

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Trigésima segunda reunión del Comité de Fauna
Ginebra (Suiza), 19 – 23 de junio de 2023

Cuestiones regionales

Informes regionales

NORTE AMÉRICA

1. Este informe, que abarca el período de junio de 2020 a marzo de 2023, fue preparado por Hesiquio Benítez, Representante Regional para América del Norte, en colaboración con las Autoridades CITES de Canadá, Estados Unidos y México*.

Resumen de los principales desarrollos - Un resumen de los comentarios del representante regionales sobre los desarrollos más importantes relacionados con el trabajo del Comité dentro de la región, incluidos los relacionados con:

- a) Examen del comercio significativo.

No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

- b) Revisión periódica de los Apéndices.

Canada. No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

México.

Como resultado del proceso de revisión periódica, el Comité de Fauna respaldó las conclusiones presentadas por México en el AC31 para mantener en el Apéndice II a tarántula gris mexicana (*Aphonopelma pallidum*), mantener en el Apéndice I a la tortuga de caja de Cuatrociénegas (*Terrapene coahuila*), y transferir del Apéndice I al II al perrito de las praderas (*Cynomys mexicanus*). La propuesta de enmienda sobre dicha transferencia fue adoptada por la CoP19 (Panamá 2022, CoP19 Prop. 6) y *T. coahuila* fue recategorizada de Amenazada (A) a En Peligro de Extinción (P) en la lista de especies en riesgo de México (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010).

Estados Unidos de América.

The Scientific Authority of the United States (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Division of Scientific Authority) submitted a periodic review for the Aleutian Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) and the Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) to the Thirty-first Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) in 2020. The AC supported the conclusion of the Periodic Review process that these two species be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. At CITES Cop19, the U.S. submitted proposals to transfer these two species from Appendix I to Appendix II and the proposals were adopted by consensus.

* 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.

c) Registro de establecimientos que crían especies animales del Apéndice I en cautiverio con fines comerciales.

Canada. No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

México.

Tomando en cuenta la opinión favorable del Comité de Fauna (SC71 Doc. 17), en la 74 Reunión del Comité Permanente (Lyon, Francia, 07 al 11 de marzo de 2022) se aprobó el registro de la UMA Earth Ocean Farms. S. de R. L. de C. V. como establecimiento que cría en cautividad especies de fauna incluidas en el Apéndice I con fines comerciales, entrando en vigor a partir del 25 de marzo de 2022 (SC74 Doc. 59.1.2; SC74 SR).

Estados Unidos de América.

In 2022, the USFWS registered 2 commercial breeding operations, one for Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*) and Gyrfalcon hybrids (*F. rusticolus* x *F. mexicanus*, *F. rusticolus* x *F. peregrinus*) and another operation that breeds Hyacinth Macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*).

d) Dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial (DEnP).

Canada.

In Canada, NDFs are determined on a permit-by-permit basis. For heavily traded species, standing NDF reports are prepared to support the issuance of export permits. Canada's species-specific standing NDF reports are developed in collaboration with the federal-provincial/territorial CITES Scientific Authorities working group, as well as participation and review by species experts and Indigenous peoples. Canada has standing NDF reports that cover the majority of Canada's trade including for Atlantic sturgeon, black bear, bobcat, Canadian lynx, cougar, goldenseal, grey wolf, grizzly bear, narwhal, polar bear, river otter and sandhill crane. Standing NDF reports are reviewed regularly and, as necessary, updated with the most recent information. They are available on the Environment and Climate Change Canada's website.

Canada funded the preparation of a report by Ernest W. D. Cooper entitled Review and Analysis of Canadian Trade in Polar Bears from 2012–2021. The report was completed in 2022 and is available here. It is a sequel to an earlier 2015 analysis by the same author which covered polar bear trade from 2005 to 2014. Canada is in the process of reviewing and updating its standing NDF report for polar bear.

México.

Entre junio 2020 y marzo 2023, la Autoridad Científica CITES (CONABIO) formuló 746 DEnP para 17 especies: *Alopias pelagicus*, *A. superciliosus*, *A. vulpinus*, *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Hippocampus ingens*, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Leopardus pardalis*, *Leopardus wiedii*, *Lynx Rufus*, *Ovis canadensis*, *Panthera onca*, *Phoenicopterus ruber*, *Puma concolor*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran*, *S. zygaena* y *Porites panamensis*.

En enero de 2023 se realizó el monitoreo aéreo de borrego cimarrón (*Ovis canadensis*) en Baja California Sur. La Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS-SEMARNAT, en su papel de Autoridad Administrativa CITES) y la CONABIO (Autoridad Científica) utilizarán los resultados para determinar las cuotas de aprovechamiento y emisión de DEnP para las próximas tres temporadas y para identificar futuras acciones de conservación.

