. We found at least 23 mammal species (and 2 inter-species hybrids) of different orders. The most common offers we found were ones of primates, followed by felines (fig 5).

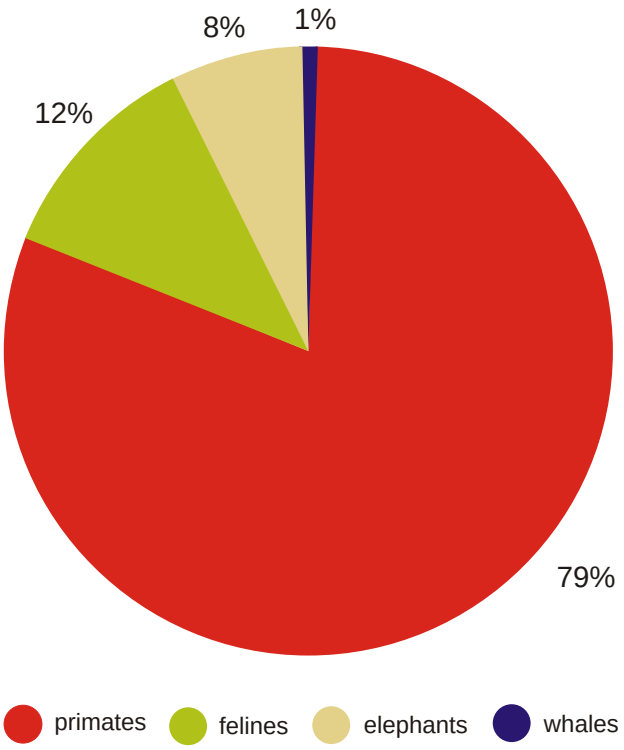

Fig. 5. Share of mammal offers on e-trade on CITES species in Ecuador in 2009

Primates

In 2009 Ecuador had an estimated average number of 110 primate offers of sale present every day. The estimated average daily total value of these primate sales is over a quarter million USD.

The most common species of primates being offered for sale internet in Ecuador are the capuchin monkeys (*Cebus* spp.) The capuchin monkeys have an average number of 60 offers present every day on

NOTE: These prices found in Ecuador for capuchins, spider monkeys, titis and marmosets are for the Latin American market. The average price for specimen is less than 550 USD, with many specimens offered for 300-400 USD. The prices of the same species in other parts of the world, specially in developed countries, are usually 2-4 times higher.


the internet. Because the capuchins are presented to the public as cute baby pets, wearing diapers and baby clothes to make them look like live toys, they are attractive to the general public.

Titi monkeys (*Callicebus* spp.) are next in demand, followed by spider monkeys (*Saimiri* spp.) and the marmosets (*Callithryx* spp.) Many of these species are native to Ecuador and other Latin American countries. The list of Primates species detected is presented in tab. 5.

In the case of the many offers found in this investigation, we were not able to determine the species or origin of the specimens. Although we attempted to contact the sellers to provide us with more information, there was either no response on behalf of the seller or the information sent was too basic to allow us to have a proper judgement about the species. Therefore, in many cases, the offered monkey was determined simply to genus or a higher taxon.

As an interesting note, several sellers advertise monkeys for sale from countries as far as Cameroon and Kenya. After contacting these sellers, we realized that several of these advertisements were false and should be treated as scams. The offered animals simply didn't exist, and "sellers," after receiving the payment, only requested more money e.g. for releasing the animal from quarantine, paying last minute veterinarian fees or for additional documents needed. This is also observed in many other countries all over the world and obviously is done by well organised groups of criminals.

Surprisingly, we found some chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and few rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) offered for sale in Ecuador. There is a possibility that several of the offers of chimpanzees are false.

Felines

Ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*), servals (*L. serval*), caracals (*Caracal caracal*) and bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are feline species regularly found in Ecuador in internet sale offers. Ocelots were offered mostly as fur products. It is worth mentioning that ocelots were the only species that we found on Ecuadorian internet sites being offered as fur products. The rest of the feline species were offered for sale as live animals. Among small felines for sale, we also found the savannah cats (which are a hybrid breed of servals and domestic cats). The average total number of offers of these species present in internet listings in this country is about 12 and their total value is over 71,000 USD.

In addition to small feline species, we also found lion cubs (*Panthera leo*), tigers (*P. tigris*) and even jaguars (*P. onca*) for sale online in Ecuador. All of them were live specimens. In some of these cases the sellers were abroad, but the advertisements were published on Ecuadorian internet services.




