

CONVENTION SUR LE COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL DES ESPECES
DE FAUNE ET DE FLORE SAUVAGES MENACEES D'EXTINCTION



Cinquante-septième session du Comité permanent
Genève (Suisse), 14 – 18 juillet 2008

Rapports

Rapports des représentants régionaux

AMERIQUE DU NORD

Le présent rapport pour l'Amérique du Nord est soumis par le Canada. Ce document ayant été reçu au Secrétariat après la date limite de soumission des documents, il est transmis dans la langue dans laquelle il a été soumis.

General Information

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

Introduction

This Report was assembled by Canada as the Regional Representative for North America. It covers the period between the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 2 – 6 October, 2006, and the 57th 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 (English)

Annex 2: National report for Mexico (Spanish)

Annex 3: National report for the United States of America (English)

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA
SINCE THE 54TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 57TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

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 October 2006 to July 2008.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CoP 14 RELATED ACTIVITIES

Public consultations: Widespread public consultation was undertaken in preparation for the 14th Conference of Parties, culminating in a 1-day public consultation meeting held on 30 April 2007. Representatives from a number of conservation organizations and industry representatives participated. In addition, two consultation sessions were held with fisheries stakeholder, one in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 23 April and the other in Nanaimo, British Columbia on 27 April. During the CoP, the Canadian Delegation was available to meet daily with non-governmental observers to discuss species proposals and issues as they arose.

North America Regional Meeting: As part of the 12th Meeting of the *Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management*, Canada hosted a North American regional meeting in preparation for CoP 14 on 14-18 May 2007, in Quebec City, Canada.

Results of CoP14: CoP14 was held from 3-15 June 2007 in The Hague, Netherlands. Canada's 20-person delegation participated fully at the meeting, contributing to various working groups during the CoP. In addition, Canada (R. Charette) presented the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG), highlighting the objectives of this network, at the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking side-event of 5 June 2007. The Parties from North America selected Canada as its representative on the Standing Committee for the period between CoP 14 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.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Regional representative: Canada continues to serve as the North American regional representative on the CITES Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15. Ms. Virginia Potter, Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service will perform this function.

Strategic Plan Working Group: Canada participated in the second meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, 15-19 January, 2007, which aimed for finalize the document for submission to the 14th Conference of the Parties. As Co-chair of the Working Group, Canada presented the draft *CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013* to the 14th CoP and Chaired the CoP working group tasked with incorporating Party comments into the document. Canada was pleased that the *CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013* was adopted and looks forward to discussion of indicators for the agreed objectives at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments: Canada, the Canadian Forest Service, participated in the CoP 14 discussion group on drafting of a resolution on the physical inspection of timber shipments and offered to participate on an electronic working group. In its decision, the CoP directed the Secretariat to establish an electronic working group to compile existing procedures

adopted by the parties for identification of CITES listed timber and look alike species. The SC57 will be examining the outcome of the working group and identifying best practices. There has been limited follow-up action since CoP14 on this particular issue, but Canada, through its Canadian Forest Service, will continue to provide advice and input where necessary.

CITES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Plants Committee

Plants Committee alternate representative: Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of the Canadian Scientific Authority office continues to serve as the Alternate Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the intercessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

17th Meeting of the Plants Committee (PC17): Canada was represented at PC17, held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 15-19, 2007, by a three-person delegation from Environment Canada and the Canadian Forest Service. Canada was tasked with chairing the *Bigleaf mahogany and other timber issues* working group following the PC's agreement to include bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade (RST). Canada as chair provided continuity to discussions because Canada also chaired the bigleaf mahogany working group (WG) at PC16. Canada participated in the WG focused on making Non-detriment findings (NDF) for medicinal plants, and will work intersessionally, both in this WG and in the one focused on timber NDF, to develop NDF guidelines for these taxa prior to PC18. The final drafting of the guidelines will take place after the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (Mexico, November 2008), in which Canada is actively involved. Canada hopes our expertise in making NDF for medicinal plants (e.g. ginseng and goldenseal), as well as our knowledge of sustainable forestry practices will be an asset to the working groups and the development of general NDF guidelines for CITES.

Animals Committee

23rd Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC23)

Canada sent a three-person delegation to AC23, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 21-23, 2008. The representatives were from Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Canada provided information on the population status and management practices for black bear, river otter and sandhill crane to inform discussions on species for Significant Trade Review. These species were included in the preliminary selection of taxa prepared by UNEP-WCMC, but no Canadian species were retained in the process. Canada supported the initiative to organize a meeting for the management and enforcement authorities of United States, Canada and Mexico to meet with the range States of the Eurasian Lynx and Iberian Lynx to discuss illegal trade issues related to those species. We anticipate this meeting will be a good opportunity for Canada to improve collaboration with Parties that are also involved in the fur trade industry and assess the control of the pelts in trade to avoid illegal trade of endangered cats and to reduce identification problems of look-alike species.

A new nomenclature reference for mammals (*Mammals of the world*, 3rd edition) was adopted at CoP14. The new reference includes under *Puma concolor cougar* the Appendix I species *Puma concolor coryi* and the 16 subspecies previously included in the Appendix II. Canada raised this issue and it was agreed that the adoption of the new nomenclature cannot change the intent or effect of the original listing. To resolve the problem, the Animals Committee will submit a proposal to add *Puma concolor* to those species that are still treated according to the former mammal reference of 1993.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

North America Regional Meeting: The North American region met twice during the reporting period under the auspices of the *Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management*. The first was 14-18 May 2007, in Quebec City, Canada and the second on 12-16 May 2008, in Veracruz, Mexico. These regular North American Regional meetings provide an opportunity for the three parties to share information and, where possible, develop common approaches on CITES issues or for upcoming CITES meetings.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES — IMPLEMENTATION

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Registration of new Security Paper for Canadian CITES permits and of our new Ginseng Sticker Permits: As per CITES Notification no. 2008/032, Canada requested the Secretariat to post the following new permit forms on the forum section of the website:

- 1) A sample blank Export Permit form printed on our new security paper. The new security paper is 8.5 x 11 inches in format and color is “motty” cream, laser and inkjet safe, image using 3 colors, when photocopied, the words “unofficial copy” appears, with a varnished watermark which shows up when looking close or under light.
- 2) A sample blank Export Permit form printed on our previous security paper (also cream in color but with a cross-hatched pattern) that is expected to still be in use in several Canadian jurisdictions up to approximately May 2009. All types of permits and certificates are issued using the forms identified in 1) and 2).
- 3) A sample of a Ginseng Sticker Permit that Canada utilizes to authorize trade in less than 4.5 kg of American ginseng roots exported as personal accompanied baggage.

CITES Reports: The CITES 2005-2006 Biennial Report is currently in preparation. On October 17, 2007, Canada submitted its CITES Annual Report for 2006 to the CITES Secretariat and to UNEP-WCMC.

Statistics on CITES Permits issued: In 2006, Canada issued the following number of permits and certificates:

Permit Type	Numbers for 2006
Export Permits	19,431
Re-export Certificates	3085
Import Permits	202
Certificates of Ownership	80
Temporary Movement Certificates	15
Scientific Certificates	25

CITES Electronic Permitting System: In January 2007, a web-based CITES Electronic Permitting System (CEPS) was launched to the CITES office of Environment Canada. This web based system increases the efficiency of permitting by compiling accurate and consistent information and facilitates the production of annual reports on international trade in wildlife in Canada. The system is structured to allow future development of an online CITES permit application form accessible to the public through the CITES Canada website. Note that UNEP-WCMC kindly developed a tool to facilitate periodic download of the Checklist of CITES species in XML format on their website (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/species/dbases/citesdownloads.htm#STR>). Access to the web application will be expanded to the majority of federal, provincial and territorial CITES partners.

