

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

Note: This report has been submitted by the regional representative for North America.*

1. General information

a) Names of the representatives:

Regional Representative: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez-Diaz (Mexico)

Alternate Member: Ms. Adrienne Sinclair (Canada)

b) Number of Parties in the region: 3

c) Period covered by this report: March 2009 (since PC18) through December 2010

2. Directory of experts on CITES plant issues

CANADA

Management Authority

Contact: Mary Taylor

Address: CITES Management Authority, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment Canada, Gatineau, Quebec, CANADA K1A 0H3

Email: cites-canada@ec.gc.ca

Scientific Authority

Address: CITES Scientific Authority, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment Canada, Gatineau, Quebec, CANADA K1A 0H3

Email: cites-science@ec.gc.ca

Contact person for plant issues

Name: Adrienne Sinclair (Alternate Representative for the North American Region)

Expertise: Medicinal Plants

* *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.*

Address: CITES Scientific Authority, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Gatineau, Quebec, CANADA K1A 0H3
Telephone: 1-819-953-9515 or 1-819-956-1962 Fax: 1-819-994-3684
Email: Adrienne.Sinclair@ec.gc.ca

Other experts for plant issues

Name: Ken Farr
Expertise: Forest and Timber Species
Address: Canadian Forest Service, CITES Scientific Authority, Natural Resources Canada, 580 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0E4
Telephone: 1-613-947-9007 Fax: 613-947-9035
Email: Kfarr@NRCan.gc.ca

MEXICO

Management Authority

Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS) Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Address: Av. Revolución 1425, Col. San Ángel Tlacopac Del. Álvaro Obregón. C.P. 01040 MÉXICO, D.F.
Contact: Martín Vargas Prieto
Telephone: +52 (55) 56-24-33-09/33-10/33-06 Fax: +52 (55) 56-24-36-42
Email: martin.vargas@semarnat.gob.mx

Other experts for CITES plant issues:

Contact: Benjamín González Brizuela
Telephone: +52 (55) 56-24-33-09/34-79 Fax: +52 (55) 56-24-36-42
Email: benjamin.brisuela@semarnat.gob.mx

Scientific Authority

Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
Address: Liga Periférico- Insurgentes sur #4903, Colonia Parques del Pedregal, C.P. 14010, México D.F. México
Contact: Hesiquio Benítez-Díaz
Telephone: +52 (55) 5004-50-25 Fax: +52 (55) 5004-49-85
Email: hbenitez@conabio.gob.mx

Contact: Alejandra García-Naranjo
Telephone: +52 (55) 5004 49 45 Fax: +52 (55) 5004-49-85
Email: algarcia@conabio.gob.mx

Contact: Laura Hernández Rosas
Telephone: +52 (55) 5004 49 45 Fax: +52 (55) 5004-49-85
Email: laura.hernandez@conabio.gob.mx

Contact: María Isabel Camarena Osorno
Telephone: +52 (55) 5004 49 45 Fax: +52 (55) 5004-49-85
Email: isabel.camarena@conabio.gob.mx

Other experts for CITES plant issues:

Contact: Patricia Dávila Aranda
Expertise: Cactaceae and Graminae, and CITES.
Address: Facultad de Estudios Superiores Iztacala, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), México D.F. México
Telephone: +52 (55) 56 23 12 19 Fax: +52 (55) 56 23 12 25
Email: pdavilaa@servidor.unam.mx

Law Enforcement Authority

Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)

Address: Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA). Camino al Ajusco 200, 8vo. Piso, Jardines en la Montaña, México, D.F., CP 14210

Contact person for CITES plant issues:

Name: Karla Isabel Acosta Resendí

Telephone: +52 (55) 54496316/06

Email: kacosta@profepa.gob.mx

Name: Francisco Javier Navarrete Estrada

Telephone: +52 (55) 54496316/06

Email: fnavarrete@profepa.gob.mx

Other experts for plant issues

Contact: Francisco García García

Address: Dirección General de Gestión Forestal y de Suelos (DGGFS, SEMARNAT) Av. Progreso 3. Col. del Carmen Coyoacán, México D.F.

