

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

This report was compiled by Carolina Caceres, regional representative for North America, in collaboration with the CITES authorities of Canada, Mexico and the United States^{*}.

1. General information

The North American region consists of three parties, all of whom have contributed to this report. This report covers the period from April 2009 until February 2011.

Regional Representative: Ms. Carolina Caceres, Manager for Species Assessment, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Canada

Alternate Regional Representative: Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, Chief of the U.S. Division of Scientific Authority (DSA), United States

Contributors to the report are:

CANADA: Provincial and Territorial Governments, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, TRAFFIC North America, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Furbearer Management Committee, Fur Institute of Canada, and Inuit co-management boards and stakeholders (Inuit Circumpolar Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Settlement Region Co-Management Bodies WMAC-NWT and WMAC-NS, Inuvialuit Settlement Region Joint Secretariat, Makivik Corporation, Northwest Territories Government, Nunatsiavut Government, Nunavik Marine Regional Management Board, Nunavut Government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board).

MEXICO: National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), Scientific Authority; Directorate General of Wildlife (DGVIS-SEMARNAT), Management Authority; and Federal Environmental Protection Agency (PROFEPA-SEMARNAT), Enforcement Authority.

UNITED STATES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP); and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

2. Communication with Parties in the region since AC24 (April 2009)

The North American Region communicates regularly as part of our ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional CITES issues. The United States hosted a regional meeting in February 2010 prior to CoP15, and Canada hosted a regional meeting in November 2010 to share information and experiences in the

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

implementation of CITES and to prepare for the 2011 Committee meetings. In between meetings, the Region maintained communication through conference calls and email.

3. Follow up on selected agenda items of previous AC meetings

UNITED STATES

Sharks (Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 1a)

The United States responded to Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 regarding international trade in the sharks. We reported that the U.S. National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (2001) is currently being implemented consistent with the FAO's IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. We included the 2009 Shark Finning Report to Congress, prepared by NMFS pursuant to the U.S. Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-557), and reported that on January 4, 2011, President Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 which strengthens the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 by mandating that a national fins-attached policy applies to shark species caught in all waters of the United States. Lastly, we included a report on the U.S. trade in basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), and whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) for the years 2000-2009.

Law Enforcement

The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) hosted a second meeting of the CITES Enforcement Expert Group, which was convened in response to issues raised at CoP14. The meeting, which was held at the USFWS Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, focused on ways to improve the collection and analysis of data on illegal trade. Participants included representatives from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Kenya, the Republic of South Africa, India, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and Switzerland.

CITES Identification Sheets

The United States has prepared identification sheets for its Appendix III-listed turtle species including: Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) and map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.) and will be making them available to the Secretariat and for use by the Parties.

4. CITES activities in the region, in respect to:

a) Periodic Review of the Appendices

MEXICO

Felidae

Further to Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP15) at AC23 (Geneva, April 2008), Mexico offered to conduct the periodic review of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*). Mexico's CITES Scientific Authority (CONABIO) financed the project "Periodic review of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in the CITES Appendices" headed by Dr. Rodrigo Medellín (Institute of Ecology, UNAM). Following a review of the available sources of information, questionnaires and meetings with specialists from countries in the jaguar's distribution area, it was concluded that the species meets criterion C of Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to remain in Appendix I (see agenda item 15 of AC25).

Colinus virginianus ridgwayi

CONABIO put together a document with available information on the masked quail (*C. v. ridgwayi*) in the national territory to contribute to the periodic review process headed by the U.S.

UNITED STATES

Periodic review of Felidae (Winter 2009/2010)

In collaboration with its state partners, USFWS produced an on-line *Lynx* spp. fur identification guide. This guide provides an improved tool for customs authorities and law enforcement personnel for use in distinguishing bobcat pelts from those of other *Lynx* species. An on-line link to this guide was distributed to the CITES Parties for review via an information document at CoP15. The final identification guide will be available on-line soon.

b) CITES projects

CANADA

Standing Non-Detriment Finding Reports

A Canadian black bear and grizzly bear workshop held in November 2010 provided provincial and territorial government species managers with an opportunity to share bear management information-sharing across jurisdictions and to learn more about CITES as it relates to bear management and permit decisions in Canada.

