

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Regional matters

Reports of Regional Representatives

NORTH AMERICA

This document has been submitted by the United States of America as the Regional Representative of North America\*\*.

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

**2. INTRODUCTION**

This Regional Report for North America covers the period from the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (August 2011) through May 2012. It includes summaries of key measures taken by Canada, Mexico, and the United States in their implementation and enforcement of CITES during the reporting period. It is presented in the format provided in Document SC59 Doc. 23 at the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (March 2010) and adopted by the Standing Committee at that meeting.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15), the United States was elected to be the North American Regional Representative to 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.

**3. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

**CANADA**

Canada has named a new CITES Management Authority, Lise Jubinville. Canada's contact address and email for the Canadian Management Authority remain the same, and are available on the CITES website.

Canada continues to work on a new CITES web-based electronic permitting system. Canada's current electronic system has increased the efficiency of permitting by compiling accurate and consistent information which in turn facilitates the production of annual reports on international trade in wildlife in Canada. Additional improvements to the system were made in 2011 and will be completed in summer 2012. Environment Canada

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is committed to offer an e-permitting system for all wildlife permitting, including CITES. This will improve access to CITES permits. We anticipate deploying this new on-line system for CITES in 2013.

By mid-2012, we will return to using regular CITES permits for artificially propagated plants instead of phytosanitary certificates, to address some concerns in Canada regarding quality control. We will notify the Secretariat as soon as this change is effected so that our name can be removed from the Reference List of Countries and territories that use phytosanitary certificates as certificates of artificial propagation.

Canada is chairing two Standing Committee working groups: the intersessional Working Group on Purpose Codes, and the intersessional Working Group on Use of Taxonomic Serial Numbers. As chair of Taxonomic Serial Numbers working group, Canada's Ken Farr delivered a presentation to the Electronic Permitting Working Group at SC61 to provide context and background on TSNs in recognition of close link between the work of the two working groups. These working groups will report at SC62.

Canada has initiated preparations for CoP16 with an invitation for the public to submit proposals for Canada to consider bringing to the Conference of the Parties. We are currently evaluating the input that has been received. Canada will continue to engage the public and our provincial and territorial government counterparts in its preparations for CoP16 in 2013. More details on our consultation process are available on the Canada CITES website: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=3940EAE2-1>.

## **MEXICO**

### **Autoridad Administrativa**

#### **Monitoreo de *Crocodylus moreletii***

La DGVS implementó procedimientos para la conservación, manejo y uso de hábitat natural, poblaciones y ejemplares de la especie, a través de los programas de manejo de ecoturismo y manejo de manglar.

Elaboración y publicación del “**Protocolo Nacional de Atención a Conflictos con cocodrilianos en México**” (disponible en la página web de SEMARNAT). Este documento tiene como fundamento evaluar la naturaleza de los conflictos entre las poblaciones humanas y las poblaciones de cocodrilianos, será primordial para contribuir a plantear soluciones que beneficien tanto a humanos como a los cocodrylia, y a los sistemas naturales que los involucren, además de crear una conciencia de reportar todos los encuentros entre ser humano–cocodriliano.

Para 2012 se está preparando el “Taller de Fomento para la Conservación y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de *Crocodylus moreletii* (Cocodrilo de Pantano) y Reunión de Expertos sobre Tortugas Dulceacuícolas en México. El objetivo es reorientar las actividades de las UMA que trabajan con el cocodrilo de pantano para integrarlas al grupo de productores de piel de excelente calidad con fines de exportación. En cuanto a las tortugas dulceacuícolas, se espera reunir a expertos para determinar que hace falta en cuanto a conocimiento, y por otro lado que se debe hacer ante el incremento de la producción de tortugas en UMA y las dificultades de su comercio local y regional. El taller se efectuará en la ciudad de Palenque, Chiapas, del 25 al 27 de septiembre de 2012.

Se elaboró y publicó en 2012 en la página de la SEMARNAT el Plan de Manejo Tipo en la modalidad intensiva para tortuga blanca (*Dermatemys mawii*).

En proceso la elaboración del Plan de Manejo Tipo en la modalidad intensiva para el cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) para la producción de piel de excelente calidad para exportación, actualmente está en un 60% de avance, esperando concluirlo para septiembre de 2012.

### **Autoridad Científica**

Revisión periódica de *Caracara lutosa* (Caracara de Isla Guadalupe): Durante la 26ª reunión del Comité de Fauna (AC26; Ginebra 2012), México presentó (en el Anexo del documento AC26 Doc. 13.3) los resultados de la revisión de *C. lutosa*. Especie endémica de México y extinta (desde el año 1900 no se ha registrado un solo ejemplar en vida libre). El Comité de Fauna apoyó la propuesta de México para someter ante la CoP16 (Tailandia 2013) la propuesta de enmienda para eliminar la especie de los Apéndices de la CITES.

Propuesta de Enmienda sobre *Campephilus imperialis* (Carpintero Imperial): En el AC26, México presentó un proyecto de propuesta para eliminar *C. imperialis* de los Apéndices de CITES (AC26 Doc. 26.3). Especie

endémica y extinta (desde 1956 no se cuenta con ninguna observación confirmada en vida libre) México presentará una propuesta de enmienda con el apoyo del AC, para eliminar la especie de los Apéndices de la CITES en la CoP16 (Tailandia, 2013).

