

ABSTRACT

The subject of my thesis is the regulation of international trade in endangered species. An excessive trade in endangered species is one of the main causes of biodiversity loss on the Earth. The biodiversity loss constitutes a serious worldwide problem and threatens the stability of all the ecosystems. It is becoming more urgent by the fact that the speed of species extinction or at least their inclusion in the lists of endangered species is getting faster. Especially an illegal trade in endangered species is considered one of the largest and the most profitable.

I have chosen this topic with the aim to show legal methods and ways of the regulation of the excessive exploitation of wildlife. The question of the regulation of the international trade is examined from the international perspective, the perspective of the European Union law and as well from the czech law perspective. A considerable stress is put on the description and explanation of the operation of the international trade regulation system regarding that an effective slowdown of the biodiversity loss phenomenon or its stop can be only possible by the international cooperation of the countries. The remaining levels of the regulation must be in compliance with the international level of the regulation.

The thesis is consisted of six chapters. The first chapter sets the international trade regulation in endangered species in the context with the biodiversity loss. It states the trade as one of the causes of the biodiversity loss and offers both scientific and legal solutions of the problem. The second chapter describes the historical development of the regulation of the trade in endangered species as to the all levels of the regulation. It elucidates how the interest in the enviroment protection was evolving as a whole and how the society realized that there was a need for the regulation of the excessive trade in species driven nearly to the extinction.

The third chapter deals with the international system of the protection based on the CITES Convention (*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*). This chapter comprises five subheads. The first of them is dedicated to the examination of the effective operation of the Convention and to the aspects that secure or hobble the proper operation of the Convention. The other subhead specifies the fundamental principles, on which the international system of protection is based, and the key provisions for the protection of the endangered species. The third subhead depicts the institutional structure of the Convention that means the authorities responsible for the fulfilment of the Convention functions and allocation of their powers. Then follows the explanation of the concept of the strategic plans elaborated as long-term strategies against the excessive trade. The last subhead discusses the compliance with the Convention, particularly the deficiencies that can be seen in the fulfilment of the obligations following from its provisions despite the fact that the Convention came into force long time ago.

The fourth chapter describes the European system of trade regulation. It compares the international and European Union legislation in the light of the protection degree and the strictness of the obligations that the member states of the European Union must accept according to the EU legislation. The fifth chapter is dedicated to the Czech system of regulation, in particular to the implementation of the international and EU legislation. It addresses the aspects of the regulation which every single member state must enact by itself to effectively secure the protection of the species against their excessive exploitation by the international trade. The last chapter summarizes the conclusions to which the thesis has come and sums up the positive and negative sides of the current regulation on every level. It also comes up with suggestions on the improvement of the regulation.

Key words: international trade on endangered species, CITES specimen, import and export regulation.