

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

NORTH AMERICA

General information

- a) Regional representative: Canada
- b) Alternate regional representative: Mexico
- c) Number of Parties in the region: 3 (Canada, Mexico, United States of America)
- d) Number of Parties providing information for this report: 3

Introduction

1. This report was assembled by Canada as the regional representative for North America. It covers the period between the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 15-19 March 2004, and the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee. All three countries in the North American region are in close contact. All three countries also regularly coordinate with NGOs within their respective countries, in preparation for meetings and on other CITES-related issues.
2. The regional report for North America is presented in three sections in the attached Annexes, one section for each country in the region. Annex 1 provides the national report for Canada, Annex 2 for Mexico and Annex 3 for the United States.

Regional report presented in three attached Annexes

- a) Annex 1: National report for Canada
- b) Annex 2: National report for Mexico (Spanish only)
- c) Annex 3: National report for the United States (English only)

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA
SINCE THE 50th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Report compiled May 2005

This report outlines the activities that have taken place to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Canada from March 2004 to April 2005.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

COP 13 RELATED ACTIVITIES

Public consultations in preparation for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13): Widespread consultation was undertaken through mailings and information provided on the CITES-Canada website (www.cites.ec.gc.ca), and a 2-day public consultation meeting, held in August 2004, to receive information on the proposals for CoP13 and discuss the proposed Canadian positions and rationales. Representatives from five non-governmental organizations and a consultant participated at this consultation meeting. During the CoP meeting, the Canadian Delegation met daily with Canadian non-governmental observers to discuss species proposals and other issues.

North America Regional Meeting: Canada participated at a regional meeting, hosted by Mexico in Queretaro, Mexico from 7-9 September 2004, to share information and discuss proposals and agenda items for CoP13.

Results of CoP13: CoP13 was held from 2-14 October in Bangkok, Thailand. Canada's 16-person delegation participated fully at the meeting, as well as contributing on various working groups during the CoP which included those on the budget, conservation and management of sturgeon and paddlefish, shark management and conservation, compliance guidelines, and enforcement. As well, Canada (Wildlife Enforcement Branch) worked actively to organize the launch of a training project entitled *CITES in Francophone Africa*. This involves training of personnel responsible for enforcing acts that implement the Convention, and training techniques applied to basic knowledge about CITES and the identification of problematic taxa. The Parties from North America selected Canada as its representative on the Standing Committee for the period between CoP 13 and CoP 15. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair (Canada) was confirmed as alternate to the North American Region representative—provided by the United States—on the Plants Committee. Canada supports the new resolutions and decisions approved by the CoP, and these are being implemented according to Canadian law.

Canada contributed funding to support travel of CITES Parties to the CoP13 meeting.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Canada elected as NA Regional representative on Standing Committee – At CoP13 in October 2004, the Parties in North America elected Canada to serve as the North American Regional Representative on the CITES Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP15.

SC Issues involving Canada: At SC51, the Secretariat reported that Canada had responded to the Animals Committee request regarding the information required to finalize the significant trade of narwhal process. It was reported that both the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee are satisfied and no further action was needed by Standing Committee.

Working Group – Canada is participating on the Compliance Guidelines Working Group and has provided comments on various drafts of the guidelines.

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

20th Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC20): Canada sent a two-person delegation to AC20, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 29 March- 2 April 2004. The representatives were from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Canadian species, lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), have been removed from Phase IV of the CITES Significant Trade Review process. Narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) was reviewed by the Animals Committee with respect to the Significant Trade process. While a new process was not deemed necessary, Canada was asked to provide further information by 31 July 2004 to complete the original significant trade review of this species. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans complied with the request by the agreed deadline.

Working Groups: Canada is part of the working group on the process for registering commercial breeding operations of Appendix I species and provided a copy of the Canadian application form for registration of captive breeding operations as an example to other Parties. Canada was also part of the working group on the relationship between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation and will be interested in the guidance provided by the Standing Committee to further this work.

CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

14th Meeting of the Plants Committee (PC14): Canada was represented at PC14, held in Windhoek, Namibia in February 2004, by a two-person delegation from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Canadian Forest Service. Concerning the Criteria Review, Canada strongly supported the adoption of the revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12) and would offer to assist in developing guidelines to assist in the application of the criteria to tree species. A final document including suggested revisions was prepared by a small drafting group on which Canada participated.

Medicinal Plant Specialist Group: Canada participated on the supervisory group steering the work of the IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group on annotations for medicinal plants. Comments from the group were incorporated into a final interim report from the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group presented to the Conference of Parties.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NAWEG and INTERPOL: Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Branch participated at regular regional meetings of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG), and supports the projects of the INTERPOL Working Group on Wildlife Crime. The Canadian Chairman of the INTERPOL Working Group on Wildlife Crimes was instrumental in obtaining from NGOs and Foundations funding of USD 100,000 for three consecutive years for a total of USD 300,000. These funds will be used to finance a Wildlife Enforcement Officer at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon.

Expert Workshop Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (April 2004, Vilm, Germany): Canada participated in this workshop and provided a case study on CITES-CBD linkages in Canada. The results of this workshop were presented to Parties at CITES CoP13. Canada continues to support synergies between CITES and the overarching objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and improving linkages with other biodiversity-related instruments.

Consultative Meeting – Trade in Falcons: Canada was represented by two persons at this meeting, held in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. in May 2004. Canada provided information on the Canadian experience in registering commercial falcon breeders.

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Workshop: In May 2004, Canada, represented by the Canadian Forest Service, participated in the ITTO Workshop on Capacity Building for Implementation of CITES Appendix-II Listing of Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). A presentation on Canada's experiences in implementing the Appendix-II listing of mahogany was provided. Canada participated in the working group examining the private sector's role in building capacity for sustainable mahogany management.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES — IMPLEMENTATION

GENERAL

CITES Training: In 2004, Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Branch contributed to the development of the international version of the "Introduction to CITES for Customs" CD-Rom, in partnership with the Capacity Building Unit of the CITES Secretariat. This training tool has been distributed to the Management Authorities of all CITES countries. The Enforcement Branch also initiated the development of a Train the Trainers Course adapted to CITES content and that will be available for CITES Trainers in 2005. Ongoing CITES training is offered to officers and partners responsible for the implementation of CITES in Canada.

Environment Canada developed a 2-day training workshop aimed at new staff who will be issuing CITES export permits. The workshop was delivered in February 2005 to provincial staff in the Canadian province of British Columbia. The course included information on the organization of CITES in Canada and internationally, responsibilities of Management, Scientific and Enforcement authorities and how they interrelate and covered all aspects of export permit issuance, including how non-detriment findings are made.

Canadian CITES Permits Database: Canada has initiated work on a several-year project to develop an Internet-based CITES permits database which will facilitate issuance of CITES permits and reporting for Canada.

Regulatory Amendments: Canada amended its *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* to reflect the changes in the species listed on the CITES Appendices as approved by the Parties at the CoP13. The revised regulations became law in Canada on April 11, 2005. The regulations fall under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*, the legislation by which Canada implements CITES.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Implementation of the "Pet Passport": On April 1, 2004, Canada started to issue CITES Certificates of Ownership, known as "pet passports", implementing Resolution Conf. 10.20. Presently, pet passports are only issued for movement of animals between Canada and the United States. As soon as more Parties are confirmed as accepting the passports, the use of the certificate will be extended to these.

CITES Reports: On October 29, 2004 Canada submitted its CITES Annual Report for 2003 to the CITES Secretariat and to WCMC.

Statistics on CITES Permits issued: For 2004, Canada issued the following number of permits and certificates:

Permit Type	Numbers*
Export Permits	25,382
Re-export Certificates	3,392
Import Permits	172
Certificates of Ownership	63
Temporary Movement Certificates	25
Scientific Certificates	20

*Numbers are indicative only and could increase if additional permits are returned to the Management Authority.

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

Captive Breeding Operations: In 2004-2005, Canada re-registered nine operations that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes. There have been no new registrations. Canadian registered captive breeding operations are breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *Tragopan caboti*.

Non-detriment findings: Canadian CITES scientific authorities continue to put significant effort and priority into establishing documented standing non-detriment findings for key species, based on the Guidance for Scientific Authorities prepared by IUCN.

Trade in *Lynx* spp: The Scientific Authority for Canada, in collaboration with Canadian Provincial and Territorial Scientific Authorities, is collecting and collating information on existing trade in *Lynx* spp. from Canada to contribute towards responding to the CoP 13 decision requesting the Animal's Committee review the listing of Felidae in particular to resolve the continued need for look-alike listings.

Trade in *Taxus canadensis*: A Canadian working group dealing with Eastern Canada Ground Hemlock met in October 2004 and January 2005. The working group includes federal and provincial authorities and researchers, private sector harvesting and primary processing companies, landowners associations, and nongovernmental organizations,. The Canadian working group is an open forum for "parties interested and involved in the supply and processing of *T. canadensis* biomass for the global pharmaceutical industry" as per PC15 Doc. 5.5 (p. 5). The group reviewed the Appendix-II listing of Asian *Taxus* species adopted at CITES CoP13. The final draft of "Principles and Corresponding Criteria and Indicators for the harvest of Wild Ground Hemlock Biomass" was unanimously adopted. The working group adopted a new name - the "Canada Yew Association". The new Association's roles will include setting harvesting standards, investigating third-party auditing systems, funding *T. canadensis* research and disseminating scientific information.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Inspections and Investigations: Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Branch conducted 1,944 inspections and 821 investigations resulting in 25 prosecutions, 26 charges and 14 convictions in 2004. Special efforts were made to inspect commercial shipments entering Canada. During this time, two significant investigations concluded in successful prosecutions. One case involved black bear gall bladders (the individual was fined CAD 40,000). The other case resulted in an individual being fined CAD 60,000 after a 22 month multi-agency investigation for illegal export of Asian arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*).

Development of Identification Guides: Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Branch started the production of the new CITES Identification Guide – Amphibians that will be published in 2005. They also developed identification sheets that will be published in 2005 and will support the identification efforts of newly listed CITES species by CITES enforcement officers.