Standing Non-detriment Finding (NDF) Reports are used to document the current management practices in Canada for commonly-traded Canadian species to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens. Canada continues efforts to prepare these reports for key species identified through consultation with Federal, Provincial and Territorial Scientific Authorities. The reports are available on the Environment Canada website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites>).

Standing Non-detriment Finding Reports for the Polar Bear and Northern River Otter have been completed. The Polar bear report determined that the export of legally harvested Polar Bear from Canada is non-detrimental, with the exception of Polar Bears harvested in the Baffin Bay management unit. The Northern River Otter report determined that the export of legally harvested River otter in Canada is non-detrimental.

MEXICO

Crocodylus moreletii monitoring program

Further to transfer of the species from Appendix I to Appendix II presented by Belize and Mexico (CoP15 Prop. 8), CONABIO coordinates the development and implementation of the Mexico-Belize-Guatemala crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) Monitoring Program in Mexico. Its main objective is to monitor the status of and trends in the main wild populations and their habitat in the long term. Mexico drafted a Manual of Procedures that describes and standardizes the sampling design, methods for data collection in the field and how to report those data, based on agreements from an expert's workshop (Mexico City, January, 2010).

Updating of the Bird and Mammal Identification Guide

To provide the Mexican official personnel responsible for wildlife monitoring and inspection with scientific information on the identification of heavily traded wild birds and mammals in Mexico protected by CITES, an updated version of the Guide drafted in 1998 is being developed (available for consultation on-line at http://www.conabio.gob.mx/conocimiento/cgi-bin/clave_cites.cgi).

CITES species sheets and CONABIO webpage

Technical sheets on CITES species will be published on the CONABIO web platform.

c) Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

CANADA

Canada has ten CITES-registered captive-breeding operations breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tragopan caboti* and *Acipenser brevirostrum*. No new operations were registered in 2009 or 2010.

UNITED STATES

At CoP15, Parties approved the registration of the following U.S. facilities:

- Pacific Northeast Falcons for *Falco rusticolus* and *F. peregrinus* x *F. rusticolus*
- David Knutson for *Falco peregrinus*
- Hollister Longwings for *Falco rusticolus*, *F. peregrinus* and *F. peregrinus* x *F. rusticolus*

d) Others

CANADA

The Government of Canada has entered what is known as "holding reservation" for decisions taken at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties. The Convention, drafted in 1975, allows 90 days for countries to update their regulations. Canada, as with many other Parties to the Convention, is unable to meet the short timelines for making the necessary regulatory changes. We have initiated the normal regulatory changes to the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR) so the listing changes agreed to at CoP 15 can be legally

enforced in Canada as soon as possible. Completion of the regulatory changes is targeted for 2011 at which time the holding reservation will be lifted. The Government of Canada is serious about protecting species at risk within its borders and internationally, and committed to our responsibilities to CITES. Canada continues to strongly support the decisions made by the 15th Conference of Parties to CITES.

MEXICO

National strategies for the conservation, management and sustainable use of CITES species

The Scientific and Management Authorities will publish the National River Turtle Strategy (*Dermatemys mawii*) this year and are drafting the National Mexican crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*, *C. acutus* and *Caiman crocodilus*) Strategy. Both documents will set out general guidelines for conservation and sustainable use of these CITES species in Mexico.

Nomenclature issues

Joint work is being done with the nomenclature specialist of the Fauna Committee to agree on a taxonomic reference that supports the inclusion of tree frogs *Agalychnis callidryas*, *A. moreletii*, *A. annae*, *A. spurrelli* and *A. saltator* in CITES Appendix II (CoP15 Prop. 13) and that could be adopted at CoP16 as part of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15). In addition, identification material is being prepared for the 14 species recently recognized for the genus *Agalychnis* (Faivovich, 2010; Frost, 2011 ver. 5.5) to facilitate implementation of CITES.