CITES export permit training: The CITES Administrator of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) held a national training session on April 22-24, 2008 to train new and existing designates on guidelines and procedures for issuing CITES export permits. Topics included: roles and responsibilities; Non-detriment findings, identifying CITES-listed species; documentation required for legal exports; record keeping; and the specifics of issuing permits. A *DFO CITES Export Permit Procedures Manual* was drafted for use by designates, to help ensure that CITES permits are issued properly and consistently.

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

Captive Breeding Operations: In 2007, the registration of the captive breeding operation A-CA-503 was cancelled. Two new captive breeding operations were registered in 2008, one for *Acipenser*

brevirostrum (A-CA-513) and one for *Falco rusticolus* and *Falco peregrinus* (A-CA-514). Currently Canada has ten CITES registered captive breeding operations breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tragopan caboti* and *Acipenser brevirostrum*

Non-Detriment Findings: Canadian CITES scientific authorities continue to work towards the development of standing non-detrimental findings for key Canadian species in trade. Canada has completed documenting the basis for non-detriment findings for wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) in collaboration with provincial scientific authorities and other experts within the species' ranges. These are available on the CITES Canada website:

http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm. The standing NDF report for *Canus lupus* is near completion and the standing NDF report for *Ursus maritimus*, *Lontra canadensis* and *Puma concolor* are in progress.

North American Bobcat Survey: All Canadian range jurisdictions participated in the 2008 North American Bobcat population survey conducted by the USFWS, providing updated information on management of Canadian populations of *Lynx rufus*.

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

Timber: Canada (K. Farr) attended the International Expert Workshop on Developing Non-Detriment Findings for Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), hosted by Mexico (April 10-13, 2007). Canada chaired a session exploring identification of required population parameters and standardized methodologies for developing mahogany inventories and management plans. The workshop brought together forest management officials from Range countries, researchers, academics, CITES representatives and other interested parties. The workshop's results represent a significant synthesis of existing knowledge regarding Bigleaf Mahogany and will directly inform the process of non-detriment finding development for this species.

Canada (K. Farr) attended the CITES Timber Species Identification Workshop organised by the German Scientific CITES Authority (November 22-23, 2007). The workshop, held at the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products Institute for Wood Biology and Wood Protection in Hamburg, Germany, provided instruction in the use of the "CITESwoodID" system, designed to facilitate identification of CITES-registered tree species traded as timber. Effective innovations of the CITESwoodID system are its capacity for comparing multiple wood anatomy images on-screen and the identification key, which based on wood anatomical characters entered by the user, automatically eliminates non-matching species.

International Non-detriment Findings Workshop: Canada is actively participating in preparations for the International Expert workshop on CITES Non-Detriment findings planned for November 2008. Canada is a member of the Steering Committee, co-chair of the Perennials Working Group and has been invited to contribute and present case studies for grizzly bear and American ginseng non-detriment findings. Canada recognises the importance of this workshop to provide guidance to CITES Authorities to formulate non-detriment findings and welcomes the opportunity to share the Canadian expertise developed during the preparation of standing NDFs for Canadian species in trade.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Environment Canada carried out over 350 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife, under the provisions of the applicable federal, provincial/territorial, or foreign legislation. Most of these investigations concluded with the forfeiture and confiscation of goods and the issuance of a ticket.

Illegal Import of a Tortoise: In 1999, wildlife enforcement officers seized an Egyptian tortoise that was being brought into Canada in contravention of CITES. Eventually, the enforcement officers found a suitable home for the tortoise, named “Anthony,” and donated it to Oaklawn Farm Zoo, a small zoo in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. The zoo obtained a mate for him, named “Cleopatra.” They successfully bred, and in 2006 three eggs hatched – a Canadian first. The Egyptian tortoise breeding program at Oaklawn Farm Zoo is the only breeding program of its kind in Canada.

Illegal Import of Rugs: A Toronto-based company and one of its co-owners were fined \$2250 in the Ontario Court of Justice (Provincial Division) after being found guilty on November 28, 2006, on charges of illegally importing from Ethiopia rugs made from monkey skins. An investigation conducted by Environment Canada’s Wildlife Enforcement Division established that the accused unlawfully imported seven rugs in October 2004 made from skins of the black-and-white colobus monkey. These rugs were declared on customs documents as plastic rugs, and the accused later testified that he believed the rugs were made from goat skins. The black-and-white colobus monkey is abundant in Ethiopia, but the trade in rugs made from this species is illegal there. Nevertheless, these types of rugs, used by Ethiopians as decorations, good luck symbols, and for religious ceremonies, continue to be sold locally. The rugs in this case, made from approximately 100 colobus monkey skins, had an estimated commercial value of between \$16 000 and \$18 000. This monkey is a threatened species listed under Appendix II of CITES. It is also protected under WAPPRIITA and its regulations. The accused did not obtain the Ethiopian CITES export permit required to legally import the monkey skin rugs into Canada. The accused and the company were jointly charged under WAPPRIITA. The accused was ordered to pay a fine of \$1000 plus a mandatory victim surcharge of \$125. The company was assessed identical penalties. The illegally imported rugs were forfeited to the Crown.

Illegal Import of Sturgeon Meat: November 14, 2006, a company was convicted of one count under section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA in the Ontario Court of Justice, Criminal Division in Brampton, Ontario following the entry of a guilty plea accompanied by an Agreed Statement of Facts. The charge related to the unlawful import into Canada of sturgeon caviar from the Republic of Turkey in April 2005. A Republic of Turkey CITES re-export permit which accompanied the import did not accurately describe the sturgeon eggs present in the import. The latter was established through extensive use of DNA evidence. The corporation was fined \$3000 and ordered to forfeit all caviar seized by Wildlife Enforcement Directorate during the course of this investigation – valued at \$305 000. Similar charges against the company’s president were withdrawn by the Crown following conviction.

Other Activities and Importation under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)*: The weight-loss industry put significant pressure on CITES enforcement resources in 2006. A sudden influx of illegal shipments of *hoodia gordonii*, an Appendix II plant from southern Africa used as an appetite suppressant, began in May 2006 in Toronto and Vancouver and then spread to Montréal and Calgary. In all, nearly 3000 shipments were intercepted and detained by Environment Canada and Canada Border Services Agency in 2006. The companies selling the species placed radio advertisements in major metropolitan markets across the country extolling the alleged virtues of the plant and enticing customers to call toll-free numbers to order the weight-loss pills. Located outside Canada (most in the United States), the companies did not include with the packages the required CITES re-export permits, showing that the plants were obtained legally. A media release, issued by Environment Canada in August 2006 to inform the public and promote compliance, did little to stem the influx of the illegal product. Subsequent media interest happened during and after the Christmas season. The result of the flood of the illegal product has been a backlog in inspections of up to one year in some locations.

