



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut
District of Oregon

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CONTACT: Gerri Badden

PHONE: 503-727-1033

www.usdoj.gov/usao/or

CLACKAMAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY

IMPORTING PROTECTED LEOPARD SKINS

Portland, Ore. — U.S. District Judge Michael W. Mosman today sentenced Anna Goyda, 27, of Clackamas, Oregon, to serve two years probation and 250 hours of community service for illegally importing three leopard skins from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2007, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Judge Mosman also ordered Goyda to make a \$500 community service payment to the Oregon Endangered Species Act Justice Fund, a fund administered by the Oregon Zoo to provide grants to projects supporting endangered and threatened species.

Goyda purchased three leopard skins at a market in Kinshasa, the Congo, for approximately \$1,600, and asked a colleague to send the leopard skins to her Clackamas home. DHL Express mistakenly sent Goyda's package containing the leopard skins to the Heineken Brewery in the Netherlands, and sent a package destined for Heineken containing bottle caps to Goyda's home in Clackamas. Upon discovering the package of leopard skins, Heineken alerted Royal Dutch Customs, which contacted U.S. authorities.

Goyda pleaded guilty in March 2009 to a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act, which prohibits importing into the United States any species of fish or wildlife listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act lists leopards (*panthera pardus*) in the Congo as a threatened species. In addition to the other penalties, Goyda was also ordered to forfeit the three leopard skins, along with other protected wildlife products she purchased in Africa.

"Our office is very serious about enforcing federal laws designed to protect and preserve wildlife," said United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut.

This case was investigated by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with assistance from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Stacie Beckerman.

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