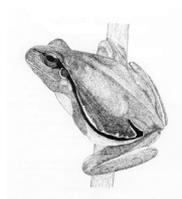


CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

1. This report was submitted by Rodrigo A. Medellín, regional representative for North America, and Rosemarie Gnam (alternate member).

General information

2. Contributors to the report (authors):

Canada: Management and Scientific Authorities, Wildlife Trade and International Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada.

México: Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Scientific Authority; Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS-SEMARNAT), Management Authority; and Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA-SEMARNAT), Enforcement Authority.

United States of America: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Scientific Authority, Division of Management Authority and Office of Law Enforcement.

3. Number of Parties in the region: 3
4. Number of Parties responding to communications: 3
5. Names of other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period:
 - a) CANADA: Provincial and Territorial Management and Scientific Authorities, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, TRAFFIC North America, Saskatchewan Falconry Association, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Furbearer Management Committee.
 - b) UNITED STATES: White House Council on Environmental Quality, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development, Smithsonian Institution, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Regional Associations of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Zoological association of America, American Federation of Aviculture, Safari Club International, Exotic Wildlife Association, Species Survival Network, Defenders of Wildlife, WWF-US, TRAFFIC North America, the Ornithological Council, and IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.

- c) MEXICO: Instituto de Biología (IBUNAM); Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP); Pronatura Noreste, A.C.; Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD); Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) *Campus* Monterrey; Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE); Unidos para la Conservación, A.C.; TRAFFIC North America-Mexico; Instituto de Ecología (IE-UNAM); Dirección General del Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano – México (CBM-M); Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA); World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

Regional directories and representatives

6. An updated version of the regional directories (including additional contact persons) of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America is presented as an Annex to this report.
 - a) CANADA: Mary Taylor currently represents the CITES Management Authority and Carolina Caceres represents the Scientific Authority.
 - b) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Robert Gabel is head of the Management Authority and Rosemarie Gnam is head of the Scientific Authority.
 - c) MEXICO: Martín Vargas Prieto represents the Management Authority.

Follow-up on AC22 agenda items

7. CANADA: **International Expert workshop on CITES non-detriment findings**. Canada recognizes the importance of this workshop to provide guidance to CITES Authorities to formulate non-detriment findings and participates actively in the preparation of the workshop as a member of the Steering committee.
8. UNITED STATES: **Felidae Review**. The United States has led the review of *Lynx* species for the Animals Committee Review of the Appendices. This review included an assessment of the management and enforcement measures available to achieve effective control of trade in specimens of these species to resolve the continued need for look-alike listings. Since AC22, the United States (1) wrote to *Lynx* spp. range countries that had not yet returned the survey requesting management, status, and trade information on *Lynx* spp., and updated the survey summary with additional information received; and (2) contracted TRAFFIC North America to research and analyse information on trade in *Lynx* spp., including compilation of information on illegal trade in these species and an assessment of the potential for trade irregularities that are likely to occur due to the similarity of appearance among these species.

Periodic Review of the Appendices

MEXICO:

9. ***Ambystoma dumerilii***. For the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC22) (Lima, July 2006), UNEP-WCMC prepared, at the request of the Animals Committee, a list of amphibian and galliform species to be covered in the Periodic Review of the CITES Appendices. The list focused in particular on species that are not traded or are minimally traded, or that are traded mainly from captive-breeding operations. Mexico agreed to review the status of the Lake Patzcuaro salamander (endemic to the country) as a CITES Appendix-II species and to submit the results at the latest at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) (additional information appears below in the section on research).
10. **Felidae (*Lynx spp.*)**. Following the proposal submitted (and later withdrawn) by the United States of America during the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13) to remove the bobcat from CITES Appendix II, the Felidae family was included in the Periodic Review of the Appendices. At the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14), the United States resubmitted its proposal, but it was rejected, and since the review of the Felidae had not concluded, Decision 13.93 was renewed as Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14). Mexico is continuing to study the conservation status of the bobcat populations in its territory (additional information appears below in the section on research). Pursuant to that Decision and in response to the need to provide sufficient recent detailed

information on population abundance and distribution of *Lynx rufus* throughout its range in order to support any proposal for amendment [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)], the two studies aimed at estimating the population density and determining the current conservation status of the bobcat in Mexico (four localities) are continuing. A third study to be undertaken will cover another two localities with a view to obtaining more representative information on populations at the national level. Mexico expects to submit a preliminary report at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee.

