

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Reports on the actions taken by regional representatives and additional information from Parties,
relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee

NORTH AMERICA

1. This report, covering the period from February 2011 to January 2012, was prepared by Carolina Caceres, regional representative for North America, in collaboration with the CITES authorities of Canada, Mexico and the United States**.

Overview of major developments

a) Review of Significant Trade

2. At AC25, the Significant Trade Review Workgroup from the Animals Committee selected species of seahorse, stony coral and black coral for review. Of the taxa selected for review by the workgroup, the United States was a range country for one species of seahorse (Syngnathiformes), three species of stony coral (Scleractinia) and 50 species of black coral (Antipatharia). As a range country, the United States, after consultation with authorities responsible for the management of these species from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii and California, responded to the Significant Trade Review Workgroup with information concerning U.S. trade in these species. In our response we indicated that there was no trade in these species from any area under the authority of the United States with the exception of Hawaii. The U.S. does have trade in Hawaiian black coral, but the trade and harvest in the Hawaiian Islands is strictly controlled by both federal and state regulators. There is no reported trade from the other areas queried due to jurisdictional prohibitions against harvest.

b) Periodic Review

3. The United States undertook a review of *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri* (Attwater's Prairie Chicken) and submitted it to AC25 for consideration. At AC25, it was decided that this species should be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. US will update the periodic review document from AC25 and forward it to the Depositary Government/Switzerland for submission to CoP16. The United States undertook a review of *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* (Masked Bobwhite) and submitted it to AC25 for consideration. At AC25, it was decided the species was appropriately placed in Appendix I. The United States undertook a review of *Crocodylus amazonicus* (Crocodile Tegu) submitted it to AC25 for consideration. At AC25, it was decided the species was appropriately placed in Appendix II.

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4. Canada will be working on the Periodic Review for the two North American subspecies included in Appendix I, *Puma concolor cougar* and *Puma concolor coryi* and will be engaging with the United States (the other range state for these species) to complete this work. We hope to have this review ready for the Animals Committee by its next meeting (AC27).
 5. In response to Notification 2011/038 "Periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices", Mexico reported that it will complete the periodic review of *Caracara lutosa* (Guadalupe Caracara), a species selected for this process at the 25th Meeting of the Animal Committee (Geneva, 2011). *Campephilus imperialis* (Imperial woodpecker) will also be reviewed. Both species are endemic to Mexico and are classified as extinct according to the national at-risk species list (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010). Dr. Adolfo Navarro of the Museum of Zoology of the Faculty of Sciences at UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) will carry out this review in coordination with CONABIO.
- c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes**
6. The Region has no additional items to report on registered breeding operations.
- d) Non-detriment findings**
7. Canada published its Standing Non-detriment Finding Report for Northern River Otter on the CITES Canada website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1>). Standing Non-detriment Finding (NDF) Reports are used to document the current management practices in Canada for commonly-traded Canadian species to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens.
- e) Other**
8. Appendix III Listing: On October 6, 2011, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a final rule (76 FR 61978) to list the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), in CITES Appendix III (http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/pdf/AppIIIhellbenderfinal.pdf). The listing includes live and dead whole specimens, and all readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives of the species. This listing will become effective April 3, 2012. In preparing the final rule, USFWS consulted with the Secretariat and the Animals Committee regarding our inclusion of the hellbender in CITES Appendix III and sought their opinions on the potential effects of such inclusion. After due consultation, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee informed us that our proposal to list hellbenders in Appendix III is consistent with Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15) and did not raise any objections to this listing. In support of our inclusion of hellbenders in Appendix III, we provided copies of relevant U.S. Federal and State laws and regulations that govern and affect the trade in the species to the Secretariat and requested that a Notification be issued to the Parties with an effective date of April 3, 2012. Listing hellbenders in Appendix III will allow monitoring of international trade in the taxon to determine whether further measures are required to conserve this species and its subspecies.

