

Sustainable eNews

www.iwmc.org

Promoting Sustainable Use

December 2004

IWMC World Conservation Trust



IWMC World Conservation Trust

wishes all its friends in conservation the best of holidays, and a brighter New Year. As we remember the year gone by, there are both good memories and those not so fondly recalled. In Sorrento, Italy, we remember one of the best IWMC multi-cultural get-togethers ever. The setting was an outdoor restaurant in the middle of town, the music and entertainment were wonderful, and the spontaneous dancing by our guests was a joy to remember. We all had fun, and the best of it was the feeling of being united in our resolve to keep on working for fairness, honesty, and doing the best thing for sustainable use in the future. Our group was composed of friends from all over the world, and no matter that we all looked very different from one another, and came from entirely different cultures and lifestyles. We were probably the happiest group of people in Sorrento that evening, as we celebrated our unity of purpose, working for humanity.



The 2004 IWC was not the best such meeting for the principles of sustainable use and honest diplomacy, as our opponents adamantly refused to consider science and the Convention mandates to achieve “optimal use of the whale resource”. By the end of the meeting, it appeared that all delegations understood that progress towards completion of a reasonable RMS must be achieved in Ulsan, because if this does not come to pass, the entire organization may be faced with a major structural change. Either progress is made, or the IWC may have little left to debate. IWMC sincerely hopes that cool heads will prevail and that the long overdue Revised Management Scheme shall be finalized, in the eleventh year since it became a pre-condition before actual commercial quotas may be set.

As we remember CITES in Bangkok, there were a number of promising developments: Significant progress was made in appropriate downlisting of Swaziland’s white rhinos, the American bald eagle, the Cuban crocodile, Namibia’s Nile crocodile, and two orchid species. After a painful session, Namibia won approval for non-commercial sale of ekipas, although the proposal for an annual quota of ivory resulting from natural or management-related mortalities was rejected. A more promising development was the CITES rejection of Kenya’s proposal to impose a moratorium on transferring any elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II, and the fact that Kenya apparently realized that its proposal to transfer the African lion population to Appendix I would fail, and therefore withdrew this misguided proposal. IWMC and other conservation advocates objected to the great white shark, and we still feel that its inclusion in Appendix II was inappropriate.



On a more promising note, CITES did adopt improved criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II. We sincerely hope that the Parties to CITES shall carefully consider their potential impact on the world’s fauna and flora, and on those who wish to sustainably use, and trade, in wild species. May we move on to CITES in Amsterdam with new resolve to implement the treaty in those ways that shall benefit all species for future generations.

As we raise a toast to the New Year, may we all look forward to more productive times together as we work again at IWC in Ulsan and, in 2007, at CITES CoP14 in the Netherlands.

World Conservation Trust Foundation (WCTF)

IWMC has established the World Conservation Trust Foundation (WCTF) to raise money for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. WCTF is registered in Washington, DC and has charitable status. We invite you to visit:

www.conservingwildlife.org

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC, said: "The problem is that the animal-rights groups have extensive resources, which give them a disproportionate amount of power and

influence. We have to move forward and WCTF is a way of ensuring that we can continue to promote sustainable use as a conservation mechanism in an effective way in the future."

Supporters of sustainable use will receive copies of this newsletter and regular updates on what is happening to our wildlife, the people whose livelihoods depend on using it sustainably, and wildlife campaigns around the world.

Noteworthy - Important events in 2005

March 1-3	NAMMCO 14th Meeting of the Council, Tromso, Norway
March 7-11	FAO, 26th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy
May 9-13	5th International Symposium on Sturgeon, Rasht, Iran
June 2-4	Outdoors Writers of Canada Convention, Peterborough, Ontario
June 6-10	31st meeting, Ramsar Standing Committee, Gland, Switzerland
June 20-24	IWC 57th Annual Meeting, Ulsan, South Korea
July 14-17	3rd International Conference on Education and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications EISTA 2005, Orlando, Florida, USA

Subscriptions / Submissions

Editor-in-Chief, Mrs. Janice Henke / Design Director, Mr. Charles Fechko

IWMC publishes the Sustainable eNews newsletter on a monthly basis as a service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in these issues. We welcome any short stories you might want to contribute and would like to remind you that archived copies of the Sustainable eNews are available online (in .DOC and .PDF formats) at:

www.iwmc.org/newsletter/newsletter.htm

Subscription requests or article submissions should be sent to: iwmc@iwmc.org

Please include your name, e-mail address and organization.

IWMC World Conservation Trust

A global voice for sustainable use of the earth's resources and the preservation of the cultures and traditions that depend upon them.