

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

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Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

NORTH AMERICA

The attached report for North America has been submitted by Canada.

Reports of regional representatives

**NORTH AMERICA**  
(April 2005 – July 2006)

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General Information

- Regional Representative: Canada
- Alternate Regional Representative: Mexico
- Number of Parties in the Region: 3 (Canada, Mexico, United States)
- Number of Parties providing information for this report: 3

Introduction

This Report was assembled by Canada as the Regional Representative for North America. It covers the period between the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, June 27-July 1, 2005, and the 54<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 the Canada; Annex 2 for Mexico; and Annex 3 for the United States.

Regional Report presented in three attached annexes

Annex 1: National report for Canada  
Annex 2: National report for Mexico  
Annex 3: National report for the United States of America

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA**  
**SINCE THE 53<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 54<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

*Report compiled July 28, 2006*

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 April 2005 to July 2006.

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **COP 14 RELATED ACTIVITIES**

With less than a year away from COP 14, Canada has engaged in its preparations for COP 14. At its National Meeting of Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities which took place in Ottawa from April 3-6, 2006, initial preparatory work was discussed. Preparatory work at the North American Regional level was also briefly discussed during the XI<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, San Diego, CA, May 15-19, 2006.

### **CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Strategic Plan Working Group – Canada hosted and participated in the Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group in Ottawa, Ontario, April 24-28, 2006. The meeting was chaired by Ghana and was very successful with many new ideas and proposals discussed. The outcome is a new draft strategic plan to be discussed at the next Standing Committee Meeting in October 2006.

### **CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

#### Regional membership

At CoP13, Dr. Adrienne Sinclair, CITES Scientific Advisor from Canada was selected as the Alternate Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the period between CoP13 and CoP14.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Plants Committee (PC16)

Canada was represented at PC16, held in Lima, Peru, July 3-8, 2006, by a three-person delegation from Environment Canada and the Canadian Forest Service. The Canadian delegation participated in the following working groups: annotations for species included in Appendix II and III, and Medicinal Plants; Orchidacea annotations; Periodic Review; and Bigleaf mahogany (chaired by Canada). Canada also participated in the Nomenclature Committee meeting.

#### *CITES and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)*

Following PC15 (PC15 WG4 Doc.1), an intersessional working group was created to develop a document on synergies between CITES and the GSPC. Canada and Mexico jointly submitted a document to PC16 (PC16. Doc.13.2). The PC recognized that the document addresses important linkages between the work of the Plants Committee and the GSPC and approved the document with minor recommendations. The PC agreed the PC chair will submit the final document as an information item to the Secretary General of the Convention of Biological Diversity for distribution to scientific focal points and posting on their website. Canada will work closely with Mexico to finalize this document.

### *Medicinal Plants Annotations*

Canada was part of the intersessional working group on Medicinal Plants Annotations, contributing information on trade of American ginseng and goldenseal to ensure that annotations adequately reflect the current commodities in trade. The proposed annotations for American ginseng and goldenseal were approved by the PC. Work on a glossary of terms to accompany all medicinal plant annotations continued and will be finalized intersessionally by members of the working group. The WG will also continue finalizing the proposal for the new medicinal plant annotations to be presented at CoP 14 with Germany as the lead. Canada will continue to participate actively in this working group.

### *Bigleaf Mahogany*

Canada chaired the Bigleaf Mahogany working group at PC16 which was tasked with evaluating the actions taken by range States in accordance with Decision 13.58, reviewing the recommendations made by the Bigleaf mahogany Working Group (created at PC15) and providing advice on the possible inclusion of bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade. Canadian delegate from the Canadian Forest Service also participated actively in this working group providing insights from forest management practices in Canada. The short- and medium-term recommendations made by the working group were discussed in plenary. The recommendations aimed at allowing range countries to continue the work carried out to date while providing clear guidance regarding next steps required for adequately implementing Article IV of the Convention. The recommendations were approved and the PC decided not to include the species in the Review of Significant Trade at the present time.

## **CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC22)

Canada sent a two-person delegation to AC22, which was held in Lima, Peru, July 7-13, 2006. The representatives were from Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Canada participated in the Nomenclature Committee and in the Significant Trade Review and the periodic review working groups.

### *Felidae review*

Canada continues to participate in the intersessional working group on periodic review of Felidae species. In 2005, Canada provided information on management of Canadian populations of *Lynx* species. The information was summarized in document AC22 Doc.11.2 and a progress update was presented by the United States at AC22. Studies of *Lynx rufus* are still underway in Mexico. The AC agreed for the group to continue to work intersessionally.

### *Significant Trade Review of Narwhal*

Following AC21, the Canadian population of narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) entered again the Significant Trade Review process; following this decision, Canada received a letter from the Secretariat requesting information on how Canada implements CITES Article IV for narwhal exports. Canada provided the information to the Secretariat by August of 2005, including the most recent information on population size, harvest levels and the management systems of narwhal in Canada. The information provided by Canada was examined at AC22 and the committee recommended to eliminate *Monodon monoceros* from the Significant Trade Review process as Canada has demonstrated to be adequately implementing Article IV of the Convention. Narwhal harvest in Canada is managed through a quota system. Canada's harvest levels are low compared to population size, the quota is set based on scientific information and the harvest is sustainable.

## **JOINT CITES PLANTS AND ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Production systems: Canada was part of the intersessional working group on production systems. Canada was supportive of simplifying the streamlining the use of sources codes (especially regarding the merging of source codes A, C and D). Canada also spoke in favour of expanding the

use of source code F to plants as it would allow for the inclusion of plant production systems that do not meet the definition of Artificially Propagated (Res. Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13). Canada also participated in the working groups on synergy between CITES and CBD (Addis Ababa Principles) and transport of live specimens.

## **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 are currently being used to staff a full-time Wildlife Enforcement Officer at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon. The officer started his tenure in March of 2005.

ITTO Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation and Inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II of CITES, May 16-19, 2006, Indonesia: Canada was represented at this workshop by a representative of the Canada Border Services Agency. Canada's presentation on implementation of the inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II of CITES proposed that Customs authorities consider adopting the Taxonomic Serial Number (TSN) of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) as a required data element for wildlife commodities in trade.

International Sturgeon Enforcement Workshop to Combat Illegal Trade in Caviar: Canada sent a representative each of its Enforcement Authority and Management Authority to participate to this workshop at the invitation of the European Commission. The workshop was held in Brussels, June 27-29, 2006. This first workshop was very successful as it laid down basic information to build upon. It is expected that another workshop restricted to enforcement officers may take place in the near future.

## **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES — IMPLEMENTATION**

### **GENERAL**

#### National CITES Training:

During its National Meeting of Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities, Environment Canada offered a pre-workshop one-day training to provincial/territorial Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities. 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.

At the request of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, a Seminar on CITES implementation in Canada was presented in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, in December 2005. As permit issuance in Canada is decentralized, the National Management Authority needs to provide on-going training throughout Canada to other jurisdictions involved in the administration of the Convention in Canada.