Activities of Regional Representatives

9. Traditionally, the Regional Representative for North America takes the lead in organizing meetings or teleconferences of the North American Parties to discuss matters of common interest, particularly in advance of an Animals Committee Meeting. The North American Regional CITES authorities met by videoconference in April 2011 in anticipation of the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee. These meetings are very useful to better understand other Parties' views and concerns, especially for shared species. Additionally, the regional representative maintained electronic contact with the CITES authorities in Mexico and the United States reporting on activities being undertaken by the Animals Committee, such as progress by the Working Group on Non-detriment Findings.
10. In addition, the Regional Representative is actively engaged in the work of a number of intercessional working groups. Notably, the Regional Representative is the AC Co-chair for the joint AC/PC Climate Change Working Group, is chairing the AC Working Group on Criteria for the inclusion of species in Appendices I and II and is the AC Co-chair for the joint AC/PC Working Group on Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species. The Alternative Regional Representative for North America is co-chair of the AC Intercessional Working Group on sea cucumbers along with the Regional Representative of Oceania and is co-chair of the Intercessional Working Group on Periodic Review along with the AC Chair.

Regional cooperation and priorities

11. Regional Conservation Strategy for Atlantic Sturgeon: Canada intends to export wild Atlantic sturgeon caviar in 2012 and following the recommendations in CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14), has established sustainable caviar and meat quotas and has been working closely with colleagues in the United States on the development of a regional conservation strategy and monitoring/enforcement regime for Atlantic sturgeon. Tagging and tracking information for Atlantic sturgeon from various populations indicates that they are trans-boundary in their distribution, occurring within the waters of Canada and the United States at various points during their life cycle. The purpose of this work is to develop a strategy for collaboration that will help ensure sustainable management of Atlantic sturgeon and prevent population declines as a result of international trade.
12. Tree frog identification guide (genus *Agalychnis*). Following the inclusion of genus *Agalychnis* (tree frogs) in Appendix II (CoP15 Prop. 13), the taxonomic changes proposed by specialists, and the agreements reached at AC25 (Geneva, 2011); CONABIO prepared an Identification Guide based on the nomenclatural reference proposed by Frost 2011 (see 5.4), which is in line with the list of amphibians used by CITES. The guide will be published in Spanish in early January and most likely in English and French, with the support of the North American region.
13. As part of our regional commitment to share and work together on regional outreach materials, Canada has offered to translate the guide into French and English as a first step towards publication in all three languages of the Convention.
14. CITES Identification Manual. Following the inclusion of genus *Agalychnis* in Appendix II and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.19 "Identification Manual", CONABIO is preparing information sheets for the five species listed by CITES to be included in the Identification Manual.

Meetings and Workshops

Within the Region:

14. 6th Symposium on Hunting Animals in Mexico: CONABIO participated in the 6th Symposium on Hunting Animals in Mexico in the city of Puebla, in April 2011, the main objective of which was to promote the ecological and economic benefits of sports hunting
15. Management, Conservation and Sustainable Use of *Oreophasis derbianus*: In Mexico City in May 2011, DGVS organized a workshop on "Management, Conservation and Sustainable Use of *Oreophasis derbianus*" in order to establish general mechanisms for the conservation, management and sustainable use of the species, using integrated reproductive strategies, both in captivity and in the wild
16. 3rd Regional Meeting of wildlife conservation management units (UMA) in the South and South-west of Mexico: CONABIO and DGVS also participated in the "3rd Regional Meeting of wildlife conservation management units (UMA) in the south and south-west of Mexico", in Oaxaca, Mexico, in June 2011, in order to promote strategies and policies for the sustainable use of wild plants and animals that generate environmental goods and services, employment and economic benefits for communities.
17. Training Workshop: A training workshop was held in July 2011 at Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, in Tabasco, Mexico, as part of activities to implement the monitoring program for Morelet's Crocodile. The objective of the workshop was to standardize the use of the Program's procedures manual through on-site methods application and calibration
18. Workshop on the conservation, Management and sustainable use of genus *Ambystoma* in México: In Mexico City in September 2011, DGVS held a Workshop on updates in the conservation, management and sustainable use of genus *Ambystoma* in Mexico. The main objective of the workshop was to learn about and identify general mechanisms for the conservation, management and sustainable use of populations of *Ambystoma* and their habitat, using integrated strategies for reproduction and management, both in captivity and in the wild.
19. NAWEG: PROFEPA has been following up on the efforts made by NAWEG (North American Wildlife Enforcement Group) in the framework of regional cooperation in North America to strengthen institutional capacities to improve mechanisms for the monitoring, control and surveillance of legal and illegal trade in wildlife in the region.