Elephants

Elephant ivory specimens for sale in internet in Ecuador are not very numerous, however they can be found regularly. The estimated average numbers of offers is about 11, with a total value of offer slightly exceeding 32,000 USD. This is a very small scale of ivory trade compared with some other Latin American countries. For more information on this issue, please check our CATCA Ivory Trade Report **http://catcahelpanimals.org/CATCAIvoryTradeReport2010.html.**



Whales

Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) oil is used to create hair products such as: Capillary therapy shampoo, conditioner, lotion, rinse, ampoules and soap. We have found several of these products on the Ecuadorian internet market, varying brands with different countries of origin.

NOTE: Spermaceti is a wax present in the head cavities of the sperm whale (cachalot). A large cachalot whale would have as much as three tons of spermaceti. Since 1986, when the International Whaling Commission moratorium introduced a ban on commercial whaling, the whale oil stop to be a necessity and some other substitutes are been used instead, most commonly the jojoba oil, which is used in the same way. However we found several products claiming to be sperm whale oil or spermaceti in Latin America on the internet, but we could not confirm if these products really contain spermaceti or if they are just advertised that way.

Birds in e-trade

Birds occupied first place in internet trade on CITES animal specimens in Ecuador. The vast majority of these birds are parrots. Only about 1,7% sale offers deal with other bird orders. The estimated average number of offers of CITES birds species present everyday on internet sites in Ecuador is about 630, with a total value of over 1,733,000 USD. The average price of one bird was less than 340 USD.

Parrots

Surprisingly, the most popular species of birds offered for sale on the Ecuadorian internet is not the colourful parrot or toucan native to Latin America, but an African bird, which is more plain in appearance: the grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*). The estimated average number of sale offers regarding this species present daily on the Ecuadorian internet is just over 110. This bird also dominates in some European countries[5]. Additionally, over 20% of the offers of birds found in Ecuador are cockatoos from the family Cacatuidae, which are also not native to the Americas (fig. 6).

However, in Ecuador, as in many countries, there is also a huge demand for macaws,

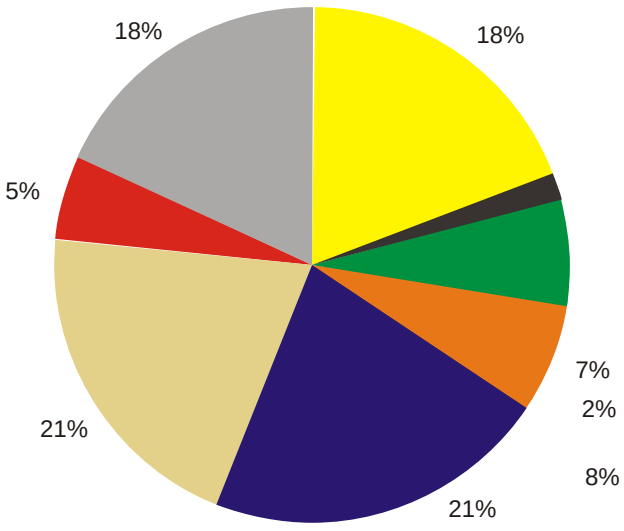

Fig. 6. Share of birds offers on e-trade in Ecuador in 2009

NOTE: During the estimation of the legal origin, in several cases sellers offered to "organize the transportation" of the birds to other Latin American countries without any CITES permits. As the customs experience shows, in many cases, macaws, amazons and other bird species sold online are previously trapped in their natural habitat. Suffering already from the trauma induced by the violent way they are trapped and handled, these birds still have to endure numerous days and often even weeks in inhumane conditions and transportation without water or food. During the transportation they are hidden inside small places to conceal them, where they suffer from the high temperature and lack of air. Another method used is to tape the beaks of the birds so they don't make noise. Birds are also drugged and stuffed inside shoes, socks, boxes, cans and suitcases, so the majority of these birds die before reaching their destination.[1, 2]

amazons and all other parrot species, which are native to Latin America. This group of species is subject to over 41% of the total offers of parrots for sale. The most numerous native species on e-trade in Ecuador are the blue and gold macaw (*Ara araurana*) and the hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), both present on Ecuadorian internet listings, averaging 45 offers per day.

It is worth mentioning that eggs of different parrot species are also found for sale online, with prices ranging from 40 to 50 USD per specimen.

Other orders of birds

Only two other than parrots bird species protected by CITES were detected on the e-offers in Ecuador. During each monitoring, several offers of toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*) were found as live birds and eggs. During the whole monitoring, just one sale offer of an owl of unidentified species was found.

