

Inside this issue...



**Sturgeon on
the brink of
extinction**

See Page 4



**Agriculture trade
policy is hugely
influential**

See Page 8



2

3

4

4

6

13

14

●

New news

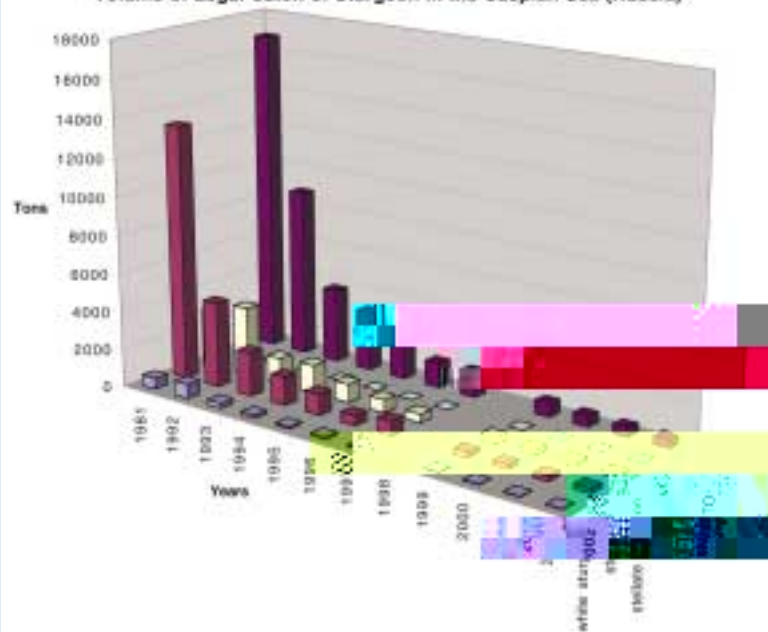


www.iucn.ru

- Shmatkov, N., Zosso, G. and Malyavko, E. 2005. *Gifts of Mountain Shoria Forests*. IUCN, Moscow, Russia. (In Russian)

This publication is an information booklet on the Project "Gifts of Mountain Shoria Forests"

Volume of Legal Catch of Sturgeon in the Caspian Sea (Russia)



As a result, in the last decade, sturgeon numbers in all water basins have drastically decreased and continue to fall. The volume of legal fishing directly depends on the numbers of the reproductive portion of the sturgeon community. Looking at the decreased level of legal fishing, one can evaluate the rate at which sturgeon numbers are being reduced in the wild (see below).

- In the Caspian sea, the sturgeon catch in the last two decades has decreased by 38,5 times;
- In the Azov sea, sturgeon stock has lost all commercial value. Currently, the share of mature sturgeon species amounts to 2.3%, while female species are represented in single numbers;
- The catch of Siberian sturgeon on the Ob river, which has been the main source of sturgeon in Siberia, has also fallen drastically. In the last 60 years, the sturgeon catch fell by 122 times, while the nine years from 1985 to 1994 witnessed a seven-fold decrease. As a result in 1997, the Western-Siberian subspecies of the Siberian sturgeon (Ob community) was included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation.

According to experts, 1999 was the last year when sturgeon hunting was admissible for biological reasons, though to a limited extent. Currently we are witnessing what had already been predicted by experts from TRAFFIC Europe in 1997 and 2000: population numbers have fallen to an extent where sturgeon catch has become not only inadmissible from a biological point of view but non-profitable as well. We are coming close to a situation when hunting loses its point, i.e. the cost of catch will inevitably result in a price at which caviar will no longer be tradable in economically meaningful volumes.

The following actions are proposed in order to overcome this highly unfavourable situation:

I. Enforcement of actions

- To announce a total ban on the caviar trade and sturgeon meat in the Russian domestic market with only one possible exception, representing output of aquaculture. Unfortunately, it should be emphasised that currently neither law enforcement bodies nor trade inspections are having any degree of control of trade in sturgeon products on the local market whatsoever.
- To declare and legally establish a state monopoly on sturgeon catch, processing and export of output.
- To strengthen penalties imposed against illegal hunters and traders of illegally produced caviar and sturgeon meat, bringing these penalties into accordance with the prices of these products on the world market.