20. Turtle Farming Best Management Practices in the United States (November 2011, Baton Rouge, LA): The USFWS's International Wildlife Trade Program in partnership with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) convened a freshwater turtle workshop in St. Louis, Missouri in September 2010 to discuss pressing management, regulatory, scientific, and enforcement needs associated with the wild harvest and trade of freshwater turtles in the United States. One of the priority recommendations that came out of the workshop was to develop best management practices for turtle farms operating in the United States. The workshop was held in Baton Rouge LA in November 2011 and brought together a select number of specialists who deal with aquaculture, species management, wildlife trade management, turtles, turtle farming, health issues, water quality, invasive species, and genetic pollution – all topics relevant to turtle farms. The goal of the workshop was to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Turtle Farming in the United States to improve trade practices and industry standards while minimizing impacts to natural wild populations, for farmers, regulators, researchers and other stakeholders.

Other Meetings and Workshops:

21. CITES and relevant species of wildlife trade in Central America: In San José, Costa Rica (August 2011), CONABIO and PROFEPA made several presentations at the workshop on CITES and relevant aspects of wildlife trade in Central America. Over 25 government officials participated, including CITES authorities, customs officers and other government workers responsible for managing wildlife in Central American countries in the CAFTA-DR region.
22. CITES Asian snake trade workshop (April 2011, Guangzhou, China): The USFWS participated in a four-day workshop in Guangzhou, China, on the conservation and trade management of snakes in Asia. The workshop, which was primarily funded by USFWS and was held during the week of April 11, and was the result of a priority issue that USFWS successfully promoted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in March 2010. The workshop primarily served as a venue for wildlife managers, biologists and law enforcement personnel from across South and East Asia to discuss what may be the largest under-regulated terrestrial wildlife trade in the world. A series of science, management and law enforcement recommendation drafted by the participants were conveyed to the Secretariat for consideration at AC25 and SC61.
23. IUCN/SSC Global Reptile Assessment Workshop: Review of the conservation status of Chinese and Southeast Asian snake species, with particular emphasis on trade and utilization of these taxa within the region. (August 2011, Beijing, China): The workshop, which was funded by USFWS and was held in August 2011, with the purpose of collecting information that may inform both global and regional reptile conservation actions, including the identification of priority species (including those for possible consideration for CITES listing), sites and regions for conservation action. The workshop assessed 500 Asian snakes and produced species accounts and maps that have been conveyed to the Secretariat for consideration at AC26 when considering the conservation and trade management of snakes in Asia.
24. 10th African Wildlife Consultative Forum (October 2011, Swaziland): USFWS attended the Wildlife Consultative Forum (Swaziland; October 9-14, 2011; hosted by Safari Club International Foundation). Ten African countries were represented, as well as several non-governmental organizations and professional hunting associations. Major CITES issues that were addressed included: personal sport-hunted trophies and hunting/international trade issues associated with the African Elephant, Rhinoceros, Leopard, and African Lion. Several representatives cited the need to become more proactive within the context of CITES.

Other Regional Information

CANADA

25. Canada continues to demonstrate strong commitment and leadership towards protection and management of polar bears. Canada hosted the biennial Polar Bear Range States meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut in October, 2011. Over 70 attendees participated in the meeting, including representatives from the five Range States countries, as well as Inuit and non-government organizations. Canada presented its finalized National Polar Bear Conservation Strategy at the meeting, and will continue to work with the Range States on the development of a Circumpolar Action Plan for the species over the next several years. The provincial, territorial, federal and Aboriginal governments and organizations along with hunters and communities continue to work together through a variety of initiatives towards ongoing effective management and conservation measures for the polar bear across Canada.