Reptiles in e-trade

We didn't find many reptiles during our internet trade monitoring in Ecuador.

The estimated average number of internet sale offers of CITES reptiles species in Ecuador was about 85, with a total value of offered specimens at about 75,500 USD. There were no derivatives made from reptiles found on the monitored internet services. In more developed countries in Latin America and in Europe, it is quite common to find on the internet market large amounts of products made of crocodile or snake leather.

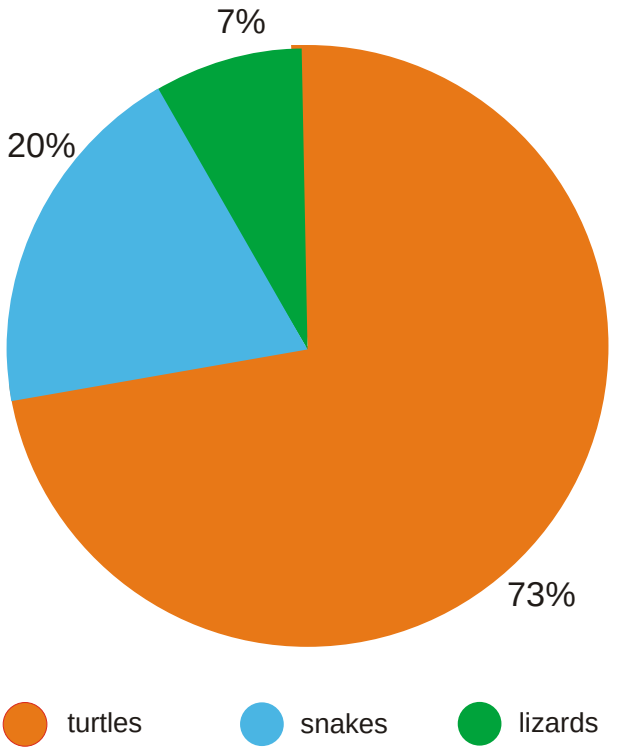

Fig. 7. Share of reptiles offers on e-trade in Ecuador in 2009

Turtles

Turtles are the most common reptiles found in the Ecuadorian internet trade. There is a wide variety of tortoises (land turtles) species found in this internet market. At least 14 of the species detected in trade are alien for the Ecuador fauna and mostly originate from Africa, Asia or Europe. Out of those listed, only the red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*) is a native to other South American countries. Nevertheless, there are also two species native to Ecuador, which are often found on the internet trade in this country: The Brazilian giant (or yellow-footed) tortoise (*Ch. denticulata*) and the Galapagos giant tortoise (*Ch. nigra*). Both species are listed in the Vulnerable Category on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The average price of a tortoise specimen on the internet trade in Ecuador was of about 150 USD.

We also found some see turtle shells on sale from the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Snakes

Just four species of protected snakes under CITES were found during the monitoring. Three of them were pythons (*Python* spp.) and one was a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*). The boa constrictor is a native to Ecuador. Some of the specimens offered for sale, were from different morphs (genetic mutations), with altered colors and patterns.

Lizards

Although at least five species of lizards from 5 genera have been found during the monitoring, none of them were offered in more than 3 advertisements. The green iguana (*Iguana iguana*), is the only lizard native to Ecuador found in our research and we have found it only in one offer. It is worth it to mention, that the our check of legality of the offers showed, that none of the specimens of lizards have any proof of a legal origin, even when the sellers in the majority of the cases are ready to send the sold specimens abroad.

Other animals in e-trade

Amphibians

The Mexican axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) was the only amphibian species found few times on the internet classified ads in Ecuador, at an average price of 35 USD per specimen. The sellers were prepared to ship them out of the country and not even once any documents or CITES permits were mentioned.

Fish

Only offers of dry seahorses from the genus *Hippocampus* were twice found in our research, but we were unable to identify the species to which they belong. No other fish from the CITES species were detected on the e-trade in Ecuador in 2009.

We found some companies who advertise dry or frozen shark fins for sale in the Ecuadorian internet. These companies only trade their products with other similar companies. Several times we attempted to

NOTE: One pound of shark fins can cost about 100 USD in Ecuador but abroad these prices can reach thousands of USD[10]. It is worth it to mention that in Ecuador annually between 300,000 to 800,000 sharks are killed exclusively for their fins[11] making sharks one of the most trafficated fish[9]. CITES protected white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) are among them.

contact them but they were quite reluctant to provide any information about the species, so we only know that they sell fins from several shark species, but we could not identify them.