II. Reduction of demand from the domestic market

It is necessary to raise awareness regarding the illegal caviar market.

III. Restoration actions

It is necessary to develop a federal long-term programme for the protection, restoration and sound and sustainable use of sturgeon stocks:

- To establish and support a system of regular monitoring of sturgeon



Europe and trade

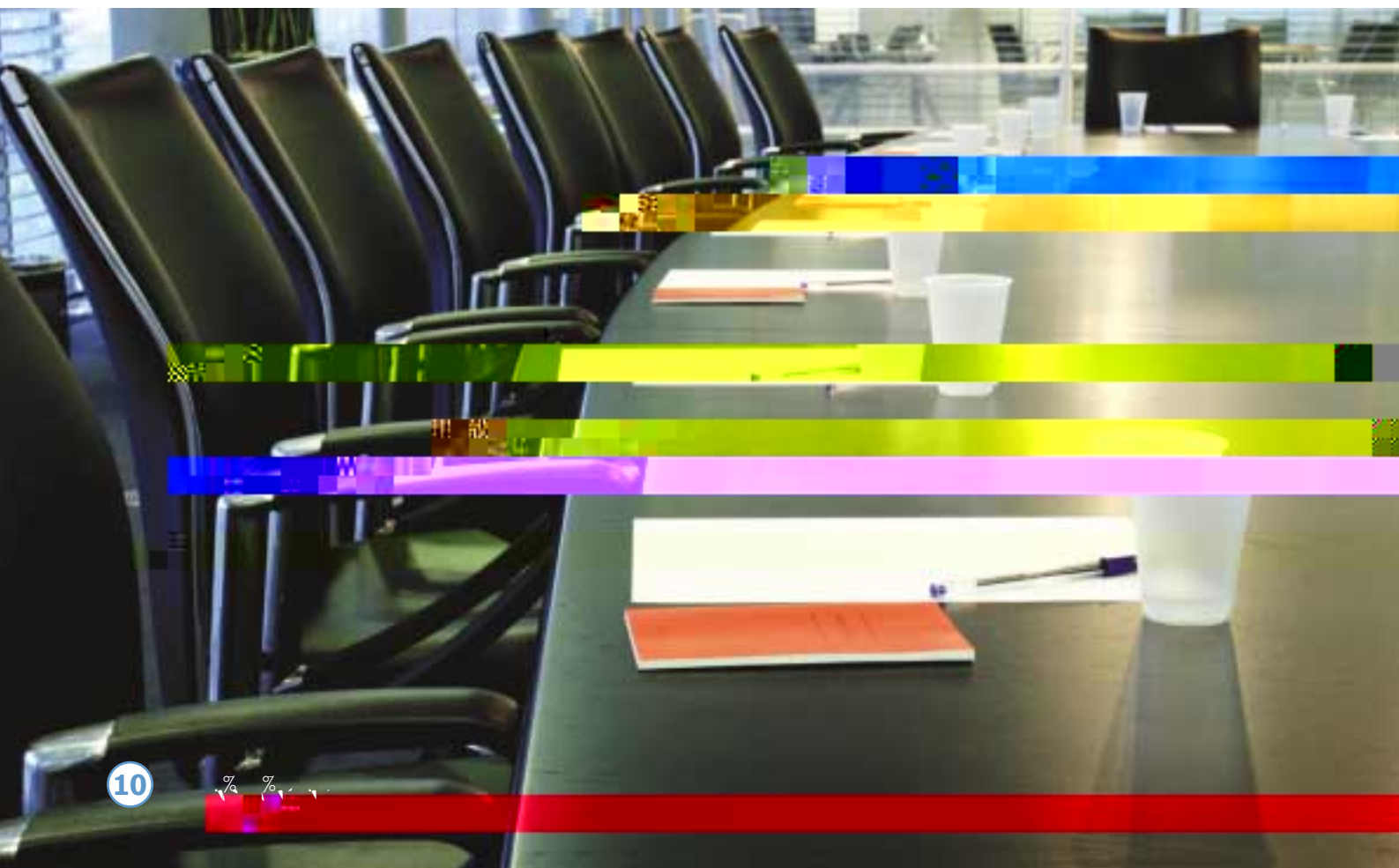
According to the WTO, merchandise trade of EU-15 in 2004 was US\$4031 billion for exports of which 73.75% were intra-european and 16.74% to Asia and North America, Europe's big trading partners. In the same year, imports in EU-15 were US\$4140 billion, of which 71.6% were intra-European and 17.94% from Asia and North America.