MEXICO

26. Monitoring Program for *Crocodylus moreletii*: Following the transfer of the populations of Mexico and Belize from Appendix I to Appendix II, with a zero quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes (COP15, Qatar, 2010), and recommendations of the IUCN's CSG, CONABIO is now coordinating the implementation of the Monitoring Program for Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Mexico. The main goal is to monitor the conditions and trends of the main wild populations and their habitat over the long term. To accomplish this, a Procedures Manual was published, describing and standardizing procedures and methods for sampling, collecting and reporting field data (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/doctos/manualf_monitoreo_cocodrilo.pdf). To implement this, four coordination regions were established in the species' entire distribution area in Mexico. At present, the four working teams are collecting field data in accordance with the Procedures Manual, and are entering them in a central database developed and administrated by CONABIO. In early 2012, a workshop will be held with participants in the program to analyze the results and plan field work for 2012.
27. Aerial census of Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*): From October 12 to 22, 2011, DGVS, together with the Federal Delegation of SEMARNAT in southern Baja California (BCS), formed a multidisciplinary group with state and national authorities, academics and wildlife conservation management units (UMAs) that deal with bighorn sheep in the area, to implement the aerial census of the population in its entire distribution area (BCS). With 30 hours of flights, data was obtained on the numbers and distribution of the species, as well as the state of conservation of their habitat.
28. Law Enforcement at national level: PROFEPA conducted 6,852 inspections of specimens, parts and derivatives of regulated wildlife species (1,225 exports and 5,627 imports). PROFEPA's port and border environmental inspection branch and its Baja California subdivision, also began an investigation of the irregular exportation of 300 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus erectus*), in collaboration with the Mexican customs and revenue service (SAT-Aduanas), DGVS and the CITES Administrative Authority in Hong Kong. The investigation includes the identification of false documents, licences, certificates and official law enforcement stamps, and inaccurate declarations of non-tariff classification. As a result, administrative proceedings were initiated and criminal charges were laid. The results of the investigations are pending.
29. 10th Master's Program in Management, Access and Conservation of Traded Species: The International Context (Baeza, Spain, 2011): Gabriela López, CONABIO analyst on animal issues, completed the 10th edition of the course and gave talks about CONABIO and the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (November 2008). Hesiquio Benítez (Director of the Scientific Authority) acted as coordinator and presenter of the unit on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
30. Structure of CITES Scientific Authority in Mexico: In late 2011, CONABIO hired two analysts to strengthen implementation of the Convention at the national level.
31. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Dr. Rodrigo Medellín Legorreta, advisor to the Scientific Authority in Mexico, was appointed Councillor for Tropical Fauna at the CoP10 of the Convention (UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.22), which took place in Norway (November 2011).
32. PROFEPA-WWF-TRAFFIC Convention. In the framework of the PROFEPA-WWF-TRAFFIC North America Convention in Mexico, 55,000 brochures (in Spanish and English) were prepared on the responsible purchase of wildlife products, aimed at tourists on sea cruises. These were distributed in the main seaports. Also in collaboration with TRAFFIC North America, PROFEPA will soon be organizing a workshop to train law enforcement inspectors.

UNITED STATES

33. Continued activities to Assess Chambered Nautilus (*Allonautilus* and *Nautilus* species): The USFWS is funding population and fishery studies in Australia and the Philippines, the first leg of which occurred in August 2011. The goals are to obtain additional population estimates and to better understand nautilus fishing in those areas. This research will continue in 2012, along with similar work in Fiji that is being funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The USFWS and NMFS are planning activities to better understand trade and to work with other range countries to better understand fisheries management and protections for chambered nautilus throughout its range.

34. Iguana Publications: Under the Environmental Cooperation Agreement of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) a number of publications have been produced on efforts to strengthen CITES, combat illegal wildlife trade and ensure that the legal trade in wildlife remains sustainable. The United States has been an active sponsor and participant in the process of designing, funding and publishing a variety of these documents. The United States is pleased to announce the availability of two recent publications on the trade of iguanas in Central America. These documents are available in PDF format on the Internet in both English and Spanish, as follows.

Survey of Status, Trade, and Exploitation of Central American Iguanas (trade study in English)

<http://www.caftadr-environment.org/outreach/publications/IIF%20-%20Iguana%20Survey%20and%20Status%20Report-English.pdf>

Evaluación del Estado, Comercio y Explotación de las Iguanas de CentroAmérica (trade study in Spanish)

<http://www.caftadr-environment.org/spanish/outreach/publications/IIF%20-%20Iguana%20Survey%20and%20Status%20Report-Spanish.pdf>

Bi-lingual photo identification guide [http://www.caftadr-](http://www.caftadr-environment.org/spanish/outreach/publications/IRCF%20Iguana%20ID%20Guide%20(Spanish).pdf)

[environment.org/spanish/outreach/publications/IRCF%20Iguana%20ID%20Guide%20\(Spanish\).pdf](http://www.caftadr-environment.org/spanish/outreach/publications/IRCF%20Iguana%20ID%20Guide%20(Spanish).pdf)

35. United States Department Of The Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP): The Department of the Interior - International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), funded by the Department of State, consults with USFWS in providing CITES capacity building and training. Since March 2010, ITAP has provided the following activities in Central America and Northern Africa.

Central America

Costa Rica

- Assisted in updating Costa Rica's CITES legal framework to conform to current CITES resolutions.
- Developed web-based CITES permit management systems and donated computer hardware and audiovisual equipment to the CITES authorities to strengthen management of permits, permit data, and management of the CITES offices, especially communication between headquarters and field offices.
- Provided resources for a national outreach campaign for wildlife protection, including displays at major airports, ports, and border crossings.