Telephone: +52 (55) 54 84 35 05 Fax: +52 (55) 54 84 35 69

Email: fgarcia@semarnat.gob.mx

Contact: José Carlos Fernández

Address: Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) Periférico Poniente #5360 C.P. 45019. Zapopan, Jalisco.

Telephone / Fax: +52 (33) 3777-7000

Email: jcfernandez@conafor.gob.mx

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Management Authority

Contact: Mr. Robert R. Gabel, Chief

Address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 212, Arlington, Virginia 22203

Telephone: +1-703-358-2095 Fax: +1-703-358-2298

Email: managementauthority@fws.gov

Scientific Authority

Contact: Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, Chief

Address: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Scientific Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 110, Arlington, VA 22203 USA

Telephone: +1-703-358-1708 Fax: +1-703-358-2276

Email: scientificauthority@fws.gov, Rosemarie_Gnam@fws.gov

Other experts for plant issues:

Name: Robert R. Gabel - Division of Management Authority (DMA)

Expertise: Orchids and orchid trade

e-mail: Roddy_Gabel@fws.gov

Name: Patricia De Angelis, Ph.D. - Division of Scientific Authority (DSA)

Expertise: Medicinal plants, nontimber forest products, outreach/partnerships

Email: Patricia_DeAngelis@fws.gov

Name: Patricia Ford - DSA

Expertise: *Panax quinquefolius*, horticultural plants, timber and tree species

Email: Patricia_Ford@fws.gov

Name: Pamela Hall - DSA
Expertise: Branch Chief, Division of Scientific Authority
Email: Pamela_Hall@fws.gov

Name: Anne St. John - DMA
Expertise: Timber species, medicinal plants
Email: Anne_StJohn@fws.gov

Name: Mark Albert - DMA
Expertise: U.S. CITES trade data, timber species, U.S. Plant Rescue Center Program
Email: Mark_Albert@fws.gov

3. Activities carried out

3.1. *Review of the Appendices*

MEXICO

At the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC17, Ginebra 2008), Mexico volunteer for undertaking the periodic review of *Agave victoriae-reginae*. On 2009, Mexico contacted the PhD. M. Socorro Gonzalez Elizondo from the “Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional (CIIDIR IPN, Durango)” to invite her to undertake the project “Assessment of the conservation status of Maguey (*Agave victoriae-reginae*, Agavaceae) for its review in Appendix II of CITES”. This project included field data and literature regarding taxonomy, population biology, geographic distribution (present and potential), international trade and current threats to the species. Results will be presented at the 19th Plants Committee meeting (PC19) as an informative document (see point 6 below).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The U. S. Scientific Authority (SA) is conducting a periodic review of the genus *Sclerocactus* (Cactaceae), including comprehensive taxonomic, distribution, and conservation status reviews of U.S. and Mexican taxa. An update and available preliminary results will be provided at the 19th Plants Committee Meeting (PC19). At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15), the United States and Mexico successfully delisted *Euphorbia misera* from the Appendices.

3.2. *CITES projects in the Region*

MEXICO

National Inventory on Candelilla. At PC18 (Buenos Aires, 2009) Mexico presented an informative document ([PC18 Inf.10](#)) on the results of the periodic review of *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* stating that this species should remain in Appendix II. Due to its commercial and economical relevance, the Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO), in partnership with CONAFOR (National Forestry Commission) started Phase I of National Inventory of Candelilla to determine its current distribution, abundance and conservation status, in order to establish sustainable harvest rates.

Study on the status of *Yucca queretaroensis* in Mexico. Following document [PC18 Doc. 21.1](#) (Buenos Aires, 2009), the Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) has contacted experts of the Regional Botanical Garden of Cadereyta (Queretaro), who will undertake a study to assess “Conservation status, threats and trade of *Yucca queretaroensis*”, in order to evaluate if the species deserves to be included in the CITES Appendices, as well as, to assess if it is necessary to modify its current conservation status in the national legislation (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010). The study will start on March 2011.