Monitoreo de poblaciones silvestres de *Crocodylus moreletii* (Cocodrilo de pantano): La Autoridad Científica de México desarrolló y aplicó la metodología descrita en el Manual de Procedimientos del "Programa de Monitoreo de *C. moreletii* en México." La primera temporada de la aplicación (2011) cubrió 1545 km de ríos y lagunas de México. El 78.9% de los sitios muestreados presentan un estado de conservación aparente de bueno a muy bueno. Se observaron 885 individuos, Tasa de encuentro = 3.117 ind/km, 78,000 indv=, similar a los resultados obtenidos en el CoPan 2002-2004. La estructura poblacional es saludable (33% crías, 32% juveniles y subadultos, 20% adultos y adultos grandes). Se capturaron 114 individuos con una proporción de sexos de 1.15 Machos: 1 hembra. El 90.9% de las hembras y 92.1% de los machos se encuentran en buen estado físico aparente. Guatemala mostró gran interés en participar y recibir capacitación de México para la implementación de este programa de monitoreo trinacional durante 2012.

### **Autoridad de Observancia de la Ley**

Las verificaciones de Agosto de 2011 a Abril del 2012 de los movimientos transfronterizos, en los principales puntos de ingreso y salida del país, para la importación, exportación y reexportación de ejemplares, productos y subproductos de vida silvestre, incluidos en el Acuerdo que establece la clasificación y codificación de mercancías cuya importación y exportación están sujeta a regulación por SEMARNAT ha sido un total de 5325. De las verificaciones realizadas, 4325 importaciones y 1000 a exportaciones de vida silvestre.

La PROFEPA ha realizado mejoras a su Sistema Institucional del Registro de Verificación (SIREV) como una herramienta para automatizar los trámites, brindarle un mejor servicio al ciudadano y contar con bases de datos confiables para el análisis de los movimientos transfronterizos, la toma de decisiones y la consolidación de políticas públicas, además, ha efectuado la interconexión entre el SIREV y el Sistema Nacional de Gestión Forestal de la Dirección General de Gestión Forestal y de Suelos-SEMARNAT, con la cual se hará más eficiente la atención de los trámites, el control de los saldos de la importación de maderas tropicales enlistadas en la CITES, tales como, caobas, cedrelas, dalbergias y guayacán. Así mismo, se desarrolla conjuntamente con el Servicio de Administración Tributaria de la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, la Ventanilla Digital Mexicana de Comercio Exterior, con la cual se agilizará y simplificarán la gestión de trámites, homologarán y automatizarán la ejecución de los trámites de la importación, la exportación y reexportación de vida silvestre.

Otras actividades: PROFEPA, como Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley CITES en México, realizó una serie de actividades relacionadas con información de verificaciones realizadas y registradas en el Sistema Institucional de Registro de Verificación (SIREV). De este modo se elaboraron informes para taxa faunísticos como el género *Rhinoclemmys* y para las especies *Isostichopus fuscus* e *Hippocampus ingens*, además de reportes para partes y derivados como decomisos de marfil y productos de elefante. En cuanto a flora se elaboraron informes y reportes sobre verificaciones de las exportaciones de *Dalbergia sp.*, *Swietenia microphylla*, *Guayacum sanctum*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Opuntia streptacantha*, *Euphorbia antisyphilitica* y *Yucca queretaroensis*.

Problemas detectados: A raíz de la invitación a la Reunión Anual de Formación de la Región 2 de las Oficinas de Aplicación de la Ley del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos de América (USFWS), se identificaron problemas en la interpretación de la legislación mexicana por parte de los Oficiales de Aplicación de la Ley de Estados Unidos de América al tratar de verificar los trofeos de caza provenientes de México. Por lo que se acordó: a) realizar la consulta sobre la documentación emitida por la Autoridad Administrativa CITES en México (Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT) para este tipo de mercancías; b) compartir información sobre los procedimientos de inspección/verificación en todos los puntos fronterizos de la frontera México-EUA; y c) elaborar un directorio de los Oficiales de Aplicación de la Ley, tanto estadounidenses como mexicanos, asignados a las oficinas de inspección en los Estados Fronterizos.

### **UNITED STATES**

U.S. preparations for CoP16: In June 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) initiated its process for allowing public input into preparations of the U.S. Government for the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16). Separate notices (June and November 2011) were published seeking recommendations from the public for amendments to Appendices I and II and for possible Resolutions, Decisions, and agenda items that the United States might submit for CoP16. USFWS is now going through the process of evaluating the recommendations received, informing the public of the recommendations received as well as proposals developed by the U.S. CITES authorities, and seeking additional information on them. The

U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities are also consulting with other U.S. Federal and State agencies and foreign governments on potential proposals and other documents for CoP16.

Working Group on Introduction from the Sea: The United States hosted a meeting of the Standing Committee Working Group on Introduction from the Sea in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in April 2012, where additional progress was made on chartering and other implementation issues associated with the issuance of CITES permits and certificates for specimens taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State. Based on the deliberations of the working group, documents were prepared at the meeting for consideration at SC62. The Vice-Chairman of the working group, from the United States, worked with the Chairman and the Secretariat on the planning and preparation of documents for the meeting, and five additional participants from the United States, representing various agencies, participated in the working group meeting.

Working Group on Implementation of the Convention Relating to Captive-bred and Ranched Specimens: The United States chaired the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on Implementation of the Convention Relating to Captive-bred and Ranched Specimens. The working group was tasked with analyzing the information compiled by the Secretariat in response to Notification to the Parties 2011/037, and any other input relevant to this issue, and reporting the results of these discussions at SC62. Specifically, the working group was asked to report on challenges described by Parties regarding the implementation and enforcement of the CITES provisions on captive breeding and ranching, and to present recommendations on how those challenges should be addressed in the CITES context. The working group had a productive discussion of these issues and, based on these discussions, developed a broad array of recommendations for the Standing Committee to consider at SC62. For more information on the working group's efforts, see the working group report prepared by the United States for this meeting.

Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles: The United States was elected chairman of the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles. The working group was directed to report on its deliberations to SC62. It conducted its discussions via e-mail and produced a written report with draft Decisions, recommending that the Committee forward those Decisions to CoP16 for consideration. Most of the report was agreed to by consensus in the working group, although a small number of issues need to be raised to the Standing Committee for its determination as to the appropriate course of action.

Working Group on Development and Application of Annotations: At SC61, the Standing Committee formed an intersessional working group, under the chairmanship of the Regional Representative of North America (the United States), to explore the shared understanding among Parties of annotations, and to explore the adoption of appropriate and reasonable procedures for crafting plant annotations, which may include recommending that annotations be developed in consultation with the Plants Committee; revising the discussion of annotations in the listing proposal format in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* to recommend, in addition to the elements already listed, that a proponent Party discuss the practical implementation of the annotated listing if adopted; and providing guidance in Resolution or other appropriate location, including in identification materials as appropriate. The chairman was unable to engage with the working group to complete work on this topic and, through a document submitted for SC62, will be seeking the guidance of the Standing Committee on a possible way forward.

Working Group on Timber Identification and Physical Inspection: At SC61, Italy, the chairman of this working group, tasked with collecting and assessing relevant existing materials on CITES timber identification and measurement (Decision 14.61 (Rev. CoP15)), announced that it would not be able to continue as the chairman. Therefore, the working group requested that the United States consult with the other members of the working group to identify a new chairman to progress the work of the group. Following SC61, Italy provided a written version of its oral report provided at SC61 to the United States. Further, during the intersessional period between SC61 and SC62, the United States consulted with other members of the working group, but no member was able to undertake the chairmanship. The United States has submitted a document for SC62 describing these efforts, including the written report from Italy as an Annex, and asking the Standing Committee to decide whether further work on this topic is needed and how to proceed.

Other Standing Committee working groups: In addition to the five working groups discussed above, the United States also participated on the following intersessional Standing Committee working groups: 1) CITES strategic vision; 2) review of Resolutions; 3) use of taxonomic serial numbers; 4) e-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species; 5) personal and household effects; 6) purpose codes on CITES permits and certificates; 7) Asian snake trade management, conservation, and enforcement; 8) conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses; 9) review of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15), *Trade in elephant specimens*; and 10) humphead wrasse.

U.S. CITES export tagging program: The United States cooperates with 47 States and 21 Native American Tribes and Nations on approved programs for the export of skins of the following Appendix-II species: bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); river otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); wolf (*Canis lupus*); brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). Each approved State or Native American Tribe or Nation applies CITES tags, provided by the USFWS, to skins of approved species taken in that State or Native American Tribe or Nation and intended for export from the United States. The USFWS issued nearly 647,000 tags during 2010 and over 658,000 during 2011. During the reporting period, USFWS became aware of a manufacturing defect to over 100,000 U.S. CITES tags manufactured in 2011. The majority of the affected tags were American alligator tags provided to the State of Louisiana. USFWS and the State of Louisiana cooperated in an extensive effort to identify and recall faulty tags. The Secretariat issued CITES Notification No. 2012/029 on March 21, 2012, informing the Parties of this problem.

U.S. CITES American ginseng program: In implementing the CITES Appendix-II listing of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), USFWS works closely with other Federal agencies and the 25 States that have approved American ginseng export programs. USFWS relies on those States 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. During the reporting period, 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. In May 2012, USFWS participated in a 2-day meeting in Wisconsin focused on issues associated with Wisconsin's American ginseng export program. The meeting was hosted by Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources. Participants included State, Federal, and Native American Tribal law enforcement personnel, ginseng growers, ginseng harvesters, Tribal representatives, and personnel from State and Federal agencies that regulate cultivated and wild ginseng in Wisconsin and its export from the United States.

Amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act regarding plants: During the reporting period, the U.S. Government continued its phased-in approach to a plant import declaration requirement called for in 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act, the United States' oldest wildlife protection law. USFWS is cooperating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to finalize regulations providing definitions of the terms "common cultivar" and "common food crop," as they apply in the Lacey Act, since such specimens will be exempt from declaration requirements. USFWS also provided additional national and international outreach on these new requirements.

USAID programs to counter illegal harvest and trade in wild species in other countries: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) continued support for the Forest Legality Alliance, which it initiated in 2009 to support multi-stakeholder discussions and devise solutions to avoid illegal wood products from entering into trade. The Alliance is managed by the World Resources Institute and includes participation from key trade associations, NGOs, service providers and companies like Staples, NewPage Corporation, and IKEA. Through the development of new tools, training, and pilot tests, the Alliance will enhance understanding of new demand-side requirements.

USAID's USD 200 million biodiversity conservation portfolio includes a range of field and policy interventions designed to address key threats to biodiversity in over 50 countries. Illegal and unsustainable exploitation and trade in terrestrial and marine wildlife, as well as commercially important timber species, is a challenge common to many countries. Through support for community-based natural resource management, protected area management, and wildlife management, USAID programs build the knowledge and capacity of local people, NGOs, and government institutions to conserve biodiversity through a variety of actions, including vigilance to poaching, environmental law enforcement, and sustainable use of natural resources. Programs generally aim to involve local people in the governance and management of biological resources, resulting in cost-effective and sustainable conservation by those who rely on ecosystem services and products the most. A selection of activities which contribute to CITES objectives are included below:

- *Southeast Asia:* As part of the Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST) Program, USAID helped to protect biodiversity and combat illegal wildlife trafficking by supporting the ASEAN-WEN and its new sister network, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SA-WEN). ARREST supports a range of activities including law enforcement capacity building, public awareness, and analysis of and response to the underlying reasons for demand in wildlife and wildlife products. In 2011, RDMA helped develop 14 policies, agreements and/or binding action plans to combat illicit trade of endangered wildlife and facilitated the establishment of a new national multi-agency ASEAN-WEN task force in Lao PDR.