In another case, on October 17, 2006, an individual was convicted of one count under subsection 6(2) of WAPPRIITA following a guilty plea and a Joint Submission on Conditional Sentence. The

person's unlawful activities focused on the possession, transportation, import, and export of numerous artifacts containing or wholly consisting of CITES Appendix I and Appendix II animal parts. The person made extensive use of eBay, a popular Internet auction site, to buy and sell endangered species throughout the world. His unlawful activities became the subject of a joint investigation undertaken by Environment Canada and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service which culminated with the person's arrest. The person was originally charged in Canada with 44 counts under WAPPRIITA. The guilty plea in Canada resulted in a 12-month conditional jail sentence, four months of which was to be served under house arrest followed by an additional four months to be served under curfew; forfeiture of all artifacts seized as a result of a search warrant executed by Environment Canada; 200 hours of community service; immediate reporting to Environment Canada of all transactions that the accused might enter into relating to the import, export, possession, transportation, offer for sale, sale, or purchase of any endangered species of flora or fauna, or parts or derivatives thereof; and the maintenance of legible records of all transactions relating to endangered species, in addition to making available to the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate for inspection any computers used in relation to such transactions.

North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group: The Wildlife Enforcement Authority is directly involved in the North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group. Created in 1995, the Group is a network of senior wildlife enforcement officials from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. It has focused on improving North American capacity to enforce laws regulating the sustainable use and conservation of our wildlife, particularly with respect to CITES. It works with other cooperative enforcement and compliance programs in collaboration with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America. Canada chairs the group every couple of years on a rotational basis with Mexico and the United States. The Group met twice during the reporting period.

Interpol Wildlife Working Group:

Throughout the reporting period, the Canadian Enforcement Authority continued to maintain contact with the Interpol Wildlife Working Group and to communicate on major investigations.

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY MEXICO
57ª reunión del Comité Permanente de la CITES

Insumos de México para el Cp.

Comité de Flora

Guayacán (*Guaiaacum sanctum*)

México presentó en la pasada reunión del Comité de Flora (PC17, 2008) el informe final sobre el estudio "Abundancia, distribución y estado de conservación de *Guaiaacum sanctum* L. en México" (PC17 Doc. 17.1.3), como contribución a su tarea de evaluar el estado de *Guaiaacum sanctum* en el medio silvestre, de su comercio y sus amenazas. El informe ofrece los elementos necesarios para formular dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial (NDF's) para *Guaiaacum sanctum* en México, y se pueden utilizar como referencia para estudios y NDF's en otros países exportadores. Con este informe México concluyó la evaluación de la especie, dando cumplimiento a la Decisión 11.114 (Rev. CoP 12). Cabe mencionar que los últimos NDF's de esta especie en México fueron elaborados con los resultados del estudio. Estos resultados serán presentados como caso de estudio en el Taller Internacional de NDF's de noviembre 2008.

Comité de Flora

Caoba (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

México, en calidad de presidente del grupo de trabajo sobre la caoba, realizó una evaluación de los informes aportados por los países del área de distribución de la caoba, en seguimiento al plan de acción (Decisión 14.145). El comité de flora, en su última reunión (PC17, Ginebra, abril de 2008), acordó utilizar dicha evaluación para decidir que países debían ser incluidos en el examen de comercio significativo, concluyendo que todos los países del área de distribución de la caoba fueran incluidos, con excepción de Brasil, Guatemala y México.

México continua presidiendo el grupo de trabajo de la caoba y durante la última reunión de comité de flora se elaboraron los Términos de Referencia bajo los cuales debe operar hasta la CoP15, ampliando su mandato a otras especies maderables. El grupo sobre especies maderables, trabajará intersesionalmente y será presidido por México y Malasia, con el mandato de evaluar qué tan aplicables son los lineamientos derivados del taller de Cancún sobre NDF's de Caoba, a otras especies maderables incluidas en la CITES.

Comité de Flora

Grupo de trabajo sobre especímenes de herbario

Durante la última reunión del Comité de flora, al analizar la propuesta de Suiza para refundir las anotaciones #1 y #4 (PC17 Doc. 13.1), se reconoció que hay problemas con el movimiento de *especímenes de herbario* debido a que no todas las Partes aplican la Resolución Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12). Por lo anterior, se formó un grupo de trabajo intersesional que analizará la posible exención de especímenes de herbario de los controles de la CITES. Este grupo de trabajo será presidido por Países Bajos y México.

Comités de Flora y de Fauna

Taller Internacional de Expertos sobre Dictámenes de Extracción No-Perjudicial

En seguimiento a las Decisiones 14.49 - 14.51 se está organizando un taller internacional de expertos sobre Dictámenes de Extracción no Perjudicial a realizarse en Cancún, México del 17 al 22 de Noviembre (2008).

La finalidad del Taller consiste en retomar los ejercicios previos y continuar con la mejora en las capacidades de las Autoridades Científicas CITES, en particular, generando recomendaciones sobre los procesos, metodologías e información necesaria para formular Dictámenes de Extracción no Perjudicial (NDFs) trabajando a nivel de grupo de especies.

El taller fue uno de los temas más recurrentes a lo largo de las tres reuniones de los comités

científicos (PC17, PC17/AC23 y AC23), referido durante las discusiones de los documentos PC17 Doc. 17 (Dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial, Docs. 17.1, 17.1.1, 17.1.2, 1.1.3, 17,2), AC23 Doc. 8.5.1 (Selección de la población de *Tursiops aduncus* de las Islas Salomón para su inclusión en el examen del comercio significativo), AC23 Doc. 15.3 (Vínculos entre el comercio internacional de aletas y carne de tiburón y la pesca ilegal, no reglamentada y no declarada), AC23 Doc. 5.5 (Informe Regional de Norteamérica), y los respectivos grupos de trabajo.

Actualmente, ya se cuenta con los co-presidentes de los 9 grupos de trabajo, quienes están identificando los casos de estudio y los expertos para elaborarlos y/o presentarlos durante el Taller. Así mismo, continúa el proceso de recaudación de fondos, cuya fecha límite será el 18 de julio, cuando la Secretaría informe sobre sus actividades en cumplimiento con la Decisión 14.51 inciso a) durante el SC57. Actualmente se cuenta con aproximadamente una tercera parte del presupuesto estimado mediante contribuciones hechas por México, EUA y la ITTO.

Comité de Fauna

Revisión Periódica de Felidae – *Lynx rufus*

En seguimiento a la Decisión 13.93 (Rev. CoP14), dos proyectos de investigación para estimar la densidad poblacional y conocer el estado actual de conservación del lince rojo en México (cuatro localidades) continúan (análisis de los resultados) y se desarrollará un tercero para cubrir otras 2 localidades con el fin de obtener resultados más representativos sobre sus poblaciones a nivel nacional. México presentó los resultados preliminares durante el AC23. El Comité de Fauna (AC23) acordó la realización de una reunión, coordinada por EUA, entre las Autoridades Administrativas y de Aplicación de la Ley (incluyendo oficiales de aduanas) de la región de Norteamérica y de los países del área de distribución del lince ibérico (*Lynx pardinus*) y del lince euroasiático (*Lynx lynx*) para discutir los posibles problemas de tráfico ilegal de dichas especies.