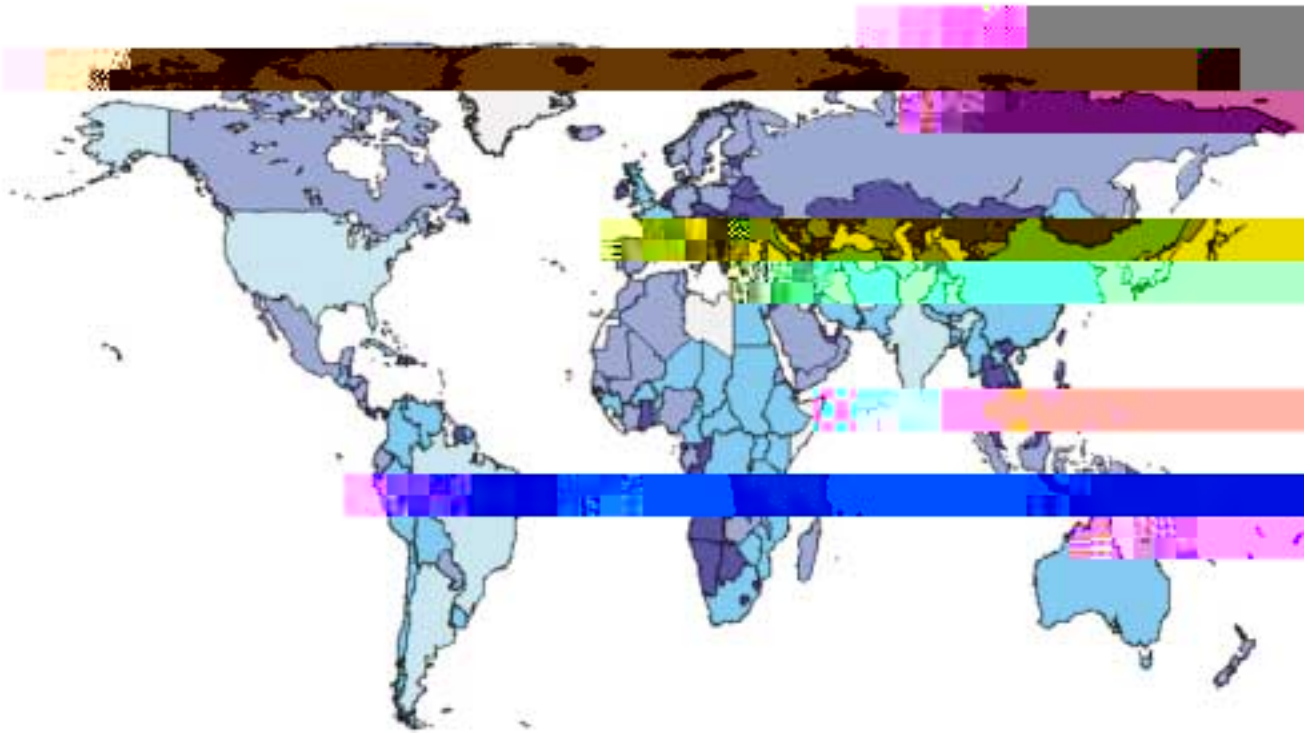
In 2004, EU-15's share in world merchandise trade was 45.3% for exports and 44.8% for imports.