UNITED STATES

Appendix-III Listing Proposed for Hellbender (September 8, 2010)

USFWS published a proposed rule to list the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), in CITES Appendix III. The proposed listing includes live and dead whole specimens, and all readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives of the species. In preparing the proposed rule, USFWS consulted with U.S. States, experts and the general public. Listing hellbenders in Appendix III will allow monitoring of international trade in the taxon to determine whether further measures are required to conserve this species and its subspecies. The notice announcing the final decision on the Appendix-III listing is expected in summer, 2011.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Actions

The United States addressed a number of CITES-listed species under its stricter domestic legislation, the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). These ESA actions, published in the *Federal Register*, included final determinations and findings under ESA. CITES-listed species actions include:

Species	Publication Date	ESA	CITES
Black-breasted puffleg (<i>Eriocnemis nigrivestis</i>)	7/27/2010	Endangered	Appendix II
Humboldt penguin (<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>)	8/3/2010	Threatened	Appendix I
Andean flamingo (<i>Phoenicoparrus andinus</i>)	8/17/2010	Endangered	Appendix II
Chilean woodstar <i>Eulidia yarrellii</i>		Endangered	Appendix II
Shovelnose sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i>)	9/1/2010	Threatened	Appendix II
African penguin (<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>)	9/28/2010	Endangered	Appendix II
Margaretta's hermit hummingbird (<i>Phaethornis malaris margaretae</i>)	12/28/2010	Endangered	Appendix II

For additional details and the Federal Register publications, see:

<http://www.fws.gov/policy/frsystem/default.cfm>

Trade Monitoring

The USFWS wildlife inspection program remains the United States' front-line defense against wildlife trafficking. USFWS inspectors examine imports and exports at 38 ports of entry and border crossings. They processed more than 174,000 shipments in FY 2010. Wildlife inspectors worked to improve CITES compliance by training brokers, major U.S. retailers, international mail and package delivery managers, and other groups involved in wildlife trade. Wildlife seized and/or re-exported for CITES violations included live tortoises, chameleons, parrots, falcons, finches, primates, frogs, spiders, seahorses, coral and live rock. Part/product seizures included elephant, hippo and walrus ivory; leopard trophies and zebra skins; sea turtle eggs and meat; reptilian leather products; queen conch meat/shells; coral jewelry; primate parts (including bushmeat); whale meat and teeth; and medicinals (including two shipments in Dallas containing over 3,000 such products).

Smuggling Investigations

USFWS special agents and wildlife inspectors upheld the treaty by investigating illegal trade in CITES species. Significant investigations include a joint USFWS/NOAA-Fisheries investigation of whale tooth smuggling that resulted in conviction of a Massachusetts antiques dealer, a well-known U.S. scrimshaw artist, and a Ukrainian national; an undercover case that secured the arrests of two Irish nationals for rhino horn trafficking; the successful prosecution of two Taiwanese nationals for smuggling more than \$194,000 worth of black coral into the United States; and a ground-breaking cooperative case in which U.S. agents worked with the Royal Thai Police to secure four arrests in Thailand and the indictment of two individuals in the United States for elephant ivory trafficking. Other key cases secured prison sentences and/or significant fines for U.S. hunters importing unlawfully taken leopard trophies; the owner of a luxury yacht that arrived in Florida loaded with items made from CITES wildlife; a California man smuggling wild Burmese star and Indian star tortoises for sale in the United States; and the owner of a German aquatic export company that smuggled over 40 tons of coral from the Philippines to the United States.

Enforcement Enhancements

USFWS improved CITES enforcement capacity by hiring 23 new criminal investigators; expanding the ranks of its inspector workforce from 124 to 140; staffing a digital evidence recovery and technical support unit to assist investigators in the field; and training all new U.S. customs/agriculture inspectors on CITES import/export requirements.

5. Promotion of CITES in the region

a) Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

CANADA

Environment Canada has published species identification sheets for new CITES listings and the *CITES Identification Guide to Falconry Species*. These products complement the existing Environment Canada CITES Identification Guide series and are available at

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=35ED0E50-1>

Canada has developed a new brochure on Traditional Medicine to promote CITES within our Asian Communities.

The Scientific Authority presented a talk on Canadian Non-detriment Findings for Canadian Lynx and Northern River Otter at the 13th Northern Furbearer Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon, April 14, 2011.

MEXICO

Non-detriment findings

Further to Decisions 15.23 and 15.25, Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD), the U.S. Department of the Interior, TRAFFIC North America and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) organized the Workshop to Promote NDF Capacity for Central America and the Dominican Republic (Dominican Republic, November 2010). The objective was to help improve the capacities of the Scientific Authorities in the region by applying the results of the International Expert Workshop on NDF (Cancún, 2008). Representatives of CONABIO chaired the Flora and Fauna Working Groups. The latter generated recommendations on management, use and cooperation needs at the regional level to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*).