INFORME DE ACTIVIDADES QUE MÉXICO DESARROLLÓ EN EL PERIODO COMPRENDIDO DE ENERO DE 2004 A MAYO DE 2005

Este reporte enumera las actividades y reuniones de trabajo en que participaron las Autoridades CITES de México durante el período de trabajo comprendido entre enero de 2004 y mayo de 2005. Se dio seguimiento a los proyectos de investigación iniciados anteriormente y se iniciaron algunos nuevos. Asimismo, se llevaron a cabo actividades encaminadas al desarrollo de capacidades y a mejorar la implementación de la Convención en México, así como difusión sobre la convención.

ACTIVIDADES INTERNACIONALES

Como parte de los compromisos atendidos por las Autoridades CITES de México durante el período se participó en las siguientes reuniones:

Reunión	Lugar	Fecha	Temas prioritarios
Taller Internacional sobre la implementación de la CITES para la Conservación y Comercio de Caballitos de Mar	Mazatlán, México	3-5 de febrero de 2004	Revisión de las medidas de manejo de este recurso en los países del área de distribución de los caballitos de mar, identificar opciones para el manejo sustentable de la pesquería de estas especies y tomar provisiones para la entrada en vigor de la inclusión de las especies de este género en los Apéndices de la CITES, en mayo de 2004.
14ª Reunión del Comité de Flora	Windhoek, Namibia	16-20 de febrero de 2004	Criterios de enmienda, <i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i> (estudio de México), comunicación y representación regional, resoluciones sobre el comercio de plantas y sus anotaciones, Comercio de especímenes exentos, comercio significativo y caoba.
Cursillo Técnico sobre los cohombros de mar de las familias Holothuridae y Stichopodidae.	Kuala Lumpur, Malasia	1-3 de marzo de 2004	Intercambio de información sobre la situación biológica y las medidas de manejo y conservación; discusión de inclusión de especies en CITES; recomendaciones de investigación y manejo (e.g. talla mínima, cupos de captura, etc.) proveer información para el Comité de Fauna.
50ª Reunión del Comité Permanente	Ginebra, Suiza	15-19 de marzo de 2004	MoUs CITES-PNUMA y CITES-FAO, organización de la CdP13, incentivos económicos y política comercial, cuestiones financieras y administrativas, criterios para enmendar los Apéndices, Examen periódico de los Apéndices, Manual de Identificación.

Reunión	Lugar	Fecha	Temas prioritarios
20ª Reunión del Comité de Fauna	Johannesburgo, Sudáfrica	29 de marzo-2 de abril de 2004	Comercio significativo, revisión de los criterios de enmienda a los apéndices, revisión periódica de los taxa incluidos en los apéndices, transporte de animales vivos, presupuesto, comercio de corales duros, especies exóticas invasoras, pepinos de mar, caballitos de mar y tiburones.
Taller de Expertos sobre Cooperación y sinergia entre CITES y CBD	Isla de Vilm, Alemania	21-24 de abril de 2004	Compatibilidad y complementariedad entre CITES y CDB, identificación de áreas potenciales de sinergia y mecanismos para desarrollarla y acciones para que ambas convenciones alcancen sus objetivos.
Reunión de Sinergias entre Comités Técnicos de la CCAD y Preparatoria para la CoP13	San Salvador, El Salvador	17-20 de Agosto de 2004	Funcionamiento, estructura y planes de trabajo de los Comités Técnicos. Revisión de los documentos de interés para al región que serían discutidos en la CoP13.
Reunión Preparatoria de América del Norte para la 13ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes	Querétaro, México	7-10 de septiembre de 2004	Revisión exhaustiva de todos los documentos que serían discutidos en la CoP13.
13ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes	Bangkok, Tailandia	2-14 de octubre de 2004	Presupuesto, directrices de cumplimiento, registro de criaderos, relación entre criaderos <i>ex situ</i> y la conservación <i>in situ</i> , funcionamiento del Comité de Nomenclatura, revisión de los Comités Científicos, revisión de las resoluciones sobre el comercio de plantas, corales duros, propuestas de exención a orquídeas, sinergias CITES-CBD
51a Reunión del Comité Permanente	Bangkok, Tailandia	1 de octubre de 2004	Preparativos para la CoP13, asuntos financieros, emplazamiento de la Secretaría, MoUs FAO-CITES y CITES-PNUMA, Proyecto de legislación nacional, votaciones secretas.

Reunión	Lugar	Fecha	Temas prioritarios
Taller de Seguimiento a las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Caoba de CITES	Managua, Nicaragua	23 al 24 de noviembre de 2004	Dictámenes de extracciones no perjudiciales, programas nacionales y regionales para el manejo sustentable de caoba, cupos, intercambio de información y experiencias en el manejo del recurso y desarrollo de capacidades.
Taller Regional Técnico de Estrategias Uso y Gestión Sostenible de Especies Maderables Sujetas a Comercio Internacional	Managua, Nicaragua	16 al 19 febrero de 2005	Evaluar la información que tenemos sobre especies maderables; reconocer la información que necesitamos obtener y generar sobre estas especies; y discutir y proponer las medidas que se tienen que tomar para obtener la información y para asegurar el manejo sostenible de las especies que se comercian internacionalmente.
Reunión Trinacional en el marco de la CCA sobre Análisis de Riesgo de Especies Acuáticas Invasoras	Washington D.C., EUA	22 de febrero de 2005	Desarrollo de análisis de riesgo para especies invasoras acuáticas.
15ª Reunión del Comité de Flora	Ginebra, Suiza	17-21 de mayo de 2005	Presentación del informe sobre el estudio de guayacán, anotación de orquídeas, informe regional, resultados de reuniones sobre caoba y especies maderables, entre otros.
Reunión Conjunta de los Comités de Flora y Fauna	Ginebra, Suiza	20-21 de mayo de 2005	Revisión del funcionamiento de los Comités Técnicos, Comunicación regional, Comité de Nomenclatura, Especies exóticas invasoras, entre otros.
21ª Reunión del Comité de Fauna	Ginebra, Suiza	20-25 de mayo de 2005	Presentación de 3 informes de México: Estudios sobre <i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i> y <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> ; Informe Regional; Revisión periódica <i>Lynx</i> spp.; Nomenclatura de Aves.
X Reunión del Comité Trilateral Canadá-EUA-México para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas	Zacatecas, México	23 al 27 de mayo de 2005	Revisión de los puntos de la agenda de la 53ª reunión del Comité Permanente. Discusión de temas de interés común para la región, con miras a buscar oportunidad de colaborar con relación a especies CITES.

Actividades nacionales

GENERALES

Desde enero de 2005 las tres autoridades CITES de México han venido trabajando en establecer un procedimiento para la repatriación de especímenes de especies CITES originarios de nuestro país y que hayan sido confiscados en el extranjero, especificando quiénes son las autoridades responsables en cada etapa del proceso. El objetivo principal es hacer este proceso más expedito y eliminar o minimizar las trabas administrativas que puedan entorpecer o retardar el proceso. Se espera contar con un procedimiento general estandarizado para este tipo de movimientos en los próximos meses.

Del 18 al 22 de abril de 2005 se realizó el “1er Taller Norteamericano de Capacitación sobre Conservación de la Biodiversidad” en la ciudad de Zapopan, Jalisco (México). Este taller fue resultado del esfuerzo del Grupo de Trabajo para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad de América del Norte, y trató temas relacionados con la capacitación sobre el monitoreo de especies, espacios y amenazas comunes para la biodiversidad de esta región. El ejercicio incluyó aproximadamente 100 participantes, cumpliendo con creces las expectativas que se tenían. Se programó incluso la realización de un segundo taller en otoño de 2005, para cuya realización se cuenta ya con una parte del financiamiento necesario.

Del 25 al 28 de agosto de 2004 se realizó la “VI Reunión de Trabajo del Subcomité Técnico Consultivo para la Conservación; Manejo y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de los Crocodylia de México (COMACROM)” en Puerto Vallarta, México. Durante ella se discutió la situación de la conservación actual de *Crocodylus moreletii* en México y su estatus en la ESA y CITES.

El 1 y 2 de diciembre de 2004 se desarrolló el “Taller para revisión del estado de las poblaciones silvestres de *Crocodylus moreletii* en México y evaluación de la pertinencia de proponer su recategorización en el Acta de Especies en Peligro (ESA), de los EUA” en la Ciudad de México. En ella se analizaron evaluaciones poblacionales y su estado actual de conservación y riesgo, estatus de riesgo (UICN, NOM-059), medidas de protección, Áreas naturales protegidas, programas de vigilancia e inspección, etc.

AUTORIDAD ADMINISTRATIVA

Bajo los auspicios de la Autoridad Administrativa CITES de México se realizó el 14 y 15 de marzo de 2005 la “Reunión regional para la conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable de pepino de mar (*Isostichopus fuscus*) en la Península de Baja California” en La Paz, B.C.S., México. En ella participaron representantes de cooperativas y grupos de pescadores procedentes de los estados de Baja California y Baja California Sur, junto con investigadores y representantes de los gobiernos estatales y federal. Los principales objetivos de esta reunión fueron: establecer acciones prioritarias y medidas de manejo para garantizar su conservación, abordando temas como marco legal, ordenamiento pesquero, comercio internacional, investigación y aplicación de la ley; revisar las metodologías de evaluación poblacional y estimación de tasas de aprovechamiento utilizadas para este recurso, y proponer un protocolo de evaluación y cálculo de cosecha sostenible estandarizado. De la reunión derivó un plan de manejo adaptativo que se aplicará para las poblaciones mexicanas de esta especie, con base en el mejor conocimiento científico disponible y la participación constante de todos los sectores involucrados en el aprovechamiento de este equinodermo.

También en marzo de 2005 se recibió un comunicado de la Representante Regional para América del Norte ante el Comité Permanente de CITES, referente a la intención del PNUMA de modificar los servicios administrativos que presta a la Convención. La Autoridad Administrativa CITES en México recabó comentarios de las demás autoridades y de otras dependencias gubernamentales involucradas, redactando una posición que fue discutida vía teleconferencia con EUA y Canadá y

formó parte de la respuesta de nuestra región a la comunicación del Secretariado CITES a este respecto.

AUTORIDAD CIENTÍFICA

Investigación.- En lo que corresponde a estudios e investigación sobre especies CITES, la Conabio, como Autoridad Científica, coordinó y dio seguimiento a siete proyectos, tres de los cuales se dieron por terminados. De éstos, los resultados de dos (tortuga blanca y ajolote mexicano) se presentaron en la última reunión del Comité de Fauna, como parte de los compromisos adquiridos por México en el Examen Periódico de los Apéndices, mismos que siguen siendo analizados por el Comité y uno (Cocodrilo de pantano) se presentó en el marco del Comité Trilateral Canadá-EUA-México sobre conservación de vida silvestre y ecosistemas.