Regarding the products groups, 80.17% of the exports correspond to manufactures, 12.02% to agricultural products and 9.13% to fuels and mining products. As for the imports, 74.97% correspond to manufactures, 12.02% to fuels and mining products and 9.68% to agricultural products. The table on the right specifies the amount of export for the different products in billion US dollars.

The major exporter in EU-15 is Germany, with US\$912.3 billion

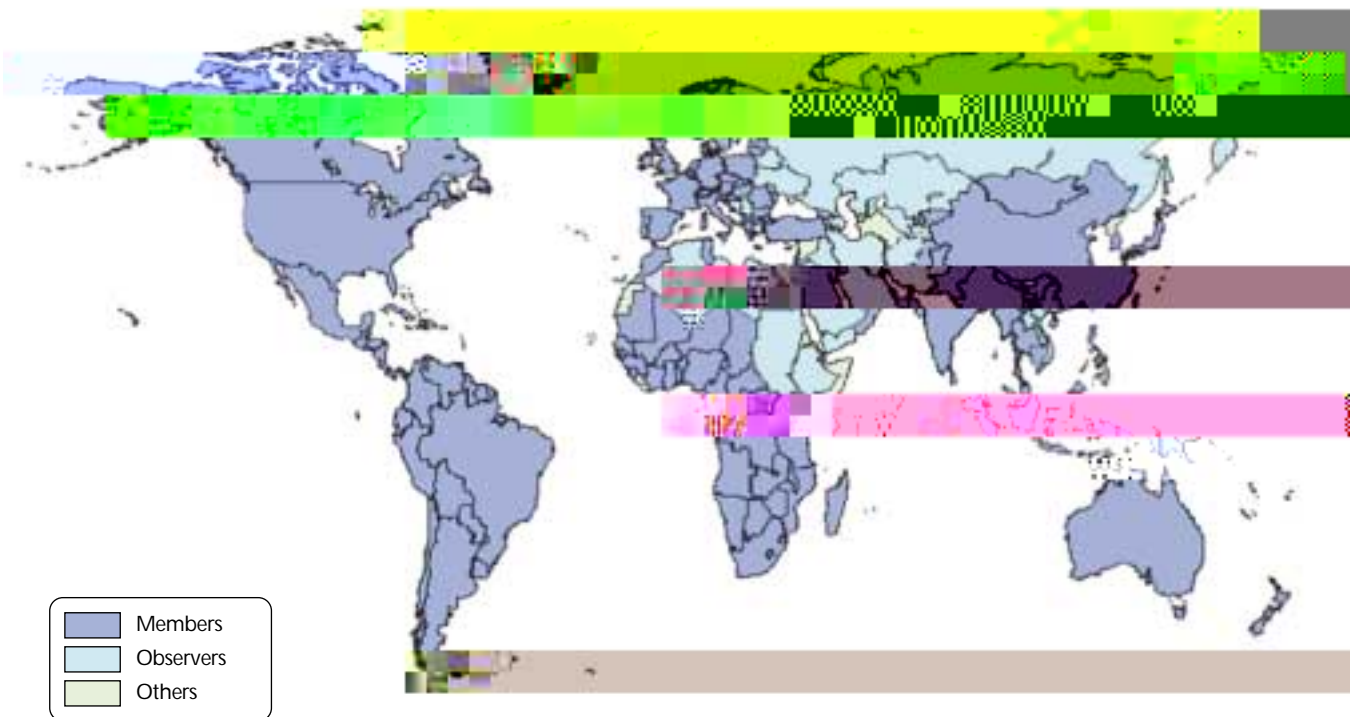
Belgium.otal expe toals(US\$40porgesting pe71.6%7), follow6970 T9765.3208 Tm/ TD(8% 31sc-0.0227 Tc0 Tw[(&)-28.3/C4 France andandexals(Uportning p





