

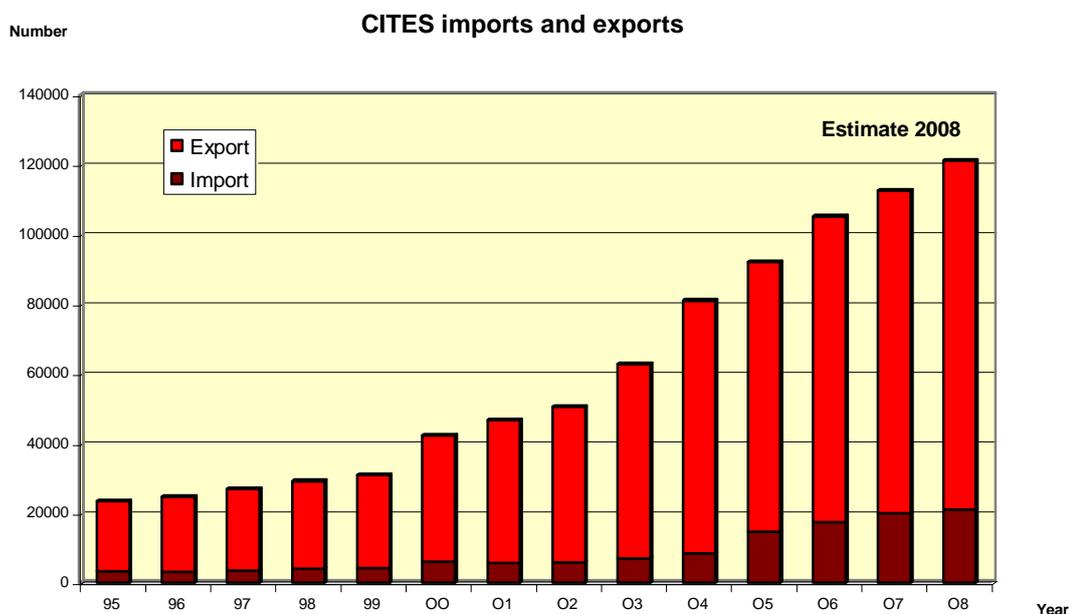


# Species conservation 2007

Apart from the ever increasing number of permits issued, the work of the sub-unit on Species Conservation was shaped by two main themes: the implementation of the revised Species Conservation Ordinance, which came into force on 1.7.2007, and participation at the CITES meeting of the Conference of the Parties in June 2007 in The Hague.

## 1 New record number of export permits issued

The exponential increase in permits issued for the export business, which has been observed in the last few years, continued unabated in 2007. With over 92,000 permits, Switzerland is the absolute leader in this field worldwide. Switzerland is a leader in terms of the efficiency and speed with which these permits are issued. The e-CITES internet solution developed for this purpose plays a crucial role. The programme sets global standards and also won awards for this in 2007 on the occasion of two competitions in the field of “business efficiency”, namely the “Best of Swiss Web Award” in Zurich and the “European e-Government Awards” in Lisbon. But a further factor in this success story is the staff in the departmental secretariat of International Affairs. As part of the reorganisation of the FVO and the establishment of the International Affairs department, the whole of the administration was brought together in a departmental secretariat. This concentration of resources has led to an increase in efficiency, and the team has done a great job in the process!



## **2 Introduction of new species conservation ordinance**

The purpose behind the revision of the species conservation ordinance, which was completed in parallel with the revision of the ordinance on the import, transit and export of animals (EDAV), was not only to establish the legal basis for new control mechanisms resulting from the dismantling of the border veterinary service at the borders with the EU, but also generally to permit risk-based surveillance, to provide support for legal trade and enable better control of illegal trade. Increased emphasis is placed on the responsibility of the importer, and certain tasks related to the importing of goods that fall under species protection laws are delegated to the trade. In concrete terms, this means that industry inputs most of the data on imported leather goods. Since 1 July 2007, the FVO may also conduct inspections within Switzerland, accredited importers can benefit from an easing of import conditions and the import procedure which private persons have to go through is much more simplified. On the downside, the increase in the inspection fee necessitated by the harmonisation with EU standards is only partly offset by the dropping of fees for import permits.

## **3 CITES Conference of the Parties, International Whaling Commission**

The 14<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties meeting took place in The Hague from 4 to 15. June 2007. The mandate of the Federal Council stipulated its guidelines to the delegation. Support should be given to proposals which are based on scientific data and are supported by Range States. In accordance with these requirements, Switzerland supported various successful proposals for fauna and flora endangered by international trade to be included in the CITES Appendices. In particular, this concerned the whole genus of *Nycticebus*, the European eel, saw fish and also the tropical timber of *Caesalpinia echinata* used to make violin bows. All changes were implemented in Switzerland as scheduled and the corresponding legal provisions were amended (Inspection Ordinance SR 453.1, Annexes to the Agreement on International Trade with Endangered Species SR 0.453 and also the Customs Tariff).

Unfortunately, no groundbreaking progress was made at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, which took place in Anchorage (Alaska) at the end of May 2007. As always in the last few decades years, Switzerland lent its support to the view that decisions be based only on scientific arguments.