Conferencia de las Partes (CoP 14)

Taller sobre Tortuga Carey en el Gran Caribe y Atlántico Oriental

En seguimiento a las Decisiones 14.86 y 14.87 se está organizando un Taller sobre Tortuga Carey en el Gran Caribe y Atlántico Occidental a realizarse en México en Diciembre de 2008. El objetivo principal del taller consistirá en sentar las bases para desarrollar un Plan de Acción Regional para la conservación de la Tortuga Carey, a partir de la elaboración de un diagnóstico regional sobre la situación de sus poblaciones, el estado del conocimiento sobre la especie y las amenazas que enfrenta.

Comité de Fauna

Taller Internacional para crear el Plan de Acción de Tortuga Blanca

En seguimiento a los acuerdos y productos derivados del Taller Nacional sobre Tortuga Blanca (*Dermatemys mawii*) y el Taller Trinacional Belice-Guatemala-México para el Manejo y la Conservación del Cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) y la Revisión del estatus de la Tortuga blanca en los Apéndices de la CITES realizados en 2006, se está organizando el Taller Internacional para crear el Plan de Acción de Tortuga Blanca que se llevará a cabo en México en Septiembre de 2008. Durante éste taller, se presentarán la Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación de Tortuga Blanca derivada del Taller Nacional antes mencionado y los resultados hasta la fecha de los grupos involucrados en el estudio, uso, protección y conservación de la especie. Se creará un grupo de trabajo internacional y se establecerán metas y prioridades para elaborar el Plan de Acción Internacional.

Comité Permanente

Implementación de los resultados la Conferencia de las Partes 14 en La Haya (Junio de 2007)

La Autoridad Administrativa de la CITES en México continuo con la aplicación de la Convención en la emisión de los permisos y certificados CITES incorporando, en dichos documentos las modificaciones que se realizaron en los apéndices que entraron en vigor a partir del 12 de febrero

de 2008, no teniendo ningún problema en la incorporación de las enmiendas correspondientes.

En cuanto a las Resoluciones en vigor tras la 14ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes: Decimocuarta reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes La Haya (Países Bajos), 3-15 de junio de 2007, en donde se aprobaron las siguientes resoluciones:

- Conf. 14.1 Programa de trabajo de la Secretaría, desglosado por partidas de gastos, para el trienio 2009-2011
- Conf. 14.2 Visión Estratégica de la CITES: 2008-2013
- Conf. 14.3 Procedimientos para el cumplimiento de la CITES
- Conf. 14.4 Cooperación entre la CITES y la OIMT en relación con el comercio de madera tropical
- Conf. 14.5 Reunión de diálogo
- Conf. 14.6 Introducción procedente del mar
- Conf. 14.7 Gestión de cupos de exportación establecidos nacionalmente
- Conf. 14.8 Examen periódico de los Apéndices

México, después de la entrada en vigor de las mismas (19 de septiembre de 2007), ha venido observándolas y ha realizado una serie de reuniones con todos los participantes en la implementación de dicha Convención y estará preparando los documentos para que esta se implemente de la mejor forma posible, por parte de la Autoridades Administrativa y Científica, respectivamente, dentro del ámbito de competencia en el desarrollo de sus actividades y responsabilidades.

Organización de la XIII Reunión Anual (del 12 al 16 de mayo de 2008) del Comité Trilateral Canadá/México/E.E.U.U. para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas

México, en calidad de anfitrión y organizador, realizó del 12 al 16 de mayo de 2008 en Veracruz, la XIII Reunión Anual del Comité Trilateral Canadá/México/E.E.U.U. para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas. Dicha reunión fue de gran beneficio para la Región de Norteamérica, habiéndose tratado diversos temas en materia de conservación y sustentabilidad de flora y fauna silvestres, así como los ecosistemas de interés a los tres países. Las conclusiones y compromisos adquiridos por cada país participante se enfocaron a alcanzar mayores logros y metas en la diaria tarea de la conservación y uso racional de los recursos naturales.

Plan de Acción a tres años (2008-2010)

Concienciar e informar a la sociedad civil sobre CITES y los requerimientos para el comercio internacional de especies CITES: México coordinará la compilación de información sobre las actividades que actualmente se realizan en cada país de la región para difundir información sobre CITES y mejorar su implementación.

Explorar la posibilidad de ampliar los esfuerzos regionales en esta meta no limitándose a especies CITES.

Comité de Fauna

Posible listado de *Passerina ciris* en el Apéndice III

Después de analizar la información del comercio internacional de la *Passerina ciris* en México (legal e ilegal), se concluyó que el comercio internacional de México no constituye un factor de riesgo significativo para la especie, por lo que la inclusión de la especie en el Apéndice III podría no ser la solución a la problemática que enfrenta. Se formará un GT Bilateral (EUA-México) para evaluar los factores (incluyendo el comercio) que afectan a la especie.

Comité de Flora

Cuestiones sobre la madera

En cuanto al GT intersesional de especies maderables formado durante el PC17 y presidido por México y Malasia, la región está de acuerdo en trabajar solamente con especies del Apéndice II.

Comité de Fauna

Transferencia de la población mexicana de *Crocodylus moreletii* del Apéndice I al Apéndice II.

A partir de la información disponible, las Autoridades CITES de México revisaron el estatus del cocodrilo de pantano en los Apéndices de la CITES, y con base en la Resolución Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), se concluyó que la especie ya no cumple los criterios para continuar en el Apéndice I, por lo que se presentó una propuesta de enmienda para transferirla al Apéndice II.

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE 54th MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE
- FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 57th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE -**

Report compiled 14 May 2008

Provided below is a summary of key measures taken by the United States in its implementation of CITES during the period from October 2006 through May 2008:

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CoP14-RELATED ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR CoP14: The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14) was held 3-15 June 2007, in The Hague, The Netherlands. During the reporting period, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published three notices 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. A notice published on 7 November 2006 announced the species proposals, resolutions, and other issues that the U.S. Government was at that time considering submitting for CoP14. A notice published on 21 February 2008 announced the provisional agenda for CoP14 and solicited comments from 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. A notice published on 1 June 2007 announced the tentative negotiating positions the United States took on species proposals, resolutions, and other issues submitted by other Parties for CoP14.

U.S. APPROVES 27 OBSERVERS FOR CoP14: In accordance with CITES Article XI, paragraph 7, the USFWS approved 27 national NGOs to attend CoP14 as observers.

U.S. SUBMISSIONS FOR CoP14: On 4 January 2007, the United States submitted eight species listing proposals (four animal proposals and four plant proposals) for consideration at CoP14. The United States also submitted four discussion documents, including one proposed new resolution, two proposed revisions of existing resolutions, and one proposed decision. Of the eight species listing proposals submitted by the United States at CoP14, four were adopted. The four discussion documents submitted by the United States for consideration at CoP14 resulted in the adoption by the Parties of one new resolution, one revised resolution, and two new decisions.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

CITES IMPLEMENTATION CLEARING HOUSE: Ms. Andrea Gaski, of the U.S. CITES Management Authority, served as one of two members of the CITES Implementation Clearing House until she tragically passed away in January 2007. Ms. Gaski's replacement, Mr. Bruce Weissgold of the U.S. Management Authority, was elected by the Standing Committee at its 55th meeting (SC55) in June 2007. Mr. Colman O'Criodain of Ireland served as the second (and only other) member of the Clearing House, until his resignation from the position in 2008. His replacement has not been named.

The Clearing House completed its previously assigned tasks by submitting Document CoP14 Doc. 48 (Rev. 1), "Relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation: Report of the Standing Committee," which was considered in Committee II at CoP14. The Standing Committee has not yet assigned additional work to the Clearinghouse.