UNITED STATES:

11. The United States has the lead for review of *Crocodilurus lacertinus* (a whiptail lizard), *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* (masked bobwhite) and *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* (Attwater's prairie chicken). These reviews are currently pending and the U.S. expects to submit them for discussion at the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee.

Proposals to amend the Appendices

12. UNITED STATES: At CoP14, the United States, either alone or as a co-proponent, submitted the following proposals to amend Appendices I and II: CoP14 Prop. 2 (deletion of bobcat [*Lynx rufus*] from Appendix II), CoP14 Prop. 17 (inclusion of all sawfish [Pristidae] in Appendix I), CoP14 Prop. 19 (inclusion of Banggai cardinal fish [*Pterapogon kauderrii*] in Appendix II), and CoP14 Prop. 21 (inclusion of red corals [*Corallium* species] in Appendix II).

Species

13. UNITED STATES: **Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*)**. Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) is listed as endangered throughout its range under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. On 26 May 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) received a petition to remove this species from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the Act. On 28 June 2006, the USFWS determined that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that this action may be warranted and initiated a status review for this species. The announcement of the results of that status review is pending. The 28 June 2006 determination can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/E6-10149.html>.

CITES projects in the region

14. MEXICO–UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: ***Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha***. A meeting was held in Tucson, Arizona (United States of America), in February 2007 to discuss the draft guideline document on conservation of the thick-billed parrot, developed by Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and Pronatura Noreste, A.C., on the basis of 11 years of work with the species. The meeting also examined the draft plan for reintroduction of the thick-billed parrot (TBP), drawn up by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and discussed the formation of the Technical Advisory Group (TBP-TAG) that will advise the binational working group and set priorities for study, conservation and translocation of the species. So far, several experimental translocations have been carried out within Mexico in order to identify the conditions (age, reproductive status, etc.) most likely to lead to success in subsequent larger-scale translocations in the target areas in Arizona. Work on developing the most appropriate methodology (subsequent tracking-monitoring, habitat and food availability, permits, transport, etc.) continues. All the individuals involved have been translocated (i.e. captured, moved and released) without apparent problems, although some have not remained in the release area, returning to their breeding areas.

Technical workshops

MEXICO:

15. **Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Birds and Mammals in the context of Mexico's Wildlife Conservation and Management Units (UMAs)**. The workshop took place in Mexico City from 4 to 6 September 2006. Participants included academics from Mexico and the United States, as well as representatives of government institutions, NGOs and the private sector. The workshop was organized for the purpose of analysing the ecological basis for monitoring and for calculating sustainable harvest levels and proposing up-to-date methods for carrying out both

activities, in response to the need to compile diffuse information and link it, with the help of experts in each area, to the topic of management, conservation and sustainable use. The outcome of the work of the group of experts who took part provides lines of action that will guide conservation and management programmes for the sustainable use of various species of wild birds and mammals in Mexico, particularly in the context of the UMAs.