World Trade Organization Members and Observers

(August 2005)



The European Union and its role in the international trade in wild animals and plants

“Europe and, in particular, the European Union (EU) is one of the world’s largest and most diverse markets for wildlife and wildlife products that are traded for a variety of purposes including for food, as pets, for decoration, clothing, construction materials, furniture, curios or for medicinal use. Many of the species found in international trade are subject to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).¹ These species include, for example, many bird and reptile species that are often traded live as pets, crocodile skins for the fashion industry, luxury food items such as sturgeon caviar, mahogany logs from South America, picture frames and blinds made of ramin, timber from Southeast Asia or dried plant materials from the Balkan to be used in medicines.”

Based on a recent TRAFFIC analysis² of trade in CITES-listed species, more than six million CITES-listed live birds, 11.5 million reptile skins, 20 million orchids and more than 550t of sturgeon caviar were imported by the 25 EU countries between 1996 and 2003.

All 25 EU Member States are Parties to CITES and the Convention is jointly implemented through the EU’s Wildlife Trade Regulations; Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and related Commission Regulations.³

The use of wild animals and plants for trade can also play an important role in supporting the livelihoods of local communities and benefiting local and national economies, particularly in developing countries. By providing direct and indirect benefits, wildlife use and trade can also help to motivate local people as well as governments to commit to the conservation of wild species and their habitats. However, any use of and trade in wild animals and plants and their products need to be properly managed and trade impacts closely monitored in order to ensure that harvests are kept within sustainable limits and are not damaging the integrity of ecological systems.

Although a great deal of the wildlife trade is legal, a significant portion of the trade is illegal and threatens the survival of species in the wild. Illegal wildlife trade often involves organized criminal structures and smugglers adapt quickly to changing trends and markets. Seizures of wildlife and wildlife products that are subject to CITES are relatively common among law enforcement agencies such as customs and police. For example, in September 2005, customs officers at Zaventem airport in Brussels seized a courier shipment described as a diplomatic pouch containing 35kg of ivory tusks that was en route from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to China. German enforcement officers recently uncovered a case in which 1.4 tonnes of caviar were imported illegally into the EU between December 2003 and January 2005.

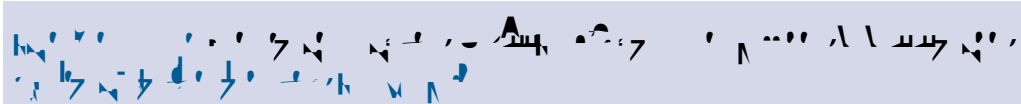
EU Member States therefore face many challenges in controlling the illegal wildlife trade and close co-operation and co-ordination at

national level and EU level are vital in this regard. To help address this challenge, TRAFFIC in collaboration with the Belgian Government developed EU-TWIX, an access-secured, online database on reported illegal wildlife trade in the EU. It is designed to help law enforcement officers from all 25 EU Member States to share information and exchange expertise on illegal wildlife trade (see www.traffic.org/25/network4/eu.html).

In October this year, the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in collaboration with TRAFFIC, organized the EU Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Co-ordination Workshop, held in London. It was attended by over 130 enforcement officials from all 25 EU Member States, the European Commission, CITES Secretariat and Interpol. The meeting concluded with the agreement of a range of priority measures and called for the development and adoption of an Action Plan for EU Wildlife Trade Enforcement. Hopefully, this will lead to measures that will enhance enforcement effort and collaboration within this crucial wildlife market to strengthen co-operation and action to tackle illegal trade in wild animals and plants into and within the European Union.

SW: Why are European trade policies important to global biodiversity?

Biodiversity is for people



JCJ: Why are European trade policies important to global biodiversity?

SR: Sectoral policies (agriculture, fisheries, transport, energy etc), or policies focused on land planning, can negatively impact biodiversity

sustainability of ecosystem biological capacity, not only in Europe, but also in developing countries. This requires a proactive approach in order to eliminate unsustainable international trade (on the basis of Principles 8 and 9 of the Rio Declaration), check the legal acquisition of natural resources in source countries, take steps to enhance international trade transparency, effectively supervise trade, rigorously enforce regulatory provisions, and actively support developing countries in the sustainable use of their natural resources.

