

MASTER'S COURSE DEGREE ON MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND CONSERVATION OF SPECIES IN TRADE: THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

"This event, this course, this master's degree course may seem very logical and normal, but it is not. In fact, it is totally unique and nothing similar or even close exists in the world. The initiative to organise this Masters deserves the greatest possible compliments and I should like to congratulate all those who had the insight and the vision to organise it. That vision is shared by those who found it worthy of financial support and they similarly must be congratulated. Congratulations should also go to the administrations and governments that have allowed students to participate and were willing to invest in their future and in the future of CITES implementation"

Willem Wijnstekers, December, 2000

Dr. Margarita Clemente-Muñoz full Professor at the University of Cordoba (Spain) and Chairperson of the CITES Plants Committee is the director of a master's degree programme (500 hours), on Management, Access and Conservation of species in trade: The International Framework. This master's course was given four times, organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the University of Cordoba, under the sponsorship of Spanish institutions mainly. The two first editions (1998, 1999) were given in Spanish and the two last ones (2000, 2003) in English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation to both languages.

Together with the lecturers from the Spanish CITES Scientific Authority (Ministry of the Environment) and CITES Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy), individuals from the CITES Scientific or Management Authorities of Argentina, Australia, Cuba, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the CITES Secretariat, the Commission of the European Union, the Phytogenetic Resources Secretariat of the FAO, the University of Granada, the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA), the Spanish and British customs authorities, the Forensic Laboratory of the United States of America, IUCN, Adena-WWF, and others well known institutions also participated as lecturers. The first course was taught by 57 lecturers from 14 countries, the second one by 62 lecturers from 14 countries, the third one by 57 lecturers from 10 countries and the fourth one by 81 lecturers from 13 countries.

In total 113 participants followed the four editions of the master's programme (1998, 1999, 2000 and 2003). The participants came from 42 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. The participants were given a grant, which fully covered the tuition and accommodation. 59 participants from the first, second and third editions of the master's course programme have got the master's title and the participants of the fourth editions are preparing the thesis work to be presented during 2004.

Most of the participants are working in: Governmental bodies in charge of environmental conventions; CITES Secretariat, non- Governmental organizations; Universities or others Environmental Institutions.

The programme provides a solid training on the main Environmental Conventions, in special CITES and CBD, and it is appropriate for those who are involved, or wish to become involved in environment-related policy-making or the application of international agreements at the executive level. To this end, participants receive training in the following subjects:

- Trade in species.
- The CITES Convention: legal characteristics. Management aspects.

- How the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities work.
- CITES-listed wild animal and plant species. Scientific aspects.
- Significant trade.
- Programmes for the conservation, management and sustainable use of species in trade.
- Techniques to control and identify CITES-listed species.
- Non-governmental organisations and the media, their role in raising public awareness.
- Analysis of the economic causes of environmental damage. Economic assessment of the dilemma: the balance between conservation and exploitation. Business strategies and the environment.
- Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10). Work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) with special emphasis on natural resource management. Framework Convention to the Kyoto Protocol.
- Biodiversity: knowledge, conservation, use. Species extinction: natural causes and induced causes and their effects on biodiversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention's Strategic Plan.
- Access and Benefit sharing of Genetics Resources. Traditional knowledge. Article 8(j) .The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Intellectual property and biodiversity conservation. Forest diversity. Alien species. FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

The Programme includes practical training in several Spanish institutions. The participants have to pass exams weekly and when the period of teaching (400 hours) is ended they come back to their countries to prepare a final project or thesis. The thesis work (equivalent to 100 hours of teaching) deals with specific topics studied during the master's programme and relevant to their countries. They have to submit the work done to the University a year later and a Commission analyses the thesis and determines if the participant has deserved to obtain the Master's degree title.