Dominican Republic

- Convened a CITES workshop for agricultural inspectors, CITES officials and environment ministry regional directors on the operational and legal aspects of CITES. ITAP also supported regional workshops for environmental police, public ministry and customs officials, agricultural inspectors, the environment ministry, and the public prosecutors' office.
- Supported the planning of a series of seizure operations by CITES Authorities at 45 different business establishments in Altagracia province, seizing 285 pieces of jewelry and other turtle products.
- Conducted a series of biological monitoring capacity-building activities for the CITES-listed Hispaniola parrot (*Amazona ventralis*). Trained protected area staff and local community members on biological monitoring and sustainable tourism practices, and donated parrot viewing platforms and equipment.

El Salvador

- Developed a model municipal wildlife ordinance for potential adoption by municipalities throughout the country. The ordinance would strengthen the ability of local officials to combat illegal wildlife trade, especially in border municipalities.
- Assisted El Salvador's Management, Scientific, and Enforcement Authorities in developing a "Wildlife Seizure Coordination Agreement" to ensure collaboration on seizure operations. The document provides a legal structure for inter-office collaboration during a wildlife seizure, and describes each office's roles and responsibilities. Joint seizure operations were subsequently completed, with 43 trafficked parrots returned to Nicaragua CITES Authorities. El Salvador's CITES Administration Authority instituted monthly interagency CITES coordinating joint activities meetings.

Guatemala

- Developed species identification fact sheets that were distributed to customs officials at land and sea ports, in collaboration with CONAP.
- Supported the development of outreach and educational materials on Appendix-I listed tapir conservation.
- Completed a biological monitoring study of jaguar populations in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Asociación Balam.

Honduras

- Assisted in the design and implementation of a Psittacidae species monitoring program in the Honduran Mosquitia Protected Area in cooperation with CITES authorities.
- Assisted in updating Honduras's CITES legal framework to conform to current CITES resolutions.
- Held two CITES national capacity building workshops in Honduras, training 60 customs, police, and CITES Authority officials, and regional Interpol representatives.
- Designed and implemented a web-based system for improving the management of CITES permit applications and permit data, and donated necessary computer hardware.

Nicaragua

- Developed web-based CITES permit management systems and donated computer hardware to the CITES authorities to strengthen management of permits, permit data, and management of the CITES offices
- Provided technical assistance to the Management Authority to revise the existing CITES database of records of import, export and re-export of CITES-listed species for 1998-2010.
- Supported MARENA and the Public Ministry in executing a national capacity-building workshop on the enforcement of environmental laws, including CITES requirements.
- In collaboration with Nicaragua's CITES authorities and Humane Society International, supported CITES workshops on implementation, animal handling, and disposal and placement of confiscated wildlife.
- Supported a feasibility study of a government-sanctioned community-based frog ranching project for CITES-listed species.
- Provided for design and nation-wide distribution of CITES enforcement brochures to regional prosecutor's offices throughout Nicaragua.

CAFTA-DR Regional

- Assisted in the development of a Central America Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN), in partnership with TRAFFIC and CCAD, and in collaboration with USFWS Law Enforcement, U.S. Department of Justice, CITES Secretariat and INTERPOL. The WEN, authorized in a September 2010 Memorandum of Understanding among the CAFTA-DR signatory states, will improve the coordination, cooperation, and enforcement capacity between agencies and countries.
- Provided a regional Wildlife Enforcement training to police, customs, prosecutors, and CITES management authorities to improve enforcement of CITES and other wildlife laws in the region. Workshop organized in partnership with TRAFFIC and CCAD.
- Facilitated a roadmap meeting of the Central America Wildlife Enforcement Network to improve coordination and communication in the region, in partnership with TRAFFIC and CCAD.
- Strengthened CITES science through a regional non-detriment finding (NDF) workshops in collaboration with the USFWS, NMFS, and the CITES Secretariat,. The workshop was attended by forty participants from CITES offices in 11 countries. Expert contributions were provided by IUCN, CORALINA (Columbia), CONABIO (Mexico), TRAFFIC, the CITES Secretariat, and CCAD. The workshop report (Spanish) can be found at <http://www.sica.int/ccad/DENP.aspx>.