1. Guayacán.- Se completó la primera fase del estudio "Abundancia, distribución y estado de conservación de *Guaiaacum sanctum* L. en México", que contempla la evaluación de la distribución actual de la especie en México, el estatus poblacional basado en censos de densidad y abundancia, los tipos de vegetación y hábitat ocupados por la especie y los avances de las actividades en proceso para la Fase II del estudio.
2. Cactáceas del Apéndice I.- Como parte de la revisión del estado de las poblaciones de las cactáceas mexicanas incluidas en el Apéndice I, se completó la revisión de herbarios y una base de datos de todas las especies CITES. Los censos de demografía, las descripciones del hábitat y la comunidad están completos para 7 especies y se espera que durante el primer semestre de 2005 se completen otras 6 especies. El estudio de comercio legal e ilegal, así como el de saqueo y decomisos, estará prácticamente terminado.
3. Lince rojo (*Lynx rufus*).- Dentro del marco de la revisión periódica del género *Lynx*, encomendado al Comité de Fauna, México ha desarrollado un proyecto de investigación para conocer el estatus poblacional de la especie en el país, por el cual se espera recibir apoyo de varias agencias de vida silvestre de EUA y la colaboración de Canadá y EUA en aspectos técnicos del mismo.
4. *Passerina* spp. México está desarrollando un proyecto de "Evaluación del estado de conservación de las poblaciones de *Passerina ciris*, *P. leclancherii*, *P. amoena*, *P. rositae*, *P. caerulea*, *Cardinalis cardinalis* y *C. sinuatus* en México: Recomendaciones para su conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable" cuyo objetivo es realizar una evaluación del estado de conservación de las poblaciones de estas especies, sujetas a comercio nacional e internacional, para producir recomendaciones específicas para su conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable.
5. Tortuga blanca.- Se presentó la evaluación final del estudio sobre la "Situación Actual de las Poblaciones de Tortuga Blanca (*Dermatemys mawii*) en el Sureste de México". En ésta se incluyó un análisis sobre la distribución de las poblaciones de tortuga blanca y los posibles factores que la influyen, los parámetros poblacionales de la especie y el impacto de la presión humana sobre las poblaciones de tortuga blanca, así como la utilización y el comercio de la especie, brindando los elementos necesarios para tomar una decisión sobre la necesidad de transferirla de Apéndice.
6. Ajolote.- Se presentó la evaluación final del estudio sobre la "Abundancia y estructura poblacional del ajolote mexicano (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) en los sistemas dulceacuícolas de Xochimilco y Chalco". En esta se incluyó un análisis sobre la abundancia de la población del ajolote mexicano en los sistemas de Xochimilco y Chalco, los parámetros poblacionales básicos del ajolote, tales como estructura de edades, esfuerzo reproductivo y sobrevivencia entre clases de edad, y el estado de conservación actual de la población silvestre. Para complementar la evaluación del estatus de la especie en el Apéndice II de la

CITES, también se compiló y analizó la información disponible sobre su aprovechamiento en la zona, y sobre el comercio internacional al que está sujeta.

7. Cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*).- Se concluyeron los estudios de campo de 2004 y se realizó un análisis exhaustivo de toda la información disponible para hacer una estimación poblacional y evaluar si estatus de conservación y riesgo, de acuerdo con los criterios de la UICN (Global), la NOM-059 (México) y el Acta de Especies en Peligro de EUA (ESA). Este análisis se complementó con los resultados de un Taller en el que participaron expertos y personas de los diferentes sectores involucrados con la conservación, manejo y el aprovechamiento de la especie en el país.

Propuestas de enmienda: Durante la CoP13, México presentó la propuesta para transferir al loro corona-lila (*Amazona finschi*) al Apéndice I, con base en información actualizada derivada de un estudio de campo y de un análisis de la información sobre comercio legal e ilegal internacional. La propuesta fue aceptada por consenso durante la reunión. Adicionalmente, EUA y México presentaron una propuesta conjunta para incluir a *Passerina ciris* en el Apéndice II. La propuesta contenía información que señalaba la tendencia a la baja de sus poblaciones y la existencia de niveles significativos de comercio internacional, no obstante fue rechazada en votación.

Resoluciones.- México presentó un borrador de Resolución en el que se alienta la cooperación entre Partes con establecimientos *ex situ* que crían en cautiverio especies CITES y Partes con programas de conservación *in situ* para dichas especies. Varios países apoyaron la propuesta y se sugirió hacer referencia a las negociaciones de Acceso a Recursos Genéticos en el marco del CBD. México presentó un borrador de Resolución enmendado que fue adoptado por consenso. La Resolución permitirá incrementar la cooperación entre las Partes para que la producción *ex situ* pueda colaborar con la conservación *in situ* a través de transferencia de tecnología, capacitación e incentivos, entre otros.

Elección de miembros regionales de los Comités.- Se anunció que Canadá sería el nuevo representante regional de Norteamérica ante el Comité Permanente, ante el cual México fungirá como suplente. Asimismo, se ratificó al Dr. Medellín como representante regional de Norteamérica y Vicepresidente del Comité de Fauna. EUA ocupará la representación regional ante el Comité de Flora y Canadá será suplente del mismo.

Fichas de especies CITES.- Durante el 2004, la Conabio publicó la 2ª Convocatoria para financiar proyectos enfocados a compilar el conocimiento biológico disponible sobre especies mexicanas incluidas en la Norma Oficial Mexicana-059-SEMARNAT-2001 o en los Apéndices I y II de la CITES. Lo anterior, con el objetivo de obtener información actualizada sobre las especies, hacer una evaluación de la categoría de riesgo que debe asignárseles dentro de la legislación nacional y del estatus que deben guardar en los Apéndices de la CITES. La información será publicada en el sitio Web de la Autoridad Científica (CONABIO). La mayoría de los proyectos aprobados ya iniciaron y contemplan especies de grupos taxonómicos como cactáceas, orquídeas, mamíferos marinos, tiburones y caballitos de mar, entre otros.

Taller de selección de especies prioritarias.- La Conabio está coordinando un ejercicio de priorización de especies que se desarrolló con base en un Taller sobre “Especies sujetas a comercio internacional prioritarias para la conservación”, en el cual participaron dependencias gubernamentales, académicos y ONGs. El objetivo es identificar a las especies prioritarias con base en un análisis integral de la información sobre su estado de conservación y riesgo, nivel de comercio, existencia de comercio ilegal, y con base en los resultados, se determinará qué especies requieren mayor atención y para las cuales se deben realizar estudios poblacionales para conocer su situación actual y así poder definir las medidas de manejo y conservación apropiadas o proponer enmiendas a los Apéndices de la CITES. Este ejercicio también servirá para identificar prioridades en cuanto a la promoción y creación de nuevos programas de conservación, manejo y/o recuperación de especies, a la mejora e inversión de recursos en los programas ya existentes y a la organización de talleres y reuniones que agrupen a especialistas y a diferentes sectores de la sociedad relacionados con estas especies.

AUTORIDAD DE APLICACIÓN DE LA LEY

Una de las prioridades de la Autoridad de aplicación de la ley en México (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente) es combatir el tráfico ilícito de flora y fauna silvestre para salvaguardar la riqueza biótica de la nación. Por tal motivo se han diseñado e implementado diversos programas con el fin de atacar ésta problemática y garantizar que generaciones futuras disfruten la diversidad biológica con la que cuenta este país.

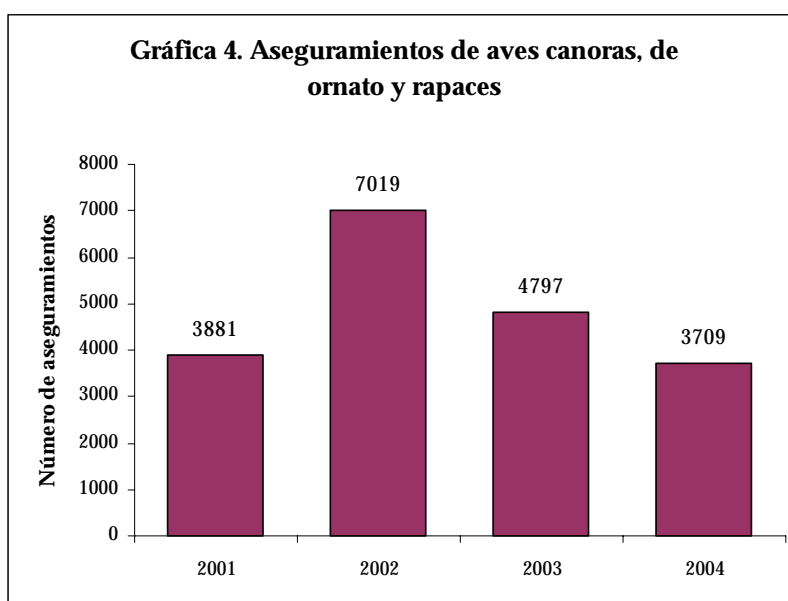
En el combate al tráfico ilícito de vida silvestre se han obtenido avances importantes en el conocimiento del modo de actuar de los traficantes, así como en la identificación de rutas y áreas de comercio ilegal de la vida silvestre.

Para poder llevar un control del aprovechamiento realizado, la Profepa ha creado una base de datos que se integró mediante sistemas de información geográfica a través del cual:

- Se conoce la ubicación precisa de las Unidades de Manejo de Vida Silvestre de acuerdo a las poligonales de los predios proporcionadas por la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).
- Se comprueba la sobreexplotación del recurso, logrando con ello, disminuir el número de ejemplares que son cazados cada año en los estados de Sonora y Baja California Sur.
- Se identifican las rutas de tráfico y cacería furtiva de cérvidos, gatos manchados y de otras especies protegidas por la legislación vigente como lo son el pavo ocelado y el hocofaisán. Lo anterior ha permitido realizar programas dirigidos a atacar ésta problemática durante la época de mayor conflicto.

En el combate del tráfico de aves canoras y de ornato, la Profepa realizó 19 operativos especiales. La gráfica 4 muestra los aseguramientos realizados por la Profepa a nivel nacional de las aves canoras, de ornato y rapaces. Algunas de las especies aseguradas se encuentran protegidas por la normatividad nacional e internacional.

