

# Overview of seizures of CITES-listed wildlife in the European Union January to December 2017

Compiled by TRAFFIC  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This briefing aims to provide an overview of all CITES-related seizures reported by Member States of the European Union<sup>1</sup> (EU) for the twelve-month period January to December 2017 inclusive, so that these can be shared with key trade partners of the EU and selected third countries, as deemed necessary by EU Member States.

This briefing focuses on all seizures reported by EU Member States having taken place at EU external borders (airports, maritime ports, land boundaries, and postal centres) and seizures having taken place inside the EU (i.e. not at the external borders). The quantitative analysis of these seizures (in **Sections 2** and **4**) and examples of seizures (in **Section 3**) are based on seizure records submitted to the EU-TWIX<sup>2</sup> database by EU Member States. In 2017, a total of 28 EU Member States provided data to the EU-TWIX database on seizures which occurred in 2017.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF REPORTED SEIZURES INVOLVING THE EU

A total of 5644 seizure records were reported by 28 EU Member States in 2017. The United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Spain reported 79% of all seizure records reported in 2017. The main types of commodities seized at EU borders in 2017, in order of number of reported seizure records (see **Figure 1**), were:

- i. **medicinals**<sup>3</sup>, including both medicinal products (medicinal products are also understood to include health/food supplements) and parts/derivatives for medicinal use<sup>4</sup> (248 405 items (e.g. pills, packets, etc.) and an additional 14 023 kg and 34 l). This included 218 693 plant-derived medicinal items (and an additional 13 511 kg and 32 l) and 29 712 animal-derived medicinal items (and an additional 512 kg and 2 l);
- ii. **corals** (4379 specimens and an additional 32 598 kg);
- iii. **reptile bodies, parts and derivatives** (3920 specimens and an additional ca. 601 kg);
- iv. **timber** (245 641 specimens and an additional 40 136 kg and 31 m<sup>3</sup>);
- v. **live reptiles** (13 023 specimens and an additional ca. 6 kg);
- vi. **ivory** (1551 specimens and an additional ca. 300 kg);
- vii. **live birds** (1353 specimens).

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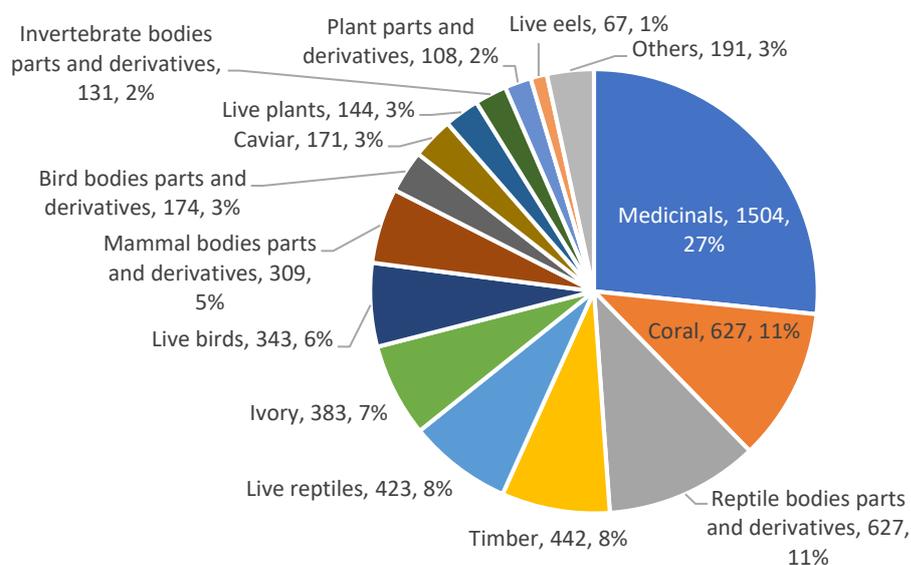
<sup>1</sup> The Member States of the EU in 2017: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> European Union – Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange—the system includes a database of CITES seizures in the EU (<https://eu-twix.org/>).

<sup>3</sup> Units used to report medicinals are not consistent across EU Member States: some reported units as packs of tablets others as individual tablets; sometimes no unit was specified, or kg or l was used.

<sup>4</sup> Including animal parts/derivatives, e.g. bear, seahorse, big cats, and crocodile.

**Figure 1: Distribution of all seizure records reported by 28 EU Member States across commodity groups, 2017**



Source: EU-TWIX database.