3.3. Nursery registration

MEXICO

The following nurseries were registered with the Management Authority:

- Frisa Forjados García, Nuevo León: working with *Sclerocactus scheeri*, *Echinocactus texensis*, *Echinocactus horizonthalonius*, *Echinocactus enneacanthus*, *Ferocactus hamatacanthus*, *Mammillaria aphaerica*.
- El Tepocho, Veracruz: working with *Acineta barkeri*, *Stanhopea insignis*, *Stanhopea tigrina*, *Stanhopea oculata*.
- Fuego Maya SPR. De RI., Yucatán: working with *Cycas revoluta*.

3.4. Other activities

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. National Standing Non-Detriment Finding reports for American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) are published on the CITES-Canada website (www.cites.ec.gc.ca). The Standing NDF Report for American ginseng was updated and will be posted on the CITES Canada website in early 2011.

The Canadian Scientific Authority is an active member of the Ginseng Recovery Team made up of Canadian federal, provincial and municipal government members. This recovery team monitors wild ginseng populations and their status, as well as researches threats to ginseng and its habitat. Landscape-level and site-specific protection and recovery measures are being determined and implemented.

MEXICO

Hesiquio Benitez from the Mexican Scientific Authority as NA representative, in collaboration with representatives of various Parties, coordinated or assisted in elaboration of the following documents for the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC19, Geneva 2011):

- Doc. 8.4 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the CBD (Decision 15.19)
- Doc. 11.2 Preparation of clarification and guidance on the meaning of "packaged and ready for retail trade" and other terms used in the Annotations (Decision 15.31)
- Doc. 11.3 Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations (Decision 15.34)
- Doc. 11.4 Orchids: annotations for species included in Appendix II [Decisions 14.133, 14.134 (Rev.CoP15)]
- Doc. 11.5 Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III [Decision 14.149, 15.35, 14.148 (Rev.CoP15)]
- Doc. 13.1 Overview of species under review
- Doc. 13.2 Selection of species for review following CoP15
- Doc. 14.1 Assessment of trade in epiphytic cacti and review of listing of Cactaceae spp. in Appendix II (Decision15.89)
- Doc. 14.2 *Euphorbia* spp. [Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15)]
- Doc. 16.4 *Aniba rosaeodora* (Decision 15.90)
- Doc. 16.5 *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (Decision 15.96)

Plant species informative sheets. The Scientific Authority continues with its revision and validation sheets on Mexican plant species included in CITES Appendices I and II. These sheets contain information on biology, threats, management and risk status. Very soon 9 Cycad and 82 Orchid sheets will be published in the CONABIO webpage.

***Guaicum sanctum*.** Following Decision 11.114 (Rev. CoP12) –which directed the Plants Committee to evaluate the trade, threats and status in the wild of *Guaicum* spp., at PC17 (document [PC17 Doc. 17.1.3](#)) CONABIO (the Mexican SA) presented the results of the project, co-

financed by CONABIO, the U.S. Forest Service and the German Government "Abundance, distribution and conservation status of *Guaiacum sanctum* in Mexico". A second phase of the project was developed, in order to study the population genetics of the species. The study has been completed and its final report is currently under revision by CONABIO. Among its main findings, the authors of the study show demonstrate that the *Guaiacum* spp populations have adequate levels of genetic flow and variation. There were no genetic deficiencies detected in the adult trees. Finally, the study also enabled to document that there are significant genetic differences among *Guaiacum* Mexican populations, highlighting the importance of protecting the species throughout its distribution range.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Public Meeting on American Ginseng (February 2009, Virginia). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) held this public meeting on American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) to discuss current information on the biological status, management, harvest, and trade of American ginseng for making the necessary biological finding required for the issuance of CITES export permits for ginseng harvested in 2009. The meeting included presentations of recent research findings, as well as a two-day closed session with representatives of State and other Federal agencies who are responsible for managing American ginseng, including harvest, under their jurisdiction. The presentations and other information on the management of American ginseng in the United States are available on our website, at:

www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/plants/ginseng.html.