- *Central Asia*: USAID support helped the Government of Afghanistan to finalize effective laws and implement regulations on rangeland management and protected areas, and on the conservation, hunting, and trade of wildlife. A transboundary program in the Daurian Steppe supported a successful second year of collaborative wildlife protection amongst border guards, protected area authorities, and police in Mongolia to reduce illegal wildlife trade with China in the months leading up to the 2012 Lunar New Year. A program in Kazakhstan is focused on curbing illegal hunting of saiga and trade in saiga horn.
- *Tiger range States*: USAID invested in the Project PREDATOR Partnership of Interpol, World Bank, and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute to support and enhance governance and law enforcement capacity in the 13 tiger range countries, to improve the conservation of wild tigers and other big cats. Project PREDATOR aims to: encourage communication, cooperation and collaboration with respect to intelligence exchange, cross-border investigations, and training; contribute to the apprehension of criminals and organized groups; and develop a global picture of criminal activity affecting the ongoing conservation of tigers and Asian big cats. PREDATOR holds high level police, customs, and wildlife enforcement seminars and calls upon countries to establish National Tiger Crime Task Forces connected regionally and internationally through INTEPOL.
- *Southeast Asia*: Through the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) program, USAID promoted legal timber trade and sustainable forest management in several of Southeast Asia's high biodiversity and major timber-producing countries. In 2011, 510,190 hectares were issued Verification of Legal Origin (VLO) or equivalent certificates, necessary for ensuring legal trade in harvested timber.
- *Philippines*: Following successful support for the enhancement of the Philippine judiciary's capacity to address environment related crimes, which led to the promulgation of the Supreme Court's new Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases, USAID supported completion of wildlife law enforcement codes, publication of the codes' primer, and trainings of 177 judicial representatives and wildlife enforcement officers. These activities resulted in a 50 percent decrease in the time of adjudication. In addition, USAID supported a Special Boat Unit in Palawan to help enforce environmental law, arresting 136 individuals and seizing vessels illegally carrying lumber, mangrove bark, sea turtles, and fish valued at USD 1 million.
- *Indonesia*: In collaboration with other U.S. agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Justice, USAID strengthened the Government of Indonesia (GOI) Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) capacity to manage marine protected areas and to reduce illegal fishing by incorporating training related to enforcing rules governing fish catches and identifying bottlenecks in prosecution of those involved in illegal activities. The GOI has now allocated their own budget to replicate and disseminate trainings to non-target districts and provinces.

#### Law enforcement actions:

- *Operation Crash*: In February 2012, USFWS special agents executed warrants in a coordinated nationwide enforcement action based on an ongoing undercover investigation of rhinoceros horn trafficking. Eight individuals have been charged to date, and additional arrests are expected. This investigation represents a focused effort to break up an organized rhino horn trafficking ring operating out of the United States.
- *Coral importer sentenced*: A U.S. Virgin Islands-based manufacturer of high-end jewelry, art, and sculpture pleaded guilty in connection with the illegal importation of CITES-protected black coral and was sentenced to a criminal fine of USD 1.8 million. The company must also make USD 500,000 in community service payments to support black coral conservation and forfeit more than USD 2.1 million worth of raw black coral and black coral jewelry and sculptures.
- *U.S. businessman indicted for African elephant ivory trafficking*: The owner of an African arts store in Philadelphia was arrested and charged with 10 felony counts for smuggling elephant ivory from Africa and selling new carvings to U.S. customers as antiques. USFWS special agents, whose investigation secured conspiracy, smuggling, and wildlife trafficking counts against the defendant, seized approximately one ton of African elephant ivory linked to the man's business.
- *Prison sentence for turtle trafficker*: A Japanese national investigated for spearheading an international wildlife trafficking ring specializing in CITES-protected turtles and tortoises was sentenced to 21 months in Federal prison and ordered to pay a USD 18,403 criminal fine to the Lacey Act Reward Account. This individual was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport in January 2011 in a foiled smuggling attempt involving 55 live turtles and tortoises. USFWS investigators showed that this defendant and his paid couriers made 42 trips to and from the United States from 2004 through 2011.
- *Smugglers sentenced for jaguar skin trafficking*: A Texas couple involved in the illegal interstate sale of jaguar skins smuggled from Mexico pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy and were sentenced to one year in Federal prison and subsequent deportation. The pair sold jaguar pelts to undercover USFWS special agents in Texas and Florida, offered both purchasers future deals on up to 10 additional pelts, and advertised skins for sale via the internet.
- *Ivory exporter sentenced*: A foreign national was sentenced in New York to time served, immediate deportation, and a USD 50,000 fine for attempting to smuggle 18 African ivory carvings out of the United

States. The ivory, valued at USD 55,000, was forfeited to the USFWS.