Como resultado de la estrecha colaboración entre México y los Estados Unidos, para combatir el tráfico ilegal de aves canoras y de ornato, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de aquel país y la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales del nuestro, lograron la repatriación a territorio nacional de 66 loros corona lila (*Amazona finschi*) y 22 pericos corona roja (*Amazona viridigenalis*)



Fuente: Sistema de Información Institucional de la Profepa (SIIP)

Actualmente las 88 aves se encuentran bajo cautiverio, en Unidades de Manejo y Conservación de la Vida Silvestre, en la Ciudad de Tijuana, Baja California, donde son evaluadas física y conductualmente. Al terminar su período de cuarentena las aves serán trasladadas al estado de Nayarit, para su liberación al medio silvestre o integración como pies de cría a programas de reproducción en cautiverio.

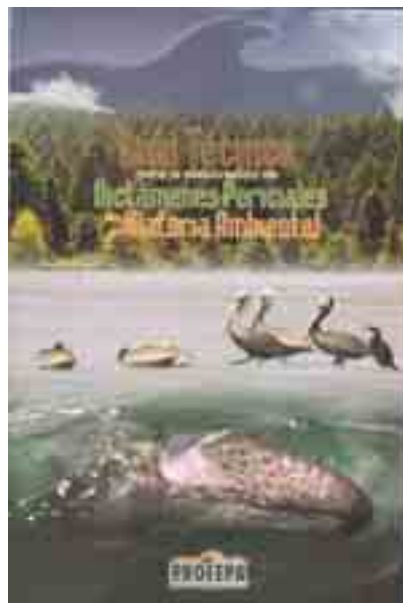
Como resultado de esta experiencia la Profepa, en coordinación con la autoridad administrativa y científica de CITES en México trabaja una propuesta de lineamientos de repatriación, misma que se enfocará a especies CITES y no CITES, así como a especímenes vivos y no vivos. De manera paralela, dicha propuesta está siendo revisada en el seno del Grupo de América del Norte para la Aplicación de la Legislación sobre la Vida Silvestre (NAWEG por sus siglas en inglés).

Una de las principales labores que lleva a cabo la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, es la aportación de pruebas y dictámenes periciales a los expedientes que se llevan en contra de los traficantes ilegales de la vida silvestre. Para contar con mejores elementos, la Profepa publicó una Guía técnica para la elaboración de dictámenes periciales en materia ambiental, así como una Guía de consulta rápida de especies de la vida silvestre terrestres y marinas.

En materia de capacitación la Profepa ha realizado cinco cursos de formación de peritos ambientales en los que se ha capacitado al personal de inspección y vigilancia.

Adicionalmente, en colaboración con el Zoológico de Chapultepec, la UNAM y el IFAW se realizó un Taller de manejo de vida silvestre asegurada.

En próximas fechas, el Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía de la República de Costa Rica en coordinación con la Profepa tiene planeado realizar en la Ciudad de Tapachula, Chiapas, el Taller Regional del Proyecto de Capacitación en el Tráfico e Identificación de la Caoba (*Swietenia macrophylla* King.). A dicho evento asistirán inspectores asignados al trabajo fitosanitario de México y Guatemala. En un segundo taller se contempla la participación de inspectores de Belice.



OTRAS ACTIVIDADES RELACIONADAS:

Comité de Seguimiento CITES en México

En 1997 se creó el Comité de Seguimiento CITES en México, convocado por las Autoridades Administrativa (DGVS), Científica (CONABIO), y de Aplicación de la Ley (PROFEPA), que ha fomentando la cooperación con las diferentes dependencias gubernamentales relacionadas con la gestión, aprovechamiento y conservación de las especies incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES.

Durante todo este tiempo el Comité ha funcionado de manera coordinada, profesional y eficiente, generando posiciones concertadas de país, con base en las aportaciones de las diferentes dependencias que lo conforman. Prueba de ello es el desempeño de nuestro país en las recientes reuniones de la Conferencias de las Partes y de los Comités de Flora, Fauna y Permanente, incrementando la capacidad y eficiencia de la participación de nuestro país en dicha convención, siendo el papel de México cada vez más relevante en la toma de decisiones, llevando a que nuestro país sea representante regional de Norteamérica e incluso tenga la Vicepresidencia del Comité de Fauna a nivel Mundial.

Esta activa participación ha permitido a México la consecución de fondos internacionales para financiar proyectos en el marco de la CITES, así como la celebración de diversos talleres internacionales como es el caso de Tortuga Carey y Caballitos de Mar, entre otros. Esta situación ha sido motivo del reconocimiento internacional para nuestro país como un ejemplo de cumplimiento y participación constructiva en la CITES.

ANEXO I

Certificados CITES expedidos por la autoridad administrativa de México de enero a diciembre de 2004 y de enero a marzo de 2005

2004	Importación			Exportación			Reexportación		
	Vivos	Trofeos	Parte o deriv	Vivos	Trofeo	Parte o deriv	Vivo	Trofeo	Parte o deriv
Peces	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anfibios	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Reptiles	199	24	1532	3	--	43	4	--	2650
Aves	265	--	--	13	1	0	26	--	1
Mamíferos	80	300	25	18	84	7	14	8	--

2005	Importación			Exportación			Reexportación		
	Vivos	Trofeos	Parte o deriv	Vivos	Trofeo	Parte o deriv	Vivo	Trofeo	Parte o deriv
Invertebrados	176	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Peces	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anfibios	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Reptiles	137	7	826	5	--	24	9	--	1325
Aves	103	--	--	9	--	--	2	--	--
Mamíferos	23	107	0	21	61	3	4	2	3

ANEXO II

DIRECTORIO ACTUALIZADO DE LAS AUTORIDADES CITES DE MÉXICO

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**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE
50TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
- FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 53RD MEETING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE -**

Report compiled 26 April 2005, revised 17 June 2005

Since the 50th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (March 2004), the United States has taken many active measures in its implementation of the Convention. Provided below is a summary of key measures taken during the period from March 2004 through April 2005:

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CoP13 RELATED ACTIVITIES

U.S. SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT CoP13: On 6 May 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) submitted the United States' species listing proposals, proposed resolutions, proposed decisions, and discussion documents to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP13), which was subsequently held 2-14 October 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand. The United States submitted 12 species listing proposals, five of which were co-sponsored by other Party countries. The United States also submitted six discussion documents for inclusion in the agenda at CoP13. These discussion documents contained six proposed resolutions or revisions of existing resolutions (one of which was submitted by the United States in its capacity as Chair of a Plants Committee working group on resolutions Pertaining to plants) and one proposed decision for inclusion in the agenda at CoP13.

U.S. APPROVES 20 OBSERVERS FOR CoP13: In accordance with CITES Article XI, paragraph 7, the USFWS approved 20 national non-governmental organizations to attend CoP13 as observers.

RESULTS OF CoP13: CoP13 was held 2-14 October 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand. The United States participated fully in the meeting. Of the 12 species listing proposals submitted by the United States at CoP13, 10 were adopted, one was rejected, and one was withdrawn. The six discussion documents submitted by the United States for consideration at CoP13 resulted in the adoption by the Parties of two revised resolutions and three new decisions. The Parties from North America selected Mr. Robert Gabel, Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, as the North American Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14. In addition, Mr. Gabel was also selected as the alternate North American Regional Representative on the CITES Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES CONTINUES AS CHAIR AND NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE UP UNTIL CoP13: At CoP12 in November 2002, the Parties in North America elected the United States to continue as the North

American Regional Representative on the CITES Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP12 and CoP13 (October 2004). The United States also continued as the Chair of the Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP12 and CoP13. Kenneth Stansell, from the USFWS, continued to serve in that capacity. After CoP13, Canada took over from the United States as North American Regional Representative on the Standing Committee and Chile took over as Chair.

CITES IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP: In accordance with Decision 12.23, the Standing Committee at its 49th meeting (SC49) established a joint working group comprising representatives of the Standing, Plants, and Animals Committees and the CITES Secretariat. The United States was named Chair of the working group. Terms of reference required the group to develop the following products: a list of outstanding implementation issues within CITES, functional categories of these issues; and a clearing-house process to refer these issues to the appropriate CITES body. The group submitted an interim report for SC50 transmitting these products and proposing that the Standing Committee send a revised or modified form of the group's products to CoP13 for further consideration and decision. In his Report to CoP13, the Standing Committee Chair reported on the progress made by the working group and that the Standing Committee agreed to the clearing-house process proposed by the working group. This process included a small group of technical experts working with the Standing Committee Chair that would refer outstanding implementation issues to the appropriate CITES body. The Parties adopted this process at CoP13.

“MIKE”: During the period between March 2004 and April 2005, the United States was engaged in a number of ways in the MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) Program, which was first established by CoP10 through Resolution Conf. 10.10. The United States is a member of the MIKE Subgroup of the Standing Committee. During the reporting period, the United States provided core funding to MIKE and also provided significant funding to a number of MIKE-related projects in Africa, through the African Elephant Conservation Act; and in Asia, through the Asian Elephant Conservation Act.

EXPORT QUOTAS: At CoP12 (November 2002), the Parties adopted Decision 12.72 tasking the Standing Committee with considering improving the management of annual CITES export quotas. In response, the Standing Committee established an Export Quota Working Group tasked with developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor, and report voluntary national export quotas for CITES-listed species. At CoP13, the Parties agreed to extend the period of validity of Decision 12.72 until CoP14 in 2007, and also adopted Decision 13.66, tasking the Standing Committee Export Quota Working Group to complete the quota guidelines and present them for consideration of the Parties at CoP14 in 2007. The United States continues to serve as a member of this working group.

MANAGEMENT OF QUEEN CONCH: Via CITES Notification No. 2003/057, issued in September 2003, the Secretariat informed the CITES Parties of a number of recommendations made by the Standing Committee to Parties trading in queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). One of these recommendations was that Parties give consideration to development of a regional management regime. The need for a mechanism to manage trans-boundary fishery resources in the Wider Caribbean has long been recognized, but never achieved. At its most recent meeting in St. Georges, Grenada (21-24 October 2003), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) recommended the establishment of an intersessional working group to study how strengthened regional management cooperation could be achieved. The United States has actively supported implementation of this recommendation and, during the reporting period, hosted the following informal workshops to plan for the activity: a workshop at the White Water to Blue Water Partnership Initiative in March 2004, one at the meeting of the Gulf

and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in November 2004, and one at the FAO Committee on Fisheries in March 2005. The first meeting of the WECAFC working group to discuss strengthened management in the Wider Caribbean will be convened in July 2005 in the Dominican Republic and work will continue at the 12th Session of WECAFC in October 2005.