Canadian Internet-based CITES Permits Database: Canada has continued its 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. It is expected that the new database to be used sometime in 2007.

## MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Implementation of the “Travelling-Exhibition Certificate”: In Spring of 2006, the procedure for CITES Temporary Movement Certificates was modified to bring it up-to-date and in line with CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3, Section VI *Regarding traveling-exhibition certificates*. Before Canada can fully implement Section VI, a regulatory amendment will need to be in place to exempt animals accompanied by foreign CITES Travelling–Exhibition Certificates from the need to obtain CITES import authorization from Canada in the case of Appendix I species and CITES re-export authorizations for all CITES-listed animal species.

Use of Sticker-Permits to export small quantities of cultivated American ginseng: In its efforts to streamline permit issuance, Canada modified its permit procedure for Multiple-Use CITES Permits to export small quantities (less than 4.5 kg or 10 lbs) of cultivated American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) roots for strictly personal use. The new procedure involves the use of CITES sticker-permits attached to parcels or bags of roots and the return of the information to the Management Authority. Most exports are to the United States and to China. The new procedure will be gradually introduced with each new application and application to renew Multiple-Use Export Permits during 2007.

CITES 2003-2004 Biennial Report: On October 31, 2005, Canada submitted its 2003-2004 Biennial Report in response to CITES Notification no. 2005/035

CITES Annual Reports: On April 21, 2006 Canada submitted its CITES Annual Report for 2005 to the CITES Secretariat and to UNEP-WCMC.

Statistics on CITES Permits issued: In 2005, Canada issued the following number of permits and certificates:

Permit Type	Numbers
Export Permits	22,454
Re-export Certificates	3,390
Import Permits	184
Certificates of Ownership	77
Temporary Movement Certificates	19
Scientific Certificates	18

## SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

Captive Breeding Operations: In 2005-2006, Canada re-registered nine operations that breed Appendix I species for commercial purposes. Eight of these operations were re-registered for the 2006-2007 year with the status of one operation still pending, following relocation of the facilities. A new application for a captive breeding facility was received in June 2006. Submission of this application to the CITES Secretariat is expected to be in the fall of 2006. Canadian registered captive breeding operations are breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *Tragopan caboti*.

Non-detriment findings: Canadian CITES scientific authorities continue to work towards the development of standing non-detriment findings for key Canadian species in trade. The scientific authorities have agreed on a priority list and on a format for the national documentation of non-detriment findings (based on the Guidance for Scientific Authorities prepared by IUCN). Standing non-detriment findings for *Lynx canadensis* and for *Lynx rufus* are near completion.

Trade in *Taxus canadensis*: A Canadian working group closely connected to trade in *Taxus canadensis* (Canada yew, also known as ground hemlock) held meetings in October 2004, January 2005 and January 2006. The working group includes federal and provincial authorities and researchers, private sector harvesting and primary processing companies, landowners

associations, and nongovernmental organizations. The 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). In 2004, the group reviewed the Appendix-II listing of Asian *Taxus* species adopted at CITES CoP13 and the final draft of "Principles and Corresponding Criteria and Indicators for the harvest of Wild Ground Hemlock Biomass" was unanimously adopted. In 2005 the working group reviewed inventory and mapping projects, propagation and plantation research, provincial marketing board and harvesting regulations. It also adopted a new name and organizational structure as the "Canada Yew Association". In 2006 the Association further defined its role in the setting of 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 more than 1,500 inspections and several hundreds investigations resulting in many prosecutions, charges and convictions between April 2005 and July 2006.

A new inspection plan was developed for Enforcement to identify inspection priorities for the fiscal year, and special emphasis was placed on commercial shipments, live animal shipments, Appendix 1 species and other target species entering Canada.

Several active investigations included the smuggling and false labelling of caviar. Currently, several Canadian and foreign companies are before the courts for these infractions. Other court decisions have been made against the illegal importation of orchids and traditional Asian medicine.

CITES Falcon Enforcement task Force: Canada was represented by two persons at this meeting, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in November 2005. Canada provided information on Canadian falcon smuggling cases and is developing the identification portion of a CITES guide to falconry species.

Development of Identification Guides: Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Branch produced the new CITES Identification Guide – Amphibians that will be printed fall 2006. Identification sheets were developed to support the identification efforts of newly listed CITES species by CITES enforcement officers.

Caviar and sturgeon – The Wildlife Enforcement Directorate continues to make caviar and sturgeon an ongoing national priority. Intelligence gathering continues to support all of Canada's enforcement activities.

Training: Canada has continued to develop the 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.

Tiger: An intelligence report is still under development on the situation of the tiger throughout its geographical range. This is being done in collaboration with the U.S. Authorities.

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY MEXICO  
BETWEEN APRIL 2005 AND JULY 2006**

**1. International activities**

Meeting	Place	Date	Main Topics
15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Flora Committee	Geneva, Switzerland	May 17-21, 2005	Presentation of report on the lignum vitae study, orchids annotation, regional report, results of meetings on mahogany and wood-producing species.
Joint Meeting of the Flora and Fauna Committees	Geneva, Switzerland	May 20-21, 2005	Functioning of technical committees, regional communication, Nomenclature Committee, CITES-CBD synergy: invasive exotic species and Addis Abeba principles and guidelines.
21 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Fauna Committee	Geneva, Switzerland	May 20-25, 2005	Reports by Mexico: Studies on <i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i> and <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> ; regional report; regular review <i>Lynx</i> spp.; bird nomenclature.
X Trilateral Canada-USA-Mexico Committee Meeting	Zacatecas, Mexico	May 23–27, 2005	Review of the agenda of the 53rd Meeting of the Standing Committee. Discussion of topics of common interest on CITES species.
53rd Standing Committee Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland	June 27-July 1, 2005	Strategic vision, relationship with other organizations (UNEP, CBD, CMS and FAO), financial questions, examination of scientific committees, regional communication, introduction from the sea, nil exportation quotas, relationship between <i>ex situ</i> production and <i>in situ</i> conservation.
Regional Training in Mahogany Trafficking and Identification Project Workshop	Tapachula, Chiapas	July 5-6, 2005	Identification of mahogany, cedar and caobilla), work at Mexico-Guatemala border points, official points, mechanisms for returning confiscated property and reactivation of binational agreements.
Intersessional Meeting of the Trilateral Committee (see above)	Ensenada, B. C., Mexico	October 17-19, 2005	Collaboration of the CITES committee, synergy between CITES and the World Strategy for the conservation of plants, among others.
Workshop on introduction from the sea	Geneva, Switzerland	November 30- Dec. 2, 2005	Discussion on the phrase "in the marine environment outside the jurisdiction of any state".
Intersessional Meeting of the Shark Working Group	Slimbridge, United Kingdom	April 4-6, 2006.	Implementation of the inclusion of sharks in the Appendices; impact of trade; species threatened by international trade; commercial measures and results of the meeting of FAO experts.
Trinational Belize-Guatemala-Mexico Workshop on the management and conservation of <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> and review of the status of <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> in the Appendices.	Mexico City	April 25-27, 2006.	Situation of wild populations of both species, situation of farms breeding these species, determination of their status in the CITES Appendices, development of a Trinational Belize-Guatemala-Mexico Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of those species.
XI Meeting of the Trilateral Canada-USA-Mexico Committee	San Diego, California	May 15-19, 2006	Review of points on the agenda of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Flora Committee and of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Fauna Committee. Discussions of topics of common interest for the region.
18th Meeting of the IUCN Crocodile Specialists Group	Montelimar, France	June 20-23, 2006	Presentation of the conservation situation of the Morelet's crocodile ( <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> ) in Mexico and discussion with the CSG of the results.
Meeting of the Working Group on Mahogany	Lima, Peru	June 29-July 1, 2006	Decisions on non-detrimental extractions, national and regional programs for the sustainable management of mahogany, exchange of information and experiences in the management of this resource.