"MIKE": During the period between October 2006 and May 2008, the United States engaged in a number of ways in the MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) Program. 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 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.

MARINE ISSUES: Following the Brazilian proposal at CoP14 to list spiny lobsters in CITES Appendix II, which was ultimately withdrawn, and suggestions that range States may consider an Appendix-III listing for spiny lobsters, USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) personnel gave a presentation on the use of CITES to regulate international trade at the 60th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (Dominican Republic, November 2007) spiny lobster symposium.

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES SERVING AS ALTERNATE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: At CoP13 in October 2004, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Robert Gabel, then Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, as the Alternate Regional Representative on the Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14. At CoP14, Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, now Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, was selected as the alternate North American Regional Representative on the CITES Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

23rd MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a six-person delegation to the 23rd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC23), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2008. The interagency U.S. delegation included three representatives from the USFWS and three from NMFS. The United States submitted three documents for the meeting: a working document regarding the U.S. review of the *Lynx* complex under the periodic review of Felidae; an information document providing the U.S. response to CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 on sharks; and an information document on recommendations on the refinement of the list of shark species of concern, providing an example using the requiem shark group. The United States also participated in a meeting convened by the Nomenclature Specialist, and was a member of six working groups at AC23.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP: The United States remains active on the Animals Committee Transport Working Group (TWG). The United States participated in the 19th International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals and Perishables Board meeting (LAPB19) in Montreal in October 2007 and presented a summary of animal transport issues addressed in the revision of the regulations implementing CITES in the United States (50 CFR Part 23). The United States is currently participating in the revision of some sections of the LAR.

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, then Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, as the Regional Representative on the Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP13 and CoP14. At CoP14, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Gabel, now Chief of the U.S. Management Authority, to continue as the North American Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

17TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a six-person delegation to the 17th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC17), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2008. Three delegates were from the USFWS, one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), one from the U.S. Forest Service, and one from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The United States prepared and submitted two documents for the meeting: one on problems regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings; and one, submitted by Mr. Robert Gabel of the United States,

as the Regional Representative for North America, on plant hybrids and cultivars listed under CITES. The U.S. delegation was active on numerous issues and participated in a number of working groups at PC17. The United States will chair two intersessional working groups between PC17 and PC18, one on cacti and orchid annotations and one on tree species annotations.

JOINT ANIMALS COMMITTEE – PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ANNOTATIONS OF SPECIES LISTED IN APPENDICES II AND III: At PC15, 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, 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 submitted a document for CoP14 on behalf of the committees containing the draft amendments. The draft amendments were subsequently adopted at CoP14.

CITES SOURCE CODE 'R': Between the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees at PC15-AC21 (May 2005) and the joint meeting at PC16-AC22 (July 2006), the United States chaired a working group tasked with examining the documents that had been developed on production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species, identifying and defining different production systems for animals and plants, and determining the appropriate source codes for each production system. At the PC16-AC22 joint meeting, although the working group reported progress in some areas, there were still several areas in which the group had not reached consensus. The United States consulted the committees before the deadline for submission of documents for CoP14 and prepared a document for CoP14 on behalf of the Animals and Plants Committees proposing a decision that the committees review CITES trade data for species traded under Source Code 'R' and, based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of Source Code 'R' for CITES purposes. As a result, the Parties adopted Decision 14.52, which directs the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a number of activities related to the use of Source Code 'R.' As a result, Documents PC17 Doc. 9 and AC23 Doc. 9 were submitted by the Secretariat for the PC17-AC23 joint meeting (April 2008). The United States participated in a working group on this issue at the joint meeting.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CITES IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES

REVISION TO U.S. REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CITES: The USFWS published revised CITES-implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 23) on 23 August 2007. The new regulations, which became effective on 24 September 2007, incorporate provisions from appropriate resolutions adopted by the Parties through CoP13. The USFWS has been engaged in active outreach to the import/export community and other CITES Management Authorities to make them aware of the new regulations and alert them to new U.S. requirements. The updated regulations will help the United States 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 is currently drafting several additional revisions to the CITES regulations to incorporate amendments to resolutions adopted at CoP14.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CITES LISTINGS OF COMMERCIAL TIMBER SPECIES

U.S. EFFORTS RELATED TO PERUVIAN MAHOGANY: The USFWS continued to work closely with Peru regarding its implementation of the mahogany Appendix-II listing. For 2006, Peru established a voluntary bigleaf mahogany export quota of 23,239.57 cubic meters. The United States closely monitored the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during 2006, and provided Peru with periodic reports on those imports, which totaled 17,264 cubic meters. In 2007, Peru's export quota for bigleaf mahogany was 4,983 cubic meters. U.S. imports, which we again reported to Peru, totaled 3,754 cubic meters. The United States provides this information to Peru on a regular basis to assist Peru in monitoring its exports of mahogany to the United States and in managing its export quota.

Through the Tropical Forest Conservation Fund, the United States supported 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 were undertaken and preliminary results indicate that some concessions will be cancelled for not complying with the law.

The United States supported and continues to support training in sustainable forest management for forest concessionaires in Peru. Working through Fundação Floresta Tropical (FFT) and others, a training program has been developed focused on reduced-impact logging activities such as forest harvest inventory, planning, directional felling, and safety. 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.

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT: The United States and Peru concluded the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA). The PTPA commits both Parties to effectively enforce their domestic environmental laws and adopt, maintain, and implement laws, regulations, and all other measures to fulfill obligations under seven Multilateral Environmental Agreements, one of which is CITES. The Environment Chapter of the PTPA includes an Annex on Forest Sector Governance, which seeks to address the environmental and economic consequences of illegal logging and associated trade. The PTPA has been ratified by both Peru and the United States and is expected to enter into force in the near future. The United States is working very closely with Peru to ensure that Peru has all necessary regulations and other measures in place to fully and effectively implement its obligations under the PTPA.

UNITED STATES – INDONESIA MOU: In November 2006, the United States and Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade. Through the MOU the two Parties agree to exchange information related to trade in timber and other forest products, and cooperate for the purpose of enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of their respective laws and regulations affecting trade in timber and other forest products. The MOU establishes a Working Group on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade under the United States – Indonesia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). Information exchange and enhanced cooperation related to ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is an important element of the activities under the MOU.

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.

RAMIN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: The USFWS continued 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 implementing the ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) Appendix-II listing.

The CITES Management Authority in Sarawak, Malaysia, has instituted a process whereby it informs the USFWS whenever it issues a CITES export permit for a shipment of ramin from Sarawak destined for the United States. 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.

CITES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING CONDUCTED FOR BRAZILIAN FEDERAL POLICE: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement presented a wildlife crime investigators course to members of the Brazilian Federal Police Environmental Crimes Division. The course, held in October 2006, was completed by 37 participants, representing 25 of the 26 states in Brazil, plus the Federal District in the Capital of Brasilia. A representative from Brazil's CITES Management Authority also participated in the training, which marked the second year the course was presented in Brazil. The training, which covered a wide range of topics including internet investigations, surveillance, raid planning, and CITES, has now been completed by approximately half of the officers assigned to the Brazilian Federal Police's Environmental Crimes Division.