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES SELECTED AS ALTERNATE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States served as the Alternate Regional Representative on the CITES Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP12 and CoP13. At CoP13 in October 2004, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Robert Gabel, Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, as the Alternate Regional Representative on the Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14.

20TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a five-person delegation to the 20th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC20), which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in April 2004. The interagency U.S. delegation included two representatives from the USFWS, two from the National Marine Fisheries Service, and a U.S. Congressional staff member. The United States submitted a document on the periodic review of the CITES Appendices and a document on production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species. The United States also participated in the meeting of the Nomenclature Committee, and was a member of ten working groups: Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species; review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II (co-chaired by the United States); periodic review of animal taxa in the Appendices (chaired by the United States); process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes; relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation; trade in hard corals; production systems; conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles; conservation of seahorses; and conservation of and trade in sea cucumbers.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP: The United States remains active on the Animals Committee Transport Working Group and intends to continue in this capacity for the foreseeable future. The United States believes that the group should continue its focus on addressing the most serious causes of transport mortality, injury, and extreme stress, and welcomes an increased effort from the Parties to alleviate existing problems. The United States supports the Working Group's intention to recommend updates to the CITES Transport Guidelines for methods of animal transport other than by air, and has been compiling non-air transport methods to contribute to this project. In November 2004, the USFWS attended the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB) meeting, representing both the United States and as a member of the Transport Working Group.

CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES SELECTED AS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: From mid-2003 through CoP13 in October 2004, Mr. Robert Gabel, Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, served as the Alternate North American Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee. At CoP13, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Gabel as the Regional Representative on the Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14.

14TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a two-person delegation to the 14th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC14), which was held in Windhoek, Namibia, in February 2004. Both delegates were from the USFWS. The United States

prepared and submitted two documents for discussion on the agenda: PC14 Doc. 7.4, on review of resolutions on plants and plant trade; and PC14 Doc. 7.5.2, on the determination of the definition of mahogany plywood. The United States submitted PC14 Doc. 7.4 as the Chair of the Plants Committee Working Group on Resolutions Pertaining to Plants. The United States also submitted an informational document (PC14 Inf. 17) containing a list of plant and animal production systems and possible source codes. The U.S. delegation was active in numerous issues, including the review of the CITES listing criteria, review of existing resolutions pertaining to plants, evaluation of procedures for the Review of Significant Trade, selection procedures for inclusion of species in the Review of the Appendices, definition of mahogany plywood, and production systems.

PLANT RESOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP: At PC13, the United States was chosen to chair a working group to review and revise, as appropriate, the current CITES Resolutions related to plants, particularly Resolutions Conf. 9.19 and Conf. 11.11. This work was assigned for the period between PC13 and PC14. The group consisted of both Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities of countries representing the three official languages of the Convention. Revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.19 were limited to clarification of wording used in the French and Spanish versions of the Resolution. For Resolution Conf. 11.11, the working group focused on clarifying and simplifying the resolution, especially with regard to the definition of “artificially propagated,” but also examined other sections of the Resolution. Drafts of both resolutions were submitted for consideration by the Plants Committee at PC14. The Plants Committee decided that the Working Group should continue its work and submit drafts of the two revised resolutions at CoP13 in October 2004. The United States submitted the two draft revised resolutions at CoP13 and they were adopted by the Parties.

IATA: To reflect recent CoP13 decisions, Canada and the United States provided editorial suggestions for consideration in the next edition of the IATA Perishable Cargo Manual. These suggestions focused on modifications to the existing table on more frequent CITES-listed plants (Table 15.1.A of the current version) to reflect CoP13 decisions on trade in orchids, palms, and medicinal plants, as well as editorial changes to more accurately reflect current live plant trade in some succulents and air plants.

JOINT ANIMALS COMMITTEE – PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

REVIEW OF CRITERIA FOR LISTING SPECIES IN THE CITES APPENDICES: At CoP12, the Parties adopted a Decision directing the Animals and Plants Committees to continue a review of the criteria with particular emphasis on evaluating their applicability to different taxa. The United States actively participated in the evaluation of the applicability of the criteria to a wide range in taxa, and subsequent revision of Resolution Conf. 9.24 at CoP13. In addition to being involved in eight taxonomic reviews for AC20 and three taxonomic reviews for PC14, the United States served as co-chair of the Listing Criteria Working Group at AC20 and was a member of the Listing Criteria Working Group at PC14.

REVIEW OF THE APPENDICES: The United States chaired a joint Animals Committee-Plants Committee working group that developed guidelines for conducting future reviews of animal and plant taxa in the Appendices. These guidelines were subsequently adopted by the Plants and Animals Committees.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES: At PC14 and AC20, the United States submitted Documents PC14 Inf. 17 and AC20 Inf. 18 respectively, each containing a list of plant and animal production systems and possible source codes. Based on the review of this U.S. document and the IUCN/SSC draft report, an AC20 Production Systems Working Group recommended, and the Animals Committee agreed, that a joint working group of

the Animals and Plants Committees be formed to examine the documents that have been developed thus far on production systems, identify and define different production systems for animals and plants, and determine the appropriate source codes for each production system. To help move this issue forward, the United States submitted Document CoP13 Doc. 49 at CoP13, which included a draft decision adopted by Parties as Decision 13.68, tasking the Animals and Plants Committees with establishing the joint working group and setting forth Terms of Reference for the working group.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CITES TIMBER ISSUES

MAHOGANY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: Bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) was listed in CITES Appendix II at CoP12. The listing became effective on 15 November 2003. As the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany includes plywood, a commodity not covered under the previous Appendix-III listing of the species, the United States prepared and submitted a proposed revision of CITES Resolution Conf. 10.13 (on timber) proposing that Parties recognize the World Customs Organization's definition of plywood to define mahogany plywood under CITES. This proposed revision was endorsed by the Plants Committee at PC14 and the United States then submitted it at CoP13. The Parties adopted this revision at CoP13.

In May 2004, the United States attended the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) workshop on mahogany implementation in Pucallpa, Peru. At this workshop, the major range countries, Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru, reported on their implementation of the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany.

During the reporting period, various U.S. agencies have been collaborating to identify potential mechanisms for providing capacity building, training, and other technical assistance to mahogany range countries. The USFWS remains in close contact with Peru regarding their implementation of the mahogany Appendix-II listing, and sent the Peruvian CITES Management and Scientific Authorities a letter in December 2004 asking for confirmation that Peru is making non-detriment findings on mahogany prior to its export from the country.

Also during the reporting period, the United States continued to review U.S. imports of bigleaf mahogany, with a view toward assessing implementation of the Appendix-II listing of the species.

RAMIN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) was listed in CITES Appendix II at CoP13. The listing became effective on 12 January 2005. In the weeks leading up to the effective date, the USFWS provided outreach to the U.S. ramin industry. On 2 December 2004, the USFWS sent a letter to more than 60 U.S. ramin importers and re-exporters on the requirements of the Appendix-II listing of ramin; on 6 January 2005, the USFWS updated its Internet timber Web page with information on the ramin Appendix-II listing; and on 4 February 2005, the USFWS prepared and posted on the Web a news release providing information on the Appendix-II listing.

Additionally, on 21 December 2004, the USFWS sent a letter to the ramin range countries and the major ramin re-exporting countries informing them of the U.S. policy regarding acceptance of CITES ramin permits and certificates before, on, and after 12 January 2005, the effective Appendix-II listing date. The USFWS included along with this letter a report summarizing U.S. ramin trade during 2001-2003.

CITES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

U.S. CONDUCTS CITES TRAINING IN CAMBODIA: In June 2004, the United States sent a mission to Cambodia to: provide training to Government of Cambodia officials on implementing the CITES treaty, including appropriate CITES permitting procedures; provide assistance to Government of Cambodia officials in finalizing draft legislation for the implementation of CITES in Cambodia; and participate in a Government of Cambodia sponsored workshop on the draft CITES legislation. The U.S. mission consisted of two USFWS representatives and was funded with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funds provided to the U.S. Department of Interior's International Technical Assistance Program.

USFWS CONDUCTS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS COURSE FOR AFRICAN OFFICERS: In June 2004, a training team consisting of three special agents and a forensic scientist presented the USFWS-developed two-week Wildlife Poaching Investigators Course for the third time at the International Law Enforcement Training Academy in Botswana. Students included 30 enforcement officers from Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, and Tanzania. The course covered CITES and endangered species law; case initiation and management; intelligence gathering; forensics and crime scene processing; surveillance; undercover operations; interviewing; raid planning; and preparing cases for court. New components included modules on African bushmeat trade and wildlife poisoning investigations.

U.S., MEXICO OFFICERS FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES: In May 2004, USFWS officers participated in a bilateral transboundary environmental enforcement workshop in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, which reviewed regulatory requirements and explored ways to combat wildlife smuggling and other crimes. A USFWS presentation on protected species covered U.S. wildlife laws and recommendations for improving cooperative enforcement efforts. Other U.S. agencies participating included the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Justice, and Department of State. The program was sponsored by the Mexican Center for Environmental Rights, Commission on Environmental Cooperation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and SEMARNAT (Mexico's Federal environmental enforcement agency).

TANZANIAN TRAINING TARGETS MARINE ISSUES: In August 2004, USFWS special agents conducted a two-week law enforcement training program for 23 local conservation officers in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, an area located along the Indian Ocean. The course covered the basics of wildlife law enforcement as well as watercraft safety. Students worked with a motorized patrol boat, which was transferred to the Bagamoyo Fisheries District by the Interior Department to support efforts aimed at protecting sea turtles, coral reefs, and fishery resources. USFWS agents also supplied the students with \$3,500 worth of camouflage clothing donated by the Federal Wildlife Officers Association. This training program, which was coordinated by the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership, marked the first instruction of its kind ever provided at the district level in Tanzania.

USFWS SUPPORTS MARINE ENFORCEMENT IN ECUADOR: In September 2004, a USFWS special agent provided on-the-job law enforcement training to officers at the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve in Ecuador. The training, which was coordinated by the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program, was timed to coincide with the annual sea cucumber harvest and included "on the water" instruction during actual patrol operations.