Meeting	Place	Date	Main Topics
16th Meeting of the Flora Committee	Lima, Peru	July 3-8, 2006	Regular examination of the Appendices, study on <i>Pereskia lychnidiflora</i> and <i>Pereskiaopsis</i> sp., medicinal plant annotations, annotation for Orchidaceae, proposals for inclusion of <i>Cedrela odorata</i> , <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> and <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> , nomenclature. Report of the Working Group on Mahogany.
Joint Meeting of the Flora and Fauna Committees	Lima, Peru	July 7-8, 2006	Strategic vision, examination of the scientific committees, regional communication and representatives' manual, production systems, CITES-CBD synergy, use of annotations, proposal for a workshop on NDFs (2007).
22nd Meeting of the Fauna Committee	Lima, Peru	July 7-13, 2006	Regular examination of species included in the Appendices ( <i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i> , <i>A. dumerilii</i> , <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> , Felidae), Resolution on farm breeding, report on sea cucumber, report on sharks and Decision projects, fossil corals, proposal for amendment of <i>Squalus acanthias</i> , <i>Lamna nasus</i> and <i>Melanosuchus niger</i> , standardized taxonomic references for the CoP14 (Birds).

## 2. National activities

### 2.1. GENERAL

**Amazon project:** Mexican CITES authorities, with the support of experts in Mexican Psittacidae are working on a program to reproduce Mexican species of *Amazons* included in Appendix I in captivity as part of a comprehensive conservation strategy. The project aims to (a) promote the reproduction of those species in captivity, (b) increase the technical capabilities of breeders and (c) link reproduction programs with *in situ* conservation activities. There is interest by Philippine breeders in collaborating with the Government based on Resolution Conf. 13.9.

**Decentralization of wildlife management and administration (training workshops):** The CITES Administrative Authority began decentralizing functions related to wildlife management and administration with Mexico's six northern border states. With the support of the Trilateral Committee and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, two workshops were held in November 2005 and February 2006 to give basic training and deal with CITES administration topics in Mexico.

**National workshop on the situation of *Dermatemys mawii* populations, breeding in captivity and review of their status in the CITES Appendices:** Held on April 5-7, 2006 in Tabasco. The situation of wild Central American River Turtle populations and farms in Mexico was analyzed to determine their status in the Appendices. Document AC22 Doc. 11.3 (Rev. 1) was drawn up and analyzed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Fauna Committee as well as a draft of the National Strategy for managing and conserving the species.

**Proposal for an International Workshop for Scientific Authorities on the implementation of Non-detrimental Extraction Decisions (NDF):** CITES Authorities are working on incorporating this proposal. It will be based on results of and information from similar initiatives such as the Scientific Authorities Workshop (2002) in Nicaragua and other more recent ones related to particular taxons (*Swietenia macrophylla*, *Cheilinus undulatus* y *Aquilaria* spp). It is scheduled for the third trimester of 2007.

**Priority species for Mexico:** Species of commercial interest are being prioritized to identify those that require population studies and to determine appropriate management and conservation measures for them, including identifying proposals for amending the Appendices.

**Call for registration of scientific institutions with museum and herbarium specimens of species included in the Appendices:** The Scientific and Administrative Authorities invited scientific institutions and collections to register to access the simplified herbarium and museum specimen exchange process in accordance with the exemptions listed in the text of the Convention, thus facilitating international loan, donation and exchange among scientific institutions processes.

**Call for proposals on CITES Appendix amendments:** The Inter-institutional CITES Monitoring Committee invited society in general to present proposals for the amendments (inclusion, exclusion or transfer of species) of the Appendices.

## 2.2. ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

**Vaquita *Phocoena sinus*** is an endangered endemic species of the Upper Gulf of California. In a joint effort involving various government departments, actions were undertaken to conserve this species. On September 8, 2005, a refuge area was decreed for the species, establishing protective measures that will be implemented in that area.

### CITES certificates issued from January to December 2005 and January to July 2006

Species	Importation			Exportation			Re-exportation		
	Live	Trophies	Part or deriv.	Live	Trophies	Part or deriv.	Live	Trophies	Part or deriv.
<b>2005</b>									
Invertebrates	42	--	5	1	--	4	--	--	--
Fish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Amphibians	1	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	36
Reptiles	124	--	905	4	--	13	2	--	2027
Birds	112	--	--	11	--	4	3	--	--
Mammals	56	168	11	18	102	11	3	2	1
<b>2006*</b>									
Invertebrates	13	--	4	1	--	--	--	--	--
Fish	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Amphibians	1	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Reptiles	62	--	499	1	--	6	2	120	1042
Birds	26	--	2	1	7	--	4	--	--
Mammals	20	141	9	12	79	4	4	1	4

\* TO JULY 2006

## 2.3. SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

**Workshop on *Lignum vitae*:** In follow-up to the study on the "Abundance, distribution and conservation situation of *Guaiacum sanctum* L. in Mexico", CONABIO is working on a project aimed at analyzing management and conservation plans for the species, proposing improvements and ensuring its sustainable use and exportation.

**CITES species records:** Over 100 records concerning CITES species groups such as orchids and cactuses were reviewed and validated. These records may be found at:

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

### Research:

**Lignum vitae.**- CONABIO received a fourth report on the study "Abundance, distribution and conservation situation of *Guaiacum sanctum* L. in Mexico", which is being undertaken by CIECO-UNAM researchers and funded by Germany (through the CITES Secretariat), the USA (US Forest Service) and Mexico (CONABIO).

In general terms, the information generated indicates that the management system used for exploiting the species in Mexico is adequate and harvest levels might be considered sustainable. Nevertheless, certain specific recommendations are made that should be considered and the importance of continuing to monitor the populations studied over the long term is emphasized.

**Saguaro Cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*)** .- A field study was undertaken to assess the population situation of the species in Mexico. This research project will generate information on the population status and on extraction and commercialization of Saguaro in Mexico, with the aim of producing recommendations to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the species. The first phase includes generating information on the distribution, abundance and conservation situation of the species in Mexico, as well as incorporating certain basic information on its use and commercialization and preliminary management recommendations. The second phase of the project will provide information on population dynamics and genetics.