USFWS SUPPORTS CORAL REEF "CSI" WORKSHOP: The Director of the USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory helped plan and teach "CSI for Coral Reefs: Investigative and Enforcement Forensics Field Training Workshop," a 4-day course conducted in October 2006 in conjunction with the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium in Cozumel, Mexico. The course, which was completed by 21 students from 13 countries, presented newly developed protocols for conducting crime scene analysis on damaged coral reefs.

USFWS BUILDS ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY IN THE PHILIPPINES: In December 2006, two USFWS special agents conducted a two-week criminal investigators course for 30 members of the Philippine National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force. Officers from the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Customs Enforcement, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Coast Guard completed the training, which covered CITES enforcement and the full range of skills needed to conduct wildlife crime investigations. The training, which was held in Subic Bay, was sponsored by WildAid and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

AGENTS TRAIN MONGOLIAN COUNTERPARTS: A team of USFWS officers provided training on wildlife trade to customs and inspection agents in Mongolia in December 2006. The training, which was sponsored by TRAFFIC East Asia, and related meetings were part of an ongoing U.S. government program to build a global coalition against wildlife trafficking. USFWS officers reviewed tools and techniques that Mongolian enforcement officers can use to combat illegal wildlife trade.

INDONESIAN OFFICERS COMPLETE INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING: USFWS special agents provided criminal investigative training to 30 officers from Indonesian police, customs, and forestry agencies in February 2007. The training was sponsored by ASEAN-WEN and USAID as part of an ongoing effort to address illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia.

INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING CONDUCTED FOR AFRICAN OFFICERS: In June 2007, USFWS special agents presented a two-week course on investigating wildlife crime as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. Thirty-two officers from nine sub-Saharan African nations completed the course, which included segments on CITES enforcement. Countries represented included Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

AGENTS CONDUCT VALIDATION STUDIES OF TRAINING EFFORTS FOR ASEAN-WEN: In July and August 2007, USFWS special agents completed validation studies of wildlife crime investigation courses that had been conducted in the Philippines and Thailand in 2006. The

validation assessments, which included reviews of casework and meetings with enforcement officials in both countries, were completed at the request of USAID to further support ASEAN-WEN.

USFWS AGENT DETAILED TO ASEAN-WEN: A USFWS special agent with broad expertise in the development, management, and execution of investigative training programs, as well as significant experience in conducting investigations of illegal wildlife trafficking, began a six-month assignment as technical advisor to ASEAN-WEN in January 2008. His efforts will include training development, investigative consultation, and intelligence liaison.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: The United States continues to build capacity and strengthen efforts to implement CITES obligations through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). In addition to the many FTA provisions that are broadly supportive of effective implementation of CITES (such as the obligation to effectively enforce environmental laws, as well as provisions on transparency, customs cooperation, and rules of origin), U.S. FTAs are complemented by parallel agreements that provide for cooperation on environmental matters, where CITES implementation has been identified as a priority area of work. During the reporting period, capacity building and training for CITES implementation was provided in conjunction with the Dominican Republic – Central America – United States FTA (CAFTA-DR), the U.S. – Jordan FTA, and the U.S. – Morocco FTA.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES OF THE CAFTA-DR: The USFWS Division of Management Authority is working cooperatively with the U.S. Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), and other U.S. Government agencies, on a technical assistance project for countries which are signatories to the CAFTA-DR. The program is in the planning stages and will execute technical assistance, capacity building, and training activities in the CAFTA-DR countries in support of CITES implementation and enforcement. The ITAP program was awarded funding by the U.S. Department of State to continue this project, and has contracted with Humane Society International and TRAFFIC North America to execute regional and country-specific activities on the implementation and enforcement of CITES.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES UNDER THE MEPI: ITAP, working with the USFWS, is developing a capacity building and training program in CITES implementation and enforcement in the Middle East and North Africa, funded by the U.S. Department of State. This program is authorized under the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). The first planning trip was undertaken in Oman in April 2008 and included a joint ITAP/USFWS delegation which met with Omani government officials and NGO representatives.

TIMBER IDENTIFICATION TRAINING: In 2007, as part of cooperative efforts under the CAFTA-DR, the U.S. Forest Service trained 32 Nicaraguan and 28 Honduran customs officials in wood identification, focused on CITES species. In Nicaragua, training took place in Managua during 6-9 August 2007, and included officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MARENA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), the Institute of Forestry (INAFOR), Customs (Aduanas), and Fiscal and Legal Authorities Agency (Fiscalia and Procuradadía). Officials came from all over the country, including Bosawas, Puerto Cabezas, Bluefields, Peñas Blancas, and Ocotal. The workshop was organized through a collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service and the CITES Management Authority in Nicaragua. In Honduras, the U.S. Forest Service worked closely with the Honduran CITES Management and Scientific Authorities to carry out the training on 27-31 August 2007 at Zamorano University. Officials from around the country were trained, including from the Ministry of Agriculture (SAG), Ministry of Environment (SERNA), Forestry (AFE-COHDEFOR), Customs, Fiscal and Legal agencies (Aduanas, Fiscalia, Procuradadía), as well as the international customs authorities (OIRSA) and universities (Zamorano and ESNACIFOR).

A wood identification training workshop was held in Singapore in late 2007 on practical techniques for identifying wood of CITES-listed ramin in manufactured products as well as sawn timber. Supported by the U.S. State Department, USAID, and the U.S. Forest Service, this workshop responded to technical assistance requests made during the ITTO-CITES meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in 2006, by Asian participants, including Singapore. Experts from the U.S. Forest Service

Forest Products Laboratory and TRAFFIC International conducted the training over 4 days for port and customs inspectors from Indonesia, Malaysia, and other Asian countries.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN TIMBER SPECIES: In September 2007, a botanist from the U.S. Scientific Authority attended the “Strategies for the Sustainable Use and Management of Timber Tree Species Subject to International Trade: South East Asia” workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop focused on 115 Southeast Asian timber tree species, including CITES-listed species, which are in international trade and possibly of concern due to potential over-exploitation.

BENGAL CAT PEDIGREE FACT SHEET DEVELOPED FOR USFWS WILDLIFE INSPECTORS: The USFWS developed an information sheet to help its wildlife inspectors determine the pedigree of imported hybrids of wild cats, and to clarify the CITES requirements for CITES-listed species and hybrids as described in U.S. Federal regulations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

USFWS PROMOTES HUMANE TRANSPORT FOR CITES WILDLIFE: A USFWS wildlife inspector in southern California presented a workshop on CITES and humane transport at the international conference of the Animal Transport Association (ATA). USFWS staff also provided a presentation on these issues at a conference sponsored by the Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association International.

MEDIA ADVISED ON CITES “TIPS” FOR TRAVELERS: USFWS wildlife inspectors in Baltimore, Maryland, participated in a foreign press “Know Before You Go” media event at Baltimore Washington International Airport that reached an estimated 100 million people worldwide. Inspectors explained CITES requirements and U.S. wildlife import/export guidelines for foreign visitors and businesses to representatives from German, Czech, Spanish, and Finnish media outlets.