16. **Prioritization Study of Mexican Species in International Trade.** This exercise is currently in stage 2, in accordance with the conceptual document (methodology) prepared by CONABIO in collaboration with other government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs. In this stage, each species from the database identified previously is being assessed on the basis of biological (conservation status) and commercial criteria, to which a numerical value has been assigned, and other criteria which will not be assessed numerically but will contribute to the exercise (for example, whether or not the species is already covered by a conservation programme). Once the assessment has been completed, the values established for the criteria will be analysed and the species will be assigned a level of priority. Additionally, action programmes for the recovery of priority species are being formulated through the Programme for Conservation of Endangered Species (PROCER) in Mexico. These programmes will entail biological and socio-economic assessments and conservation strategies that address both species and their habitats and the social sector associated with them. Although PROCER is still being developed, it will include a method for prioritizing species on the basis of scientific and strategic-planning criteria, and taking into account the relative importance and degree of endangerment of the species, as well as the viability and cost-benefit of the actions for which resources are allocated.
17. **Action Programme for the Conservation of Species (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*).** As part of the development of PROCER in Mexico, CONANP invited other government institutions, NGOs, specialists, and groups and individuals who have worked with the species to take part in a meeting held in Saltillo, Coahuila (Mexico), in December 2007, to organize the Action Programme for the Conservation of the Thick-Billed Parrot. ITESM and Pronatura presented information on the distribution, status, ecology and conservation of populations of the species compiled in the course of 11 years of work. Working groups on knowledge, management, protection and society, in which representatives of government institutions (CONANP, CONABIO) participated, proposed important activities for the conservation of the species (which could later be adapted for the protection of the maroon-fronted parrot, *R. terrisi*).
18. **National Meeting on Sea Turtle Conservation.** This meeting was held in Veracruz (Mexico) in November 2007 for the purpose of updating knowledge on the conservation status of sea turtles and their habitat in Mexico, and laying the foundation for establishing the lines of action of the National Programme for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Mexico. Experts on the subject gave lectures, general presentations, briefings and workshops. Members of the general public also participated, presenting posters and taking part in the digital photography competition.
19. **Workshop on the Hawksbill Turtle in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic.** Pursuant to Decisions 14.86 and 14.87, adopted at CoP14, and the aim of ensuring cooperation among CITES, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention), a workshop is being organized on the hawksbill turtle in the wider Caribbean and western Atlantic. The main objective of the workshop, to be held in Mexico in 2008, will be to lay the foundation for the development of a regional action plan for the conservation of the hawksbill turtle, starting with a regional assessment of population status and of knowledge about the species and the threats it faces.
20. **Workshop on the White Turtle.** Pursuant to the agreements and outcomes of the National Workshop on the White Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) and the Trilateral Workshop Belize-Guatemala-Mexico for Management and Conservation of the Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) and Review of the Status of the White Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) in the CITES Appendices, held in 2006, an international workshop is being organized to draw up a plan of action for the white turtle. During this workshop, to be held in Mexico in 2008, Mexico will present its National Strategy for the Conservation of the White Turtle, which was developed during the aforementioned National Workshop, together with the results obtained so far by the groups involved in the study, use,

protection and conservation of the species. An international working group will be formed and goals and priorities will be established for the formulation of the international action plan.

UNITED STATES:

21. In 2006, the United States participated in and provided funding through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for workshops on response to marine mammal strandings in the Wider Caribbean under the auspices of the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of Convention (SPA/W) for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention).
22. In 2006, the United States participated in and provided funding through the NMFS for stranding response workshops under the auspices of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and has been active in development of the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan of this organization.

Non-detriment findings (NDF)

23. CANADA: Canada continues efforts to prepare standing non-detriment finding reports for key species identified through consultation with Federal, Provincial and Territorial Scientific Authorities.

Captive-breeding operations

24. CANADA: In 2007, the registration of the captive-breeding operation A-CA-503 was cancelled and Notifications to register two new captive breeding operations were sent, one for *Acipenser brevirostrum* (No. 2007/034) and one for *Falco rusticolus* and *Falco peregrinus* (No. 2007/039). Currently Canada has eight CITES-registered captive-breeding operations breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *Tragopan caboti*.
25. UNITED STATES: One captive-breeding operation for the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the gyrfalcon (*F. rusticolus*), and hybrids of these two species is pending for inclusion in the Secretariat's register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes (see Notification to the Parties No. 2007/046). If approved, this will bring to five the number of U.S. operations included in the register, all of which are breeding *F. peregrinus* and *F. rusticolus*. We have two additional applications under review with the Secretariat.