For additional information on the CAFTA-DR Environmental Agreement and its achievements, please see <http://www.caftadr-environment.org/index.htm> for the English site or <http://www.caftadr-environment.org/spanish/index.htm> for the Spanish site. A full list of publications under this CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Agreement program can be found on both sites. Additional information on the U.S. Department of the Interior ITAP program can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/intl/itap/index.cfm>.

Northern Africa

Morocco

- Conducted a one-week workshop in Morocco to build capacity of customs officers to implement CITES. The workshop focused on the responsibilities and authorities of customs officers under CITES and included a discussion of future training needs. Over the next year, ITAP will work with USFWS Law Enforcement and the CITES Secretariat to expand the capacity-building program to cover species identification, review of CITES permits, train-the-trainer sessions, and implementation of Morocco's recently passed CITES implementing legislation.

36. Additional International Law Enforcement Training:

- Conducted two 2-week criminal investigation training programs for enforcement officers from sub-Saharan African nations at International Law Enforcement Training Academy in Botswana
- Provided ongoing training and investigative consultation to member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Group (ASEAN-WEN)
- Teamed with DOJ and U.S. Forest Service to conduct capacity building workshop in Peru focused on both wildlife and timber trafficking issues
- Conducted 3 weeks of wildlife enforcement training for village game scouts in Tanzania

CONTRIBUCIÓN DE MÉXICO

I. Información GeneralAutores

MÉXICO: Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Autoridad Científica; Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS-SEMARNAT), Autoridad Administrativa, y Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA-SEMARNAT), Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley .

Periodo: febrero 2011 a enero 2012.

Acción solicitada por México al Comité de Fauna: Tomar nota del informe.

II. Overview of major developments (relating specifically to Review of Significant Trade, Periodic Review, Registration and NDFs)

Revisión Periódica: En respuesta a la Notificación 2011/038 "Examen periódico de especies incluidas en los Apéndices CITES", México informó que realizará la revisión periódica de *Caracara lutosa* (Caracara de Isla Guadalupe), especie seleccionada bajo este proceso durante la 25ª Reunión del Comité de Fauna (Ginebra, 2011). Adicionalmente, realizará la revisión de *Campephilus imperialis* (Carpintero imperial). Ambas especies son endémicas a México, y están catalogadas como extintas de acuerdo a la lista nacional de especies en riesgo (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010). El Dr. Adolfo Navarro del Museo de Zoología de la Facultad de Ciencias de la UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) en coordinación con la CONABIO realizará estas revisiones.

IV. Regional cooperation and priorities

Programa de Monitoreo de *Crocodylus moreletii*. En seguimiento a la transferencia, de las poblaciones de México y Belice del Apéndice I al Apéndice II con cuota cero para ejemplares de vida silvestre con fines comerciales (COP15, Qatar, 2010), y a recomendaciones del CSG de la UICN, actualmente la CONABIO coordina la implementación del Programa de Monitoreo del Cocodrilo de Pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) en México. Su objetivo principal es dar seguimiento al estado y a la tendencia de las principales poblaciones silvestres y su hábitat a largo plazo. Para ello, se publicó un Manual de Procedimientos, que describe y estandariza el diseño de muestreo, los métodos de toma de datos en campo y la forma de reportarlos (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/doctos/manualf_monitoreo_cocodrilo.pdf). Para su implementación se establecieron 4 regiones de coordinación en toda el área de distribución de la especie en México y actualmente, los 4 equipos de trabajo se encuentran tomando datos en campo conforme al manual de procedimientos y los están registrando en una base de datos central desarrollada y administrada por la CONABIO. A principios del 2012 se tendrá un Taller con los participantes del programa para analizar los resultados y planificar el trabajo en campo de 2012.

Censo aéreo de Borrego Cimarrón (*Ovis canadensis*): Del 12 al 22 de Octubre del 2011, la DGVS) junto con la Delegación Federal de la SEMARNAT en Baja California Sur (BCS), conformó un grupo multidisciplinario con autoridades estatales, nacionales, académicos y las Unidades de Manejo para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre (UMA) que aprovechan borrego en el área; para la implementación del censo aéreo de borrego cimarrón en toda su área de distribución (BCS). Se sobrevolaron 30 horas, obteniendo información de abundancia y distribución de la especie así como del estado de conservación de su hábitat.

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** Las denominaciones geográficas empleadas en este documento no implican juicio alguno por parte de la Secretaría CITES o del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente sobre la condición jurídica de ninguno de los países, zonas o territorios citados, ni respecto de la delimitación de sus fronteras o límites. La responsabilidad sobre el contenido del documento incumbe exclusivamente a su autor.