ENFORCEMENT OUTREACH TARGETS TRADE: USFWS efforts to promote compliance with CITES and other U.S. wildlife import/export requirements focused on outreach, liaison, and training for brokers associations at ports of entry nationwide. Examples include import/export training for customs brokers in several U.S. cities, including Boston, Newark, Miami, Tampa, Charlotte, El Paso, and Laredo. USFWS outreach to industry on CITES and import/export compliance also included staffing an outreach exhibit at the Baltimore Washington International Airport Air Cargo Expo; participation in a trade compliance fair at United Parcel Service (UPS) headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, that reached some 430 UPS employees involved in processing international shipments; and a wildlife import/export training program in Memphis, Tennessee, for FedEx Trade Network employees who act as brokers for FedEx.

PUBLIC OUTREACH SPOTLIGHTS WILDLIFE TRADE: Broad-based public outreach on global wildlife trade and the USFWS role in enforcing U.S. wildlife laws and treaties included law enforcement exhibits at such events as the Baltimore Port Festival, the New Mexico Outdoor Expo, and the Red River Valley Trade Show in Fargo, North Dakota, the Whale Watch Weekend Festival at Cabrillo National Monument, and Earth Day celebrations in Long Beach and San Diego, California.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPENDIX-II LISTING OF PERNAMBUCO: The USFWS prepared and disseminated outreach materials and worked closely with the U.S. bow-making industry and musicians to ensure that they were fully apprised of the international trade requirements associated with the Appendix-II listing of pernambuco (*Caesalpinia echinata*), adopted at CoP14. The letter to U.S. importers and re-exporters of pernambuco wood and wood products can be accessed at <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/pernambuco%20outreach%20letter.pdf>. Although the United States will not keep a registration of pernambuco stockpiles held in this country, we have encouraged individuals involved in bow-making to maintain documentation related to the wood in their possession in the event they wish to re-export any wood or unfinished wood articles.

ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED AMERICAN GINSENG PERSONAL EFFECTS: In December 2007, the USFWS informed the U.S. American ginseng industry that the United States will no longer use CITES Personal Effects Ginseng Stickers for the export of up to 10 pounds of artificially propagated American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) as a personal effect. The discontinuation of the Sticker program will not affect the export of artificially propagated ginseng purchased within the United States by individuals and hand-carried out of the United States. Such exports of personal effects will continue to be considered exempt under CITES by the United States.

19th WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE: The United States hosted the 19th World Orchid Conference in Miami, 23-27 January 2008. Staff from the USFWS and APHIS provided information on CITES requirements for trade in orchids, issued CITES re-export certificates and phytosanitary documents on site, and gave a presentation on the regulation of orchid trade under CITES.

U.S. CITES WEBSITE: In March 2008, the USFWS began an extensive revision of its website in an effort to achieve more comprehensive coverage of issues relevant to U.S.-related CITES activities. The new website will feature easier navigation and information for the general public as well as USFWS partners, and will combine the activities of the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities. A general CITES page will provide information on upcoming CITES meetings for participants and observers and link directly to the Secretariat's website.

IVORY FACT SHEET PREPARED: The USFWS prepared a fact sheet summarizing ivory trade and the laws and measures in effect to monitor domestic ivory markets and seize illegally imported shipments. This fact sheet is posted on our website.

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 currently cooperates with 47 States and 11 Indian Tribes/Nations that have instituted approved harvest programs. 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.

The USFWS issued 815,000 tags during 2006 and 836,000 tags during 2007. Between October 2006 and May 2008, the USFWS approved into the program one State for exports of river otter, one State for exports of bobcat, one State for exports of alligator, and two Indian Tribes/Nations for exports of bobcat.

U.S. CITES AMERICAN GINSENG PROGRAM: In implementing the CITES Appendix-II listing of American ginseng, the USFWS works closely with other Federal agencies and the 25 States that have approved American ginseng export programs. The USFWS relies on those State and Federal agencies to provide information on legal and illegal 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. During the period covered by this report, the USFWS regularly communicated with the States on issues related to American ginseng, including revision of State ginseng management regulations and administrative changes to the State programs.

Representatives of the U.S. Management Authority and the U.S. Scientific Authority participated in a meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, 27-28 February 2008, to discuss with representatives of State

natural resources agencies regulatory and management issues related to American ginseng harvest in the eastern United States.

CITES PLANT RESCUE CENTER PROGRAM: The USFWS established the CITES Plant Rescue Center Program in 1978 in response to the need to care for live CITES-listed plants legally abandoned or forfeited to the U.S. Government due to non-compliance with the import/export requirements of CITES. The USFWS administers this program in cooperation with APHIS, the U.S. inspection agency for live CITES-listed plants entering the United States. Currently, 79 institutions cooperate as volunteer plant rescue centers. All of the cooperating rescue centers are public botanical gardens, arboreta, zoological parks, or research institutions, and are either government entities or governmentally or privately funded non-profit entities.

During 2007, APHIS confiscated 138 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. These shipments contained a total of 19,386 plants and 164 seeds, plus an additional 4,250 grams of seeds. Of these 138 shipments, 136 were assigned to cooperating plant rescue centers. The assigned shipments contained 747 orchids, 280 cacti, 110 cycads, 52 euphorbias, 20 pachypodiums, and 74 plants of other taxa; plus 100 palm seeds, 64 araucaria seeds, 4,000 grams of palm seeds, and 250 grams of cacti seeds.

CONSERVATION FUNDING

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS: The Multinational Species Conservation Funds, administered by the USFWS, consist of six programs created to fulfill direct congressional mandates to conserve populations of and habitats for neotropical migratory birds, African and Asian elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, tigers, and marine turtles. Five of these programs involve CITES-listed species: the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1989, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, and the Marine Turtles Conservation Act of 2004. 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.

During the period from October 2006 through May 2008, the USFWS granted a total of USD 10,557,559 for various international conservation projects. Listed below is a breakdown of the funding by grant program:

African elephant:	25 projects totalling USD 1,163,080 in funding
Asian elephant:	32 projects totalling USD 1,569,540 in funding
Rhinoceros & tiger:	37 projects totalling USD 1,568,495 in funding
Great ape:	78 projects totalling USD 5,022,773 in funding
Marine turtles:	37 projects totalling USD 1,233,671 in funding

OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2005 and 2006 CITES ANNUAL REPORTS: On 26 October 2006, the USFWS submitted, directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2005. The file (151,123 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2005. On 26 October 2007, the USFWS submitted, directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2006. The file (151,731 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2006.

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2005-2006 CITES BIENNIAL REPORT: On 17 January 2008, the USFWS submitted to the CITES Secretariat the U.S. CITES biennial report for the years 2005 and 2006. This report summarized some of the major legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken by the United States during 2005-2006 in its implementation of CITES. The USFWS has posted this report on its CITES Website at <http://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cites.html>.

TRILATERAL: In May 2008, Mexico hosted the XIII annual meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. The USFWS sent a delegation of four to the meeting in Veracruz, Mexico. The primary purpose of the meeting was to initiate regional consultation in preparation for the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (July 2008). Priority issues at the meeting included CITES Finance and Budget Subcommittee, issues related to the listing of several species in the CITES Appendices, the Non-detriment Finding Workshop to be held in Mexico in the fall of 2008, and bigleaf mahogany.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

CAPACITY BUILDING: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement strengthened U.S. CITES enforcement capacity on multiple fronts. Efforts to recruit and hire a class of 24 new special agents were undertaken in late winter 2008; new agents are slated to report for training in August 2008. Nine experienced criminal investigators were hired during the reporting period to work at critical duty stations where caseloads typically include significant numbers of CITES smuggling investigations (examples include Miami, New York, and San Francisco). 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 USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory expanded its ability to support U.S. and international investigations of wildlife crime with the completion of a 17,000-square-foot addition at its facility in Ashland, Oregon. The addition includes an expanded state-of-the-art genetics lab and a biological containment area that meets U.S. requirements for handling potentially bio-hazardous materials from other nations.