4.Capacity building activities

CANADA

Work continues on a web-based permitting system including the development of an online CITES permit application which will allow for Canadians to apply online to obtain a CITES permit. A next step will include expansion of the system for use by all Canadian federal, provincial and territorial CITES partners.

The North American Region met two times in 2010 (February and November), as part of our ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional issues and positions. These meetings are very useful to better understand other Parties' views and concerns, especially for shared species.

The Canadian network of scientific authorities met regularly by teleconference and there was a face-to-face workshop in November 2010. Although the workshop was focused on preparation on the Standing NDF report for two bear species, the workshop had the additional benefit of bringing together species managers and scientific authorities from across Canada to promote information-sharing and collaboration about CITES implementation in general (including plants).

MEXICO

Participation of the Scientific Authority of Mexico at the Dominican Republic NDF Workshop (15-17 November, 2010). Following Decisions 15.23 and 15.25 (Rev. CoP15) CCAD (Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo), USDO (United States Department of Interior), TRAFFIC North America and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) organized the workshop. The main objective was to improve CITES Scientific Authorities capacities by providing tools, methodologies and specialized knowledge through the utilization of the results of NDF's international expert workshop (Cancún, 2008) and those of the International Workshop of Experts on NDFs on Bigleaf Mahogany (Cancun, 2007). Representatives of the SA of Mexico co-chaired fauna and flora working groups. Flora Working group efforts where focused on the relevant elements to be considered when elaborating NDF's for Big Leaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), including a risk analysis on available information.

Law Enforcement efforts. The law enforcement authority of Mexico (PROFEPA) launched a web-based tool (Sistema Institucional del Registro de Verificación, SIREV) that will allow Mexican citizens to print out a pre-permit format required to wildlife transboundary transport, which will be validated by the Management Authority.

In order to improve CITES implementation in the period 2009-2010, under the Agreement on the Coordination of Actions between TRAFFIC-WWF and PROFEPA, a total of 220 kits for the identification and management of species covered by CITES, were given to PROFEPA. In addition, 50,000 leaflets of responsible purchasing of wildlife products for tourists were published in Spanish and English. PROFEPA also provided verification and inspection officers with printed guides and 2,500 working tools (identification and sampling materials).

PROFEPA organized a workshop on verification of transboundary movements of wildlife, forest and plant products to representatives of El Salvador.

The joint agenda of the trilateral Commission for North America Environmental Cooperation was reviewed regarding the establishment of information exchange mechanisms and use of intelligence systems.

To enhance institutional capacities for the verification, inspection and enforcement of the provisions of CITES and to prevent and combat illegal international trade of wildlife, 4 updating courses were organized. These courses were attended by national and foreign lecturers from 13 institutions belonging to public and private sectors, 86 inspectors from the Environmental Inspection Program at Ports, Airports and Borders, 14 inspectors from the Inspection Program for Natural Resources and 3 technicians from the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas.

Additionally, the "Dirección General de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras" of PROFEPA in collaboration with TRAFFIC- North America held a workshop entitled "Creación de Capacidades en Materia de Control y Verificación del Comercio Internacional de Vida Silvestre" in Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Enforcement capacity. Updated laws for State ginseng program, Kentucky: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) worked with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to draft legislation for the State's ginseng program to strengthen criminal penalties for violations and task a State agency with enforcement responsibilities.

Training of State and Federal inspectors. All new Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspectors and CBP agriculture specialists were trained by OLE on CITES import/export enforcement; U.S. Forest Service officers in the southeast and southwest United States were trained on plant poaching, ginseng trade, and new prohibitions under the Lacey Act for foreign plant species; and State and Federal inspectors and laboratory personnel from 13 U.S. States and one U.S. territory were trained on plant poaching and trafficking at the southern Chapter Conference of the Horticultural Inspection Society.