**Central American River Turtle and Mexican Salamander** - Mexico completed population studies of two species included in the Regular Examination of the Appendices process selected at the 15th Meeting of the Fauna Committee in Madagascar: the Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) and the Mexican Salamander (*Ambystoma mexicanum*). At the 21st Meeting of the Fauna Committee, it recommended that Mexico collect more information on the situation of both species and analyze positive and negative effects (scenarios) that might derive from their status in the various CITES Appendices. For that reason, a pair of workshops and meetings (described below) was held. Their results and conclusions are presented as

working documents under the point of the pertinent agenda for the Regular Examination of the Appendices during the AC22 working sessions.

Felidae (*Lynx* spp.).- As part of the review of the Felidae family, particularly of the genus *Lynx*, Mexico undertook a population study of *Lynx rufus* in Mexico to learn about its current conservation situation. This study is based mainly on a sample using photo traps in representative distribution areas in the country and will end in 2007. It is receiving financial support from the USA (IAFWA, TPWD) and Mexico (CONABIO) for its conduct.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*).- During CoP13, the USA and Mexico proposed including *Passerina ciris* in Appendix II, but that proposal was rejected. Nevertheless, there is concern regarding the situation of its wild populations and the impact of trade on this species and others that are also subject to international exploitation and trade. For that reason, CONABIO proposed that a study entitled "Assessment of the conservation situation of populations of *Passerina ciris*, *P. leclancherii*, *P. amoena*, *P. rositae*, *P. caerulea*, *Cardinalis cardinalis* and *C. sinuatus* in Mexico" be carried out, which is currently being done. Its goal is to evaluate its conservation situation and produce specific recommendations on its sustainable conservation and use, and to provide more information to help determine what the status of this species should be in the CITES Appendices.

#### **2.4. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY**

In the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking, the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) [Federal Environmental Protection Office] has made significant progress in learning about traffickers' modes of operation and in identifying illegal wildlife trade routes and areas.

With the aim of improving enforcement in Mexico, a theoretical/practical course was given in May 2005 in Villahermosa, Tabasco, to train PROFEPA inspectors in the identification, management and conservation of fresh water turtles in Mexico's South-Southeast. Some of the results of that workshop were identification of major illegal freshwater turtle trade routes and of various ways in which they are traded.

Also, on May 2-3, 2005 a Training Course on Selected Wildlife Law Enforcement Topics was held in the city of Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico and on August 1-4, 2005, a training course for inspectors, customs officers and other persons involved in the control, monitoring and enforcement of the law on general aspects of CITES operations at the national and international levels and on the use and interpretation of the Appendices of the Convention was given in the city of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico.

## UPDATED DIRECTORY OF MEXICAN CITES AUTHORITIES

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<sup>1</sup> Officials whose signatures are authorized to issue CITES certificates and other official documents for which the CITES Administrative Authority of Mexico is responsible.

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### ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

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## REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE 53<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 54<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

*Report compiled 2 August 2006*

Since the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (July 2005), 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 July 2005 through July 2006:

### *INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES*

#### **CoP14-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR CoP14:** The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14) will be held 3-15 June 2007, in The Hague, Netherlands. On 20 January 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a notice in the U.S. *Federal Register*, as part of the process designed to allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public to participate in the preparations of the U.S. Government for CoP14. This notice solicited recommendations from NGOs and the public on possible species proposals, resolutions, and other issues for the U.S. Government to consider submitting for the agenda at CoP14. The USFWS will publish another notice in August 2006 announcing the species proposals, resolutions, and other issues that the U.S. Government is considering submitting for CoP14; providing the public with an opportunity to comment on these potential submissions; announcing a public meeting to be held in September 2006 to discuss the potential submissions; and providing information on the process for attendance of observers at CoP14.

Once the United States submits its species proposals, resolutions, and other issues for inclusion in the agenda at CoP14 (the deadline for this submission is 4 January 2007), the USFWS will post these U.S. submissions on its Website.

Approximately 3 months prior to CoP14, the USFWS will publish another notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the provisional agenda for CoP14; soliciting comments from the NGOs and the public about what negotiating positions the United States should consider taking on species proposals, resolutions, and other issues submitted by other Parties for consideration at CoP14; and announcing another public meeting to be held approximately 2 months prior to CoP14 to receive public input on the U.S. negotiating positions regarding CoP14 issues. Approximately 2 weeks prior to CoP14, the USFWS plans to publish a final notice announcing the tentative negotiating positions the United States is taking on species proposals, resolutions, and other issues submitted by other Parties for CoP14.

#### **CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

**CITES IMPLEMENTATION CLEARING HOUSE:** In accordance with Decision 12.23, the Standing Committee at its 49<sup>th</sup> 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 includes a small group of technical experts working with the Standing Committee Chair that refer outstanding implementation issues to the appropriate CITES body. The Parties adopted this process at CoP13.

Ms. Andrea Gaski, of the United States, serves as one of the two members of the clearing house (along with Dr. Colman O' Criodain of Ireland). At CoP13, the Parties adopted Decision 13.78 directing the Standing Committee through its clearing house to decide on the appropriate way to continue consideration of the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation in the context of CITES. At SC53, the Standing Committee instructed its clearing house to submit recommendations to SC54 to fulfill Decision 13.78. The United States provided regular and detailed input to Dr. O' Criodain on the draft document prepared by the clearing house ("Relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation") for consideration at SC54.

WORKING GROUP ON PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS: The United States is a member of the Standing Committee's Working Group on Personal and Household Effects. At the time that this report was prepared, the Working Group had only recently started its electronic deliberations and the United States engaged in the early discussions. The United States will continue its active participation in the Working Group's deliberations.

"MIKE": During the period between July 2005 and July 2006, the United States was engaged in a number of ways in the MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) Program, which was first established at 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 with completing the quota guidelines and presenting them for consideration at CoP14 in 2007. The United States continues to serve as an active member of this working group.

MANAGEMENT OF QUEEN CONCH: The United States continues to work toward fulfilling the recommendation of the Standing Committee that the Wider Caribbean Region give consideration to development of a regional management regime. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) convened an intersessional working group to study how strengthened regional management cooperation could be achieved. At WECAFC's 12<sup>th</sup> Session (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 25–28 October 2005), the Commission approved the draft statutes for WECAFC, and agreed to submit the revised statutes to the next session of the FAO Council. It also took steps to strengthen the *ad hoc* working groups, including its *ad hoc* working group on queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). FAO developed a "Manual for the Monitoring and Management of Queen Conch" and, with the United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), Secretariat to the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), and the United States' Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), hosted a Regional Workshop on the Monitoring and Management of Queen Conch in Kingston, Jamaica, 1-5 May 2006. The workshop addressed assessment of queen conch resources; management tools appropriate for queen conch fisheries, monitoring, and control; and formulation of effective management plans. It built on the recommendations of the CITES Review of Significant Trade.