Research

MEXICO:

26. ***Crocodylus moreletii***. Pursuant to the agreements emanating from the Trilateral Workshop Belize Guatemala-Mexico for Management and Conservation of the Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) and the Review of the Status of the White Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) in the CITES Appendices, held in Mexico City (April 2006), the studies and the collection of information on population status, conservation, management and sustainable use of the Morelet's crocodile have continued. During the same period, scientific, technical, administrative, management and law enforcement issues have been examined. The Parties involved are working to develop protocols for evaluating and monitoring wild populations of the species in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico in order to update the information on its conservation status throughout its range and to carry out a regional assessment of the species.
27. ***Lynx rufus***. Pursuant to Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14), and given the need for sufficient recent detailed information on the abundance and distribution of *Lynx rufus* throughout its range in order to support any proposal to amend the Appendices [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)], the two studies aimed at estimating the population density and determining the current conservation status of the bobcat in Mexico (four localities) are continuing. A third study to be undertaken will cover another two localities with a view to obtaining more representative information on populations at the national level. Mexico expects to submit a preliminary report at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee.

28. ***Ambystoma dumerilii***. The Lake Patzcuaro salamander was included in the list of species to be covered in the Periodic Review of the CITES Appendices that was established during AC22. Accordingly, in December 2007, Mexico embarked upon a project to assess the conservation status of the wild populations and the habitat of the Lake Patzcuaro salamander (*Ambystoma dumerilii*) and its status in the CITES Appendices, on Mexico's endangered species list (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001) and on the IUCN Red List. The specialist in charge of the project has already begun to gather data, and a preliminary report is expected to be ready for submission at the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, with the final report to follow at the 24th meeting (AC24).

Capacity building

MEXICO:

29. **International CITES Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings**. The proposal to hold a workshop on non-detriment findings originated at the XI Annual Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, and the idea was well received at the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees (PC16/AC22) held in Lima in July 2006. A formal proposal was submitted by Canada and Mexico in The Hague during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (document CoP14 Doc. 35) and was adopted as Decisions 14.49-14.51. The purpose of the workshop, which will take place in Mexico in 2008, will be to build on previous work and continue enhancing the capacity of the CITES Scientific Authorities, in particular by advising them on the processes, methodologies and necessary information for making non-detriment findings (NDFs), both in general and for the species listed in CITES Appendices I and II in particular, ensuring sustainable use of resources in international trade. To date, the final version of the conceptual document for the workshop has been completed, proposals have been made for the working groups and for most of the working group co-chairmen, and guidelines for the sessions have been drawn up.
30. **Capacity Building Workshop on Transborder Movement of Wildlife between Mexico and Guatemala**. This workshop was offered in the city of Tapachula, Chiapas (Mexico), from 7 to 9 August 2007, and was organized jointly by PROFEPA, in its capacity as CITES Enforcement Authority, and TRAFFIC North America. The aim was to provide the personnel responsible for enforcing environmental laws in the two countries with theoretical and practical tools to strengthen their day-to-day efforts to combat trafficking of wild species. The workshop also sought to identify potential synergies and actions that might contribute to better communication, cooperation and crossborder support between the CITES Enforcement Authorities of Mexico and Guatemala. Representatives of CONABIO (CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico) gave the following presentations: *General information about CITES, its structure and operation* and *Use and application of the CITES Appendices*. The Scientific Authority thus collaborated in providing ongoing training on CITES for the 43 workshop participants.
31. **Workshop on Identification of Reptile Skins**. This workshop was held in the City of León, Guanajuato (Mexico), on 22 November 2007. It was organized by PROFEPA, in its capacity as CITES Enforcement Authority, and TRAFFIC North America. Training and updating was provided for 12 PROFEPA inspectors from five Mexican states assigned to the Ports, Airports and Borders programme. A variety of topics relating to transborder movement of reptile skin products and by-products were covered. The presenter was Ernie Cooper, a biologist and expert in the identification of wildlife products and by-products. The workshop included a field visit to a manufacturer of products made from exotic skins. The city of León is Mexico's foremost processor and manufacturer of such products.