The findings and recommendations of the Reptile and Amphibian Working Group at the NDF Workshop in Cancún (2008) were presented at the 12th and 13th National Meetings on Iguanas (Tabasco, Mexico, May 2009; Sonora, Mexico, October 2010). In addition, CONABIO is working with DGVS at developing Specific Management Plans that take into account NDF requirements as support and guidelines for the use and conservation of species in UMAs (wildlife conservation management units).

Workshops

The Mexico-Guatemala-Belize Trilateral Workshop on the monitoring program for the Mexican crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) was held in January 2010, and the Workshop to Promote Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crocodiles in Mexico (Campeche, December 2010) was held in December of that year. The DGVS organized the "Training Workshop for the Implementation of Techniques for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Birds in Mexico" (November 2010).

Strengthening inspection offices through training, equipment and evaluation

The Law Enforcement Authority (PROFEPA) strengthened inspection offices by means of: a) four updating and training courses and workshops, organized in conjunction with WWF-TRAFFIC North America and SEMARNAT; b) Functioning of the Institutional Verification Record System (SIREV), which allows efficient service to citizens seeking to conduct cross-border movements of regulated wildlife species along with systematization of information on shipments to obtain statistical support for decision-making on public policy; c) The verification and inspection offices were equipped with over 2,500 working tools including materials for identification and sampling as well as printed reference materials for use by the staff of inspectors.

UNITED STATES

ITAP, in consultation with USFWS, conducted CITES capacity-building and training programs for the signatory countries of the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) and for several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Both programs are funded by the U.S. Department of State. A sample of recent, ongoing, and/or planned projects is included in Annex 2.

USFWS helped build CITES enforcement capacity in other countries through training and technical assistance. Two special agents served as liaison officers to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network in Thailand. USFWS enforcement staff conducted a 2-week wildlife investigations course in 2009 and 2010 for enforcement officers from sub-Saharan Africa at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana and completed international efforts that included three weeks of training for village game scouts in Tanzania; presentations at a Forest Service-sponsored workshop for Peruvian authorities; participation in a U.S. delegation to Russia to help draft legislation modelled on U.S. law; training on humane transport of CITES species for Central American nations at a Humane Society International/International Air Transport Association conference in San Jose, Costa Rica; and instruction at a resource protection training program for ranger supervisors in Georgia.

Increased U.S. CITES presence using web-based and mobile platforms

USFWS launched a CITES Facebook page in 2010, as well as a Flickr page, a You Tube channel, a Twitter feed, and "creature feature" text messages. These media provide subscribers with information about CITES, and about animal and plant species of interest.

b) The scientific community in the region and CITES

MEXICO

Directory of Experts

In early 2009, CONABIO published, on its website a directory of experts who act as advisors to the CITES Scientific Authority in Mexico. The directory currently has 63 experts and 25 more will be included in the coming months.

UNITED STATES

Invitational Travel Assistance (December 2010, Bogota, Colombia)

The United States provided support to the CITES Secretariat for invitational travel to the first Latin America Regional CITES meeting (Colombia, December 2010) and supported travel to the CITES Master's Course for a participant from Zambia in 2009.

Workshops and meetings

The United States has worked domestically and internationally, to sponsor workshops and meetings directed toward enhancing management of CITES-listed species. The following activities represent the ongoing commitment of the United States in this regard. Full descriptions follow in Annex 3.

- * *International Trade in Coral Reef Species* (May 2009, Washington, D.C., USA)
- * *Capacity Building workshop for Scientific Authorities from the Middle East and North Africa* (October 2009, Rabat, Morocco)
- * *African Wildlife Consultative Forums* (November 2009, Mangochi, Malawi)
- * *Non-detriment Finding Workshop* (July and November 2010, Dominican Republic)
- * *Third Eastern Pacific Ocean Shark Conservation Workshop* (July 2010, Manta, Ecuador)
- * *U.S. Freshwater Turtle Workshop* (September 2010, St. Louis, Missouri, USA)
- * *Friends of the Cephalopods* (November 2010, Denver, Colorado, USA)
- * *8th International Symposium: Cephalopods - Present and Past* (2010, Dijon, France)

c) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

CANADA

Cooperation for polar bear conservation

In 2009 Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the governments of the Canadian territory of Nunavut and the government of Greenland concerning our shared polar bear subpopulations. This MoU will bring closer co-operation and shared management actions. In addition, Canada is actively participating in the development of a range-wide action plan for polar bears with the polar bear range state countries (United States, Russia, Greenland and Norway) who, along with Canada, are signatory to the 1973 international Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears.