Guía de identificación para las ranas arborícolas del género *Agalychnis*. En seguimiento a la inclusión del género *Agalychnis* (ranas arborícolas) en el Apéndice II (CoP15 Prop. 13), a los cambios taxonómicos propuestos por especialistas, y a los acuerdos alcanzados en el AC25 (Ginebra, 2011); la CONABIO elaboró una Guía de identificación con base en la referencia nomenclatural propuesta por Frost 2011 (ver.5.4), la cual va en línea con la lista de Anfibios utilizada en CITES. La guía será publicada en español a principios de enero y muy probablemente también en inglés y francés con apoyo de la región de Norteamérica.

Manual de identificación CITES. En seguimiento a la inclusión del género *Agalychnis* en el Apéndice II y en cumplimiento a la Resolución Conf. 11.19 "Manual de identificación" la CONABIO está elaborando fichas informativas para las 5 especies listadas en la CITES para ser incluidas en el Manual de identificación.

Aplicación de la ley a nivel nacional: La PROFEPA realizó 6,852 verificaciones de ejemplares, partes y derivados de especies reguladas de vida silvestre (1,225 exportaciones y 5,627 importaciones). Por otra parte, la PROFEPA, a través de la Dirección General de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras y la Delegación en el Estado de Baja California, en colaboración con el Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT-Aduanas), la DGVS y la Autoridad Administrativa CITES de Hong Kong; inició una investigación por la exportación irregular de 300 Kg de caballitos de mar, secos, de la especie *Hippocampus erectus*. La investigación incluye la identificación de documentos, permisos, validaciones y sellos Oficiales de Aplicación de la Ley falsos y declaración de fracciones no arancelarias incorrectas. Como resultado, se abrió un procedimiento administrativo y presentó una querrela de carácter penal ante las autoridades judiciales. Actualmente se está en espera de los resultados de las investigaciones.

V. Meetings and Workshops

La CONABIO participó en el 6° Simposio sobre fauna cinegética de México en la Ciudad de Puebla, en abril de 2011, el cual tuvo como principal objetivo impulsar los beneficios ecológicos y económicos de la cacería deportiva.

En la Ciudad de México en mayo de 2011, la DGVS organizó el Taller sobre "Manejo, Conservación y Aprovechamiento sustentable de *Oreophasis derbianus*" con el objetivo de establecer los mecanismos generales para la conservación, manejo y aprovechamiento sustentable de la especie, mediante estrategias integrales de reproducción tanto en cautiverio como en vida libre.

Por otra parte, la CONABIO y la DGVS participaron en el 3^{er} Encuentro Regional de UMAS Sur-Sureste, Oaxaca, México en junio de 2011, el cual buscó fomentar estrategias y políticas que permitan el aprovechamiento sustentable de flora y fauna silvestre, que genere bienes y servicios ambientales, empleos y derrama económica para las comunidades.

En Tabasco, México en julio de 2011, como parte de las actividades de implementación del programa de monitoreo del cocodrilo de pantano, en la Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco se organizó un Taller de capacitación. Los objetivos del mismo fueron estandarizar el uso del manual de procedimientos del Programa mediante la aplicación y calibración de los métodos *in situ*.

En San José, Costa Rica (agosto, 2011), la CONABIO y la PROFEPA participaron como ponentes en el Taller La CITES y aspectos relevantes del comercio de vida silvestre en Centroamérica. En él participaron más de 25 oficiales de gobierno incluidas autoridades CITES, oficiales de aduanas y otros funcionarios a cargo de la gestión de la vida silvestre en los países centroamericanos de la región CAFTA DR.

En la ciudad de México, en septiembre de 2011, la DGVS realizó el Taller de Actualización sobre conservación, manejo y aprovechamiento sustentable del género *Ambystoma* en México. Su principal objetivo fue conocer y distinguir los mecanismos generales para la conservación, manejo y aprovechamiento sustentable de poblaciones de *Ambystoma* y su hábitat; mediante estrategias integrales de reproducción y manejo tanto en cautiverio como en vida libre.

La PROFEPA ha dado seguimiento a los esfuerzos del NAWEG (The North American Wildlife Enforcement Group) en el marco de cooperación regional en Norteamérica para fortalecer capacidades institucionales que permitan mejorar los mecanismos de monitoreo, control y vigilancia del comercio legal e ilegal de vida silvestre en la región.