JCJ: How do you think we can better harmonize the CBD with the rules of the WTO?

SR: The WTO and the CBD must tackle several issues, especially agricultural subsidies, invasive species and a fair and equitable international benefit-sharing system, concerning benefits resulting from the use of genetic resources (patentability of living resources, access to genetic resources etc).

To ensure improved mainstreaming of biodiversity issues, the WTO should recognise the right of the CBD Secretariat and of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to have full observer status at its various committee meetings, and MEAs should be recognised as the main bodies having the authority to assess the appropriateness of environment-related trade policies.

JCJ: Please complete the following sentence: "In 2010 I would like European trade policies..."

SR: ... to be consistent, both internally (environmental issues mainstreamed into all other Union policies, including trade policy), and externally (so as, in particular, to avoid any negative effects of European policies or to generate positive impacts outside the Union itself), in order to minimize the ecological footprint and ensure the



Tracking trade flows and the sustainability dialogue with industry

If you've eaten meat in the last few days, it was more than likely not raised on European grass or grain, but on South American soy. Demand to produce soy for the European meat industry is one of the driving forces behind deforestation in the Amazon. Every year, 1.5 to 2 million hectares of tropical forests and grasslands disappear due to the cultivation of soy (equivalent to half the total area of the Netherlands). A large part of the soy produced in South America for export goes to Europe, and 90% of this is destined for animal fodder. Europe imports around 33 mil MT of soy annually from South America, requiring roughly 12.75 million ha of land.

The European Union, the world's largest economy, is heavily reliant on the import of commodities from abroad. In financial terms Europe's trade is roughly neutral, but in physical terms there is a large import surplus. Through its import, Europe has a very considerable impact on biodiversity worldwide, as the example of soy shows. One of the ways to measure Europe's impact is by calculating the area of land that is needed to provide the goods and services of an average European citizen, popularly known as the footprint of that citizen (see Box 1).

Box 1. Methodology of Ecological Footprint calculation

The EF methodology was first proposed in 1994 in Canada by William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel. The range of environmental effects covered, and the precise methodology used, have evolved over the years and vary from study to study. Common in most studies is that they present data on the area that is required to meet the current consumption needs of a population from sustainable sources. It calculates the area of land and sea that can deliver these services and goods based on world average yield. In general, two approaches are taken, the component-based approach and the compound approach.

In the component-based approach, the amounts of transport, food, energy, waste disposal and water consumed are listed. These are converted into an equivalent area of land using coefficients found in literature.

The compound approach is applied to entire countries. The amounts of energy and goods consumed by the citizens are derived from national statistics. To do this, exports are subtracted from imports and added to the domestic production. Standard conversion factors are used to calculate the footprint from the arising food and material consumption of the concerning country. WWF's Living Planet report is an example of this approach.

A high proportion of the ecological footprint in both approaches arises from the consumption of fossil fuel energy needed for providing the goods and services. Pollution is not taken into account.

Further reading: 'Ecological footprinting', *Scientific and Technological Options Assessment, European Parliament, PE nr 297.571*.