MEXICO

International cooperation

The CITES authorities in El Salvador visited Mexico (November 2009) to share experiences under the framework of CITES implementation; PROFEPA held a workshop on verification of cross-border movements of wildlife, forestry products and subproducts and their health under the joint trilateral agenda of the CCA in reference to information exchange mechanisms and the use of intelligence systems. Representatives from Kenya visited CONABIO (February-March 2011) to learn about the institution's work, including the CITES Scientific Authority, with a view to establishing similar institutions in Kenya and other East African countries. The coordinator of the CITES Scientific Authority in Mexico exchanged experiences with his counterparts in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Germany in the European Union (November-December 2010) with financial support from the United Kingdom and CONABIO; and participated as an observer at the 50th meeting of the Scientific Review Group and the 49th meeting of the Committee, of the European Commission.

CSG-Mexico coordination

During the 20th working meeting of the Crocodile Specialists Group (CSG) of IUCN (Manaus, Brazil, September 2010), the executive board proposed Hesiquio Benítez (CONABIO) as Vice-President for the Mexican region.

PROFEPA-TRAFFIC agreement

In 2010, PROFEPA confirmed its commitment to work with WWF and TRAFFIC North America in Mexico. This Convention has helped prevent and combat illegal international trafficking in wildlife by professionalizing the technical and practical capabilities of the institutions' operational staff through capacity-building, international cooperation and public awareness-raising in keeping with the provisions of CITES. Some 45,000 pamphlets (Spanish and English) targeting tourists on cruise ships were prepared on the responsible purchase of wildlife and distributed at major seaports when such ships arrived.

CONABIO-TRAFFIC agreement

At the 16th Meeting of the Canada-Mexico-United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (Oaxaca, Mexico, May 2011), CONABIO and TRAFFIC North America in Mexico will sign a framework cooperation agreement. Its main objectives will be the generation, exchange and dissemination of information on Mexican species subject to international trade, training and international cooperation actions.

UNITED STATES

During the reporting period, the U.S. Scientific Authority, Management Authority and the Office of Law Enforcement engaged in many meetings, and collaborations with CITES stakeholders. Meetings attended include: the national convention of Safari Club International, the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association (MICRA) Paddlefish and Sturgeon Committee, Annual Meeting of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, Annual Meeting of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting, Symposium on the Ecology, Status, and Conservation of the Diamondback Terrapin, the 4th Annual International Sturgeon Symposium and numerous outreach events focused on CITES compliance.

d) Others

CANADA

Enforcement

In 2009, Environment Canada investigations led to two major convictions under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA); one for the possession of tiger derivatives with intent to sell or trade and the other for the possession of altered permits and the unlawful export of animal parts from Canada.

MEXICO

Promotion and updating of the legal and regulatory framework

PROFEPA participated in the revision and adaptation of the national regulatory framework related to CITES implementation.

Verifications by the Law Enforcement Authority in Mexico

During the period reported, 13,205 verifications of specimens, parts and derivatives of regulated wildlife species were conducted. In 2010, 7,120 verifications were conducted, which is an increase of 17% over 2009. In the first two months of 2011, 1,027 verifications were conducted.

References:

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Frost, Darrel R. 2011. *Amphibian Species of the World: an Online Reference*. Version 5.5 (31 January, 2011). Electronic Database accessible at <http://research.amnh.org/vz/herpetology/amphibia/American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA>.

UNITED STATES

Conservation Grants

USFWS administers a number of grant-making programs focused on CITES-listed species, including the African Elephant Conservation Fund, Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, Great Ape Conservation Fund, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (collectively termed the Multinational Species Conservation Funds). USFWS Division of International Conservation implements a competitive award process for each fund biannually. In 2010, the combined awards of these Multinational Species Conservation Funds totalled approximately USD13.65 million, with an additional USD18.76 million leveraged through matching funds.