In addition to FAO's work on this species, the United States, with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), the Caribbean Fishery Management Council and the Darden Foundation, convened a workshop in November 2005 with the goal of building a scientific consensus on regional queen conch management strategies, following GCFI's annual meeting.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA WORKSHOP: At CoP13 in October 2004, the Parties adopted Decision 13.18, which directed the Standing Committee to convene a workshop on introduction from the sea to consider implementation and technical issues. The United States provided funding for the workshop, which was held during November-December 2005, and sent a representative from the Management Authority to participate as part of the North American delegation.

## **CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

UNITED STATES SERVING AS ALTERNATE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States continues to serve as the Alternate Regional Representative on the CITES Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14. 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. Mr. Gabel has served in this role throughout the report period.

22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States sent an eight-person delegation to the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC22), which was held in Lima, Peru, in July 2006. The interagency U.S. delegation included three representatives from the USFWS, three from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a U.S. Congressional staff member, and a representative of the States. The United States submitted three documents for the meeting: one on production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species, one on annotations of animal species listed in Appendix III [which included proposed draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.)], and an information document summarizing information received from range countries on the status and management of *Lynx* species. The United States also participated in the meeting of the Nomenclature Committee, and was a member of seven working groups at AC22 pertaining to: Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species; periodic review of animal taxa in the Appendices; transport of live specimens; fossil corals; application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity to CITES non-detriment findings; conservation and management of sharks; and sea cucumbers.

MARINE ISSUES: The United States funded the intersessional workshop of the Shark Working Group of the Animals Committee, which considered items of the Working Group mandated by CITES Resolution Conf. 12.6 (on conservation and management of sharks) and CITES decisions concerning sharks. At this workshop, the Working Group prepared documents for consideration at AC22. In addition, the United States funded the preparation of the document "Summary of FAO and CITES workshops on sea cucumbers: major findings and recommendations," used for discussions of this topic at AC22.

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. At AC22 in July 2006, the United States participated in meetings of the Working Group, which proposed a number of changes to CITES Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Transport of live animals) to make it applicable to both animals and plants and also proposed several CITES decisions aimed at providing CITES guidelines for methods of animal transport other than by air. The Animals Committee adopted these proposals of the Working Group and they will be submitted for consideration of the Parties at CoP14. The United States, in the course of assisting in the development of refined IATA air transport guidelines, has been compiling information on non-air transport methods that it plans to make available to the Parties through the Transport Working Group.

## CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES CONTINUES AS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: At CoP13 in October 2004, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Robert Gabel, Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, as the Regional Representative on the Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14. Mr. Gabel has served in this role throughout the report period.

16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a four-person delegation to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC16), which was held in Lima, Peru, in July 2006. Three delegates were from the USFWS and one was from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The United States prepared and submitted three documents for the meeting: one on production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species; one on annotations of plant species listed in Appendices II and III [which included proposed draft amendments to Resolutions Conf. 9.25 (Rev.) and Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP13)]; and an information document summarizing information on U.S. trade in bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). The U.S. delegation was active on numerous issues and participated in working groups at PC16 on: Review of Significant Trade in Appendix-II plants; Review of the Appendices; the Mahogany Working Group; medicinal plant annotations; and orchid annotations.

BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP: At PC15 in May 2005, the Plants Committee re-established the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (MWG) and tasked it with taking specific steps to promote full implementation of the CITES Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in the range countries and importing countries. The MWG is made up of: the Plants Committee members from Central and South America and Europe; the countries of Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru (as major mahogany range countries); the Dominican Republic, the European Union, and the United States (as major mahogany importers); the CITES Secretariat; and a member of each of the following organizations: Fauna and Flora International, TRAFFIC, and WWF International. The Plants Committee requested the MWG to start working as soon as possible after PC15, work intersessionally, and report on its progress at PC16. Marco Romero Pastor, of the CITES Management Authority of Peru, was named Chair of the MWG. Peter Thomas, of the CITES Management Authority of the United States, was named Vice-Chair. During the reporting period, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the MWG worked closely together via Email and collected information from a number of countries on steps they have taken to manage mahogany, conduct forest inventories, and determine and monitor the distribution, population size, and conservation status of mahogany.

The MWG held a meeting 29 June through 1 July 2006, in Lima, Peru, immediately preceding PC16. The United States provided funding for this meeting through the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Peter Thomas, as Vice-Chair of the MWG, helped ensure that the meeting took place and was effective. At the meeting, the mahogany range countries reported on what steps they have taken to manage mahogany, conduct forest inventories, and determine and monitor the distribution, population size, and conservation status of mahogany. The major importing countries, including the United States, reported on steps they have taken in implementing the mahogany Appendix-II listing.

At PC16 (3-6 July 2006 – Lima, Peru), a working group was formed to discuss the results of the meeting of the MWG, analyze information on the actions taken by mahogany range States in accordance with CITES Decision 13.58, advise on the possible inclusion of bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade, and if appropriate, propose draft decisions for the Plants Committee to submit for adoption at CoP14. The United States actively participated in this Plants Committee working group. The working group concluded that, although some progress had been made by certain range countries, no Party had fully complied with Decision 13.58. Also, the working group determined that the MWG had promoted the compilation and sharing of existing information and recommended that it continue its work between PC16 and PC17. Finally, the Plants Committee working group developed a number of recommendations for short- and mid-term actions, a number of which will be proposed as draft decisions at CoP14. The



recommendations are aimed at further developing the capacity of range countries to implement the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany. The Plants Committee adopted these recommendations, with a number of amendments suggested by Parties during the Plenary session. With the abstention of the representative of North America, the Plants Committee decided not to include bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade at this time.

## **JOINT ANIMALS COMMITTEE – PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

**ANNOTATIONS OF SPECIES LISTED IN APPENDICES II AND III:** At PC15 (May 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland), the United States was chosen to chair a working group to review and propose amendments to appropriate CITES Resolutions to ensure consistent interpretation of unannotated listings in Appendix II and III. The working group suggested that Resolutions Conf. 9.25 (Rev.) and Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP13) should be amended for this purpose. The working group was asked to continue its work during the period between PC15 and PC16. Drafts of both resolutions were submitted for consideration during the joint meeting of AC22 and PC16 in Lima, Peru, in July 2006, since it was determined that the amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.) would also apply to listings of animal species in Appendix III. With some minor modifications, the Animals and Plants Committees endorsed the amendments proposed by the working group, and the United States agreed to submit a document containing the draft amendments to CoP14 on behalf of the committees.

**PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES:** At PC16 and AC22, the United States submitted Documents PC16 Doc. 12.1 and AC22 Doc. 12.1, respectively, which presented the recommendations developed by an intersessional working group on production systems established at the joint meeting of PC15 and AC21 (May 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland). The working group, chaired by the United States, was charged with identifying various production systems, relating the production systems to current CITES source codes, developing clear definitions for the source codes, and making recommendations for creating or eliminating source codes, as needed. This work was based on a synthesis of several earlier documents produced for the Animals Committee. Although the working group reported progress in some areas, there were still several areas in which the group had not reached consensus, including: source codes for artificially propagated plants and animals bred in captivity; ranched specimens; and the inclusion of plants in the application of source code "F." The F code currently applies to animals that are produced in captivity (from captive parents), but that do not meet all of the criteria for "bred in captivity" established in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.), and Canada and the United States advocated the use of this code for plants. A working group chaired by the United States was established during the joint meeting of AC22 and PC16 to resolve the remaining differences, but was unable to do so. The United States agreed to continue to work with interested Parties and NGO representatives to try to resolve the outstanding areas of disagreement, since some basis for potential consensus was developed in the working group. The United States agreed to consult the committees before the deadline for submission of documents for CoP14 to advise whether consensus had been reached and whether a final document could be submitted.

## ***NATIONAL ACTIVITIES***

### **CITES IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES**

**REVISION TO U.S. REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CITES:** The USFWS continues to work on revising the U.S. CITES-implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 23). Since the existing regulations were finalized, the CITES Conference of the Parties has held 12 meetings where resolutions have been adopted. The USFWS proposes to incorporate certain applicable CITES Resolutions into 50 CFR Part 23. Revised regulations will help the USFWS more effectively promote species conservation, fulfill its responsibilities as a CITES Party, and help those affected by CITES to understand how to conduct international trade in CITES-listed species.

The USFWS published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* on 19 April 2006, to respond to comments from the public on a previous proposal to revise CFR Part 23 (published in 2000), make

appropriate changes based on these comments, and incorporate appropriate recommendations made in CITES resolutions adopted through CoP13. The USFWS plans to have the final rule updating 50 CFR Part 23 published by the middle of 2007.

### **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CITES LISTINGS OF COMMERCIAL TIMBER SPECIES**

**BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP:** During the reporting period, the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (MWG) carried on tasks toward promoting full implementation of the CITES Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany in the range countries and importing countries. Peter Thomas of the USFWS serves as Vice-Chair. The MWG held a meeting 29 June through 1 July 2006, in Lima Peru, immediately preceding PC16. The United States provided funding for this meeting. For more details on the work of the MWG and U.S. participation see the item above on this issue in the section entitled "CITES Plants Committee Activities" (on pages 4 and 5).

**U.S. EFFORTS RELATED TO PERUVIAN MAHOGANY:** During the reporting period, the USFWS continued to remain in close contact with Peru regarding its implementation of the mahogany Appendix-II listing. During 2005, Peru established a voluntary bigleaf mahogany export quota of 23,621 cubic meters. The USFWS closely monitored the volume of bigleaf mahogany being imported into the United States from Peru during 2005, in relation to the quota, and provided Peru with periodic reports on 2005 U.S. imports of Peruvian mahogany. During 2005, the United States imported 22,156 cubic meters of bigleaf mahogany wood from Peru. Peru recently established a 2006 mahogany export quota of 23,239.57 cubic meters, and the USFWS has again been closely monitoring the volume of bigleaf mahogany being imported into the United States from Peru during 2006, in relation to the new quota. Providing this information to Peru on a regular basis assists Peru in monitoring the total volume of mahogany wood they are exporting to the United States and allows them the opportunity to stop issuing additional permits if the volumes exported approach the quota they have set.

Through the Tropical Forest Conservation Fund, the United States is supporting increased inspections in forest concessions that have mahogany (in the Madre de Dios and Ucayali regions of Peru) to verify compliance with sustainable forest management as mandated by Peruvian Law. A number of inspections have already been undertaken and preliminary results indicate that some concessions will be cancelled for not complying with the law.

The United States has provided support to strengthen Peru's CITES Management Authority (INRENA) for implementation of the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany. This multi-year effort is part of the U.S.-funded CEDEFOR Project that is implemented by the World Wildlife Fund. Specific activities include strengthening INRENA's capacity to review forest management and harvest plans submitted by the forest concessions, with an emphasis on the mahogany regions (Madre de Dios and Ucayali). The United States has also assisted in the development of an ITTO-funded project whose primary objective is to strengthen Peru's CITES Scientific Authority for forest species (the National Agrarian University - La Molina). Along with other ITTO donors (Japan), the United States also provided financial support for this effort.

The United States is supporting training in sustainable forest management for forest concessionaires in Peru. Working through Fundação Floresta Tropical (FFT) and others, a training program focused on reduced-impact logging activities such as forest harvest inventory, planning, directional felling, and safety has been developed. After successful demonstration of training courses, FFT and other partners are developing a more extensive program that will deliver additional training in sustainable forest management activities, including strategic planning for forest roads.

**EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN CITES AND ITTO:** In November 2005, the United States and other ITTO members approved a new biennial program of work that includes a significant expansion of ITTO's CITES-related activities. Building on ITTO's work over the period 2003-2005, this will include activities in key range States throughout the tropics and will focus on tropical timber species currently listed in CITES Appendix II. The United States has provided financial

support to launch this effort. Specific activities will be identified in consultation with relevant authorities in each country and are expected to include: developing inventory plans, management, and silvicultural prescriptions, as required, for CITES-listed species; implementing pilot log-tracking schemes for CITES-listed species; training Customs and other relevant officials, including CITES Management and Scientific Authorities; developing guidelines and handbooks on management, monitoring, and control procedures (including making non-detriment findings) for CITES-listed timber species; developing and conducting regional workshops to facilitate exchange of experiences among range States; and developing and making recommendations through existing CITES (e.g., MWG) and ITTO processes and bodies.

**RAMIN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES:** Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) was listed in CITES Appendix II at CoP13. The listing became effective on 12 January 2005. The USFWS continues to work with its partners in APHIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to ensure that the United States is fully and appropriately implementing the ramin Appendix-II listing. The United States is also working with ramin range countries in implementing the CITES listing. The CITES Management Authority in Sarawak, Malaysia, has instituted a process whereby it informs USFWS whenever it issues a CITES export permit for a shipment of ramin from Sarawak. The USFWS distributes this information to the appropriate agencies in the United States to ensure that those ramin shipments are properly inspected and cleared upon arrival at U.S. ports of entry.

**ITTO EXPERT MEETING ON RAMIN:** In May 2006, an expert from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) and an expert from the U.S. Department of State participated in an ITTO-funded Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II of CITES in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In this meeting, the U.S. delegation presented a report that provided an overview of the interagency process that the United States uses with regard to CITES-listed timber species, the experiences of U.S. port inspection officials and wood identification experts in dealing with imports of ramin wood and wood products into the United States, and descriptions of the international efforts that the U.S. Government is making to support the ramin listing. In addition to presenting the U.S. report, the USFS expert facilitated the meeting's working group on international cooperation supporting the ramin listing, and presented the results of that working group on the last day of the meeting.