U.S. efforts related to Peruvian mahogany: The USFWS continued to work closely with Peru regarding its implementation of the Appendix-II listing of bigleaf mahogany. The United States has closely monitored the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during the reporting period and provided Peru with periodic reports on those imports, which totaled 837 cubic meters in 2011 and 16 cubic meters thus far in 2012. The USFWS continues to monitor the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru and 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.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS)/Peru Forest Sector Initiative (PFSI) continued to support the Ministerio de Ambiente (Ministry of Environment, MINAM), Peru's CITES Scientific Authority, and its technical advisor, the National Agrarian University in La Molina (UNALM), with population studies of bigleaf mahogany and Spanish cedar. USFS/PFSI technical assistance provided tools for analyzing the distribution and frequency of these CITES-listed species in Peruvian forests. The PFSI conducted a needs assessment in early 2012, which led to general recommendations and training seminars regarding methodologies and data-assessment tools. Experts from the USFS Remote Sensing and Application Center and the Northern Research Station provided the hands-on technical assistance. Other USFS-led detailers assisted in the assessment and preliminary planning with MINAM, UNALM and the Direccion General Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre, the National Forestry and Wildlife Authority.

USAID, through an interagency agreement with USFS, continued to assist the Government of Peru in meeting the requirements of the Environment Cooperation Agreement and the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA) Annex on Forest Sector Governance. USAID and USFS facilitated the process of prior consultation, especially among indigenous groups, for the new forestry law, and supported completion of the business mapping and design phase of a four-year process to create a National Forestry Information System that helps control the chain of custody for CITES-listed species, allowing for better enforcement of the forestry law and identification of areas to conduct investigations. USAID and USFS supported training to investigate and prosecute violations of Peruvian and international environmental law. The USAID mission to Peru also supported a program promoting the growth and consolidation of Forest Stewardship Council voluntary certification, helping companies and indigenous communities comply with the chain-of-custody requirements of the PTPA Forest Sector Governance Annex. 787,737 hectares of forest have been certified since 2008.

CITES Plant Rescue Center Program: During 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) confiscated 64 shipments of live plant material that were in violation of CITES. Of these 64 shipments, 54 were assigned to cooperating plant rescue centers, which include public botanical gardens, arboreta, zoological parks, and research institutions. The assigned shipments contained a total of 9,134 plants (3,000 Venus flytraps, 2,403 pitcher plants, 2,316 orchids, 1,384 cacti, 11 euphorbias, 10 aloes, 4 cycads, and 6 specimens of other taxa), 265 cycad seeds, and an additional 10 grams of hoodia seeds. In recent years, there has continued to be a general reduction in the number of shipments of live CITES-listed plants confiscated by USDA-APHIS. However, the numbers of plants assigned to plant rescue centers has increased. The number of confiscated plants assigned to rescue centers included 15,247 plants from 701 shipments in 2003-2005; 9,363 plants from 440 shipments in 2006-2008; and 19,940 plants from 284 shipments in 2009-2011.

U.S.CITES Annual and Biennial Reports: On 25 October 2011, the USFWS submitted, directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2010. The file (136,095 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2010. On 26 October 2011, the USFWS submitted to the CITES Secretariat the U.S. CITES biennial report for the years 2009 and 2010. This report summarized some of the major legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken by the United States during 2009-2010 in its implementation and enforcement of CITES. The USFWS has posted this report on its CITES website at [http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA\\_DSA/CITES/pdf/biennial%202009-2010.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/pdf/biennial%202009-2010.pdf).

U.S. elephant seizure data: On 30 April 2012, in response to CITES Notification No. 2012/034, regarding monitoring of illegal trade in ivory, USFWS submitted to TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa data files containing U.S. elephant part and product seizure data for the year 2011 for inclusion in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).

#### **4. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **UNITED STATES**

The United States consulted with Canada and Mexico and provided feedback on executive summaries from SC61 that were completed and circulated for review after the conclusion of the meeting. The United States also consulted within the North American Region and provided feedback regarding the posting of audio recordings of SC61; the region favored posting of audio recordings of the meeting in the interest of openness and transparency.

The United States serves as both the North American Regional Representative and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, and in the capacity of Vice-Chair had regular communications with the Secretariat and Chair of the Standing Committee, primarily by e-mail, throughout the intersessional period. These communications were largely for the purpose of the Secretariat providing informal updates on its activities, such as preparations for meetings (including CoP16), interactions with UNEP, and further investigation into the GEF as a potential funding source for CITES.

In June 2012, the United States, as the North American Regional Representative on the Standing Committee, will hold a conference call with Canada and Mexico as part of the regional consultation process in preparation for SC62.

#### **5. REGIONAL COOPERATION**

##### **CANADA**

The North America Region of CITES met by videoconference/teleconference and in person during 2011. A videoconference in January 2011 focused on issues of common interest. The Region also met by teleconference and in person onsite prior to meetings of the CITES Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee in 2011 to focus on regional preparations and positions for these meetings. Regional meetings allow us to better understand other North American parties' views and concerns, especially regarding shared species. Canada remains extremely pleased with the excellent communication and collaboration within the North American Region.

Regional and international cooperation for enforcement: Operation Green Sweep was a national enforcement project spawned from an action plan to target two commodities that were of concern to Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Division. The project was designed by Ontario region staff with the intent to implement enforcement activities nationally during a specified time period to target live reptiles and tropical fish/coral that were being imported into Canada. The project was carried out across Canada between August and December, 2011. Some enforcement activities are continuing that were an off shoot of this project. Some of the results that have been identified so far include:

- over 143 inspections performed across the country
- identification of illegal sales of live reptiles
- generation of valuable intelligence regarding the importation of live corals and reptiles

In response to the continued concern regarding the increased trade in rhino horn internationally, and continued concern for the illegal trade in elephant ivory in general, Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate is currently playing a lead role in an INTERPOL initiative to design, develop and deliver investigative enforcement training to range state countries in Africa. This initiative offered training for law enforcement officials in how to combat the illegal wildlife trade. Police and wildlife officers from 10 countries participated in a six-day training course, comprising classes, exercises and drills.