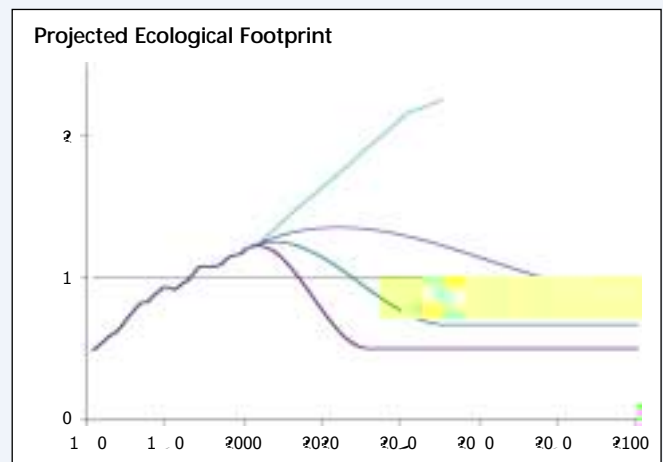
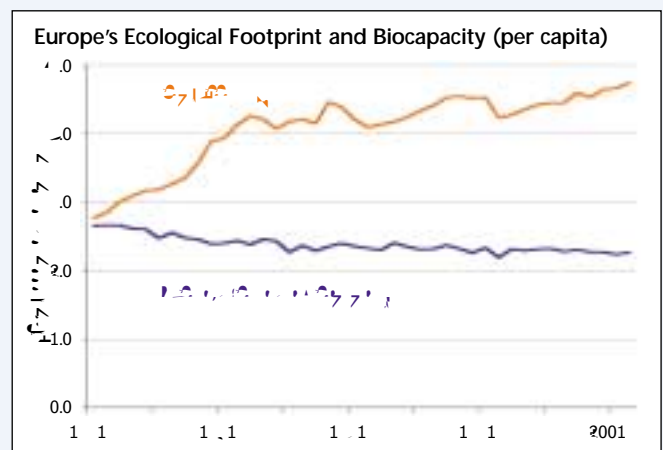
If one compares this with the available area to deliver these goods and services, it is clear that Europe can only carry half the footprint of its own citizens and that this trend is on the rise. See Figure 1.

In addition to calculating Europe's footprint, it is also possible to visualize Europe's impact by mapping trade flows, as is done on the *Europe and the World Ecology (EWE) map* (see insert or visit www.nciucn.nl). The EWE map was produced by IUCN NL in 2004

and clarifies the impact of the production of soy and other commodities for the European market on ecosystems in the countries of origin.¹

Raise awareness and then?

Raising awareness is the first step in the process of change towards sustainability. The next step is to offer solutions. A number of recent studies indicate that a change towards actual sustainability is possible (Figure 2).



¹ "Europe 2005, The Ecological Footprint" (Living Planet Report). "Europeans need 2.1 Europes - how the planet and the world's largest economy interact".



EU action on illegal logging: Is it enough?

Illegal logging is having a devastating impact on the world's forests. Its effects are global and include deforestation, the loss of biodiversity and climate change. Illegal logging creates social conflict with indigenous and local populations and leads to violence, crime and human rights abuses.

Documented uses for revenue from illegal logging activities include civil wars, organized crime and money laundering, threatening international security. Weak governance and corruption in timber-producing countries is a key component driving illegal logging. The World Bank estimates that illegal logging costs timber producing countries between US\$10–15 billion per year in lost revenue.¹

The European Union (EU) play a key role in fuelling the international demand for cheap timber products from illegal and destructive logging. These products end up on construction sites and are sold in stores across Europe, with governments turning a blind eye to their origin.

For example, in October alone Greenpeace investigations exposed trails of rainforest timber and wood products to the EU supplied by companies known to be actively involved in illegal logging activities: from the Congo Basin to Italy, from Papua New Guinea via China to the UK, and from the Brazilian Amazon to Spain, where it has been used in the renovation of the Queen Sofia Museum in Madrid.²

Following mounting international pressure and in recognition of their responsibility as a major timber consumer, the European Commission published the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT) Action Plan³ in 2003. The core of the 2003 EU Action Plan is to develop voluntary bilateral and regional partnership agreements between the EU and wood-producing countries.⁴ These "voluntary

partnership agreements" (VPAs) are aimed at helping signatory countries improve their governance and forest management as well as implementing a licensing system to ensure that they only export legal timber to Europe. The meeting of the Agriculture Council from 24–25 October 2005 in Luxembourg saw the formalization of these measures in an EU Regulation that paves the way for the development of a licensing scheme to guarantee the legality of timber imports entering the European Community, as well as enabling the start of negotiations of the VPAs. These are expected to begin next year.