Invertebrates

Some companies sell in internet brown sea cucumbers (*Isostichopus fuscus*) either frozen or dried. The main traders are companies from Peru, but we found a couple of Ecuadorian companies selling them as well. They were not very eager to disclose information when requested to provide more data about the origin of their products. The price of a kilogram of brown sea cucumber in the detected offers range from 16 USD to 30 USD, depending on the kind of preservation. When sold abroad, especially to Asian countries, this price will increase considerably.

From the arthropods protected under CITES, on the internet Ecuadorian services we found just one offer regarding a emperor scorpion (*Pandinus imperator*) and two offers of tarantulas from the genus *Brachypelma*, unidentified to the level of species. Obviously these animals are present, but they are not popular on the pet market in Ecuador.

Black coral is used as raw material for a handicraft that has been developed recently in some towns nearby the coast in Ecuador. However this kind of coral products was not found in our research online. In two monitored services there were advises not to acquire black coral, because it is protected by the Ecuadorian law. The derivatives that we found, were corals turned into expensive jewellery for sale in a boutique.

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CONCLUSIONS

It is estimated that every day there is an average 860 offers of protected animals for sale, in the Ecuadorian internet, which is worth over 2.5 million USD. This means, that the e-commerce on CITES species is quite developed in this country. Even if it is still on the lower level compared to the other Latin American countries, it is developing quite rapidly.

Ecuador has a large number of fauna species that are on the IUCN Red List and the illegal traffic is affecting many of them. Yearly, hundreds of thousands of primates, birds, reptiles and tropical fishes find their way to the illegal market, with many specimens appearing on the internet sale offers. The abundance on the e-trade of macaws and small primates is quite alarming.

Ecuador is not only the source country of the CITES species in trade. The majority of the protected wild animals offered for sale in the internet in Ecuador are alien species, which originate from all over the World.

Ecuadorians buy exotic animals mostly because they lack the basic knowledge about the damage caused by the illegal trade. The majority of the sellers in internet doesn't know about the legal requirements concerning international and internal trade on CITES species. Wild animals are often seen in Ecuador (as in most of Latin America), as a kind of “live toys”, which are much more appealing than the normal cats and dogs. To have an exotic animal species as an uncommon pet is frequently seen as a symbol of a social status. Of course, the more “strange”, exotic and larger the animal is, the better it is. This is and always has been a major problem all over Latin America, but this attitude and unawareness can change with a proper wide education aimed at the general public.

Some managers of the Ecuadorian internet services are aware of the problems caused by illegal trade on protected fauna and flora, so they have some warnings and advices in their WWW pages. However there are no any established rules and in most of the services there are no any regulations established about this kind of trade. It would be advisable to develop some proper guidelines for the providers of these services and to encourage them to use it. At the same time any intentional support to the illegal trade on endangered species should be prosecuted (especially when it is done for profit).

Many professional sellers are deliberately trading on animals of protected species without the proper documents (most probably because these specimens have an illegal origin). These days, it is quite easy to hide behind the anonymity of the internet, with fake names and several e-mail addresses, making it very difficult to track where the sellers are in the world and the real location of the animals. Some of these people are there under false pretenses and advertising animals for scam purposes, offering to ship animals which don't even exist. To deal with these crimes in an appropriated way, a special understanding and abilities are needed. All states should organize special units to work exclusively on this field. These special teams could be a branch of the police or any other enforcement authority. In order to decrease illegal trade on protected species, it is necessary to develop a special collaboration between the national enforcement authorities all over Latin America.

We recommend to repeat and conduct similar monitorings on a regular basis, but not only for Ecuador but for all over Latin America, to evaluate and compare the e-trade in these countries. The same methodology has been used successfully in Europe and proved to be quite efficient.

CATCA intends to use its experience to continue the monitoring on e-commerce on CITES species in Latin America. Any institutions or organisations interesting in sponsoring these projects are welcome to contact us at the address: iwccites@hotmail.com.