TRADE MONITORING: The USFWS wildlife inspection program remained the nation's front-line defense against wildlife trafficking. USFWS inspectors examine imports and exports at 38 ports of entry and border crossings, processing more than 179,000 shipments per year. Seizures during the reporting period included Asian medicinals made from protected species; coral and queen conch; elephant ivory; sea turtle shell, leather, and eggs; big cat trophies; and reptilian leather goods imported without required permits. Inspectors at several ports launched new proactive efforts to intercept smuggled wildlife. 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:

- A three-year undercover USFWS investigation of large-scale trafficking in sea turtle skin, shell, and products from Mexico and China resulted in multiple arrests and searches in the United States and Mexico in September 2007. Seven individuals arrested in the United States included three Mexican skin dealers and two shell traffickers from China; cooperation with Mexican authorities resulted in five arrests in that country. Prosecutions in the United States secured guilty pleas from all seven defendants. The "skin trade" portion of the investigation, which snared suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and smugglers, documented 25 separate smuggling transactions involving more than 700 tanned skins of sea turtle, caiman, python, and other protected species, and well over 100 boots and other manufactured items.
- A USFWS investigation of U.S.-Mexico cross-border trafficking in exotic leather products made from CITES Appendix-I and -II species identified 51 individuals and 24 businesses participating

in smuggling activities (including some of the same subjects investigated in the case cited above). Prosecutions began with guilty pleas from the two owners of one business.

- USFWS and Environment Canada investigators broke up a major smuggling organization trafficking in CITES Appendix-II queen conch meat. The individuals and companies involved illegally imported the equivalent of nearly seven semi-trailers of conch meat from several Caribbean and South American countries to the United States and Canada. The owners of two Florida seafood businesses were charged in both countries; fines assessed totaled USD 50,000. A Vancouver seafood business was fined CAD 78,000 in Canada and its owner (who was arrested when he entered the United States from Mexico with an undeclared shipment of live fish in February 2008) faces charges in this country related to the conch smuggling conspiracy. A fourth defendant, the owner of a seafood company in Haiti, was arrested when he visited Miami in January 2008. This individual pleaded guilty to conspiracy to illegally import queen conch in the United States; he has already been fined CAD 25,000 in connection with Canadian charges.
- Two defendants charged in an investigation involving the smuggling of over USD 540,000 worth of sperm whale teeth were sentenced in U.S. court; one was fined USD 100,000 while the other must pay a USD 150,000 fine.
- An aquarium supply company in Florida pleaded guilty to illegally importing more than 42,000 pounds of CITES-protected coral rock from Haiti. The company and its president were sentenced to pay fines totaling USD 50,000.
- A Japanese butterfly smuggler who tried to sell a USFWS undercover agent more than USD 294,000 worth of rare and endangered butterflies was sent to prison for 21 months and fined USD 30,000.
- An Ontario resident charged in both the United States and Canada for wildlife smuggling via the internet was fined USD 10,000 on this side of the border after pleading guilty to one felony count; his transactions involved items made from CITES-protected species.
- A California man who smuggled live Appendix-II eagle owl eggs from Austria pleaded guilty to two counts of smuggling and two counts of making false statements. He was sentenced to 21 months in prison and ordered to pay a USD 5,000 fine.
- Another California resident pleaded guilty to smuggling CITES-protected tortoises in partnership with a supplier in Singapore. Four other subjects previously pleaded guilty to multiple felony violations in connection with this smuggling ring, which shipped the reptiles to the United States in mail packages falsely labeled as toys and other consumer goods.
- A West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, storeowner charged for smuggling and selling items made from CITES-listed species (including ivory tusks and a gorilla skull) pleaded guilty to all counts of a 10-count indictment; she was sent to prison for five months followed by three years supervised release and was fined USD 1,000.
- Two South African big game guides involved in an illegal leopard hunting and smuggling scheme both pleaded guilty to Federal charges after being arrested at a sports show in Pennsylvania where both were advertising their businesses. The men tried to import five hides and three skulls of leopards illegally killed in South Africa, smuggled to Zimbabwe, then shipped to the United States with false CITES permits; one was sent to prison for 18 months while the other was fined USD 5,000.
- A joint USFWS/Environment Canada investigation of the unlawful importation of walrus trophies taken in Canada resulted in the collection of more than USD 13,000 in fines and the recovery of walrus parts from hunters in California, Texas, and Montana.
- A man suspected of selling protected cats to U.S. breeders pleaded guilty to illegally importing a live Asian leopard cat via Miami. He was ordered to spend six months in home confinement, serve five years probation, pay a USD 1,500 fine, and forfeit the cat, which he had sold for more than USD 4,000.
- A Wisconsin man who unlawfully imported mounted hawks and parrots from the United Kingdom without CITES permits pleaded guilty to a felony count of conspiracy to smuggle CITES-protected wildlife. He was fined USD 2,500 and placed on probation for two years.
- An individual who smuggled CITES Appendix-I Asian lady slipper orchids into the United States from Indonesia by mail was ordered to pay a USD 5,000 fine and USD 5,000 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

MAHOGANY AND RAMIN SEIZURES IN 2006-2007: During 2006-2007, U.S. plant inspection authorities seized two shipments of bigleaf mahogany wood entering the United States. One of these shipments was Honduran origin mahogany imported from Belgium in 2006 and contained 1,826 cubic meters of plywood; the other was imported from Ecuador in 2007 and contained 32 cubic meters of sawn wood.

Also during 2006-2007, U.S. plant inspection authorities seized two shipments of ramin wood products entering the United States. One of these shipments was imported from Indonesia in 2006 and contained 68 cubic meters of wood products; the other was Malaysian origin ramin imported from China in 2006 and contained one cubic meter of wood products.

SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS: USFWS enforcement staff provided support to the following global investigations:

- Information developed during a USFWS investigation helped alert the United Kingdom's National Wildlife Crime Unit to the internet-based wildlife trafficking of a citizen of the United Kingdom. In December 2006, authorities there arrested two individuals and made one of the most significant seizures of wildlife parts and products ever under that nation's endangered species laws.
- A USFWS forensic scientist helped Thai authorities secure the August 2007 conviction of a Bangkok luxury store owner for importing and selling shahtoosh; the USFWS specialist provided evidence positively identifying the material in question as wool made from the highly endangered Tibetan antelope.
- USFWS agents worked with the Brazilian Federal Police to investigate illegal trafficking in CITES Appendix-I Brazilian rosewood. Efforts included executing a search warrant at a Massachusetts woodworking business belonging to a key defendant; in October 2007, this individual was arrested along with 23 others in Brazil on charges related to rosewood smuggling.
- In February 2008, a Cameroonian national was arrested in the Republic of Congo for illegal possession and internet trafficking of elephant ivory following a 12-month undercover investigation and intelligence gathering operation by the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the Congo National Bureau, and the USFWS. The suspect had sold and shipped by mail numerous consignments of worked and raw elephant ivory from Cameroon to the United States.