Important individual seizures reported by Member States across key commodity groups are set out in **Section 3**.

According to the EU-TWIX database, over 64% (3632 seizure records) were seized on import, which was followed by internal seizures (707 seizure records), seizures in transit (318 seizure records), and seizures on export (277 seizure records). The rest (715 seizure records) was classified as unknown/other or no information was provided. Of the total seizure records, ca. 10% (547 seizure records) reported an estimated value of the seized specimens, which totalled ca. EUR1.8 million.

#### a) Exporters

**Figure 2** depicts the main countries/territories of export (or of departure) of illegal trade as reported by the 28 EU Member States, based on number of seizure records<sup>5</sup>.

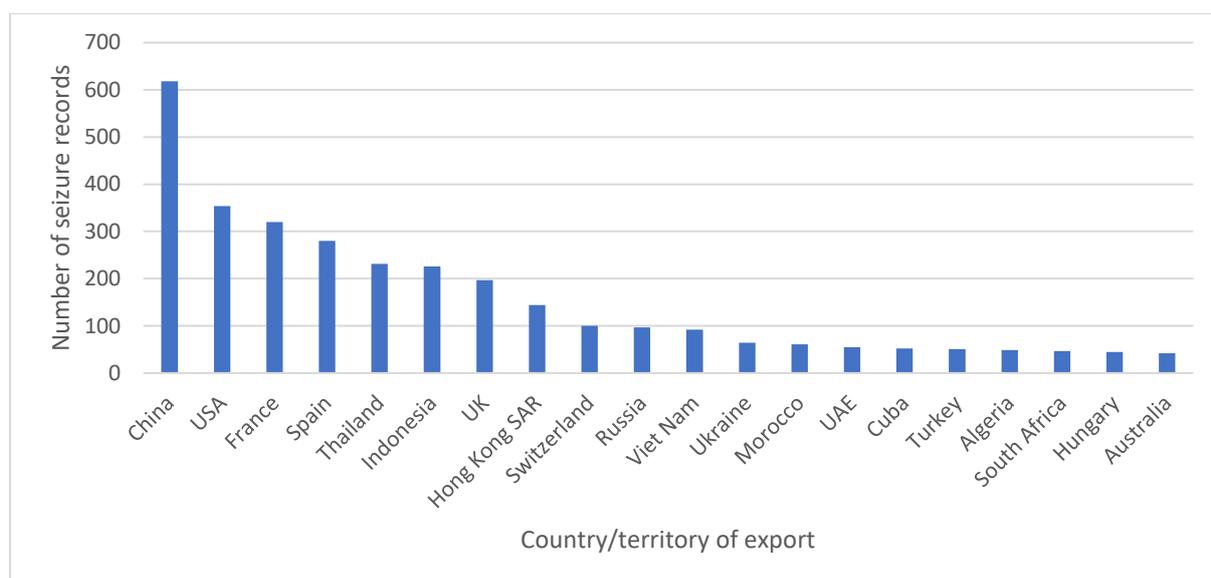
- **Mainland China** was the reported exporter for 618 seizure records: similar to 2016, the majority of these records involved **plants and animal derived medicinals** (435 records involving 111 697 specimens and an additional ca. 277 kg and ca. 1 l) mainly containing parts and derivatives of taxa such as Costus Root *Saussurea costus* (App. I/Annex A), Orchids *Orchidaceae* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B), American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* (App. II/Annex B), musk deer *Moschus* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B), Seahorse *Hippocampus* spp. (App. II/Annex B) and Saiga Antelope *Saiga tatarica* (App. II/Annex B).
- The **United States of America (USA)** was the reported exporter for 354 seizure records: ca. 51% of these records involved **plant-derived medicinals** (180 records involving 33 025 specimens and an additional ca. 31 kg and ca. 2 l) mainly containing derivatives of Hoodia *Hoodia* spp. (App. II/Annex B), Aloe *Aloe* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) and African Cherry *Prunus africana* (App. II/Annex B).
- **Thailand** was the reported exporter for 231 seizure records: a total of ca. 37% of these records involved **plants and animal derived medicinals** (85 records comprising 11 075 specimens and

<sup>5</sup> France and Spain were also identified as the main countries/territories of export but excluded from the analysis as most of seizure records (88% for France and 91% for Spain) were internal seizures.

an additional ca. 1 kg) mainly containing derivatives of Cacti Cactaceae spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B), Hoodia *Hoodia* spp. (App. II/Annex B) and seahorse *Hippocampus* spp. (App. II/Annex B). **Live coral and coral rock** (55 seizure records comprising 408 specimens and an additional 4.8 kg) and **live plants** (53 seizure records comprising 5722 specimens and an additional ca. 0.7 kg) were other main commodity types seized.