FORENSICS CONFERENCE DRAWS U.S., GLOBAL SCIENTISTS: The USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory hosted the 2004 fall meeting of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists during the week of 25-29 October 2004. The meeting, which drew some 100 scientists representing U.S. and international forensics laboratories, focused on the field of wildlife

forensics. The schedule included two days of special workshops at the Laboratory itself as well as technical presentations by 40 Laboratory staff members.

USFWS CONDUCTS INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING IN BRAZIL: In February 2005, a USFWS Office of Law Enforcement training team consisting of three special agents and a forensic scientist conducted a two-week wildlife crime investigators course in Brasilia for 27 special agents with the Brazilian Federal Police. The training, which was requested by the Police and organized and funded by the U.S. Embassy, covered case management, intelligence gathering, forensics and crime scene processing, surveillance techniques, interviewing skills, raid planning, and court preparation.

PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHTS WILDLIFE IN THE MEDICINAL TRADE: In March 2004, USFWS wildlife inspectors in New York City participated in the annual convention of the Association of Chinese Herbalists, presenting information about CITES-protected species used in medicinal products and wildlife import/export requirements. Those attending the meeting included practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine from the New York metropolitan area, community representatives from New York City's Chinatown, and a representative of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China.

USFWS PROMOTES CONSERVATION AT FOOD SHOW: USFWS International Affairs and Law Enforcement teamed to staff an educational exhibit at the 2004 East Coast Fancy Food Show – a trade exhibition sponsored by the National Association of the Specialty Food Trade. USFWS representatives discussed CITES protections and U.S. laws and regulations governing the importation of CITES-listed wildlife foods that range from caviar to queen conch meat. The trade show, which was held in late June, was attended by an array of food industry representatives, including many involved in the importation and sale of caviar.

USFWS PROMOTES CITES COMPLIANCE FOR MAIL SHIPMENTS: The senior wildlife inspector at the new USFWS designated port in Louisville, Kentucky, participated in the United Parcel Service (UPS) Compliance Outreach Fair to help company employees learn more about wildlife trade regulations. The USFWS began processing wildlife imports and exports (many of which are shipped by international mail) at this location in January 2005. Topics covered included CITES permit requirements as well as USFWS declaration, inspection, and clearance procedures.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE EFFORTS HELP BIG GAME HUNTERS: In January 2005, USFWS Law Enforcement and International Affairs staff conducted CITES compliance outreach at the annual meeting of the Safari Club International in Reno, Nevada. USFWS participation in this event raises hunter awareness about CITES import/export permit requirements and helps improve treaty compliance by global big game hunters.

U.S. UPDATES GUIDANCE FOR GLOBAL TRAVELERS: The USFWS and World Wildlife Fund/Traffic North America updated the popular "Buyer Beware" brochure, which provides travelers guidance on purchasing wildlife and plant products overseas. The brochures are distributed via airport displays and are used to conduct public outreach across the country.

PUBLIC BULLETINS ALERT TRADE COMMUNITY TO CITES CONCERNS: During the reporting period, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement successfully used its public bulletin system to keep U.S. wildlife importers and exporters informed about changes in CITES requirements. Bulletins were issued via the Internet, posted at ports of entry, and sent to the

National Customs Brokers Association for distribution to member companies. This notification network was used to inform the U.S. trade community about CITES universal labeling requirements for sturgeon caviar; changes affecting the import/export of seahorses and other tropical fish; new procedures for applying for U.S. CITES certificates; species listing changes from CoP13; the listing of new Appendix-III species by China; limits on the export of 2004 sturgeon caviar stocks; and the imposition or lifting of CITES trade restrictions for specific countries.

U.S. CITES WEBSITE: The USFWS has continued to update and improve its CITES Website (at <http://www.fws.gov/international>). Among other items, the site contains the CITES treaty, CITES Fact Sheets, lists of CITES Party countries and non-Parties, a directory of Management and Scientific Authorities in Party countries and of equivalent authorities in non-Parties, copies of recent U.S. CITES biennial reports, copies of recent CITES Updates, a CoP13 page, and links to the CITES Secretariat's Website. It also contains a Web page on CITES timber, one on queen conch, and one ginseng. The USFWS has also continued to update and improve its U.S. permits Website (at <http://www.fws.gov/permits>), which includes information on permits issued under CITES and other U.S. domestic conservation laws.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

U.S. CITES EXPORT TAGGING PROGRAM: The United States cooperates with its States and Indian Tribes and Nations in utilizing a tagging program for the exports of skins of the following Appendix-II species: bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); river otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Alaskan lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); Alaskan wolf (*Canis lupus*); Alaskan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). The USFWS initiated this program over 25 years ago to streamline the USFWS's CITES permit issuance process for the exports of skins of these species. The USFWS currently cooperates with 45 States and 7 Indian Tribes/Nations that have instituted approved harvest programs. The USFWS approves a State or Indian Tribe/Nation for inclusion in the CITES Export Tagging Program when it can make the two CITES findings based on that State's or Tribe/Nation's harvest program. Each approved State or Tribe/Nation applies CITES tags, provided by the USFWS, to new skins of approved species taken in that State or Tribe/Nation and intended for export from the United States. The tags serve as evidence that the skins were legally taken and that their export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. During 2004, the USFWS issued over 667,000 tags. Between March 2004 and April 2005, the USFWS approved into the program one State for exports of river otter.

U.S. CITES GINSENG EXPORT PROGRAM: In order to implement the CITES Appendix-II listing of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), the USFWS works closely with other Federal agencies and the 25 States that have approved American ginseng export programs. The State natural resource and agricultural agencies are responsible for managing this species on State and private lands within their jurisdiction. Subsequently, the USFWS relies on those State agencies to provide information on legal harvest of American ginseng, the status of the species in the wild, and population trends. Using the information received annually from the States, the USFWS is able to make State-wide legal acquisition and non-detriment findings. The USFWS is then able to streamline its evaluation of permit applications to export American ginseng roots from the United States. During the period covered by this report, the USFWS has regularly communicated with the States on issues including revision of State ginseng management regulations and administrative changes to the State programs.

CONSERVATION FUNDING

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS: The Multinational Species Conservation Funds consist of five programs created to fulfill direct congressional mandates to

conserve populations of and habitats for neotropical migratory birds, African and Asian elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, and tigers. Four of these programs involve CITES-listed species: the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1989, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, and the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000. These programs provide direct support to range countries through broad-based partnerships with national governments, NGOs, and other private entities for on-the-ground activities to conserve these species and their habitats. In addition to these funded programs, a new USFWS program has been recently created to fulfill congressional mandates under the Marine Turtles Conservation Act of 2004. This program received funding in Fiscal Year 2005.

The USFWS administers the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. During the period from March 2004 through April 2005, the USFWS granted a total of \$5,042,879 for various projects around the world in support of conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, and great apes. Listed below is a breakdown of this project funding by species group:

African elephants:	25 projects granted a total of \$1,172,456 in funding
Asian elephants:	33 projects granted a total of \$1,411,517 in funding
Tigers:	17 projects granted a total of \$592,949 in funding
Rhinoceroses:	19 projects granted a total of \$602,911 in funding
Great apes:	35 projects granted a total of \$1,263,046 in funding

OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES

REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR CoP13: Canada, Mexico, and the United States held a North American Regional meeting in Queretaro, Mexico, 7-9 September 2004, to discuss proposals and other items on the agenda for consideration at CoP13. The meeting provided an excellent forum for the exchange of information among the three countries, and where possible, the three countries decided on unified regional positions for some agenda items and proposals. Such regional meetings generally include representatives of both Management and Scientific Authorities, as well as representatives of fisheries agencies, foreign affairs agencies, law enforcement, and other governmental participants who have an interest in CITES matters. These meetings have become a regular occurrence prior to CoPs.

TIMBER TREE SPECIES WORKSHOP: In February 2005, a representative of the USFWS attended a workshop in Managua, Nicaragua, to develop strategies for the sustainable use and management of timber tree species subject to international trade. This workshop, which was organized by UNEP-WCMC, focused on 42 timber tree species native to the Central American region (eight of which are listed in the CITES Appendices). Range countries represented at the meeting included Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama.

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2003 CITES ANNUAL REPORT: Article VIII of CITES prescribes that each Party shall prepare annual reports on its trade in CITES-listed species. On 28 October 2004, the USFWS submitted, directly to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report datafile for 2003. The file (120,853 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2003. The data represent actual trade and not just numbers of CITES permits issued.

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2002-2003 CITES BIENNIAL REPORT: Article VIII of CITES prescribes that each Party shall prepare periodic reports on its implementation of CITES and shall transmit to the Secretariat, in addition to an annual report, a biennial report on legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken to enforce the provisions of CITES. On 1 December 2004, the USFWS submitted to the CITES Secretariat the U.S. biennial report covering the interval 2002-

2003. This report summarized some of the major legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken by the United States during this biennial period in its implementation of CITES. The USFWS has also posted this U.S. biennial report and the one covering the interval 2000-2001 on its CITES Website at <http://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cites.html>.