Estados Unidos de América

The USFWS' Division of Scientific Authority (DSA) provided advice to the USFWS' Division of Management Authority on numerous animal species. The DSA issued approximately 800 individual non-detriment findings (NDF) for the export of CITES-listed species during the reporting period, in addition, to the NDFs we make in the form of General Advices. New general advices were also made for the export of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) from Montana and the import, export and introduction from the sea of biological samples collected by NOAA. We made our first NDFs on Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Apalone spinifera*), Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Common Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*), Razorback Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus carinatus*), Loggerhead/Stripeneck Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus minor*) and Eastern Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon subrubrum*).

e) Creación de capacidad.

Canada. No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

México.

La Autoridad Científica (CONABIO):

- Con el fin de fortalecer la implementación del Apéndice II para tiburones en México, CONABI: coordinó en conjunto con el CICESE y el INAPESCA la publicación del libro “Conservación, uso y aprovechamiento sustentable de tiburones mexicanos listados en la CITES” (2022), elaboró en conjunto con WWF y la SOMEPEC una video-cápsula para el fortalecimiento de los Dictámenes de Extracción No Perjudicial (DENP) (2021), y diseñó materiales de difusión e impartió cursos de creación de capacidades en los principales puertos pesqueros del país en el marco del proyecto *Strengthening the implementation of CITES in Mexico for Appendix II listed sharks* (SOMEPEC-CONABIO-WWF; financiado por *Shark Conservation Fund*) (2022). Estos materiales se encuentran disponibles en la liga: <https://bit.ly/mitiburon>
- En 2021 se publicaron en la página web de la CITES los manuales de procedimientos para la formulación de Dictámenes de Extracción no Perjudicial (NDF) para borrego cimarrón (*Ovis canadensis*), puma (*Puma concolor*) y lince (*Lynx rufus*), caballitos de mar (*Hippocampus spp.*) y tiburones elaborados por la Autoridad Científica CITES de México: <https://cites.org/esp/virtual-college/ndf?page=0>
- Impartió más de 15 pláticas sobre la CITES, sus objetivos y su aplicación en foros como: Diplomado de “Medio ambiente, cambio climático y derechos humanos” para la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación; diplomado de “Gestión local del medio ambiente y del territorio” de la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Ordenamiento Territorial de Guanajuato; Diplomado “Derecho Ambiental y Acceso a la Justicia Ambiental” en el Instituto Mexicano para la Justicia; y la “Reunión Nacional de UMA y PIMVS” con productores de especies CITES, entre otros.

La Autoridad de Aplicación de la Ley (PROFEPA):

- En diciembre de 2021 llevó a cabo un “Curso Práctico de Identificación de la Totoaba (Buche)”, en el que se capacitaron a 226 verificadores aduanales, así como personal de CONAPESCA y de la PROFEPA.
- Entregó 45 equipos con herramientas para verificar el movimiento transfronterizo de ejemplares, partes y derivados de especies silvestres además de materiales de referencia rápida para la identificación taxonómica de especies, al personal de verificación e inspección asignado a los puertos marítimos e interiores, aeropuertos con vuelos internacionales y cruces fronterizos terrestres.

A su vez, durante el 2022, CONABIO y la PROFEPA trabajaron en el desarrollo de materiales sobre la CITES, las herramientas para la identificación de especies y se generaron propuestas para implementar acciones operativas conjuntas para la iniciativa de Aduanas Verdes, la cual busca capacitar a los funcionarios de la Agencia Nacional de Aduanas de México (ANAM) en materia de mercancías que se consideran ambientalmente sensibles. Además, ambas autoridades CITES participaron en un diplomado dirigido al personal de la Guardia Nacional, con el propósito de capacitar a 50 integrantes del Batallón Ambiental, con una serie de conferencias sobre implementación de la CITES, herramientas de identificación, procedimientos para la verificación a la importación y exportación de vida silvestre, y a la importación de productos y subproductos forestales, sujetos a regulación por parte de la SEMARNAT.

Estados Unidos de América

The U.S. Department of State provided funding to the CITES “Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants” (MIKE) to build the capacity of elephant range States in South-East Asia to meet their international commitments made under CITES. They also supported “Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands” that aims to build enforcement and CITES capacity throughout Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, leading to increased enforcement efforts and reductions in poaching and illegal trade.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program:

The USFWS International Affairs program, through its financial assistance to combat illegal trade, is funding numerous projects around the globe relevant to CITES species in collaboration with NGO partners, universities, governments, and the CITES Secretariat. Additionally, USFWS recognizes the integral role of people in conservation and, as one of its strategic priorities, aims to address the human dimensions of the illegal trade in wildlife. This priority makes explicit a focus on understanding and influencing the behaviours of the varied actors along the illicit trade chain. To this end, rigorous social science is needed to identify, describe, and understand the range of actors involved in wildlife trafficking, including their roles, characteristics, and motivations, which can be context-specific and can change over time. This social science information is critical to informing more targeted, context-specific, and effective interventions.