- **Indonesia** was the reported exporter of 226 seizure records: ca. 42% of records involved **live corals and coral rock** comprising of 1289 specimens and an additional ca. 18 008 kg mainly consisting of raw corals particularly of Stony coral Scleractinia spp. (App. II/Annex B). **Reptile bodies, parts, and derivatives** (92 seizure records comprising of 645 specimens) and **timber** (14 seizure records comprising of 8443 specimens) were other main commodity types seized.

**Figure 2: Top 20 countries/territories of export (or departure) of illegal trade as reported by 28 EU Member States, according to number of seizure records, 2017**



Source: EU-TWIX database.

Abbreviations: USA – United States of America, UK – United Kingdom, Hong Kong SAR – Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, Russia – Russian Federation, UAE – United Arab Emirates

## b) Destinations

A total of 4829 seizure records reported countries/territories of destination; 4406 seizure records were *en route* to EU Member States and 423 seizure records were destined for non-EU countries.

Of the 423 seizure records destined for non-EU countries, **mainland China** was the leading destination for commodities seized upon (re-)export from the EU/import into the EU/while in transit in the EU or seized internally, accounting for 54% with 230 seizure records (**Figure 3**). Together, **mainland China** and **Hong Kong SAR** were the destination for 264 seizure records. A total of ca. 60% of these records involved elephant ivory which were mainly seized from EU Member States on export (the United Kingdom [143 records] and Germany [1 record]), or in transit within the EU mainly from West Africa (Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal—in decreasing order of significance).

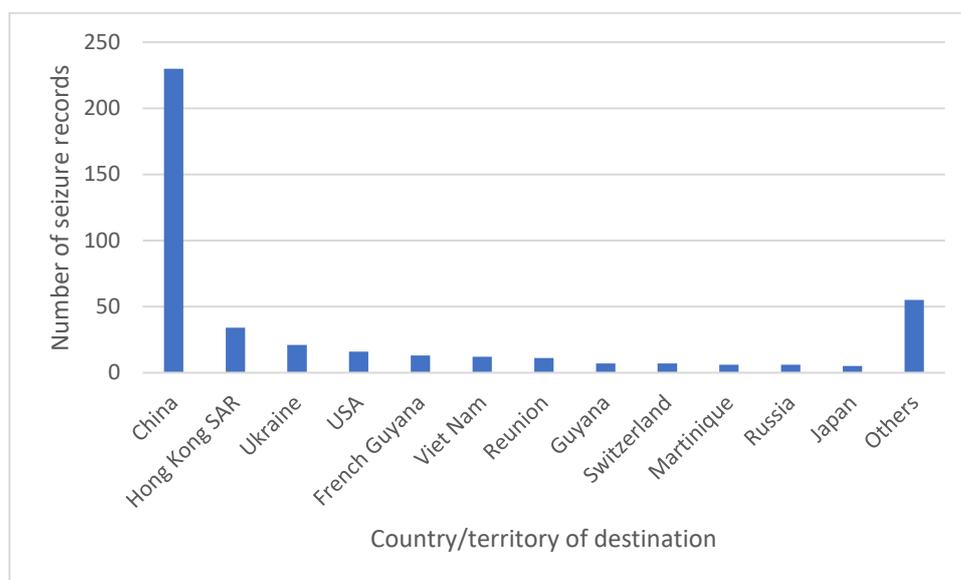
Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR were also important destination countries/territories for animal-derived medicinals including bodies of **seahorses** *Hippocampus* spp. (App. II/Annex B) (26 seizure records comprising of 3406 specimens mainly exported from Africa [mainly Sierra Leone and Senegal])

and **pangolin scales** (App. I/II, Annex A/B) (nine seizure records comprising of two specimens and ca. 155 kg mainly exported from Africa [e.g. Nigeria and Sierra Leone]).