ARGENTINA PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUSTAINABLE-USE MANAGEMENT

PLAN: The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 (WBCA) limits or prohibits import of exotic bird species into the United States in order to ensure that wild populations are not harmed by international trade. Since 1993, imports into the United States of all CITES-listed birds have been prohibited except as provided under certain exemptions. One of the exemptions provided under the WBCA is for the import of species from countries that have approved sustainable-use management plans (SUMPs) for those species. In January 2003, the USFWS completed a Draft Environmental Assessment of Argentina's petition for approval of a SUMP for blue-fronted amazon parrots (*Amazona aestiva*). In August 2003, the USFWS published a rule in the *Federal Register* proposing approval of Argentina's petition. The USFWS has not yet made a final decision regarding approval of Argentina's SUMP. In response to the receipt from Argentina of Dr. Jorge Rabinovich's 2004 study, "Modeling the Sustainable Use of the Blue-Fronted Parrot (*Amazona aestiva*) in the Dry Chaco Region of Argentina," the USFWS has reopened the public comment period on its proposed rule. The USFWS will enter Dr. Rabinovich's report into the record and accept comments on it as it relates to the USFWS proposal to approve Argentina's petition.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: As part of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in the United States, the USFWS continues to contribute to an interagency Environmental Assessment of wildlife trade and policy with various countries. The USFWS has completed summaries for Singapore, Chile, and Morocco, and the Central American FTA countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and has prepared reports for Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia for a U.S.-Andean FTA. Additionally, the USFWS provided a review of wildlife issues for an interim environmental review for a U.S.-Panama FTA. These assessments summarize trade of CITES-listed species between those countries and the United States and provide an overview, for each particular country, of its wildlife legislation, including CITES implementation, trade enforcement, and other relevant wildlife activities and issues.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

STRENGTHENING U.S. CITES ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY: During the reporting period, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement worked to maintain and improve its CITES enforcement infrastructure and core investigative and inspection capabilities. Accomplishments in these areas include:

STRATEGIC PLAN CRAFTED FOR USFWS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement has drafted a comprehensive strategic plan to guide all of its enforcement efforts through the end of the decade, including CITES enforcement. This plan, which addresses the mandates set in the most recent CITES resolution on compliance and enforcement (Conf. 11.3/Rev. CoP13), as well as the agency's domestic wildlife protection responsibilities, emphasizes the importance of USFWS efforts to prevent the unlawful import/export and interstate commerce of foreign fish, wildlife, and plants. Under this plan, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement will seek to improve its effectiveness in intercepting illegal trade through the use of risk assessment to target physical inspection activities. The agency will also focus investigative resources on disrupting or dismantling criminal enterprises engaged in the exploitation of CITES-listed and U.S. protected wildlife and plant resources. USFWS Law Enforcement will also work to enhance

intelligence gathering and forensics support, increase cooperation with law enforcement partners worldwide (including investigative support and information sharing), and promote compliance through outreach and education that specifically targets industries and individuals engaged in wildlife trade and other activities that affect the viability of wildlife populations.

NEW DESIGNATED PORTS OPENED: In January 2005, the USFWS began designated port operations at Memphis, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky – two locations where the USFWS was not previously present to police wildlife trade. Both Memphis and Louisville are hubs for major express mail shipping companies that handle large volumes of international shipments each year. Recent USFWS wildlife smuggling investigations show that this form of transport is increasingly being used to smuggle wildlife products and even live wildlife (such as CITES-listed reptiles). The presence of USFWS wildlife inspectors at these new locations should improve the agency's ability to interdict illegal trade while facilitating clearance of lawfully imported shipments transported by private mail carriers.

INTERAGENCY TRAINING BOLSTERS CITES ENFORCEMENT: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement continued its efforts to provide “cross-training” on CITES requirements and U.S. wildlife trade regulations to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Agriculture inspectors. Training segments were provided as part of the basic training received by these officers. USFWS wildlife inspectors offered similar instruction to law enforcement counterparts at ports of entry and border crossings throughout the country.

USFWS INSPECTORS TAP TECHNOLOGY: USFWS wildlife inspectors at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City – the Nation's second busiest port of entry for wildlife trade – gained access to a new portable X-ray inspection van for screening passenger baggage and cargo shipments for illegal wildlife and wildlife products. The van, which can process up to 1,500 parcels per hour, allows rapid examination of large volume shipments and can differentiate between organic and inorganic material.

TRADE DATA PROJECT PROMISES IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT: In 2004, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement began working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and more than 50 other U.S. regulatory agencies to overhaul the automated processing of U.S. imports and exports. A new International Trade Data System (ITDS) now under development will streamline the import/export process for businesses while improving cross-agency intelligence sharing, smuggling interdiction, and trade enforcement efforts (including those associated enforcement of the CITES treaty in the United States).

USFWS SUSTAINS INVESTIGATIVE CAPABILITIES: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement hired a class of 19 new special agents in 2004, keeping force levels relatively stable despite continued attrition due to retirements. These agents completed basic training and reported to their duty stations in the field in October 2004. Maintaining an adequately staffed investigative program is important to USFWS efforts to uphold the CITES treaty and enforce U.S. wildlife trade laws.

WILDLIFE TRADE REPORT SUPPORTS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement's Intelligence Unit completed a comprehensive analysis of U.S. wildlife trade, which included port-by-port reviews as well as identification of national trends for the period 1997 through 2003. This study assessed wildlife trade through a variety of lenses, including species, commodity, country, mode of transport, purpose, and refused species. This information will help USFWS law enforcement managers evaluate inspection operations and identify ways to improve U.S. policing of wildlife trade at ports of entry and border crossings.

INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS: The enforcement of CITES and the interception of illegal wildlife trade remained a mission priority for the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement. USFWS wildlife inspectors monitored U.S. wildlife trade for CITES compliance and intercepted illegal shipments of CITES-protected species. USFWS special agents conducted criminal investigations of individuals and companies attempting to exploit protected wildlife and plants.

Monitoring Wildlife Trade

The USFWS wildlife inspection program remained the Nation's front-line defense against illegal wildlife trafficking. At the close of the reporting period, USFWS inspectors were stationed at 34 ports and border crossings where they are now processing more than 140,000 shipments per year. Selected program accomplishments for the reporting period include:

- Inspectors in New York City used the agency's new X-ray machine to respond to an anonymous tip about a smuggling attempt involving Asian arowanas. The machine was used to screen passengers, helping officers find the would-be smuggler, who was carrying eight of the Appendix-I fish.
- A courier service operating between New York and El Salvador paid a \$2,900 penalty for unlawfully importing 205 sea turtle eggs in October 2004.
- In New York, a leather goods company with a long history of CITES violations paid \$35,000 in civil penalties for importing three shipments containing 450 lizard watchstraps and 3 lizard handbags without appropriate permits.
- Seizures in Newark, New Jersey, included ivory carvings, two stuffed pangolins, and a commercial shipment of sunglasses with frames made from alligator, ostrich, and emu.
- In Boston, proactive inspection of a shipment from South Africa that was invoiced as wooden statues resulted in the seizure of carvings decorated with elephant ivory inlay.
- A researcher previously cited for CITES violations was stopped by inspectors in Boston when he arrived from the United Kingdom with 69 Appendix-I white-tailed eagle feathers and six other (probably golden) eagle feathers for which he had no CITES permit.
- Seizures from passengers arriving at Boston's Logan International Airport included sturgeon caviar, sea turtle eggs, reptilian leather goods, and items made from elephant ivory. One traveler, caught with 50 pairs of shoes and 20 handbags made from CITES-listed reptiles, persisted in claiming that the items were all for personal use.
- Interceptions at the port of Atlanta included three seizures of sea turtles eggs that were being smuggled into the country by passengers arriving from El Salvador. Inspectors also seized a shipment of coral and queen conch shells imported from Mexico without the required CITES permits.
- Inspection of an ocean freight container at the port of Miami resulted in the seizure of 12,000 pounds of coral imported from the Philippines without a CITES permit. Other coral seizures at this port included a shipment from Haiti containing 11,000 pounds of coral and 39 boxes of soft coral and live rock that were concealed in a shipment of tropical fish imported from Kenya.
- USFWS officers seized approximately 23,250 pounds of queen conch meat from a commercial shipment that arrived at Port Everglades, Florida, from Honduras with an expired CITES permit.
- Seizures from passengers entering the United States via Miami International Airport included 258 sea turtle eggs, 85 pounds of sea turtle meat, 10 sea turtle shells, 61 jars of sea turtle oil or cream, 106 pieces of live coral, 21 live seahorses, and 78 pounds of dried sea horses.
- In Puerto Rico, the USFWS foiled smuggling attempts involving sea turtle shells, queen conch meat, and queen conch shells.
- At Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, USFWS wildlife inspectors stopped a shipment of

Appendix-II live rock from Fiji that contained 2,166 kilograms more than authorized by the accompanying CITES permit; the excess live rock was refused entry and was re-exported to Fiji.

- Inspectors in Houston intercepted a shipment containing 18 pieces of carved elephant ivory imported from Belgium. The ivory was encased in plaster and smoked cloth and shipped with a collection of wooden carvings.
- A missionary returning to Houston from Panama was caught trying to smuggle a large collection of wildlife parts in his luggage. Items seized included 63 pieces of sea turtle shell, crocodile and primate skulls, bird beaks, and primate skins.
- In San Francisco, inspectors discovered 23 live giant clams concealed in a commercial shipment of tropical fish.
- Individuals in northern California fined for CITES violations included a man who unlawfully imported an Asian arowana; an individual who smuggled a live Appendix-II Burmese star tortoise; and a big game hunter who unlawfully imported a brown hyena trophy from Namibia.
- Inspectors in San Francisco refused clearance on a \$33,000 shipment of beluga caviar from Bulgaria that was not in compliance with CITES labeling requirements.
- A Los Angeles fish importer who tried to smuggle in 234 pieces of live CITES-listed coral and clams from Indonesia abandoned the shipment and was fined \$1,000.
- A passenger arriving at the Los Angeles International Airport from China was caught with 10 vials of bear bile in his baggage – contraband worth more than \$1,700.
- Inspectors “blitzing” a flight arriving in Los Angeles from China intercepted unlawful medicinals made from CITES-listed wildlife; items seized included 60 bottles labeled as containing musk deer, as well as products purportedly made from bear and tiger.
- In December 2004, a multi-agency inspection blitz at two ports of entry along the U.S./Mexico border in southern California resulted in the arrest of a man who entered the country with 42 red-lored Amazon parrots hidden in his vehicle.
- Seizures at Denver International Airport included a commercial shipment of 38 elephant skin leather products.
- A headdress made from macaw feathers that was seized from a Mexican traveler arriving in Denver without the required CITES permit was officially forfeited to the USFWS. The headdress is now on display at the Denver International Airport as part of an educational exhibit on wildlife trade laws.
- A U.S. reptile dealer was caught smuggling two CITES-listed ball pythons into Canada at Dunseith, North Dakota, and was fined by wildlife authorities in both countries. The snakes were concealed in a pillowcase hidden in the bottom of an open bag of corn chips.
- Inspectors in Anchorage intercepted multiple shipments of smuggled CITES-listed reptiles destined for the Midwest and Southeast. The resulting investigations resulted in convictions involving more than 50 months worth of prison sentences.
- A major watch importer faces a \$20,000 civil penalty for importing 11 shipments via Anchorage in violation of the CITES treaty. Inspectors seized 351 items made from CITES-protected wildlife.
- While inspecting a shipment from the Philippines that was declared as furniture, Anchorage wildlife inspectors discovered that it actually contained undeclared hunting trophies, including two water buffalo and two CITES-protected civet cats; the importer was fined \$1,100 and forfeited the civet cats.
- Charges are expected against an Alaska ivory dealer who falsely declared an import of five walrus jawbones as Stellar sea cow, an extinct species.
- Inspectors in Anchorage seized a number of unlawfully imported wildlife items brokered via the Internet; examples include elephant ivory pool cues and leather goods made from CITES-listed crocodylians, lizards, and pythons.
- Anchorage inspectors also seized 507 elephant skin watch straps imported from Hong Kong

without a valid CITES permit.