CANADA:

32. **CITES Electronic Permitting System**. In January 2007, a Web-based CITES Electronic Permitting System (CEPS) was launched in the CITES office of Environment Canada. In 2008, access to the Web application will be expanded to include the majority of Federal, Provincial and Territorial CITES partners. This Web-based system increases the efficiency of permitting by compiling accurate and consistent information and facilitates the production of annual reports on international trade in wildlife in Canada. The design of the system is structured to allow future development of an online

CITES permit application form that will be accessible to the public through the CITES Canada website (www.cites.ec.gc.ca). Note that UNEP-WCMC kindly developed a tool to facilitate periodic download of the Checklist of CITES species in XML format on their website (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/species/dbases/citesdownloads.htm#STR>).

33. **Strategic plan for CITES in CANADA.** Canada is developing a “Strategic Plan for CITES in Canada” which has involved consultations with Canadian Management, Scientific and Enforcement authorities from all domestic jurisdictions, as well as members of non-government organizations (e.g. TRAFFIC). The intention of the Strategic Plan is to review capacity needs, to strengthen partnerships, and to enhance Canada’s national strategy for implementing CITES.

UNITED STATES

34. **CAFTA-DR grants.** The Division of Management Authority (DMA) continues to be involved as a technical advisor the Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) as that programme executes capacity building and training in the Dominican Republic – Central America – United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) countries, including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. TRAFFIC North America, through its Mexico office, is the direct recipient of the awarded funds and is actively working to execute the two-phase project, which is currently scheduled to run through the end of 2007.
35. The first phase of the project consisted of a wildlife trade control gap analysis of the CAFTA-DR countries to understand the existing gaps and limitations to effective implementation of wildlife laws, including CITES. Efforts to bridge the identified gaps constitute the second phase of the project, which is ongoing and uses capacity building and training to improve implementation of wildlife laws at local, national and regional levels. In the next phase, ITAP has contracted with Humane Society International and TRAFFIC North America to execute regional and country-specific activities on the implementation and enforcement of CITES.
36. DMA is also assisting ITAP in developing a capacity-building and training programme in CITES implementation in the Middle East, funded by the Department of State. While no specific activities have occurred in 2007, the planning process is under way and we expect to report on on-the-ground activities in the future.
37. **Multinational Species Conservation Funds.** The Multinational Species Conservation Funds, administered by USFWS, consist of six programmes created to fulfil direct U.S. Congressional mandates to conserve populations of and habitats for neotropical migratory birds, African and Asian elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, tigers and marine turtles. Information on these grants programmes and how to apply for funding can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/international/grants/grants.html>.

Law enforcement

38. **CANADA:** In 2007, EC’s Wildlife Enforcement Directorate has conducted significant numbers of inspections pertaining to commercial shipments and the importation of medicinal products. These two categories were both identified as inspection priorities for 2007. Wildlife Enforcement has had several notable investigations of commercial importations resulting in convictions. These include: the illegal importation of more than 30,000 pieces of ivory (the largest ivory detention in Canadian history); and a joint investigation with the USFWS involving the illegal importation of 27 tonnes of *Strombus gigas* (queen conch) meat. This was part of a large organized trafficking scheme which trafficked 120 metric tonnes of *S. gigas* meat in total. The Wildlife Enforcement Directorate participated in the field trial of Bear Detection Kits with the World Society for the Protection of Animals. The Wildlife Enforcement Directorate coordinated a nation-wide field test with provincial and territorial conservation agencies for the purposes of field testing the detection kits.
39. **MEXICO:** In 2007, PROFEPA, through the personnel assigned to the Ports, Airports and Borders programme, conducted 64,493 inspections of transborder movements of wildlife (plants and animals), of which 3,100 involved CITES species. On 27 August 2007, officials of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service returned to PROFEPA officials 111 Psittacidae of six different species, all of

them listed in the CITES Appendices, which had been seized when an attempt was made to smuggle them by land from Mexico into the United States. This exchange occurred at Otay Mesa, California.