USFWS also implements the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund and the Amphibians in Decline Fund. Both of these annual competitive grant programs make awards for the conservation of CITES-listed species or other species which may be impacted by trade. In 2010, the combined awards of these programs totalled approximately USD932,000, with an additional USD1.56 million leveraged through matching funds.

In addition, USFWS operates the Wildlife Without Borders—Regional programs, which are regionally (rather than species) based. The Regional programs award competitive grants and support capacity building for conservation work in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, Russia, and East Asia. In 2010, the combined awards of these Regional programs totalled approximately USD1.96 million, with an additional USD3.78 million leveraged through matching funds.

Additional information regarding these grant programs can be found at:

http://www.fws.gov/international/dic/grants/grants_home.html

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL CITES EXPERTISE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (ITAP)
(provided by the United States)

The Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), funded by the Department of State, consults with USFWS in providing regional CITES capacity building and training. Within the last two years, ITAP has provided the following programs in Central America, the Middle East and North Africa.

Central America

Costa Rica

- assisted in updating CITES legal framework to conform to current Resolutions.
- provided computer and audiovisual equipment to the CITES authorities to strengthen management of their offices and to allow for a web-based system for CITES permit control and issuance on a national level.
- provided resources for a national outreach campaign for wildlife protection, including displays at major airports, ports, and border crossings.

Dominican Republic

- in coordination with SEMARENA, convened a CITES workshop for agricultural inspectors, CITES officials and SEMARENA regional directors on the operational and legal aspects of CITES. ITAP also supported regional workshops for environmental police, public ministry and customs officials, agricultural inspectors, SEMARENA, and the public prosecutors' office.
- supported the planning of a series of seizure operations by SEMARENA at points of sale for hawksbill turtle products; 4,300 products were seized and hundreds of stores were inspected.
- supported and conducted a series of biological monitoring capacity-building activities for the Hispaniolian parrot (*Amazona ventralis*).

El Salvador

- in a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Environment, and the CITES Secretariat, provided assistance to strengthen El Salvador's CITES legal framework, initiate a CITES Legislative Plan, and complete a review of wildlife trade sanctions and penalties. Numerous activities and steps in El Salvador were undertaken as part of this process, including drafting and publication of new CITES implementing regulations, development of a model municipal wildlife ordinance and an inter-office "Wildlife Seizure Coordination Agreement," and the institution of regular CITES coordination meetings.
- sponsored a series of one-day workshops on the legal/technical aspects of CITES for key police, customs, forestry, and municipal environmental officials in each of El Salvador's fourteen Departments, involving training for 400 officials.
- provided technical and legal advice to national CITES authorities on the development of coordination mechanisms, training, technical guidelines for preparation of a species identification manual, and development of a plan of action covering marine turtle protection.
- supported a study-tour of Mexico's implementation of CITES by administrative, scientific and enforcement authorities of El Salvador, supported by regular follow-up meetings among the three groups of officials.
- in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), supported a participatory stakeholder process for the development of a Marine Turtle Action Plan with the inclusion of all three regions of the country.

Guatemala

- in collaboration with CONAP, developed species identification fact sheets that were distributed to customs officials at land and sea ports.
- supported efforts by CONAP and the Ministry of Governance to organize national workshops for police officials on CITES legal and operational issues. This support led to a series of workshops using the DOI-CITES Secretariat interactive CITES curriculum; all training was conducted by Guatemalan Management Authority officials and was directed at law enforcement officials, including customs, prosecutors and judges.
- supported the development of outreach and educational materials on Appendix-I *Tapirus* conservation.
- purchased professional photography equipment for CITES authorities to enable the development of a photographic archive of national wildlife species.
- in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Asociación Balam, supported the improved management and protection of the Maya Biosphere Reserve with a particular focus on jaguar protection.

Honduras

- assisted in updating the 2004 CITES Ministerial Order to ensure that the requirements, adopted in 2008, conform with the Law on Forestry, Protected Areas, and Wildlife.
- in cooperation with the respective CITES authorities, assisted in the design and implementation of a Psittacidae species monitoring program in the Honduran Mosquitia Protected Area. This monitoring plan was based on a similar effort in Nicaragua.
- in cooperation with the Honduran CITES authorities, organized a two-day workshop for national officials on implementation and enforcement of the Convention.
- assisted in the design and implementation of an on-line system for improving the management of CITES permit applications.