##### **MEXICO**

###### **Autoridad Científica**

Resolución sobre Dictámenes de Extracción no Perjudicial (NDFs): Durante las sesiones conjuntas de la 26ª reunión del Comité de Fauna y de la 20ª reunión del Comité de Flora (AC26/PC20; Dublín, 2012) —y en el marco del grupo de trabajo sobre NDFs (AC26/PC20 WG3)— la región América del Norte presentó el document AC26/PC20 Inf. 3 que consistía de una propuesta alternativa de borrador de resolución sobre NDFs. Que contribuyó constructivamente a la propuesta de Resolución sobre NDFs que adoptaron los Comités Científicos (AC26/PC20 WG3 Doc. 1; más enmiendas menores acordadas en Plenaria).



Guía de identificación de *Agalychnis*: Posterior a la inclusión del género *Agalychnis* en el Apéndice II (CoP15 Prop. 13), existieron cambios en su taxonomía. Con base en los acuerdos alcanzados en la AC25 (Ginebra, 2011), México preparó una guía de identificación para las ranas de este género tomando como base la referencia de nomenclatura propuesta por Frost 2011 (ver.5.4) y alineada con la nomenclatura de la CITES. Con el apoyo de la Canadá y Estados Unidos, la Guía fue traducida y está disponible en Inglés, español y francés en la página web de la CONABIO <http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/guiaRanas.html>. Dicha Guía ha sido presentada en la Reunión AC26 y XVII del Canadá / México / EE.UU. Comité Trilateral para la Conservación de Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas y Gestión (Nuevo México, 14 hasta 18 mayo 2012).

Revisión de la Resolución de la Conferencia 14.8: En seguimiento a las discusiones de la sesión conjunta AC26/PC20 (Dublín, 2012), durante la 20ª reunión del Comité de Flora (PC20) se estableció un grupo de trabajo (PC20 WG3) con el mandato de (*inter alia*) contribuir al trabajo de la revisión de la Res. Conf. 14.8. El grupo fue presidido por el Representante de la Región Norteamérica ante el Comité de Flora (Sr. Benítez, México), dónde participaron activamente observadores de Canadá, Estados Unidos y México. El PC20 adoptó (con enmiendas menores) la propuesta de revisión a la Res. Conf. 14.8 derivada de las recomendaciones del grupo de trabajo PC20 WG3 (incluida en el Anexo 2 del documento PC20 WG3 Doc.1). Posteriormente, la Presidenta del Comité de Flora sometió la propuesta de revisión a consulta postal de los miembros del Comité de Fauna, con miras a presentar a nombre de ambos Comités Científicos un documento de trabajo para la presente reunión del Comité Permanente (SC62; Ginebra 2012).

### **Autoridad de Observancia de la Ley**

Actualmente se participa en actividades de cooperación (Operativo CAGE, a realizarse durante le mes de mayo de 2012) con INTERPOL- *Wildlife Crime* en la lucha contra los delitos que afectan a la fauna y flora silvestre de México, con acciones en los cruces fronterizos y operaciones en los eslabones de la cadena de aprovechamiento de ejemplares, partes y derivados de especies de fauna y flora silvestres dentro del territorio nacional. En el caso de las acciones en cruces fronterizos, la finalidad es fortalecer las acciones de verificación, inspección y vigilancia de los movimientos transfronterizos de especímenes, partes y derivados, de flora y fauna silvestres sujetas a regulación y/o incluidas en alguna categoría de riesgo en la legislación nacional e internacional.

PROFEPA, Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley CITES en México, ha fortalecido la cooperación con el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos de América (USFWS por sus siglas en inglés), al haber invitado a la Oficina de Aplicación de la Ley de ese Servicio para participar en el **“Taller para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades de Funcionarios a Cargo de la Gestión y Aplicación de la Ley en Materia de Vida Silvestre en México” (febrero de 2012, Distrito Federal, México)** mediante la impartición de una conferencia, del mismo modo, el USFWS invitó a la PROFEPA a participar en dos de sus eventos anuales, la **“Reunión Anual de Formación de la Región 2 de las Oficinas de Aplicación de la Ley del USFWS” (Marzo de 2012, San Antonio, Texas, EUA)** y la **“Reunión Anual de Jefes Estatales de Aplicación de la Ley del USFWS” (Abril de 2012, Sheperdstown, West Virginia, EUA)** con la finalidad de exponer el trabajo, logros y avances, además de fortalecer la coordinación binacional.

Finalmente, en el marco del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas, la PROFEPA participó, a través de sus áreas de inspección y jurídica, en el **“Taller Teórico-Práctico en Investigación de la Escena del Crimen en Vida Silvestre” (Marzo de 2012, Oaxaca, México)** y en los talleres **“Taller sobre Aplicación de la Legislación Ambiental con Apoyo de Datos de Inteligencia”** y **“Taller de Intercambio de Experiencias en la Conducción de Investigaciones por Medios Electrónicos de Información para la Aplicación de la Ley en Materia Ambiental de Vida Silvestre” (ambos realizados en Marzo de 2012, Miami, Florida, EUA).**

### **UNITED STATES**

USFWS supports Canadian coral identification training: USFWS wildlife inspectors and Intelligence Unit analysts helped facilitate Canada's first National Coral Identification Workshop, held in Vancouver, Canada, under the sponsorship of Environment Canada and TRAFFIC North America. Inspectors provided presentations on U.S. coral smuggling cases while the Intelligence Unit prepared statistical data for use by workshop participants.