UNITED STATES

40. **Trade Monitoring.** The USFWS wildlife inspection programme remained the United States' front-line defence against wildlife trafficking. USFWS inspectors examine imports and exports at 38 ports of entry and border crossings, processing more than 180,000 shipments per year. During the reporting period, inspectors worked to improve CITES compliance by conducting training sessions for brokers, company officials and others. Wildlife seized for CITES violations included live reptiles; commercial shipments of caiman, alligator and other reptilian leather goods; sea turtle and iguana eggs; African elephant ivory; Asian medicinals; coral and coral rock; and queen conch meat and shells.
41. **Smuggling Investigations.** During the reporting period, USFWS special agents and wildlife inspectors upheld the CITES treaty by investigating illegal trade in CITES-protected species. Significant investigations include an undercover probe that exposed large-scale trafficking in sea turtle skin, shell, and products from Mexico and China; a cooperative U.S./Canada case that broke up a major smuggling ring trafficking in queen conch meat from several Caribbean and South American countries; and an investigation that foiled the smuggling of over USD 540,000 worth of sperm whale teeth. Other key cases secured prison sentences and/or significant fines for an aquarium supply company dealing in Haitian coral rock; a Japanese butterfly collector who tried to sell an undercover agent more than USD 294,000 worth of rare specimens; business owners smuggling ivory tusks, carvings, and other items made from CITES wildlife; and big game guides involved in an illegal leopard hunting and smuggling scheme.
42. **U.S. CITES Enforcement Capacity Building.** The USFWS improved CITES enforcement capacity by hiring nine new criminal investigators to work at locations with significant CITES workload; expanding its forensics laboratory to include a state-of-the-art genetics lab and biological containment area; and training new U.S. Customs and agriculture inspectors on CITES requirements and enforcement. Work also continued on a new interagency trade data system that will centralize the policing and processing of trade and provide access to intelligence information and shipment targeting mechanisms.
43. **International Assistance.** The USFWS helped build CITES enforcement capacity in other countries through law enforcement training programmes and technical assistance. USFWS officers conducted criminal investigation training for counterparts in Thailand, the Philippines, Brazil, Mongolia and sub-Saharan Africa. Accomplishments also include the completion of training validation studies in the Philippines and Thailand and development of forensic protocols and presentation of "CSI for Coral Reefs" training at an international meeting in Mexico. In 2007, the USDA Forest Service worked with the Thai National Police and the Wildlife Alliance to develop an ASEAN-WEN website for presentation at the ASEAN-WEN Workshop on Taskforce Development and Crossborder Cooperation in Cebu, Philippines.

Meetings, workshops, and communication within the region

44. **MEXICO: XII Meeting of the Trilateral (Canada/Mexico/United States) Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management.** The meeting was held in Quebec from 14 to 19 May 2007, as part of the process of preparing for the discussion of items of importance for the North American region during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14), held in June 2007 in The Hague. The CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) served as co-chairman of the CITES Working Table. Information and documents were exchanged on proposed amendments to the Appendices (25 documents and 28 proposals), especially concerning the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); the review of the universal crocodylian tagging system; and topics such as the CITES Strategic Vision, the budget and the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation. The first draft of the background document for the Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings was also prepared.
45. **CANADA: XII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management.** In May 2007, CITES Authorities from Canada, the United States and Mexico met to discuss the ongoing work of the various CITES Committees, with particular focus on

issues of particular interest to the region, preparations for CoP14 and other issues of common interest.