Greenpeace has repeatedly drawn attention to the loopholes,⁵

⁵ ...
⁶ ... 200 ...
⁷ ... -0_12/200 .

IUCN Calendar of Events January–March 2006

First international conference on environmental change in lakes, lagoons and wetlands of the southern Mediterranean region
www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/melmarina/ecollaw2006/

4th Session of the United Nations Conference for the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994
www.itto.or.jp

Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Article 8(j): Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices
www.biodiv.org

International Conference on Management of Conflicts between wildlife and human resource use
<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/events/EVENT1123666413>

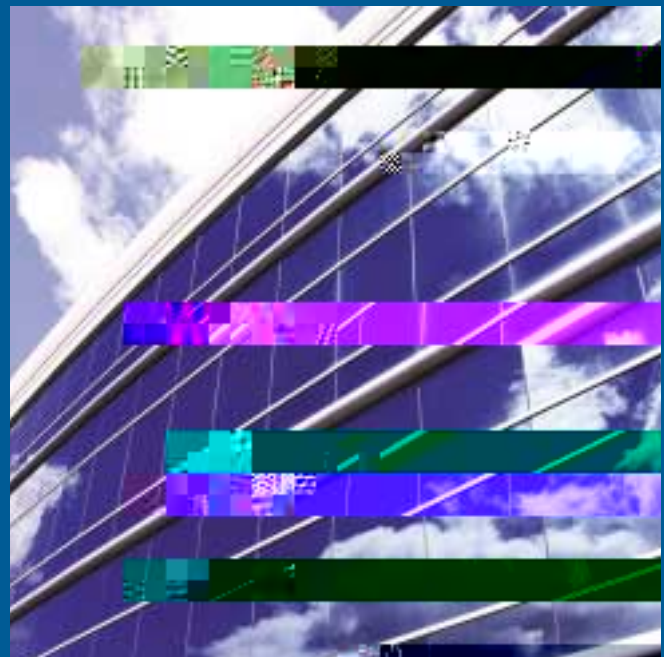
Third global conference on oceans, coasts and islands
www.globaloceans.org/

Third international meeting: acting together for the future of the blue planet
www.worldoceanetwork.org/

CBD COP-8 and Biosafety COP/MOP-3
www.biodiv.org/meetings/default.aspx

4th World Water Forum
www.eea.eu.int/Events/Event_20050824110116

GLOBE 2006
www.eea.eu.int/Events/Event_20050625004314



Second meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Ninth Special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-IX/GMEF)
www.unep.org

Meeting of Chairs of officially recognised IUCN Regional/National Committees
www.iucn.org/members/

Conference on social acceptance of renewable energy innovation
E-mail: maryjean.burer@unisg.ch

Second meeting of the open-ended ad hoc working group on liability and redress in the context of the Biosafety Protocol
www.biodiv.org/meetings/

Protected Forest Areas in Europe – Analysis and Harmonization
E-mail: Gloria.Dominguez@ctfc.es

Carbon market insights 2006 event
www.pointcarbon.com/wimages/CMI_2006_Overview.pdf

Useful event calendar links:

- Agenda of the EU institutions
<http://europa.eu.int/news/cal-en.htm>
- European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC)
www.ecnc.nl/doc/ecnc/calendar.html
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
www.eea.eu.int/Events/Calendar
- International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)
www.sdgateway.net/events/default.asp?month=2
- Sustainable Fisheries Foundation
www.sff.bc.ca/Events.html
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
www.unep.org/Calendar/
- United Nations Forum on Forests
www.un.org/esa/forests/calendar.html
- World Bank
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,menuPK:34482~pagePK:34380~piPK:34428,00.html>

ROfE Head Office in Brussels

Regional Office for Europe
and Permanent Representation
to the European Union
Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64,
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 732 82 99
Fax: +32 2 732 94 99
E-mail: europa@iucn.org
Web site:

Europe