Tab. 5. Animal species and other taxa, listed in CITES appendixes, found in 2009 in e-trade in Ecuador

English name	Scientific name	CITES Appendix	Frequency in e-trade	Native for Ecuador	Native for Latin America
mammals					
spider monkey	*Ateles* sp.	I/II	1	+/-	+
white-eared titi	*Callicebus donacophilus*	II	1	-	+
titi	*Callicebus* sp.	II	3	+/-	+
hybrid titi	*Callicebus* x sp.	II	1	+/-	+
ashy-black titi	*Callicebus cinerascens*	II	1	-	+
common marmoset	*Callithrix jacchus*	II	1	-	+
black-pencilled marmoset	*Callithrix penicillata*	II	1	-	+
marmoset	*Callithrix* sp.	I/II	2	+/-	+
pygmy marmoset	*Callithrix pygmaea*	II	1	+	+
caracal	*Caracal caracal*	I/II	2	-	-
capuchin monkey	*Cebus* sp.	II	3	+/-	+
black-capped capuchin	*Cebus apella*	II	2	-	+
weeper capuchin	*Cebus olivaceus*	II	2	-	+
white-headed capuchin	*Cebus capucinus*	II	3	+	+
elephant	*Elephantidae* sp.	I/II	2	-	+
ocelot	*Leopardus pardalis*	I	1	+	+
serval	*Leptailurus serval*	II	2	-	-
savannah cat	*Leptailurus serval* x *Felis domesticus*	II	1	-	-
bobcat	*Lynx rufus*	II	2	-	+
rhesus macaque	*Macaca mulatta*	II	1	-	-
chimpanzee	*Pan troglodytes*	I	2	-	-
lion	*Panthera leo*	II	2	-	-
jaguar	*Panthera onca*	I	1	+	+
tiger	*Panthera tigris*	I	1	-	-
sperm whale	*Physeter catodon*	I	1	+	+
New World monkey	Platyrrhini sp.	I/II	2	+/-	+
Geoffroy's tamarin	*Saguinus geoffroyi*	I	1	-	+
cotton-headed tamarin	*Saguinus oedipus*	I	1	-	+
squirrel monkey	*Saimiri* sp.	I/II	2	+/-	+
common squirrel monkey	*Saimiri sciureus*	II	2	+	+
Birds					
black-masked lovebird	*Agapornis personatus*	II	2	-	-
lovebird	*Agapornis* sp.	II	1	-	-
yellow-headed amazon	*Amazona oratrix*	I	1	+	+
red-spectacled amazon	*Amazona pretrei*	I	1	-	+
amazon	*Amazona* sp.	I/II	3	+/-	+
tucuman amazon	*Amazona tucumana*	I	1	-	+
yellow-naped amazon	*Amazona auropalliata*	I	1	-	+
green-cheeked amazon	*Amazona viridigenalis*	I	2	-	+
hyacinth macaw	*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*	I	3	-	+
blue-and-gold macaw	*Ara ararauna*	II	3	+	+
Catalina macaw	*Ara ararauna* x *macao*	I	2	+	+
green-winged macaw	*Ara chloropterus*	II	3	+	+
green-winged x blue-and-gold macaw	*Ara chloropterus* x *araurana*	II	2	+	+
scarlet macaw	*Ara macao*	I	3	+	+
scarlet x Buffon's macaw	*Ara macao* x *ambiguus*	I	1	+	+
military macaw	*Ara militaris*	I	2	+	+
Ara macaw	*Ara* sp.	I/II	3	+/-	+
conure	Arini sp. (conure)	I/II	3	+/-	+
Brotogeris parakeet	*Brotogeris* sp.	II	1	+/-	+
umbrella cockatoo	*Cacatua alba*	II	3	-	-
Ducorps's cockatoo	*Cacatua ducorpsii*	II	2	-	-
greater sulphur-crested cockatoo	*Cacatua galerita*	II	2	-	-
Goffin's cockatoo	*Cacatua goffini*	I	3	-	-
Philippine cockatoo	*Cacatua haematuropygia*	I	1	-	-
Leadbeater's cockatoo	*Cacatua leadbeateri*	II	2	-	-
Moluccan cockatoo	*Cacatua moluccensis*	I	3	-	-
blue-eyed cockatoo	*Cacatua ophthalmica*	II	1	-	-
Western corella	*Cacatua pastinator*	II	1	-	-
bare-eyed cockatoo	*Cacatua sanguinea*	II	2	-	-
cockatoo	*Cacatua* sp.	I/II	3	-	-
lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo	*Cacatua sulphurea*	I	2	-	-
long-billed corella	*Cacatua tenuirostris*	II	1	-	-
gang-gang cockatoo	*Callocephalon fimbriatum*	II	1	-	-
red-tailed black-cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus banksii*	II	1	-	-
yellow-tailed black-cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus funereus*	II	1	-	-
glossy black-cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus lathami*	II	1	-	-