## **CITES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE**

**U.S. SUPPORTS FORMATION OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:** The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Justice provided technical support and the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development provided the funding for the formation of a Wildlife Enforcement Network by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). A senior USFWS special agent and Justice Department official participated in a three-day inaugural workshop for network members, which was held at KhaoYai National Park in Thailand in September 2005. U.S. presentations examined legislative, investigative, and prosecutorial strategies for combating wildlife trafficking.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE LAUNCHES GLOBAL COALITION AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING (CAWT):** The U.S. Department of State, along with seven international conservation organizations, launched the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT). The Coalition's goals are to reduce consumer demand by raising government and public awareness of the impacts of wildlife trafficking (the illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products) on endangered species, biodiversity, human health, and sustainable livelihoods, and to stop illegal exports by improving wildlife enforcement. Since the launch, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, The World Conservation Union, and four additional NGOs have joined the Coalition.

VIDEO CONFERENCE EXAMINES INTERNET WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: On 7-9 February 2006, nearly 100 wildlife law enforcement officers from the United States, Canada, and Mexico participated in a joint "video seminar" on combating Internet-based wildlife trafficking. The seminar focused on the growing role of the Internet in brokering illegal wildlife trade as well as the use of this tool in investigating these crimes. The video conference format allowed unique opportunities for participants from all three countries to share strategies for improving national and regional efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade.

USFWS PROVIDES CAVIAR ENFORCEMENT TRAINING TO STATE, PROVINCIAL OFFICERS: A senior special agent conducted a training session on sturgeon caviar identification and investigations of illegal caviar trade and trafficking at the 2006 International Association of Wildlife Investigators Conference, which was held 11-14 June 2006, in Cable, Wisconsin. Over 160 investigators from 38 U.S. States and several Canadian provinces attended the conference, which focused on wildlife commercialization trends and forensic developments.

USFWS CONDUCTS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS COURSE FOR AFRICAN OFFICERS: In June 2006, a training team consisting of three USFWS special agents and a forensic scientist presented the USFWS-developed two-week Wildlife Poaching Investigators Course for the fifth consecutive year at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. Students included 29 enforcement officers (game wardens and customs officials) from eight sub-Saharan African nations: Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Namibia, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The course covered CITES and endangered species law; case initiation and management; intelligence gathering; forensics and crime scene processing; rural surveillance; undercover operations; interviewing and interrogation techniques; raid planning; and preparing case reports for court.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS**

EXHIBIT FOCUSES ON CORAL TRADE: In September 2005, USFWS Law Enforcement staff participated in the Marine Aquarium Conference of North America, staffing an outreach booth that focused on coral reef conservation and wildlife trade issues. USFWS representatives provided information on CITES and other import/export requirements to aquarium industry officials, hobbyists, educators, and other conference participants and discussed the impact of trade on global coral reef resources.

USFWS, GEORGIA AQUARIUM COOPERATE ON WILDLIFE TRADE EXHIBIT: USFWS Law Enforcement worked with the new Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta to develop an educational outreach display and learning center spotlighting efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. The exhibit explains global and U.S. protections for species in trade, cautions travelers about purchasing wildlife souvenirs overseas, and showcases USFWS investigations that broke up smuggling operations involving sea turtle eggs and other CITES-protected wildlife. The Aquarium opened to the public in November 2005.

OUTREACH TARGETS GLOBAL HUNTERS: In January 2006, USFWS law enforcement and Management Authority representatives staffed a compliance outreach booth at the national convention of the Safari Club International in Reno, Nevada. USFWS participation in this yearly event raises hunter awareness about CITES import/export permit requirements and helps improve treaty compliance by U.S. big game hunters. CITES compliance outreach was also conducted at a Safari Club conference in Dallas, Texas.

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, one on American ginseng, and one on trade in Appendix-III species. 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. The USFWS is currently developing a Web page addressing domestic ivory trade.

## **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 export 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 export of skins of these species. The USFWS currently cooperates with 45 States and nine 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 and enforcement regime. 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 2005, the USFWS issued over 750,000 tags. Between July 2005 and July 2006, the USFWS approved into the program one State for exports of river otter and two Indian Tribes/Nations for exports of bobcat.

**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 regularly communicated with the States on issues including revision of State ginseng management regulations and administrative changes to the State programs.

During early 2006, in order to obtain information that would contribute to the annual non-detriment finding that the U.S. Scientific Authority must make on exports of American ginseng, the USFWS conducted a series of meetings to receive input from the public, as well as from other government agencies. The first meeting was held 31 January – 2 February 2006, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began with a half-day symposium on recent research findings on ginseng, as well as presentations by industry representatives. This was followed by a public meeting, where anyone in attendance had the opportunity to speak and offer information on the biological and trade status of ginseng. Over the next day and a half, representatives of the U.S. CITES authorities met in closed session with the ginseng coordinators of each U.S. State that exports ginseng, as well as representatives of other Federal agencies that manage land where ginseng occurs and that may either regulate or prohibit the harvest of ginseng (e.g., the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service). Three subsequent half-day public meetings were held in Asheville, North Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Sutton West Virginia. The meetings were held in different venues across the range of American ginseng so that input could be obtained from as many sources as possible.

## **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 was recently created to fulfill Congressional mandates under the Marine Turtles Conservation Act of 2004. This program received funding in Fiscal Year 2005 and Fiscal Year 2006.

The USFWS administers the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. During the period from July 2005 through July 2006, the USFWS granted a total of USD 7,410,228 for various international projects focused on the conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. Listed below is a breakdown of the funding by grant program:

African elephant:	34 projects totaling USD 1,429,161 in funding
Asian elephant:	46 projects totaling USD 2,181,431 in funding
Rhinoceros & tiger:	39 projects totaling USD 1,395,787 in funding
Great apes:	38 projects totaling USD 1,781,755 in funding
Marine turtles:	25 projects totaling USD 622,094 in funding

#### **OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2004 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 2005, the USFWS submitted, directly to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report datafile for 2004. The file (138,782 data records) contains data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2004. 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. CITES Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13), amended by the Parties at CoP13, recommends that all Parties submit biennial reports for the same two-year periods beginning with the period 2003-2004. The United States had been submitting its biennial reports in an *even year – odd year* cycle and had already submitted a biennial report for 2002-2003. In order to comply with the recommendation in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13) that Parties submit in an *odd year – even year* cycle beginning with 2003-2004, on 5 January 2006, the USFWS submitted to the CITES Secretariat a special single year report covering just the year 2004. This report summarized some of the major legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken by the United States during 2004 in its implementation of CITES. The United States will change its submission schedule to an *odd year – even year* cycle beginning with its 2005-2006 biennial report.

Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP13) also recommends that Parties submit their biennial reports in accordance with the *Biennial Report Format* adopted by the Parties at CoP13 and distributed by the Secretariat in CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2005/035. This is the first time that the Parties have adopted a format for submission of biennial reports. Therefore, the United States submitted its 2004 special single year report in accordance with this new format. The USFWS will soon post this report on its CITES Website at <http://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cites.html>.

**BELUGA STURGEON:** On 4 March 2005, the USFWS published a Special Rule to control trade of beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*), listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act in 2004. Under the Special Rule, for trade with the United States to continue, Caspian and Black Sea littoral States were to provide certain information to the U.S. Scientific Authority, including copies of basin-wide management plans for beluga sturgeon and copies of their national laws implementing

the management plans. This information was to be provided within 6 months of the date of publication of the Special Rule.

