

Official Newsletter of the Parties

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Issue Number 7 – July 2001

Scientific support for CITES Parties

In January 2001, the head of the Laboratory for Conservation Biology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, provided an overview of the work of this new research unit to staff of the CITES Secretariat. The laboratory has conducted forensic analysis for the purpose of molecular identification of animal and plant samples, which may not be possible with conventional, morphological study. It is also engaged in research into natural population management.

The laboratory is particularly keen to work on CITES issues and seeks enquiries from Parties, at which point it could discuss the relevant fees for its services. It is also anxious to improve its collection of reference samples and thus expand its capability to conduct DNA profiling and identification of a wide range of species. Further information can be obtained from the laboratory's website at: **www.unil.ch/lbc** or

Dr L. Fumagalli, Institut d'Ecologie, Laboratoire de Biologie de la Conservation, Bâtiment de Biologie, CH-1015 Lausanne, Suisse, Tel: +41 (21) 692 41 72, Fax: +41 (21) 692 41 65