In addition, **Ukraine**, the **USA** and **Viet Nam** were important destinations for the following commodities:

- **Ukraine** for shipments of:
  - **Reptiles bodies, parts, and derivatives** (17 records of small/large leather products and skins of Python Pythonidae spp. [App. I/II, Annex A/B]), which were all in transit within the EU from **Indonesia**.
- The **USA** for shipments of:
  - **Reptiles bodies, parts, and derivatives** (five records of small leather products of Crocodile Crocodylia spp. and Python Pythonidae spp. [both App. I/II, Annex A/B]), which were seized from EU Member States (Germany, France, and the United Kingdom), or in transit within the EU mainly from Mali. In addition, 221 specimens of live **cacti** Cactaceae spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) were seized at an airport in transit in France exported from Madagascar *en route* to the USA.
- **Viet Nam** for shipments of:
  - **Seahorse** *Hippocampus* spp. (App. II/Annex B) bodies. A total of 5641 specimens and an additional 15 kg of seahorse bodies were seized at an airport and/or mail centre in Belgium in transit from Sierra Leone to Viet Nam;
  - Worked **elephant ivory** (App. I/II, Annex A/B). For example, the United Kingdom seized 6 specimens of ivory carvings on export which were detected in freight at an airport *en route* to Viet Nam as a result of targeting. Furthermore, 2 kg of ivory products were seized at an airport in France in transit from Nigeria to Viet Nam;
  - Live **European Eels** *Anguilla anguilla* (App. II/Annex B). For example, a total of 135 kg of live European Eels was seized from personal baggage at an airport in Portugal on **export** to Viet Nam via Turkey.

**Figure 3: Main countries/territories of destination of illegal trade from the EU (to non-EU countries only) as reported by 28 Member States, according to number of seizure records, 2017**



Source: EU-TWIX database.

Abbreviations: Hong Kong SAR - Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, USA – United States of America, Russia: Russian Federation.

### c) Internal seizures

A total of 707 internal seizure records were reported by 13 EU Member States in 2017, with France, Spain, and the Netherlands<sup>6</sup> together reporting ca. 88% of these records. The main commodity types seized within the EU in 2017 (in order of importance based on number of reported seizure records) were **live birds**, followed by **live reptiles**, **ivory**, and **reptile bodies, parts and derivatives**.

Of the **537 live birds** seized internally within the EU in 2017, a total of 467 live birds were **parrots** such as Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* (App. I/Annex A), mainly reported by Spain and France. For example, Spain reported seizures involving a total of 314 live birds including 71 Grey Parrots, mainly from private houses.

A total of **412 live reptiles** were seized internally in 2017, 227 of which were **turtles/tortoises** (such as Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni* and Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca* [both App. II/Annex A]), mainly reported by France, Spain, and Hungary. Spain reported seizure records (one seizure case) involving a total of 81 live reptiles including 20 African spurred Tortoise *Geochelone sulcata* and 15 Yellow Anaconda *Eunectes notaeus* (both App. II/Annex B) intercepted from a fair, exhibition, show or auction house.

In 2017, seven EU Member States reported internal seizure records involving a total of 652 specimens of **elephant ivory**, 607 specimens of which were ivory carvings. Spain reported 26 seizure records involving a total of 316 specimens of ivory carvings mainly seized from markets, shops or private houses. In addition, France reported 27 seizure records involving a total of 141 ivory carvings being offered for sale mainly seized from fairs, exhibitions, shows, auction houses or markets or shops. Furthermore, 42 specimens of tusks were seized in 2017. For example, Belgium reported one internal seizure of 23 tusks intercepted at a fair, exhibition, show or auction house due to lack of a permit.

<sup>6</sup> Member States listed here in order of importance based on number of seizure records in 2017.

A total of 236 specimens and an additional 25 kg of **reptile bodies, parts, and derivatives** were seized internally within the EU in 2017, mainly garments (mainly Reticulated Python *Python reticulatus* [App. II/Annex B]) and bodies (including Sea turtles Cheloniidae spp. [App. I/Annex A], tortoises Testudinidae spp. [App. I/II, Annex A/B] and Crocodile Crocodylia spp. [App. I/II, Annex A/B]). Seizures were mainly reported by France, the Netherlands, and Spain. For example, the Netherlands reported one internal seizure of 106 garments of Reticulated Python *Python reticulatus* (App. II/Annex B) intercepted at a market/shop due to illegal possession.

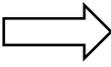
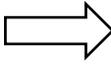
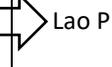
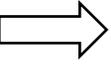
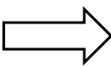
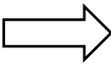
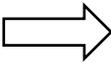
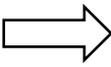
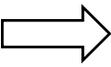
It is worth highlighting that France reported two internal seizure cases involving a total of 7400 kg of wild harvested **Common Snowdrop** *Galanthus nivalis* (App. II/Annex B) roots which were being offered for sale illegally.