Nicaragua

- assisted in updating 1998 CITES Executive Order to conform with current CITES Resolutions.
- advised on systems components and equipment purchases for an information management system for CITES document registration.
- provided technical assistance to the Management Authority to revise the existing CITES database of records of import, export and re-export of CITES-listed species for 1998-2010.
- supported MARENA in implementing a national plan to control illegal trade in Nicaragua; the focus was on areas with higher incidences of illegal trade.
- supported MARENA and the Public Ministry in executing a national capacity-building workshop on the enforcement of environmental laws, including CITES requirements.
- in collaboration with Nicaragua's CITES authorities and Humane Society International, supported CITES workshops on implementation, animal handling, and disposal and placement of confiscated wildlife.
- provided resources and technical assistance to the Management Authority to improve an on-line CITES permit system used to create and print documents.
- supported a feasibility study on a community-based poison arrow frog ranching project.

Regional

- assisted the CITES Secretariat in the development of an interactive, electronic CITES curriculum and other tools specifically for CAFTA-DR countries' use.
- supported the Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD) in consolidating a list of CITES-listed fauna for the region and to ensure that Appendix-III species are listed in conformance with Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15).
- provided project assistance on economic valuation of CITES trade in each CAFTA-DR country in order to justify increased spending for implementing offices.
- in partnership with academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations, undertook a regional assessment of the conservation status, exploitation and trade in native iguana species (*Ctenosaura* and *Iguana* spp.) and produced a photographic identification guide for these species.
- in partnership with TRAFFIC and CCAD, and in collaboration with USFWS, U.S. Department of Justice, CITES Secretariat and INTERPOL, assisted in the development of a Central America Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN). The WEN, authorized in a September 2010 Memorandum of Understanding among the CAFTA-DR signatory States, will improve the coordination, cooperation, and enforcement capacity between agencies and countries.
- in collaboration with the USFWS, NMFS, and the CITES Secretariat, strengthened the scientific implementation of CITES through a series of non-detriment finding (NDF) workshops. The first regional workshop, developed for forty participants, was held in the Dominican Republic. Expert contributions were provided by IUCN, CORALINA (Columbia), CONABIO (Mexico), TRAFFIC, and CCAD. The workshop report (Spanish) can be found at <http://www.sica.int/ccad/DENP.aspx>.

Bi-National

- in cooperation with CCAD and the Secretariat, provided assistance in updating the Costa Rica-Nicaragua bi-national CITES operations manual addressing legal and operational aspects of implementing and enforcing the Convention.
- in coordination with the CITES authorities of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, organized a capacity-building workshop in Nicaragua for national officials responsible for customs, agricultural quarantine and environmental management and protection in the border region. The workshop utilized an interactive CD curriculum developed by the CITES Secretariat to integrate procedures and regulations by country.
- in cooperation with Zootopic and the Bay Islands Foundation, assisted CITES authorities of Guatemala and Honduras in the preparation of the CoP15, CITES Appendix-II listing proposal for four species of spiny-tailed iguanas (*Ctenosaura*). This effort included a training workshop, community outreach and stakeholder participation efforts.

Middle East and North Africa

ITAP conducted a one-week workshop in Morocco for approximately 30 CITES Scientific Authority representatives from throughout the Middle East and North Africa. The training was delivered cooperatively by the capacity-building unit of the CITES Secretariat and the U.S. Scientific Authority. Workshop topics included functions of the Scientific Authority, production systems, conducting non-detriment findings, setting quotas, significant trade reviews, and listing criteria. Training materials were translated into Arabic and made widely available to Arabic speakers through the CITES Secretariat.

ITAP is planning to conduct two additional training workshops in 2011 in Morocco for customs authorities. These workshops will provide support for efforts to strengthen CITES implementation at ports of import and export.

ITAP hosted a Conservation Fellow from Oman to work on conservation of CITES-listed species and to learn about how the United States implements the Convention.

For additional details on any of these projects, or for information on the full suite of CITES support and capacity-building projects implemented by ITAP, please contact the program Manager, Barbara Pitkin at Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov or Bruce Weissgold of the USFWS Division of Management Authority at Bruce_Weissgold@fws.gov.