Stakeholder outreach on CITES regulations. OLE addressed the Maryland Orchid Society as part of an outreach program for plant trade compliance and the Chinese Herb Trade Association of Northern California (attended by 50 importers and store owners) on import/export requirements.

5. Contact with specialists and/or NGOs

CANADA

The Canadian Scientific Authority has worked closely with provincial and territorial Management and Scientific Authorities, Canadian Forest Service, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, TRAFFIC North America, Ontario Ginseng Growers Association, Saskatchewan Herb & Spice Association, Canadian Orchid Congress, Canadian Botanical Association, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Rural Affairs.

MEXICO

On 2010, Mexican law enforcement authority (PROFEPA) endorsed its compromise to work along with World Wildlife Foundation (originally signed on 2005) and TRAFFIC North America.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States maintained contact with a variety of specialists and NGOs regarding plant issues, including the American Public Garden Association, Botanic Gardens Conservation International-

North America, Personal Care Products Council, Proctor and Gamble, Smithsonian Institution-Botany Program and Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, and State Natural Heritage Programs.

6. Implementation difficulties encountered in the country

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.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). Canada continues to contend with the challenge regarding non-detriment findings and the identification of woods-grown/wild-simulated ginseng in comparison to wild specimens of this species. An easy and effective method to differentiate between artificially propagated ginseng grown using cultivation techniques of varying intensity and wild ginseng is necessary. The Canadian Scientific Authority is working with the provincial governments concerning this issue.

MEXICO

PROFEPA have found that in some occasions the terms described in Appendix II Orchids annotation's are not fulfilled, so CITES documentation has been requested.

7. Other topic related to CITES (medicinal plants, timber, etc.)

CANADA

In spring 2010, Adrienne Sinclair chaired the Ecology and Conservation session of a joint symposium between the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Canadian Botanical Association. At this same symposium Ken Farr gave a presentation on the CITES as a tool for sustainable use of plants, with specific reference to the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Implementation of amendments to the Lacey Act. As described in the North American Regional Report to PC18 (<www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/18/E-PC18-05-05.pdf>), the Lacey Act, which makes it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any wildlife specimen taken or traded in violation of the conservation laws of a U.S. State or of another country was amended in 2008 to protect a broader range of plants. In 2009, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated the Forest Legality Alliance with the World Resources Institute and the Environmental Investigation Agency to support outreach by NGOs and their private sector partners on the recent amendments Lacey Act and to stimulate new efforts to eliminate illegal raw plant material in global supply chains. The U.S. Government is in the process of implementing the new Lacey Act amendments, including continuing to implement a phased-in approach to the declaration requirement, and proposing definitions of "common cultivars" and "common food crops" (commodities exempt from Lacey Act requirements) and receiving public comment on the proposed definitions, and continues to provide national and international outreach on the amendments.

U.S. efforts related to Peruvian mahogany. During the reporting period, the U.S. Management Authority continued to remain in close contact with Peru regarding its implementation of the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). Peru established a voluntary bigleaf

mahogany export quota of 5,043.7345 cubic meters for 2009 and 3,565.547 cubic meters for 2010. We closely monitored the volumes of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during 2009 and 2010, and provided Peru with periodic reports on those imports, which, as of the time this report was compiled, totaled 1,303 cubic meters in 2009 and 1,253 cubic meters in 2010. The United States provides this information to Peru on a regular basis to assist it in monitoring exports and managing its quota.

Post-CoP15 outreach on medicinal plants. To increase public awareness and professional knowledge about medicinal herbs and CITES, the U.S. SA botanists co-authored "Medicinal Plants Discussed at the 15th Meeting of CITES," published in the American Botanical Council's peer-reviewed, quarterly journal *HerbalGram* 7(5) May 2010.