After Caspian Sea littoral States failed to provide any of the information required under the Special Rule, the United States suspended import of and foreign commerce in beluga sturgeon caviar and meat originating in the Caspian Sea basin on 30 September 2005. On 28 October 2005, the United States suspended import of and foreign commerce in beluga sturgeon caviar and meat originating in the Black Sea basin after Black Sea littoral States failed to provide all necessary information required under the Special Rule. These trade suspensions remain in place. However, they may be lifted at any time if the necessary information is submitted.

#### *LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY*

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**CAPACITY BUILDING:** The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement strengthened U.S. CITES enforcement capacity on multiple fronts. A comprehensive study of inspection efforts, seizures, and illegal trade patterns over a 5-year period provided the basis for work to develop a risk-assessment methodology that will improve the targeting of illegal trade interdiction efforts. Work continued on the planned International Trade Data System (ITDS) – an Internet-based U.S. government trade processing and policing system that will enhance interagency intelligence sharing, smuggling interdiction, and trade enforcement efforts (including those associated with CITES implementation in the United States). USFWS wildlife inspectors conducted CITES enforcement training for new CBP inspectors, new CBP agricultural specialists, and military customs officers as part of their basic training programs. Inspectors at ports of entry and border crossings across the nation conducted ongoing wildlife import-export cross-training for CBP and agricultural inspection staff. The agency also provided training to U.S. Federal prosecutors on addressing the growing use of the Internet to commit CITES violations and other offenses pertaining to black market wildlife trade.

**TRADE MONITORING:** The USFWS wildlife inspection program remained the nation's front-line defense against wildlife trafficking. USFWS inspectors examine imports and exports at 36 ports of entry and border crossings, processing more than 169,000 shipments per year. During the reporting period, the USFWS expanded its scrutiny of wildlife trade moving via international express delivery services, with inspection operations getting fully up to speed at the newly designated ports of Memphis, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky (both hubs for express mail companies). Implementation of new USFWS enforcement priorities helped ensure that inspection efforts were targeted at preventing illegal trade in CITES and other protected wildlife. Seizures included Asian medicinals made from protected species; coral and queen conch; elephant ivory; sea turtle shell, leather, and eggs; and reptilian leather goods imported without required permits. Efforts to improve CITES compliance included training sessions for brokers, company representatives, and others as well as continued use of Web and port-posted public bulletins to inform the import-export community about changes in CITES requirements and U.S. wildlife trade rules.

**SMUGGLING INVESTIGATIONS:** During the reporting period, USFWS special agents and wildlife inspectors upheld the CITES treaty by investigating illegal trade in CITES-protected species. Case highlights include:

- The president of three New York caviar companies, who pleaded guilty in 2004 to multiple felony charges including caviar smuggling, was sentenced to spend 71 months in Federal prison. USFWS officers had uncovered smuggled beluga caviar in an ocean container of frozen fish that entered the country via Newark, New Jersey. Other charges in the case included securities fraud, mail fraud, and wire fraud.
- A Miami caviar company that had already been fined USD 1 million for purchasing large quantities of smuggled caviar was ordered to forfeit more than USD 800,000 worth of illegal

caviar to the government. The company had previously abandoned USD 258,000 of roe seized by USFWS wildlife inspectors in Miami. These forfeitures brought the total penalty for this company to more than USD 2 million.

- A U.S. citizen who operates a carving business in Bali, Indonesia, was successfully prosecuted for smuggling parts and products of protected species, including elephant ivory; bear, sperm whale, and clouded leopard teeth; and casque material from endangered helmeted hornbills. The man forfeited 11,000 wildlife items valued at over USD 250,000 and was sentenced to spend one year in prison and pay more than USD 26,500 in fines and restitution.
- The owners of a Chicago art gallery were indicted on 20 counts for smuggling and selling more than USD 250,000 worth of merchandise made from endangered and protected wildlife. Both negotiated plea agreements. They were caught returning from a trip to China with ivory and sea turtle items; additional wildlife products were seized when USFWS agents searched their downtown art gallery.
- Two Alaska storeowners who pleaded guilty to Federal wildlife charges were fined USD 10,100 for unlawfully importing Brazilian tribal handicrafts made from the skins, feathers, teeth, and bones of CITES-protected big cats (including jaguars and margays), psittacine birds, crocodilians, snakes, and fish. They will also spend six months in home confinement and three years on probation and forfeit USD 10,000 worth of tribal handicrafts.
- A woman who sold an unlawfully imported USD 400,000 collection of Amazonian artifacts made from CITES-protected species to a U.S. museum official for his personal collection pleaded guilty to a felony charge. Her sentence included three years probation, community service, and a USD 20,000 donation without tax benefit.
- A man who dubbed himself “Mike the smuggler” was sent to Federal prison for six months after pleading guilty to smuggling two black rhino horns and a leopard skin from Mozambique. The USFWS investigation of this individual began when agents saw an Internet advertisement that he placed offering an aye-aye skull for sale for USD 12,000.
- A 17-month undercover investigation by USFWS special agents and investigators with the Canadian Wildlife Service resulted in the arrest and arraignment of an Ontario man on multiple felony charges related to illegal international Internet-based trafficking in the parts of CITES-protected wildlife. Charges were also filed in Canada.
- A Washington State man who smuggled more than 230 protected reptiles from a supplier in Thailand in an eight-month period pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 months in prison and two years of supervised release. His supplier was arrested when he visited the United States in 2003 and was sentenced to 37 months in prison for wildlife smuggling.
- A Virginia man who pleaded guilty to illegally importing CITES-listed tortoises (including Appendix-I Madagascar radiated tortoises) was ordered to pay a USD 15,000 fine and spend four years on probation. The man, who imported three unlawful shipments from Singapore for his Internet-based reptile business, also forfeited more than USD 6,000 worth of tortoises.
- A master falconer in New York was found guilty of wildlife violations and making false statements in connection with the unlawful importation of two CITES Appendix-II black sparrow hawks. False documents had represented the birds as personally owned pets being imported by another individual, concealing their purchase overseas and real ownership.



- A commercial fish importer in Portland, Oregon, who tried to smuggle Appendix-I Asian arowanas into the country hidden in a shipment of other tropical fish from Malaysia, was fined USD 6,275.
- A California man was charged with smuggling after he was caught bringing in a shipment of tropical fish from Viet Nam that included five Asian arowanas hidden in unmarked bags. The fish sell for as much as USD 5,000 each in the United States.
- A California man was indicted on multiple felony charges related to the unlawful importation of CITES-protected cycads. The indictment alleges that the defendant arranged to buy 51 protected plants from a co-conspirator for approximately USD 26,000; the permit that accompanied the shipment from Zimbabwe did not authorize export of any of the species actually in the shipment.
- A Florida man pleaded guilty to Federal charges for possessing 48 Appendix-I cycads that he knew had been imported in violation of CITES.