Smuggling Investigations

REPTILE SMUGGLER, U.S. “CLIENT” SENTENCED: In March 2004, a Singapore national was sentenced to serve 41 months in prison for smuggling more than 150 CITES-protected reptiles valued at more than \$200,000 from Thailand to buyers in the United States, and for laundering the money received from these sales. The reptile dealer, who ran his business from Thailand, had been indicted on 13 counts alleging conspiracy to smuggle, false labeling of wildlife, trade in endangered species, and money laundering. In April 2004, the owner of a Wisconsin pet store, who was indicted in connection with this smuggling operation, was sentenced to serve 10 months in prison and pay a \$500 fine for his role in this conspiracy. This defendant must also reimburse the government \$2,223 for costs incurred in caring for seized reptiles and serve two years probation during which he is prohibited from operating any business involving live exotic wildlife.

WEST AFRICAN ART DEALER INDICTED: An operator of several internet-based wildlife and West African art businesses was indicted in March 2004 for smuggling elephant ivory into the United States from Cameroon. She was charged with two felony wildlife counts and two counts of aiding and abetting the smuggling of goods into the United States. The ivory was concealed in two shipments of terra cotta pottery and falsely labeled as wood terra cotta sculptures and terra cotta flowerpots. The art dealer is in custody in Canada, where she was arrested at the request of the United States, and is awaiting extradition. The maximum penalty for each charge is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

ORCHID SMUGGLER FINED: In April 2004, USFWS officers at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, caught a woman returning to the United States from the Philippines who was smuggling 28 live CITES Appendix-I and -II orchids concealed inside a sealed tin labeled “tea.” She paid a \$3,300 fine for importing the orchids without the required permits and abandoned the plants to the government.

CAVIAR COMPANY PRESIDENT SENT TO PRISON: In May 2004, the president of a Polish caviar company pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 months in prison for his part in a smuggling conspiracy that paid couriers to bring suitcases filled with caviar into the United States. The subject admitted that he purchased caviar on the black market in Poland and that co-conspirators then hired couriers to smuggle it into the United States. A forged Fish and Wildlife Service import/export license and false invoices citing a non-existent company were used to facilitate sale of the caviar to a Miami company. The president of the Polish company was directly responsible for the smuggling of 619 kilograms of caviar worth an estimated \$1.8 million. In total, the courier-based smuggling scheme arranged the illegal importation of 1,539 kilograms of caviar.

U.S. PROBE FUELS WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ARRESTS IN BRAZIL: A USFWS investigation of wildlife smuggling that sent a Florida businessman to prison for 40 months helped Federal authorities in Brazil break up a criminal network illegally trafficking in tribal handicrafts made from CITES-protected species. In May 2004, the Brazilian Federal Police announced the arrests of 11 individuals linked to an international trafficking scheme and the seizure of 1,000 wildlife items. The arrests marked the culmination of an investigation that began after the USFWS notified the Brazilian government that tribal handicrafts decorated with macaw feathers, jaguar teeth, and other wildlife parts were being smuggled to the United States and possibly other countries from Brazil. Those arrested in Brazil were employed by that country’s National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), a government agency tasked with defending the interests and rights of Indian peoples in Brazil.

ANTIQUES DEALER FINED FOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: In May 2004, a Michigan antiques dealer was sentenced to pay a \$15,000 fine and \$10,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to charges related to the unlawful importation and interstate sale of items made from hawksbill sea turtle and elephant ivory. He also forfeited 70 unlawfully imported items made from CITES-protected species that were seized by the USFWS when special agents searched his business in May 2003. The USFWS investigation showed that the dealer made annual trips to England where he would purchase turtle shell and elephant ivory products for future sale at his Michigan business.

ORCHID SMUGGLER AND CO-CONSPIRATOR SENTENCED: In July 2004, a Peruvian national, who was indicted for orchid smuggling along with his U.S. “customer,” was sentenced to serve 21 months in prison and fined \$5,000 for his role in a conspiracy to import protected tropical lady’s slipper orchids into the United States. The Peruvian plant dealer obtained legal CITES documents in that country, but then substituted falsely labeled wild orchids for legal specimens. His co-conspirator, a Texas plant dealer, was sentenced in October 2004 to spend 17 months in prison followed by two years of supervised release. Sales records that were seized during a search of his business revealed dealings involving three separate shipments containing protected orchids valued at \$45,000.

NEW CHARGES FILED IN ONGOING PROBE OF REPTILE SMUGGLING: An ongoing USFWS investigation of large-scale smuggling of rare reptiles from Southeast Asia (which secured the successful prosecutions of a Singapore reptile dealer and a Wisconsin pet store owner described above) saw two new defendants indicted on Federal felony charges in Florida in July 2004. A third individual involved in the smuggling pleaded guilty and was sentenced in March 2005 to serve two years in Federal prison.

COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY IN PRIMATE IMPORTATION CASE: In August 2004, a South Carolina breeder and seller of monkeys for medical research pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Chicago to one felony count of submitting false records in connection with a 1997 shipment of CITES-listed monkeys. The company misrepresented the primates as having been bred in captivity when in fact many had been taken from the wild. Under the plea agreement, the firm, which was charged with multiple felony counts related to the importation of four primate shipments, will pay a \$500,000 fine and spend two years on probation.

IVORY TRAFFICKER CHARGED: In August 2004, USFWS special agents arrested a former Alaska resident, who now lives in Bali, Indonesia, for trafficking in elephant, walrus, narwhal, and woolly mammoth ivory, as well as the teeth of endangered bears. The arrest, which occurred in Washington State, culminated a 14-month undercover investigation in which agents in Alaska posed as potential ivory buyers. Items involved in the case included a mammoth tusk that the defendant claimed to have removed from Federal land in Alaska and a 10-foot-long narwhal ivory carving for which he was asking \$10,000. The man faces wildlife and smuggling charges.

WEST COAST REPTILE SMUGGLERS PROSECUTED: A California man who smuggled CITES-listed tortoises into the United States from Thailand pleaded guilty to one felony count. He was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay a \$7,500 fine. USFWS special agents seized \$76,000 worth of rare tortoises during the investigation. Another West Coast reptile smuggling case involved a San Diego man who pleaded guilty to smuggling after the USFWS intercepted an international mail package containing five pancake tortoises and four green tree monitor lizards – both CITES Appendix-II species.

LARGEST SOUTHEAST CAVIAR DEALER PLEADS GUILTY: In November 2004, a Florida-based company that is one of the largest U.S. importers of sturgeon caviar pleaded guilty to Federal wildlife and smuggling charges and agreed to pay a \$1 million fine. The company, whose business

dealings will remain subject to government and court supervision while it serves five years of probation, admitted that it purchased approximately 5.9 tons of smuggled caviar from five separate smuggling rings. The USFWS investigation documented criminal activity dating back as far as late 1999 and early 2000 and continuing through the opening years of this decade.

ORCHID ENTHUSIAST PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING: An orchid grower from Virginia pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the U.S. Endangered Species Act (through which the United States enforces the CITES treaty). The Virginia plant dealer discovered a new species of orchid on a trip to Peru and subsequently smuggled the rare plant into the United States; he then had the orchid described and named after him by a Florida botanical garden. In November 2004, the smuggler was fined \$1,000 and ordered to serve two years probation during which he cannot travel outside of the United States – a restriction that will curtail his orchid collecting activities.

SMUGGLED BIRDS RETURNED TO MEXICO: Ninety rare parrots, all smuggled into the United States for the black market pet trade, were returned to Mexico by Federal authorities on 20 December 2004, at Otay Mesa, located south of San Diego on the U.S./Mexico border. The smuggled birds, which included 68 lilac-crowned Amazons and 22 red-headed Amazons, were recovered during two USFWS wildlife trafficking investigations in southern California. In both instances, the defendants pleaded guilty to Federal smuggling and wildlife trafficking charges.

TWO PLEAD GUILTY IN PARROT SMUGGLING SCHEME: In January 2005, two southern California residents pleaded guilty to Federal charges in connection with their roles in a scheme that smuggled hundreds of protected parrots from Mexico, Central America, and South America into the United States. The USFWS investigation showed that the two defendants began their smuggling activities as far back as 1997. One defendant had already been convicted for smuggling birds from Mexico. The pair made over 30 trips to buy and smuggle parrots, selling the birds at swap meets in Ontario, California, for \$500 each. Two “shipments” seized in 1999 tested positive for Exotic Newcastle Disease.

SMUGGLER DEPORTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA PLEADS GUILTY: In March 2005, a U.S. citizen who had lived in South Africa and Madagascar for the past five years agreed to plead guilty to wildlife smuggling. The defendant was deported from South Africa in October 2004 and arrested on arrival in the United States for trafficking in CITES-protected species. A multi-year USFWS undercover investigation documented dealings involving the illegal importation of a leopard skin and two rhino horns. The South African Police took the man into custody when his U.S. passport was revoked and accompanied him to New York, where he was turned over to USFWS agents.

SENTENCES SET IN WILDLIFE PARTS SMUGGLING CASE: A Honolulu man who pleaded guilty to conspiring to traffic in parts of some of the world’s most endangered species was sentenced in April 2005 to pay a \$3,000 fine and serve six months home confinement followed by three years probation. The man, whose business dealings involved three countries (Borneo, Thailand, and the Philippines) and six U.S. States, traveled to Asia several times a year to organize illegal trade in exotic wildlife. His “inventory” included the skulls of helmeted hornbills, orangutans, and sun bears; tiger penises and teeth; and even human skulls and bones. He typically doctored these items to make them appear antique, smuggled them into the United States, and then sold them through his business or via e-Bay. His brother, who runs a commercial nursery in Oregon, also pleaded guilty to assisting in the smuggling operation. This defendant was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine; he will spend six months in home confinement and must complete two years probation.