8. Work to be done until the next meeting of the Plants Committee

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Annotations for *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi*: *Aniba rosaeodora* (Brazilian rosewood) and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (palo santo) were listed in Appendix II of CITES at CoP15. The *Aniba rosaeodora* listing is annotated to include logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, and essential oil, and to exclude finished products packaged and ready for retail trade, and the *Bulnesia sarmientoi* listing is annotated to include logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder, and extracts. In May 2010, the U.S. Management Authority informed U.S. importers and re-exporters of these two species of how the United States planned to interpret the annotations once the listings became effective (June 23, 2010). However, after subsequent communications with the CITES Secretariat, other Party countries, and industry, and taking into account the Secretariat's interpretation in CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2010/036 of the scope of coverage of these annotations, the United States is reviewing its current interpretation of the annotations to determine if it should be revised.

9. Other issues

MEXICO

Directory of CITES experts in Mexico. At the beginning of 2009, CONABIO published on its website (www.conabio.gob.mx) the Directory of experts that are acting as advisors to the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico. Currently this directory has 63 experts and 25 more will be added as this website is updated.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CITES-listed plant investigations by the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement.

July 2009: A California business admitted smuggling 350 CITES-protected orchids into the United States; another 239 orchid plants were seized when search warrants were executed. The business was ordered to pay a USD 25,000 fine, as well as USD 5,424 restitution to the University of California/Berkeley botanical garden for care of the seized plants.

November 2009: Two defendants unlawfully importing Brazilian rosewood and pistol grips made from this wood pleaded guilty under U.S. Customs laws to trafficking in "counterfeit" goods (the 219 pistol grips had been falsely labeled on import). The pistol grips were intercepted in February 2009; the smuggler (a U.S. citizen operating out of Brazil) was arrested in July and sentenced to 6 weeks in prison, 7 months home confinement, three years of probation, and a USD 3,000 fine. His U.S.-based business partner was fined USD 5,000 and put on probation for three years.

July 2010: An international ginseng buyer from China was sentenced to 8 months in prison, 50 hours of community service, and forfeiture of 430 pounds of wild American ginseng valued at USD 172,000. The subject, who lives in Georgia part of the year, unlawfully purchased ginseng for export to Asian markets from dealers in North Carolina. Two North Carolina ginseng dealers and a Georgia dealer were also convicted in this case. One North Carolina defendant was sentenced to one year in prison and fined USD 50,000, while the other paid a USD 7,500 civil penalty. The Georgia dealer, who ran an extensive ginseng black market business out of several States, was fined USD 5,000.

August 2010: USFWS special agents and Indiana Department of Conservation officers concluded the undercover portion of a two-year investigation of illegal ginseng trade. Officers executed 8 Federal and 5 State search warrants and interviewed more than 75 individuals in 5 U.S. States. Multiple prosecutions are expected.

September-August 2010: A ginseng trafficking investigation in Tennessee resulted in the arrest of 8 people under a 20-count indictment for illegal ginseng and drug sales. The two main defendants routinely bought and sold American ginseng that had been unlawfully harvested from a national park or collected out of season under State law.

December 2010: An international ginseng dealer, who resides in California and is one of the largest U.S. ginseng exporters, paid a USD 25,000 civil penalty for illegally purchasing 130 pounds of wild American ginseng and selling it in interstate and foreign commerce.

CITES Plant Rescue Center (PRC) Program. In 1978, the U.S. Management Authority established the CITES PRC Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to care for live CITES-listed plants legally abandoned or forfeited to or seized by the U.S. Government due to non-compliance with CITES. Currently, 82 institutions cooperate as volunteer PRCs in the United States, all of which are public botanical gardens, arboreta, zoological parks, or research institutions.

During 2009, APHIS confiscated 142 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. Of these 142 shipments, 137 were assigned to cooperating PRCs, including a total of 3,256 plants (2,132 orchids, 580 galanthus, 389 cacti, 93 euphorbias, 30 cyclamens, 18 aloes, and 14 specimens of other taxa), 14 aloe seeds, and an additional gram of aloe seeds.

During 2010, APHIS confiscated 89 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. Of these 89 shipments, 87 were assigned to cooperating PRCs, including a total of 7,550 plants (4,905 Venus flytraps, 1,267 orchids, 695 aloes, 532 cacti, 133 euphorbias, and 18 specimens of other taxa), and 3 grams of pitcher plant seeds.