WORKSHOPS AND MEETING INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES
(provided by the United States)

International Trade in Coral Reef Species (May 2009, Washington, D.C., USA)

A workshop on the impacts, management and policy options concerning the international trade in coral reef species was attended by USFWS. The workshop organized by the Environmental Defense Fund, USAID, and Kingfisher Foundation, looked at the science of the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the coral reef species trade. The workshop also assessed the current level of U.S. consumption, and the U.S. role in the aquarium, curio, and jewelry trade. This workshop was part of the International Marine Conservation Congress, held in Washington, D.C. (May 18-19, 2009).

Africa Region DSA Workshop (October 2009, Rabat, Morocco)

A representative from the DSA participated in a four-day capacity building workshop for Scientific Authorities in the CITES region of Africa. The workshop, funded by the U.S. Department of State and organized by ITAP, was led by the Chief of the Capacity Building Unit for the CITES Secretariat. Attendees included 23 participants representing 11 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Presentations included the functions of CITES Scientific Authorities, including making non-detriment findings, setting trade quotas, species assessments for listing and de-listing, monitoring trade flow and data analysis, participating on CITES Plants and Animals Committees, and scientific collaboration on shared species.

African Wildlife Consultative Forums (November 2009 and 2010)

USFWS staff participated in the 8th African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Mangochi, Malawi in November 2009, as well as the 9th Forum in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in November 2010. The Forum, held annually in one of the southern African countries, is a venue for the Directors of various national wildlife agencies to gather and discuss wildlife issues of mutual interest and concern. USFWS staff gave presentations on USFWS policies and procedures that affect wildlife in southern Africa; special attention was given to sport-hunted trophy imports into the United States under CITES.

Non-detriment Finding Workshop (July 2010, Dominican Republic)

NMFS convened a workshop with several countries in Latin America (Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) on guidelines for making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed marine species. Specifically, the purpose of this event was to share findings with countries unable to attend the initial workshop on this topic which was held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2008.

Third Eastern Pacific Ocean Shark Conservation Workshop (July 2010, Manta, Ecuador)

The United States worked cooperatively with eastern Pacific Ocean governments to improve shark conservation and management efforts through a series of workshops. Following-up on two previous workshops held in 2008, a third was held in 2010. Fourteen countries were represented including Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, and Venezuela.

U.S. Turtle Workshop (September 2010, St. Louis, Missouri)

USFWS convened and hosted a national workshop on the "Conservation and Trade Management of Freshwater and Terrestrial Turtles in the United States". This event hosted 35 U.S. State representatives as well as invited experts. The three-day workshop focused on the areas of conservation biology, trade management and regulation, and law enforcement and compliance; participants produced consensus recommendations under each of these categories. This workshop was developed in response to a significant increase in the export of native turtles, particularly to Asia. Based on the availability of resources, USFWS hopes to sponsor follow-on activities and meetings to advance the objectives and recommendations of the workshop.

Non-detriment Finding Workshop (November 2010, Dominican Republic)

A workshop focusing on issues related to non-detriment findings relevant to Central America and the Caribbean was attended by USFWS staff, who also served on the Workshop's Steering Committee. A USFWS biologist gave a presentation on U.S. perspectives and procedures regarding the preparation of non-detriment findings. A total of 43 participants from 12 countries attended the 3-day workshop.

8th International Symposium: Cephalopods - Present and Past (2010, Dijon, France)

As part of a special session on the Chambered Nautilus, USFWS staff presented a status review of the extant cephalopod genera *Allonautilus* and *Nautilus*, entitled Nautilid Conservation and International Trade. The presentation summarized the process used by USFWS to review taxa for listing consideration within the CITES Appendices. This summary included a presentation of U.S. trade data for nautilus, the initial results of the USFWS's review and the challenges to understanding the impact of international trade on these taxa. Activities being undertaken to continue gathering information and monitoring these taxa were also presented.

Friends of the Cephalopods (November 2010, Denver, Colorado)

USFWS staff attended a meeting and presented the results of its assessment of *Nautilus* and *Allonautilus* species. Most attendees of this meeting were U.S.-based scientists and researchers involved in cephalopod studies. This meeting represents an ongoing effort to address data gaps regarding the status, conservation, and management of the *Nautilus* and *Allonautilus* species; these data are crucial to understanding the impact of international trade on these species and their management.