VI. Other Regional Information

X Master en Gestión, Acceso y Conservación de Especies en el Comercio: El Marco Internacional (Baeza, España, 2011): Gabriela López (analista en temas de fauna) de la CONABIO cursó la X edición e impartió pláticas sobre la CONABIO y el Taller Internacional de Expertos sobre Dictámenes de Extracción No Perjudicial (noviembre, 2008). Así mismo, Hesiquio Benítez (Director de la Autoridad Científica) fungió como coordinador y ponente del módulo sobre el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica (CBD).

Estructura de la Autoridad Científica CITES de México: a finales de 2011, la CONABIO contrató dos analistas para fortalecer la implementación de la Convención a nivel nacional.

Convención sobre las especies migratorias (CMS): El Dr. Rodrigo Medellín Legorreta, asesor de la Autoridad Científica de México, fue nombrado Consejero de fauna tropical durante la CoP10 de dicha Convención (UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.22), misma que tuvo lugar en Noruega (noviembre 2011).

Convenio PROFEPA-WWF-TRAFFIC. En el marco del convenio PROFEPA-WWF-TRAFFIC Norteamérica en México, se elaboraron 55,000 trípticos (español e inglés) sobre compra responsable de vida silvestre dirigidos a turistas de cruceros marítimos, los cuales fueron distribuidos en los principales puertos marítimos. Además la PROFEPA en conjunto con TRAFFIC Norteamérica, organizará próximamente un taller de capacitación para inspectores de Aplicación de la Ley.

Anexo

Directorio de Autoridades CITES de MÉXICO

Autoridad Administrativa

MARTIN VARGAS PRIETO Director General de Vida Silvestre		
Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS) – Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)	Av. Revolución 1425, Col. San Ángel Tlacopac Del. Álvaro Obregón. C.P. 01040 MÉXICO, D.F.	T: + 52 (55) 56243309/3310/3306 F: + 52 (55) 56243642 E: martin.vargas@semarnat.gob.mx

Otros contactos:

Benjamín González Brizuela*	Director de Aprovechamiento de Vida Silvestre.	Tels. (55) 56-24-35-09/34-79. Fax. (55) 56-24-36-42. E: benjamin.brisuela@semarnat.gob.mx
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*La dirección postal para este contacto es la misma que en la Autoridad Administrativa

Autoridad Científica

HESQUIO BENÍTEZ DÍAZ Director de Enlace y Asuntos Internacionales		
Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)	Liga Periférico- Insurgentes sur #4903, Colonia Parques del Pedregal, C.P. 14010, México D.F. México.	Tels. (55) 50-04-50-24. Fax. (55) 50-04-49-85. E: hbenitez@conabio.gob.mx

Otros contactos:

Alejandra García Naranjo Ortiz de la Huerta*	Coordinadora de la Autoridad Científica CITES.	Tels. (55) 50-04-49-45. Fax. (55) 50-04-49-85. E: algarcia@conabio.gob.mx
Gabriela López Segurajáuregui*	Analista en temas de fauna	Tels. (55) 50-04-49-37. Fax. (55) 50-04-49-85. E: galopez@conabio.gob.mx
Emmanuel Rivera Téllez*	Analista en temas de fauna	Tels. (55) 50-04-49-37. Fax. (55) 50-04-49-85. E: emmanuel.rivera@conabio.gob.mx

*La dirección postal para este contacto es la misma que en la Autoridad Científica

Otros expertos para temas fauna CITES

RODRIGO A. MEDELLIN LEGORRETA Asesor de la Autoridad Científica para temas de fauna		
Instituto de Ecología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)	Apartado postal 70-275 Ciudad Universitaria, UNAM 04510 México D.F. Circuito Exterior s/n	T: + 52 (55) 56 22 90 42 F: +52 (55) 56 22 89 95 E: medellin@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx

Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley

KARLA ISABEL ACOSTA RESENDI Directora General de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras (PAF)		
Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)	Camino al Ajusco N.200 6º. Piso. Col. Jardines de la Montaña, Delegación Tlalpan, CP: 14210, México D.F., México	Tels. (55) 54 49 63 16 Fax. (55) 54 49 63 00 Ext. 16349 Correo-e: kacosta@profepa.gob.mx

Otros contactos:

Francisco Navarrete*	Director de inspección fitosanitaria y vida silvestre en PAF	Tels. (55) 54-49-63-06 Fax. (55) 54-49-63-00 Ext. 16288 Correo-e: fnavarrete@profepa.gob.mx
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