In recent years, there has been a general reduction in the number of shipments of live CITES-listed plant material confiscated by APHIS and in the numbers of plants assigned to PRCs. During the 3-year period 2002-2004, APHIS confiscated 803 such shipments and 22,585 plants were assigned to PRCs; during 2005-2007, APHIS confiscated 501 such shipments and 10,335 plants were assigned to PRCs; and during 2008-2010, APHIS confiscated 372 such shipments and 12,623 plants were assigned to PRCs.

Additional activities undertaken by the United States of America during this period are annexed to this document.

ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CITES-LISTED PLANT SPECIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

2. Activities carried out

Expanded Cooperation between CITES and ITTO: The United States continued to provide support for effective implementation of CITES requirements for listed tree species through the ongoing ITTO-CITES Work Program. The Program supports work in all three tropical regions. The current work includes support to enhance CITES implementation for listed taxa, including *Gonystylus* spp., *Aquilaria* spp., *Pericopsis elata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, and *Cedrela odorata*.

Participation in international meetings:

- XV Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management (May 2010; Halifax, Canada): The U.S. SA presented at the Executive Table on two Federal/non-Federal partnerships, the Plant Conservation Alliance (for native plant conservation) and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (for pollinator conservation).
- CITES Masters Course, Spain (June 7-11, 2010): A U.S. SA botanist participated as an instructor in Section 10: "Scientific Aspects – Flora" of the 9th Masters Course: Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework (International University of Andalucía), presenting information on the structure and function of the U.S. SA and the preparation of NDFs, with emphasis on the North American medicinal plant American ginseng. A representative of the U.S. Management Authority also participated as an instructor, giving presentations on analyses of the structure and content of CITES; General CITES operating bodies and mechanisms: the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Scientific Committees and Working Groups, CITES implementation in the United States; and the 2008 amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act.
- Non-detriment Finding Capacity Building Workshop (November 2010): As part of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. SA presented on our structure and function within the United States and the preparation of NDFs, along with sample positive and negative findings, to illustrate differences in format and content reflective to the circumstances (for example, export of wild-origin vs. artificially propagated orchids or well-known vs. poorly-known taxa).

3. Capacity Building Activities

Activities undertaken by the U.S. Forest Service/Peru Forestry Sector Initiative (USFS/PFSI), Peru:

- Support for non-detriment findings (NDF) workshop (September 13-15, 2010): 60 participants representing the Peruvian CITES scientific (Ministerio del Ambiente; MINAM) and management authorities (Dirección General de Flora y Fauna Silvestre; DGFFS), and experts from universities, regional representatives, and the Peruvian Forest sector to increase their capacity on the methodologies, tools, information, and expertise for preparing NDFs.
- Support for enforcement training course (December 9-10, 2010): This workshop brought together Peruvian National Police and other Government members to build capacity to effectively control the illegal traffic of CITES listed species.
- Training program for investigating and prosecuting environmental and forest crimes: In cooperation with the United States Department of Justice and USFWS, this training program was aimed at regional prosecutors, enforcement agents, environmental police, the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, and other entities involved in combating crimes that violate Peruvian and international environmental laws, including illegal logging and wildlife smuggling. In 2010, four workshops were hosted in different regions of the Peruvian Amazon, with more than 30 participants each.

- Support for information system to determine the legal origin of timber and wildlife, Peru: A new, automated timber and wildlife tracking system, the Sistema Nacional de Información y Control Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre (SNIC), is under development to enable verification of legal origin of timber and wildlife and to satisfy chain-of-custody requirements for CITES species. In March 2010, a workshop on timber tracking and control brought together approximately 105 representatives from the Peruvian government and including representatives from DGFFS, MINAM, Organismo de Supervisión de los Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre (OSINFOR), the tax authority (Superintendencia Nacional de Administración Tributaria; SUNAT), the ecological police, and regional governments, Peruvian NGOs, along with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) officials and international experts.