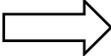
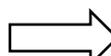
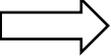
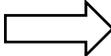
### 3. DETAILS OF KEY INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL SEIZURES REPORTED BY EU MEMBER STATES IN 2017

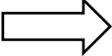
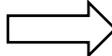
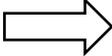
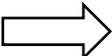
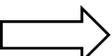
**Table 1** contains details of key individual international seizure records reported by EU Member States for the period January to December 2017. Seizures were selected based on the following criteria: (i) seizures involving particularly large quantities of a commodity type; and (ii) seizures highlighting important illegal trade trends involving the EU (e.g. in terms of countries or species involved).

**Table 1: Details of selected seizures reported by EU Member States for 2017 arranged by commodity type (reporting country in bold)**

TRADE ROUTE			Species and quantity seized	Details
Export	Transit	Destination		
<b>MEDICINALS</b>				
Georgia	→ Turkey	→ Bulgaria	15 960 items of food supplements containing extract of <b>Candelabra Aloe</b> <i>Aloe arborescens</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in a postal parcel.	Detected at an airport due to a routine inspection ( <b>Nov 2017</b> )
Switzerland	→	<b>Germany</b>	Multiple seizures involving a total of 23 940 pills containing <b>Costus Root</b> <i>Saussurea costus</i> (App. I/Annex A) transported in courier parcel.	Detected at a border post or on a road during physical inspection ( <b>Jan–Nov 2017</b> )
China	→	<b>UK</b>	86 400 medicinal products containing <b>orchid</b> <i>Gastrodia elata</i> (App. II/Annex B) and 21.6 kg of <i>Saussurea costus</i> (App. I/Annex A) detected in a container.	Detected at a maritime port due to an inspection ( <b>June and July 2017</b> )
USA	→	<b>Denmark</b>	Multiple seizures involving 4550 medicinal products containing <b>Hoodia</b> <i>gordonii</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected at a mail centre ( <b>Jan–Dec 2017</b> )
USA	→	<b>Sweden</b>	1600 pills containing <b>African Cherry</b> <i>Prunus Africana</i> (App. II/Annex B) transported in courier parcel.	Detected at a mail centre ( <b>Jan 2017</b> )
Mexico	→	<b>UK</b>	10 000 kg of <b>Candelilla wax</b> <i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in containers.	Detected at a maritime port ( <b>April 2017</b> )

TRADE ROUTE			Species and quantity seized	Details
Export	Transit	Destination		
Japan		<b>Netherlands</b>	4532 cosmetic products containing <b>cacti</b> <i>Epiphyllum oxypetalum</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected in premises as a result of a tip off <b>(June 2017)</b>
China		<b>UK</b>	1012 pieces of medicinal products containing <b>musk deer</b> <i>Moschus</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) detected from an air passenger.	Detected at an airport due to routine inspection <b>(July 2017)</b>
Sierra Leone	 <b>Belgium</b>	 Viet Nam China	Multiple seizures of a total of 7968 specimens and an additional 15 kg of <b>seahorse</b> <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. bodies.	Detected at an airport and mail centre due to routine inspection <b>(Feb - Nov 2017)</b>
China		<b>Austria</b>	480 items containing <b>Saiga Antelope</b> <i>Saiga tatarica</i> (App. II/Annex B).	No further information provided <b>(April 2017)</b>
Nigeria	 <b>France</b>	 Lao PDR	320 kg of <b>Philippine Pangolin</b> <i>Manis culionensis</i> (App. I/Annex A) scales.	Detected at an airport <b>(June 2017)</b>
South Africa	 <b>Netherlands</b>	 Lao PDR	14 pieces of <b>rhino horn</b> <i>Rhinocerotidae</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B), weighing ca. 6 kg detected in freight. The specimens were concealed in sculptures in a crate, claiming to contain "wooden handcraft items."	Detected at an airport <b>(June 2017)</b>
<b>TIMBER</b>				
Pakistan		<b>UK</b>	38 080 kg of <b>rosewood</b> <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) products detected in containers.	Detected at a maritime port as a result of targeting <b>(March 2017)</b>
Indonesia USA China		<b>Netherlands</b>	Multiple seizures of a total of 8907 wood products made from <b>Indian Rosewood</b> <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in containers.	Detected at a maritime port <b>(May 2017)</b>
Malaysia		<b>UK</b>	209 200 wood products made of <b>Ramin</b> <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B) detected in containers	Detected at a maritime port due to routine inspection <b>(July 2017)</b>
Democratic Republic of the Congo		<b>Belgium</b>	26.57 m <sup>3</sup> <b>Afrormosia</b> <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (App. II/Annex B) sawn wood detected in a vessel. The specimens' appearance had been modified.	Detected at a maritime port <b>(July 2017)</b>
<b>LIVE PLANTS</b>				
Chile		<b>Netherlands</b>	15 000 specimens of artificially propagated live <b>Chile Pine</b> <i>Araucaria araucana</i> (App. I/Annex A) detected in freight.	Detected at an airport <b>(May 2017)</b>
Viet Nam		<b>Germany</b>	650 specimens of live <b>orchid</b> <i>Orchidaceae</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) detected in personal baggage.	Detected at an airport <b>(June 2017)</b>
China		<b>Netherlands</b>	2036 live <b>Elephant's Foot</b> <i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected in premises <b>(June 2017)</b>
<b>CORAL</b>				