English name	Scientific name	CITES Appendix	Frequency in e-trade	Native for Ecuador	Native for Latin America
short-billed black-cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*	II	1	-	-
vasa parrot	*Coracopsis vasa*	II	2	-	-
New Zealand parakeets	*Cyanoramphus* sp.	I/II	2	-	-
Hahn's macaw	*Diopsittaca nobilis*	II	1	-	+
eclectus parrot	*Eclectus roratus*	II	3	-	-
roseate cockatoo	*Eolophus roseicapilla*	II	3	-	-
monk parakeet	*Myiopsitta monachus*	II	2	-	+
caique	*Pionites* sp.	II	2	+/-	+
Pionus parrot	*Pionus* sp.	II	2	+/-	+
Meyer's parrot	*Poicephalus meyeri*	II	2	-	-
Rüppell's parrot	*Poicephalus rueppellii*	II	2	-	-
Senegal parrot	*Poicephalus senegalus*	II	2	-	-
Palm cockatoo	*Probosciger aterrimus*	I	3	-	-
parrot	Psittaciformes sp.	I/II	3	+	+
prey parrot	*Psittacus erithacus*	II	3	-	-
toco toucan	*Ramphastos toco*	II	2		+
owl	Strigidae sp.	I/II	1	+/-	+
reptiles					
Aldabra giant tortoise	*Aldabrachelys gigantea*	II	1	-	-
radiated tortoise	*Astrochelys radiata*	I	2	-	-
boa constrictor	*Boa constrictor*	II	1	+	-
graceful chameleon	*Chamaeleo gracilis*	II	1	-	-
Senegal chameleon	*Chamaeleo senegalensis*	II	1	-	-
chameleon	*Chamaeleo* sp.	II	1	-	-
red-footed tortoise	*Chelonoidis carbonaria*	II	2	-	+
Brazilian giant tortoise	*Chelonoidis denticulata*	II	2	+	+
Galapagos giant tortoise	*Chelonoidis nigra*	I	2	+	+
hawksbill turtle	*Eretmochelys imbricata*	I	1	+	+
panther chameleon	*Furcifer pardalis*	II	1	-	-
Indian star tortoise	*Geochelone elegans*	II	2	-	-
African spurred tortoise	*Geochelone sulcata*	II	2	-	-
Berlandier's tortoise	*Gopherus berlandieri*	II	1	-	+
green Iguana	*Iguana iguana*	II	1	+	+
Bell's hinged	*Kinixys belliana*	II	1	-	-
Home's hinge-back tortoise	*Kinixys homeana*	II	1	-	-
Burmese python	*Python molurus bivittatus*	II	1	-	-
ball python	*Python regius*	II	3	-	-
reticulated python	*Python reticulatus*	II	1	-	-
leopard tortoise	*Stigmochelys pardalis*	II	2	-	-
tortoises	Testudinidae sp.	I/II	1	+/-	+
Moorish tortoise	*Testudo graeca*	II	2	-	-
Hermann's tortoise	*Testudo hermanni*	II	2	-	-
Central Asian tortoise	*Testudo horsfieldii*	II	2	-	-
Egyptian tortoise	*Testudo kleinmanni*	I	2	-	-
spiny-tailed lizard	*Uromastyx* sp.	II	1	-	-
African savanna monitor	*Varanus exanthematicus*	II	1	-	-
Nile monitor	*Varanus niloticus*	II	1	-	-
amphibians					
Mexican axolotl	*Ambystoma mexicanum*	II	1	-	+
fish					
seahorses	*Hippocampus* sp.	II	1	+/-	+
arthropods					
Brachypelma tarantula	*Brachypelma* sp.	II	1	-	+
emperor scorpion	*Pandinus imperator*	II	1	-	-
sea cucumbers					
brown sea cucumber	*Isostichopus fuscus*	III	2	+	+
corals & sea anemones					
black coral	*Antipatharia* sp.	II	1	+/-	+

Categories of species according to the frequency in the e-trade in the county:

1 - **Occasionally in e-trade** (detected 1-6 times during the 6 repetition of the monitoring)

2 - **Regularly in e-trade** (detected 7-30 times during the 6 repetition of the monitoring)

3 - **Common in e-trade** (detected >30 times during the 6 repetition of the monitoring)

When offered specimens are determined to a level higher than a species, and only some of the species from this group are native for Ecuador, this taxa in the table was marked by the symbol **+/-** in the proper column.

CATCA

CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals was founded in The Netherlands in 1989. We are an animal welfare and an animal conservation organization, created to fight against the animal cruelty worldwide.

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