Capacity building under the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR): The United States continued to support government capacity to comply with CITES.

- Botanical capacity efforts, 2009: The comprehensive listing of regional flora was updated and a *Tillandsia* (Bromeliad) Identification Guide for Guatemala was created.
- Wood Identification Manual: “*A Bilingual Field Manual for the Hand Lens Identification of the Major Commercial Woods of Central America*” will go to print early 2011. Financed through USAID under the CAFTA-DR Environmental Annex and authored by Alex Wiedenhoef, of the U.S. Forest Service-Forest Products Laboratory, this field manual covers 49 of the most common commercially traded species in Central America.

Additional capacity-building activities undertaken through USAID:

- Illegal logging: Programs in Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Brazil and the Congo Basin worked with law enforcement organizations, including community-based and local government units, to improve their capacity to address illegal logging.
- Legal Logging, Southeast Asia: USAID’s Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) program worked to increase regional timber trade from legal sources, improve the sustainability of forest management on the ground, and strengthen regional cooperation on forest management, trade, and the adoption of laws and regulations designed to exclude products made from illegally harvested timber, and promote market incentives favoring forest products verified as legally harvested.
- Forest Inventory, Korean Pine, Russia: USAID supported USFS in the provision of technical expertise and professional exchanges to assist with the development of a new National Forest Inventory System. USFS also assisted with workshops to improve transboundary dialogue and cooperation on sustainable forest management and measures to reduce illegal logging along the China-Russia border. In November 2010, USAID announced that it would be supporting actions to conserve Amur Tiger habitat in the Russian Far East, including management and inventory work related to Korean Pine, an Appendix III species as of October 14, 2010.
- Support for Biodiversity Planning and Plants Catalog, Afghanistan: Afghanistan’s National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) produced a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which addresses 40 threats to biodiversity across the country’s 34 provinces; worked with partners to develop a protected species list for 33 rare and endangered birds, plants, insects, amphibians, and mammals providing critical legal protection to Afghanistan’s wild species; conducted a gap analysis of Afghanistan’s flora to identify conservation needs for native plant communities and ecosystems; worked with partners to help restore and electronically catalogue approximately 23,000 native plant specimens at Kabul University’s recently renovated herbarium—an important collection that will directly inform and strengthen efforts to restore Afghanistan’s threatened ecosystems.
- Caribbean Plant Biodiversity Monitoring through the Caribbean Open Trade Support (COTS) program, in Antigua and Barbuda: Local NGO Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) collaborated with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop the first Red List of Threatened Species and Habitats to be incorporated into Antiguan legislation; produced a report ranking thirty ecologically-important terrestrial sites in need of protection

- Central Africa Forest Atlases, Congo Basin: Forest atlases, which show ownership of logging concessions and road development and verify that the legally constituted boundaries for logging were updated for Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo, and completing most of the baseline work for the Democratic Republic of Congo. These efforts stressed the expansion of management plans in logging concessions to avoid high-biodiversity areas and included plans for community social development and wildlife management.

5. Other topics related to CITES

United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement: The United States and Peru concluded the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA), which commits both Parties to effectively enforce their domestic environmental laws and adopt, maintain, and implement laws, regulations, and all other measures to fulfill obligations under seven Multilateral Environmental Agreements, one of which is CITES. The Environment Chapter of the PTPA includes an Annex on Forest Sector Governance that seeks to address the environmental and economic consequences of illegal logging and associated trade. Under the jointly developed environmental cooperation work program, the United States has assisted Peru in building the capacity of agencies, regional governments, and prosecutors in enforcing Peru's timber and wildlife laws and regulations. The United States has also provided institutional support to Peru to improve the management of its forest resources. We anticipate continuing and expanding on this work in the updated work program currently being developed to cover the period 2011-2014.

Mahogany Inventory, Honduras: Through U.S. Department of State and USAID/Honduras funding, USFS is starting the second phase of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) inventory in the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve. This multi-year effort will provide Honduras with data needed for reporting on the species under CITES.