TRADE ROUTE			Species and quantity seized	Details
Export	Transit	Destination		
Indonesia		<b>Poland</b>	18 000 kg of live specimens of <b>coral</b> <i>Scleractinia</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B).	No further information provided <b>(Feb 2017)</b>
China	 <b>Latvia</b> 	Belarus	14 350 kg of live specimens of wild sourced <b>coral</b> <i>Scleractinia</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B) detected in sea freight.	Detected at a maritime port during random control <b>(Dec 2017)</b>
Indonesia	 Hong Kong and Germany	 <b>Czech Republic</b>	A total of 15 live specimens of wild sourced coral <i>Scleractinia</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B) detected in personal baggage.	Detected at an airport due to routine inspection <b>(April 2017)</b>
Thailand	 <b>Germany</b> 	Austria	Multiple seizures of various <b>coral</b> species (76 specimens of <i>Scleractinia</i> spp., 20 specimens of soft coral <i>Tubiporidae</i> spp. and 2 specimens of Blue Coral <i>Heliopora coerulea</i> [all App. II/Annex B]) detected in personal baggage.	Detected at an airport during physical inspection <b>(Feb 2017)</b>
<b>LIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS</b>				
Peru	 <b>Netherlands</b> 	Hong Kong SAR	Two seizures involving a total of 9860 wild-sourced live <b>Yellow-spotted River Turtle</b> <i>Podocnemis unifilis</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in air freight.	Detected at an airport during physical inspection <b>(August 2017)</b>
Kenya	 <b>Netherlands</b> 	Hong Kong SAR	386 captive-bred <b>Leopard Tortoise</b> <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected at an airport during physical inspection <b>(July 2017)</b>
<b>REPTILE BODIES, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES</b>				
Lebanon		<b>UK</b>	450 small leather products made from <b>Python</b> <i>Pythonidae</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) transported in air freight.	Detected at an airport due to routine inspection <b>(Nov 2017)</b>
Unknown	 Switzerland 	<b>Hungary</b>	186 small leather products made from <b>American Alligator</b> <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> (App. II/Annex B) transported in courier parcel.	Detected at an airport due to routine inspection <b>(Feb 2017)</b>
Suriname	 <b>Netherlands</b> 	Germany	65 pieces of wild-sourced <b>iguana</b> <i>Iguana</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B) skin detected in freight.	Detected at an airport due to physical inspection <b>(April 2017)</b>
Kazakhstan		<b>Germany</b>	98 pieces containing extract of <b>King Cobra</b> <i>Ophiophagus hannah</i> (App. II/Annex B) concealed in personal baggage.	Detected at an airport due to physical inspection <b>(May 2017)</b>
Haiti	 <b>France</b> 	Viet Nam	496 kg of <b>sea turtle</b> <i>Cheloniidae</i> spp. (App. I/Annex A) scales.	Detected at an airport <b>(July 2017)</b>
<b>IVORY</b>				
USA		<b>UK</b>	102 pieces of <b>African Elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (App. I/II, Annex A/B) ivory carvings detected in a container.	Detected at a maritime port because of targeting <b>(Sep 2017)</b>