Cooperative inspections: USFWS wildlife inspectors and special agents teamed with Environment Canada and Canadian provincial enforcement officers to conduct inspection blitzes on the U.S.-Canada border in Washington, Vermont, North Dakota, and other States.

USFWS supports trilateral enforcement workshop: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit provided instruction in five course modules as part of a *Workshop for Intelligence Led Enforcement* conducted in Miami, Florida, under the sponsorship of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group.

Cross-training provided in Canada: A USFWS special agent provided training to new Environment Canada wildlife law enforcement officers during their basic training in Ottawa, Canada. Subjects covered included U.S. wildlife enforcement priorities, U.S. statutes, and cross-border cooperative investigations.

Cross-border wildlife trafficking foiled: An individual investigated by USFWS for commercial smuggling of both CITES and non-CITES species between Mexico and the United States paid a USD 12,000 penalty and abandoned USD 30,900 worth of wildlife.

USFWS supports CSI training in Mexico: A team of USFWS special agents and National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory specialists served as instructors for a crime-scene-investigation (CSI) training program for Mexican wildlife and criminal police authorities in Oaxaca, Mexico.

## **6. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **CANADA**

The Canadian network of Management Authorities communicates regularly. In October 2011, they held a national meeting with a focus on permitting policies and procedures. Enforcement officials and Scientific Authorities also attended.

The Canadian network of Scientific Authorities also communicates regularly by teleconference and email to discuss CITES related issues and further the program to develop standing non-detriment finding (NDF) reports, which are used to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens.

The Canadian Scientific Authority also communicates regularly with an Aboriginal Consult group to discuss CITES related issues as they pertain to Canadian Aboriginal peoples.

### **MEXICO**

#### **Autoridad Científica**

Taller de Evaluación de la contribución de las Unidades de Manejo para la Conservación de Vida Silvestre (UMA) al aprovechamiento sustentable y la conservación de la vida silvestre de México: Este taller se realizará en el segundo semestre del 2012 en México para identificar las oportunidades para mejorar el manejo administrativo de las UMA, que constituyen el principal esquema legal de aprovechamiento de la vida silvestre en México, donde algunas especies están incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES.

#### **Autoridad de Observancia de la Ley**

Taller para el fortalecimiento de capacidades de funcionarios a cargo de la gestión y aplicación de la Ley en materia de Vida Silvestre en México: En el mes de Febrero de 2012 en la Ciudad de México, México, la Dirección General de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras-PROFEPA (Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley CITES en México), coorganizó, en conjunto con TRAFFIC Norteamérica (ONG) y la Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT (Autoridad Administrativa) un taller de capacitación y actualización dirigido a 81 funcionarios mexicanos encargados de la gestión y aplicación de la Ley ambiental, a nivel federal y estatal. Uno de los principales resultados de este evento fue la capacitación del personal que realiza actividades de vigilancia, verificación e inspección en materia de comercio internacional de vida silvestre y maderas tropicales reguladas por la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre (CITES) así como en el manejo e identificación de especies de flora y fauna silvestre bajo algún régimen de protección o categoría de riesgo.

Taller Teórico-Práctico en Investigación de la Escena del Crimen en Vida Silvestre: En el mes de febrero de 2012 en la Ciudad de Oaxaca, México, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EUA impartió dicho Taller en el marco del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas con la finalidad de desarrollar una metodología para la identificación, recolección, mantenimiento y custodia de evidencias en la escena del crimen, que se adapte a las necesidades del sistema mexicano. El curso versó sobre la importancia de las buenas prácticas en la investigación de la escena del delito y sobre la índole y

pertinencia de las pruebas materiales. Manejó desde la actuación de las primeras intervenciones hasta la entrega de pruebas al laboratorio y su análisis de resultados.

Taller sobre Aplicación de la Legislación Ambiental con Apoyo de Datos de Inteligencia: Organizado en el mes de marzo en Miami, Florida, EUA, la PROFEPA asistió a este taller coordinado por la Comisión para la Cooperación Ambiental de América del Norte en el marco del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas, con el propósito de generar capacidades para el empleo de recursos para la investigación e inteligencia en el combate del tráfico ilegal de vida silvestre. Este fue dirigido al personal de las Agencias encargadas de la aplicación de la legislación ambiental en Canadá, México y EUA.

Taller de Intercambio de Experiencias en la Conducción de Investigaciones por Medios Electrónicos de Información para la Aplicación de la Ley en Materia Ambiental de Vida Silvestre: Organizado en el mes de marzo en Miami, Florida, EUA, se asistió a este taller organizado por la Comisión para la Cooperación Ambiental de América del Norte en el marco del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas, con el propósito de capacitar al personal para la recopilación de información, evaluación, integración, análisis y difusión como datos de inteligencia y el uso de medios electrónicos como una herramienta para la recopilación de información, como parte del proceso de inteligencia.