46. **UNITED STATES:** During the reporting period, the Division of Scientific Authority, the Division of 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, the Society for Conservation Biology, the 2007 International Elephant Foundation meeting, the international conference of the Animal Transport Association, and numerous outreach events focused on CITES compliance.

Other items

MEXICO:

47. **CITES species data sheets.** The CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) is coordinating and funding projects to prepare data sheets on species listed in CITES Appendices I and II and on species included in national endangered species lists. These data sheets contain pictures of the species and summary information on its basic biology, the threats it faces, and its legal status and management. In this ongoing process of development and revision, 77 data sheets on CITES species of coral (Scleractinia) and marine mammals have been produced, most of which are also classified in some risk category on the national lists, and some 129 data sheets on terrestrial mammals, amphibians and reptiles, corals and stony corals are currently being revised. The data sheets published to date may be accessed on the CONABIO website by following the link below:

<http://www.conabio.gob.mx/conocimiento/ise/fichas/doctos/introduccion.html>

48. **Directory of CITES specialists.** With a view to promoting, coordinating, supporting and carrying out activities to enhance knowledge of biological diversity and its conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of society, CONABIO has enlisted the support of researchers and experts in various areas to provide the technical input and expertise needed to shape Mexico's international policy on biodiversity. Work is continuing on the development, updating and eventual publication of a directory of CONABIO specialist consultants, the aim being to publicize and ensure ready access to information on specialists who participate in various activities related to implementation of the Convention and to recognize their work as advisors to CONABIO in its role as Mexico's CITES Scientific Authority. Requests for updated information have been sent to the various experts, and their responses have begun to be received. It is therefore expected that the directory will be completed and published by AC23.
49. **Updating of the website of the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico.** By updating and restructuring its website, CONABIO aims to facilitate public access to information about CITES and about the objectives, goals and activities of CONABIO as the Scientific Authority of Mexico. The updating is also intended to simplify browsing of internal links and enhance the website visual appeal, highlighting both the importance of the Convention in the management of international trade and its influence on Mexico's foreign policies concerning biodiversity.
50. **CITES Scientific Authority (CONABIO) personnel changes.** For five years, Jorge Álvarez-Romero has done an excellent job of representing the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico in his role as Coordinator. However, as he will be beginning doctoral studies in early 2008, his post at CONABIO will pass to Vladimir Pliego Moreno. In late 2007, after four and a half years of exemplary service to CONABIO, Paola Mosig Riedl left her job as CITES analyst on animal topics. Her post will be taken up by Gabriela López Segurajáuregui.

UNITED STATES:

51. **New CITES Regulations.** On 23 August 2007, USFWS published the first major update of regulations implementing CITES since 1977. The extensive revisions and additions clarify procedures and provide an easy-to-use guide to the requirements for international trade in plants and animals regulated by CITES. The revised regulations incorporate measures adopted by CITES member nations over the past three decades (CoP2 through CoP13) and reflects consideration of more than 340 public comments received by the USFWS through its public rulemaking process. The regulations became effective 24 September 2007, and are available online at <http://www.fws.gov/international/>

Difficulties in implementing CITES in the countries in the region

Technical aspects

52. CANADA: The completion of the CITES electronic system to improve the permitting and reporting of international trade in Wildlife in Canada is a priority for Canada.

Communication

53. CANADA: The Management and Scientific Authorities at the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, have the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Convention in Canada. New generic emails addresses have been created to centralize requests and insure better communication with the public and our CITES partners. Please note the following addresses: cites-canada@ec.gc.ca (Management authority issues) cites-science@ec.gc.ca (Scientific authority issues).

DIRECTORY OF CITES AUTHORITIES IN NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

Management Authority

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Scientific Authority

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*Gina Schalk will be the at the AC23 Committee representing Carolina Caceres

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MEXICO

Management Authority

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Other focal points

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Scientific Authority

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Enforcement Authority

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Other focal point

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Management Authority

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Other focal point

Name	Responsibility	Contact
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***Alternate representative of the region on the Animals Committee

Enforcement Authority

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