TRADE ROUTE			Species and quantity seized	Details
Export	Transit	Destination		
Angola	France	Malaysia	127 kg of <b>African Elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (App. I/II, Annex A/B) ivory carvings.	Detected at an airport (Jan 2017)
UK		China	Multiple seizures of ca. 21 kg of <b>African Elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (App. I/II, Annex A/B) ivory carvings.	Detected at an airport or mail centre (Jan-Dec 2017)
France		Italy	69 ivory carvings of <b>African Elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (App. I/II, Annex A/B) ivory carvings.	Detected on a road (Jan 2017)
<b>LIVE MAMMALS</b>				
Equatorial Guinea		Spain	Two live juvenile primates (one <b>Moustached Monkey</b> <i>Cercopithecus cephus</i> and one <b>Northern Talapoin</b> <i>Miopithecus ogouensis</i> [both App. II/Annex B]).	Detected due to targeting based on intelligence (Jan 2017)
<b>MAMMAL BODIES, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES</b>				
USA		Germany	Multiple seizures involving a total of 567 specimens of <b>Crab-eating Macaque</b> <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> (App. II/Annex B) scientific specimens detected in freight.	Detected at an airport due to physical inspection (Aug 2017)
USA		Greece	300 kg of garments of <b>Bobcat</b> <i>Lynx rufus</i> (App. II/Annex B) transported by sea and road.	Detected among other goods based on Customs documentation (Aug 2017)
<b>LIVE BIRDS</b>				
Cuba	 Netherlands	 China	59 live wild <b>Caribbean Flamingo</b> <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in freight.	Detected at an airport due to physical inspection (July 2017)
<b>BIRD BODIES, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES</b>				
Australia		Germany	Multiple seizures involving a total of 432 feathers of <b>parrots</b> <i>Psittaciformes</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) shipped via postal parcel.	Detected at an airport (April and Aug 2017)
<b>STURGEON CAVIAR/PRODUCTS CONTAINING STURGEON</b>				
Russian Federation	 Slovenia	 Italy	1.7 kg of caviar containing <b>Beluga Sturgeon</b> <i>Huso huso</i> (App. II/Annex B) exported from the Russian Federation destined for Italy, via Ukraine, Romania and Hungary, hidden in personal baggage in a delivery van.	Detected on a road based on risk assessment (Dec 2017)
China		Netherlands	62.3 kg of sturgeon caviar <i>Acipenser</i> spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) detected in freight.	Detected at an airport due to physical inspection (June 2017)
Greece	 Turkey	 Bulgaria	ca. 25 kg of caviar containing <b>Siberian Sturgeon</b> <i>Acipenser baerii</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in inside a vehicle.	Detected on a road due to physical inspection (June 2017)

TRADE ROUTE			Species and quantity seized	Details
Export	Transit	Destination		
Malaysia	→ Singapore and Greece	→ Bulgaria	124 packages containing a total of 992 items of caviar toning serum with extract of <b>Siberian Sturgeon</b> <i>Acipenser baerii</i> (App. II/Annex B) transported via air freight.	Detected in postal parcels due to routine inspection <b>(Aug 2017)</b>
South Korea	→	Estonia	100 pieces of cosmetic products containing sturgeon.	Detected at a Customs warehouse <b>(April 2017)</b>
<b>EELS</b>				
Unknown	→ France	→ Thailand	792 kg of live <b>European Eel</b> <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Detected on a road <b>(Jan 2017)</b>
Spain	→ Greece	→ China	A total of 460 kg of live <b>European Eel</b> <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> detected in freight.	Detected at a private house and airport as a result of targeting based on intelligence <b>(Feb 2017)</b>
Portugal	→ Turkey	→ Viet Nam	90 kg of live <b>European Eel</b> <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> detected from personal baggage.	Detected at an airport as a result of targeting based on risk assessment <b>(Nov 2017)</b>
<b>OTHER LIVE FISH</b>				
Romania	→	Italy	41 live <b>Sterlet</b> <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected inside vehicles <b>(Nov 2017)</b>
Thailand	→	UK	39 live <b>Stingray</b> <i>Potamotrygon</i> spp. (App. III/Annex C) detected in freight.	Detected at an airport <b>(Sep 2017)</b>
<b>FISH BODIES, PARTS AND DERIVATIVES</b>				
USA	→	France	900 teeth of <b>Sharks</b> Elasmobranchii spp. (App. II/Annex B).	Detected at a mail centre <b>(Nov 2017)</b>
Ecuador	→	Netherlands	99 scales of <b>Pirarucu</b> <i>Arapaima gigas</i> (App. II/Annex B) detected in personal baggage.	Detected at an airport due to random control <b>(March 2017)</b>
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>				
Cameroon	→ France	→ Hong Kong SAR	64 live <b>Scorpion</b> <i>Pandinus dictator</i> (App. II/Annex B).	Detected at an airport <b>(Nov 2017)</b>
Jamaica	→	UK	Multiple seizures involving a total of 27 specimens of <b>Queen Conch</b> shells and ca. 30 kg of live coral (both in App. II/Annex B) detected in a container.	Detected at a maritime port due to targeting <b>(May 2017)</b>
Philippines	→	UK	321 specimens of <b>Nautilus</b> spp. (App. II/Annex B) shells detected in a container.	Detected at a maritime port <b>(May 2017)</b>
Philippines	→ Belgium	→ Russia	Two seizures involving a total of 100 specimens of <b>Butterfly</b> <i>Troides</i> spp. (App. II/Annex B) detected in freight.	Detected at an airport <b>(Feb 2017)</b>