Reunión Anual de Formación de la Región 2 de las Oficinas de Aplicación de la Ley del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos de América (USFWS): Organizada por el USFWS en el mes de marzo en la Ciudad de San Antonio, Texas, EUA, se asistió a dicha reunión con el objetivo de exponer las acciones de la PROFEPA en materia de aplicación de la Ley en materia de vida silvestre en puertos, aeropuertos y fronteras, así como la normatividad y procedimientos existentes para las verificaciones, inspecciones y vigilancia de los movimientos transfronterizos de ejemplares, partes y derivados de las especies silvestres reguladas por la legislación internacional y nacional. En el evento participaron especialistas del USFWS, Autoridades Nacionales CITES de EUA y representantes de PROFEPA, y contó con la asistencia de 18 Inspectores Federales y 05 Agentes Especiales del USFWS. El compartir información y experiencias de la Autoridad Nacional CITES de Aplicación de la Ley en México, permitirá fortalecer los mecanismos regionales de intercambio de información para inhibir ilícitos relacionados con los movimientos transfronterizos de vida silvestre e implementar de forma más eficiente la CITES.

Reunión Anual de Jefes Estatales de Aplicación de la Ley del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos de América (USFWS): Organizado por el USFWS en el mes de abril en West Virginia, EUA, se llevó a cabo este evento periódico de gran relevancia para la evaluación estratégica de la aplicación de la Ley, relacionada con la vida silvestre en EUA. Es importante mencionar que a partir de "Taller para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades de Funcionarios a Cargo de la Gestión y Aplicación de la Ley en Materia de Vida Silvestre en México", celebrado en febrero del presente año, organizado por PROFEPA, WWF/TRAFFIC Norteamérica y la DGVS-SEMARNAT, se acordó fortalecer las acciones de coordinación regional para una adecuada implementación y operación de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre (CITES). Por lo anterior se expuso el trabajo, logros y avances, que se han tenido en la PROFEPA desde la asunción de las atribuciones, facultades y competencias en materia de recursos naturales en 1995. La reunión contó con la presencia de representantes de otras agencias gubernamentales de los EUA (Servicio de Parques, Servicio de Bosques, Agencia de Océanos y Atmósfera, entre otras) así como del Gobierno de Canadá.

## **UNITED STATES**

Free trade agreements and capacity building: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP), in consultation with USFWS, currently operates CITES capacity-building and training programs for the signatory countries of the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) and the Middle East and North Africa. All programs are funded by the U.S. Department of State. During the reporting period, CITES capacity building, education and outreach, and training activities were carried out under these programs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, CITES training workshops were conducted in Chile, Jordan, and Oman. ITAP also continues to cooperate with the Moroccan customs administration to strengthen their enforcement capacity.

USFWS supports new enforcement alliance: The USFWS supervisory intelligence analyst travelled to San Salvador, El Salvador, with DOI-ITAP in late September 2011 to assist with and provide wildlife enforcement training for the first meeting of the Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network.

CITES training for Moroccan customs: A USFWS senior wildlife inspector provided the first-ever CITES training to customs officials in Morocco under the sponsorship of the Department of the Interior's International Training

and Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP). *[Note: This training occurred in May 2011, but was not included in the U.S. report to SC61.]*

USFWS inspectors train Central American delegation: USFWS wildlife inspectors provided training to 22 inspectors from Central America and the Dominican Republic at the Miami International Airport in February 2012 in support of that region's Wildlife Enforcement Network. Instructors also included CITES officials from network member nations.

Criminal investigations training in Africa: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement conducted a 2-week training program on wildlife crime investigations at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana, for wildlife enforcement officers from sub-Saharan African countries in both June 2011 and June 2012. *[Note: The first of these programs occurred in June 2011, but was not included in the U.S. report to SC61.]*

USFWS participates in African wildlife workshop: USFWS CITES authorities participated in and provided presentations at the African Wildlife Consultative Forum workshop held in Swaziland in October 2011. Participants included government officials from southern Africa, wildlife researchers, professional hunters, and leaders of community and regional organizations that promote natural resource conservation and development. Discussion topics included: significant trade review; periodic review of species; export and import permit requirements to ship personal, sport-hunted trophies; species conservation issues; national conservation, enforcement, and wildlife management issues; training of professional hunters; and preparation of species proposals for upcoming CoPs.

Chinese CITES delegation visit: As part of the *Protocol on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Conservation of Nature* between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China, USFWS hosted a six-member delegation from the CITES Management Authority of China 11-17 April 2012. The first part of the visit consisted of meetings at the Arlington office between Chinese and U.S. officials discussing issues of mutual interest such as preparations for CoP16. The second part of the visit consisted of a trip to Louisiana to highlight successful sustainable use management programs in the United States. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hosted USFWS and the Chinese delegation. They provided history and background on American alligator management efforts and opportunities to see wildlife habitat and to release head-started alligators. The delegation also had a chance to visit an alligator farm that produces 70,000 animals per year and a local turtle farm that ships turtles to China.

Workshop to develop regional indicators for making non-detriment findings for queen conch exports: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) hosted a workshop 22-24 May 2012, to continue regional collaboration in the Wider Caribbean on sustainable queen conch fisheries. The workshop convened experts to develop draft indicators for making CITES non-detriment findings for exports of queen conch.

CITES enforcement officers visit the United States: In May 2012, Ben Janse van Rensburg, Chief of Enforcement Support, and Pia Jonsson, Enforcement Support Officer, with the CITES Secretariat visited the United States. The USFWS Divisions of Management and Scientific Authority and Office of Law Enforcement had the pleasure of hosting a series of meetings with Mr. van Rensburg and Ms. Jonsson. These meetings included a session with the U.S. Government Interagency CITES Coordination Committee and an informal meeting with U.S. CITES NGO stakeholders. In addition, Mr. van Rensburg and Ms. Jonsson met with a number of our CITES interagency partners including the Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor and Technical Assistance Program, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

## **7. PROBLEMS FACED BY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **UNITED STATES**

The United States can report that coordination within the region has continued to be excellent, and it has faced no special problems as Regional Representative.