

***Policing International Trade in Endangered Species: The CITES Treaty and Compliance***

R Reeve (2002). Published by Earthscan Publications Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK (<http://www.earthscan.co.uk>), and The Royal Institute of International Affairs, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, UK. 367 pp. Paperback (ISBN 1 85383 880 2); Price £19.95. Hardback (ISBN 1 85383 875 6); Price £45.00.

It is widely recognised that there is little point in having legislation unless it is implemented and enforced. When this relates to national legislation there are usually well-defined routes by which these goals can be achieved. However, at the international level, in the absence of a global administration or police force, the situation is very different.

Implementation and enforcement have to be entrusted to the parties to the treaty in question. How then can they be required to take the necessary steps — legislating and enforcing — if they do not do so voluntarily or adequately? At present few such compliance mechanisms are available and even these must be compatible with the increasingly powerful World Trade Organization (WTO) and its multilateral agreements.

Dr Rosalind Reeve has addressed these issues in the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). While this is nowadays only one among many international laws directed towards conservation of the world's biodiversity, this treaty has to date proved to be the most well-known, relatively successful and enforceable of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). That said, there is still much to do to achieve really effective compliance with the CITES Convention, such as getting countries to introduce or improve CITES legislation and to use their national enforcement powers to combat the extensive illegal trade in endangered species of animals and plants.

Dr Reeve tackles the nature of compliance and the issues of non-compliance and, in the light of these, examines the means available to persuade parties to fulfil their treaty obligations. She illustrates the issues by looking at case studies from a variety of countries and problem species and at compliance systems developed under more recent MEAs, such as the Montreal (ozone-depleting substances) and Kyoto (greenhouse gases) Protocols.

She devotes a chapter specifically to enforcement, showing that many countries lack resources, infrastructure and political will to make enforcement effective. On the other hand, some countries, together with the CITES Secretariat, have contributed funds, personnel and know-how to others to raise standards. The author, however, finds the CITES institutions, as well as the Convention itself, weak on enforcement and more concerned with the scientific and management aspects of the treaty. It is only in recent years that experienced enforcement officers have been seconded to the Secretariat, and moves towards regional cooperation in CITES enforcement are not flourishing as they might.

She would like to see an additional CITES committee specifically devoted to enforcement. She also identifies lack of funding and motivation in many quarters as barriers to more effective enforcement, especially when countries are lacking in expertise and resources.

One of the growing concerns in relation to international treaties and globalisation in general, and, more specifically, in the impact on animal welfare and conservation, is the effect of the WTO and its multilateral agreements. Dr Reeve has included a discussion of their impact on CITES. One concern has been whether such tools as do exist and have proved effective to persuade parties (and non-parties) to comply with CITES are compatible with WTO regulations and its provisions for the settlement of trade disputes. Dr Reeve seems reasonably optimistic that CITES measures (such as permits, export quotas, the differential treatment of species based on their origins and trade suspensions) which might be construed as discriminatory should, if applied objectively, continue to be effective although there is a risk that the CITES Secretariat may be deterred from using them.

Any complaints? One result of this being a good read for those interested in CITES is that the reviewer found the pages falling out much too soon. Would that Earthscan's quality of production had matched that of the subject matter of its literature. Also — a big one, this — where is the index? This publication appeared in its original form at the Nairobi CITES Conference in 2000. Surely there was time to compile an index for the 2002 version?

Does this book make a contribution to animal welfare? It is hard to be categorical in the absence of an index, but there seems to be no specific reference to the (limited) concern shown for welfare, for example in transportation and captive breeding, in CITES documents, or to the need for better recognition and enforcement by CITES of animal welfare where it touches international wildlife trade.

This is admittedly quite a technical and specialised book, but for those interested, or obliged, to study CITES compliance, it is a most readable and informative account of a critical aspect of international wildlife law.

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***Pig Production Problems: John Gadd's Guide to their Solutions***

J Gadd (2003). Published by Nottingham University Press, Manor Farm, Main Street, Thrumpton, Nottingham NG11 0AX, UK. 590 pp. Hardback (ISBN 1 897676 34 4). Price £60.00.

This book covers the full range of issues on pig farms, from lameness to infertility to the slope of ceilings in piggeries. It is very much a reference text and is written in that format, with short chapters dedicated to specific topics. The book is written in this format to ensure that it is used. Each chapter begins with targets and includes a checklist. This allows the manager to benchmark his/her unit against a standard and