#### 4. BRIEF COMPARISON TO 2016

A comprehensive and quantitative comparison of seizures reported in 2016 and 2017 is not possible due to, among other things, the difference in the data source used for the analysis (EU-TWIX was used for 2017 whereas reports of significant seizures submitted by EU Member States were used for 2016) and methodology (international/internal seizures were not separated for 2017). However, some observations can be made when comparing these two years.

The commodity groups involved in the seizures, and their order of significance (in terms of number of reported seizure records), were similar in 2016 and 2017, with the commodity groups **medicinals** and **coral** included in the top commodity groups in both years.

The year 2017 saw a significant number of seizures of **timber**; in 2017, 245 641 specimens and an additional 40 136 kg and 31 m<sup>3</sup> were seized, whereas the total of international and internal seizures of timber in 2016 was 490 specimens and an additional 20 000 kg and 20 m<sup>3</sup>. This significant increase was mainly due to an increase in seizures of rosewood *Dalbergia* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) products following the recent CITES-listing of all genera of *Dalbergia* spp. to Appendix II<sup>7</sup>, which came into force in January 2017; the United Kingdom alone reported 390 seizure records involving 23 589 specimens and ca. 40 080 kg of rosewood products mainly (re-)exported from China.

There was continued importance of the EU as a destination for illegal trade in **live reptiles**, particularly tortoises, such as live *Testudo* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) exported from North Africa (e.g. Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia). In addition, the Netherlands reported a seizure involving 9860 wild-sourced live Yellow-spotted River Turtle *Podocnemis unifilis* (App. II/Annex B).

A significant number of seizures of elephant **ivory** were recorded in 2017. Based on number of seizure records, 42% were seized on export; 22% internal; 21% on import; 4% in transit and the remainder (11%) were unknown or no information was provided. The EU was continually either being utilised as a re-exporter of elephant ivory to Asia (mainland China and Viet Nam) and the USA or as a transit location for the smuggling of elephant ivory from Africa, notably West Africa, to Asia (mainland China and Viet Nam) and the USA. In addition, seizures of ivory on import was noticeable in 2017. For example, the United Kingdom reported a seizure involving 102 specimens of African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* ivory carvings exported from the USA detected at a maritime port.

Seizures of live **European Eel** *Anguilla anguilla* (App. II/Annex B) continued in 2017. There were 67 seizure records involving 2366 kg and an additional 187 specimens of live European Eel in 2017. Specimens were destined for Asia; in addition to illegal exports *en route* to mainland China and Hong Kong SAR, several shipments were destined for Thailand and Viet Nam in 2017.

Other important continuing/emerging trends in illegal trade in 2017 include:

- The continued illegal import and internal seizures of **live birds, particularly parrots** (e.g. Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* [App. I/Annex A]).
- The continued seizures of **sturgeon caviar** *Acipenseriformes* spp. (App. I/II, Annex A/B) mainly intercepted on import.
- The continued shipment of specimens, derivatives and products of illegal wildlife through the **postal system** (subsequently detected in mail centres).

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<sup>7</sup> Excluding Brazilian rosewood *Dalbergia nigra* which has been listed in Appendix I of CITES since 1992.

The main countries/territories of export reported for 2016 and 2017 (based on number of seizure records) were broadly similar, with mainland China, the USA, and Thailand included in the top countries of export across both years, mainly involving medicinal products.