

國際保育組織最新調查報告顯示

中國熊場扮演全球非法熊膽產製品交易的關鍵角色

根據英國世界動物保護協會 (WSPA) 10 月 28 日公布一份最新調查報告，顯示許多國家的法律對於價值數百萬美元的非法熊膽貿易失去控制，對於熊類動物的生存形成嚴重威脅。熊類製品因有些傳統中藥使用者而需求強大，此份名為「熊膽生意」(The Bear Bile Business, 網址：<http://www.wspa.org.uk>, 中文摘要：<http://www.east.org.tw>.) 的報告，是 WSPA 及其會員團體在八個國家針對中藥商所做長達三年調查研究的結果。這八個國家分別為台灣、美國、加拿大、澳洲、日本、馬來西亞、印尼、新加坡。這份報告已於日前送達華盛頓公約組織 (CITES) 所有會員國代表，CITES 第十二次會員國大會預定 11 月 3~15 日於智利聖地牙哥市召開。WSPA 及其會員團體將於會場呼籲 CITES 採取更有效、嚴謹的貿易管理措施，以保護熊類物種。

惡名昭彰的中國熊場被指責為熊膽非法貿易的罪魁禍首。熊場熊隻的身體被切開，膽囊插上管子，以便每天抽取牠們的膽汁。此一惡劣行徑造成熊隻嚴重緊迫，有些熊痛苦到撕咬自己的手掌，這些熊長期忍受令人髮指的虐待與疏忽，被關在窄小到無法站立的鐵籠。

熊場的出現加速野生熊隻的滅絕，因為在熊場中緩慢死亡的熊都必須以野外獵捕的熊隻來補充。熊場的熊通常只能活到十歲，大約只有正常野生熊自然壽命的 1/3。根據報告，WSPA 估計僅僅在日本每年就有至少 200 公斤的熊膽汁被「耗用」，而這可能是犧牲幾千隻熊的代價。熊膽生意的利潤很高，每公克約值美金 15-20 元（相較於自中國熊場賣出只要美金 0.24 元而言）。最高的價格是在日本，超過每公克 252 美元。即便是最保守的估計，中國熊場膽汁市值約一億美金（以平均國際價格估計）。這明顯違反 CITES 的規定，保育團體將在會場呼籲當局採取緊急行動。

中國熊場對熊膽製品市場具有火上加油的作用，據估計，中國熊場每年約可生產 7,000 公斤的熊膽汁，其中 4,000 公斤於中國內部耗用，多數用於洗髮精、熊膽酒等，早已不再是傳統中藥。

WSPA 「熊要自由」運動暨野生動物部門主任華肯斯 (Victor Watkins) 表示，「熊是非法貿易的犧牲者，每隻活熊頭上都標示著一定的價格，中國熊場是這個問題的根源，它根本不是中藥傳統文化問題而只是生意的得失，中國與 CITES 應採取行動終止非法貿易，並關閉熊場。」

註：

1. 英國世界動物保護協會 (WSPA) 為一國際性動物福利團體。主要宗旨係在促進有效保護動物的措施，防止對動物殘忍虐待的行為，並解救受到迫害的動物。目前有 420 多個團體會員，在逾 90 幾個國家中運作，總部設於英國，全球設有 12 個辦公室。WSPA 提供技術性專業指導與協助，以促進動物福利普及於全世界，並與政府官員及民間團體合作，推動動

物保護立法，或施行現有相關法律。

2.參與 WSPA 「熊膽生意」調查研究及報告的亞洲團體：台灣 EAST、新加坡 ACRES、印尼 KSBK、日本 JWCS、泰國 AGA

New report identifies China's bear bile farms as playing a key role in the illegal global bear trade

A new report released today by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) reveals how existing international laws protecting endangered species are failing to control an illegal multi-million dollar international trade in bear parts that is a threat to the very survival of this species. Bear products are in great demand by some users of traditional Chinese medicine, who regard them as a cure-all.

The report, 'The Bear Bile Business', is based on a three year investigation of hundreds of shops and companies in conjunction with WSPA member societies in eight countries (USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Taiwan).

Investigators have discovered bear products openly on sale in over 70% of places surveyed in Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA, closely followed by Canada (68%), Indonesia (62%), Australia (49%) and Taiwan (30%). Other countries implicated in the illegal trade of bear products include the Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Russia, India, Pakistan and Vietnam.

China's notorious bear bile farms are at the very heart of this illegal trade. Over 7,000 bears are kept alive on more than 200 farms in China, where they are 'milked' for their bile from open wounds. This agonising process causes severe distress, with some bears resorting to chewing their paws to cope with the pain. These animals endure appalling levels of cruelty and neglect and are kept in tiny metal cages where they are often unable to stand straight.

The farms are helping to accelerate the demise of bears in the wild, as more are sought to replace those slowly dying on the farms where they may only survive to the age of ten, a third of the life expectancy of a wild bear. In Japan alone, WSPA estimates that at least 200 kg of bear bile is consumed annually; this could represent several thousand dead wild bears. Trade in bear bile products is highly profitable, with bear bile costing around US\$15 - \$20 per gram on the international market (in contrast to the average of \$0.24 per gram it is sold for by bear bile farms in China). The highest price found was in Japan, where some bear bile was being sold for over \$252 per gram. Even using conservative estimates, the annual production of bear bile in China is worth in excess of \$100 million (at average international prices).

This trade contravenes the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and a WSPA delegation will be lobbying CITES to take urgent action at an international meeting being

held in Santiago, Chile, from 3rd to 15th November 2002. WSPA's delegation will be calling for greater protection for all bear species with more effective and stricter controls on the international trade.

China is playing a leading role in fuelling the market for bear products. Today, it is estimated that 7,000 kg of bear bile is produced in China each year, of which only around 4,000 kg are actually consumed in the country itself. In recent years, there has been a dramatic growth in the production of bear bile products, which has spawned a market for a whole new range of items, such as shampoo and wine, far removed from the formulations of traditional Chinese medicine.

Victor Watkins, Director of WSPA's Libearty campaign, said, "Our findings show how bears are the victim of a blatant illegal trade that has put a price on the head of every living bear. China's bear bile farms are a root cause of this problem and urgent action needs to be taken to stop the trade and close down these farms, which have nothing to do with tradition or culture and everything to do with profit and loss."

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For further information, interviews, copies of 'The Bear Bile Business', colour photographs and/or broadcast quality footage, please contact:

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Editors' notes

1. WSPA is an international animal protection charity recognized by the United Nations. WSPA has hundreds of thousands of supporters, a network of offices and more than 420 member societies in 90 countries. WSPA works to campaign against cruelty by exposing animal abuse and enforcing stronger laws; to save abandoned animals or those stricken by disasters; and promote humane education and training to encourage respect for animals and improve standards of animal care.

2. The following WSPA member societies have conducted a variety of investigations as part of 'The Bear Bile Business' report:

Singapore - AnimalWatch; Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES); Animal Conservation for Life (KSBK), Indonesia; Environment and Animal Society of Taiwan (EAST); Japan Wildlife Conservation Society (JWCS); Thai Animal Guardians Association (Thai AGA)