- Launched in 2022, the USFWS’ Species Conservation Catalyst Fund (SCCF) takes a comprehensive, and strategic approach to reduce the trafficking of targeted species by supporting work that catalyzes significant and sustained change at either the demand or range points along a species’ trade chain. The first two trafficking issues to be addressed through the SCCF are: 1) The poaching of saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) for the international trade of its horn, and 2) The illegal capture of cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) cubs from the Horn of Africa for the live pet trade. A third initiative is in the early stages of implementation

targeting both CITES and non-CITES listed species of songbirds trafficked from Latin America and the Caribbean for singing competitions and the pet trade. A Notice of Funding Opportunity for the songbird initiative is expected to be released in 2023.

- USFWS has cultivated a close working relationship with the CITES Secretariat and other partners to fund the implementation of Decisions and Resolutions and help develop CITES Parties' capacity. In 2022, USFWS established a cooperative agreement with the CITES Secretariat to support CITES Authorities in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia to strengthen CITES compliance and wildlife law enforcement.
- USFWS social scientists have been working closely with the CITES Secretariat to provide technical expertise for the development of the CITES demand reduction guidance. USFWS is also funding aspects of this work.
- To help build CITES technical capacity in countries most vulnerable to wildlife trafficking and unsustainable harvest of CITES listed species, DOI-ITAP, in partnership with the USFWS Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program, facilitated participation in the 2022-2023 CITES Master's Course for 14 CITES officials from nine countries across Central and East Africa. These scholars have completed their thesis research on topics relevant to the CITES needs of their respective countries and will be defending their theses to the International University of Andalucia in June 2023.

Since 2018, ongoing USFWS CWT funded projects (N=20) are supporting initiatives focusing broadly on law enforcement and CITES capacity, as well as specific measures to counter trafficking for threatened CITES taxa and species. Project examples include:

- Improving awareness and capacities for management and enforcement in relation to lion bone and associated wildlife trade in Lao PDR, Vietnam, and the People's Republic of China.
- Saving Africa's Lions Through the Development of a Range-Wide Threat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Based on Improved Understanding of Threats and Associated Lion Mortalities.
- Strengthening Law Enforcement and Improving Awareness for Conservation of Pangolins, Star Tortoises, and Other Lesser-Known Species in Illegal Wildlife Trade in Peninsular India.
- People for Snow Leopards: Local Community Action Integrated with National and Global Strategies to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in India.
- Protection for the Critically Endangered Ploughshare Tortoise (*Astrochelys yniphora*) Against Wildlife Trafficking in Madagascar.
- Strengthening Malaysia's Effectiveness in Implementing and Enforcing CITES in Order to Reduce Illegal Trade of CITES-Listed Species.
- Understanding the trafficking of raptors in the Middle East.
- Understanding and Building Capacity to Address Illegal Wildlife Trade in Rwanda.
- Reinforcing the Capacity to Implement CITES Legislation in Practice in Cote d'Ivoire.

Capacity Building Activities by the USFWS' Office of Law Enforcement, Wildlife Inspection Program.

- a) Tanzania and Zanzibar / CITES and Counter Wildlife Trafficking / September 2022 – USAID/DOI-ITAP - Partnering with the Tuhafadi Maliasli program.

USFWS' Wildlife Inspectors (WI) planned, conducted, and facilitated three counter-wildlife trafficking workshops in Tanzania/Zanzibar targeting 60 non-law enforcement personnel that work in the aviation industry. WI's collaborated with Tanzania and Zanzibar CITES officers, Traffic-Tanzania, Tanzanian Wildlife Authority, and other local natural resource and travel industry experts to provide training that included a basic overview of CITES, wildlife trafficking interdiction, and health and safety practices. WI's recommended future efforts to include focused training with law enforcement authorities of Tanzania and Zanzibar.

- b) Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Program (WTIP) and Virtual Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Program (VWTIP)

This two-week in person (80 hours), one-week virtual (20 hours) course, taught by USFWS' Office of Law Enforcement, provided an overview of various wildlife trafficking investigative topics. The curriculum focuses on endangered species law; CITES implementation and trafficking interdiction; wildlife identification; case initiation and management; digital evidence; forensics and crime scene processing; surveillance; undercover operations; money laundering; interviewing; ethics and corruptions; raid planning; report writing and court preparation. The course emphasizes an open dialogue throughout the course which provides the opportunity for host nations to gain insights on specific wildlife trafficking problems faced by the participating countries. Instructors introduce and discuss techniques and methods available to combat specific wildlife investigative issues. An open forum session with a USFWS Attaché allows participants to build direct investigative exchanges with their U.S. counterparts. This exchange of intelligence and investigative cooperation is essential in combating trafficking of CITES

protected species. During 2021, these VWTIP training courses were attended by many African, Asian, and Latin American countries.

- c) Wildlife Border Inspection Training Program (WBITP) and Virtual Wildlife Border Inspection Training Program (VWBITP):

This one-week in person (40 hours), five-day virtual (20 hours) curriculum, taught by USFWS and United States Customs and Border Protection, provided an overview of various wildlife border inspection topics that are reinforced through classroom exercises. The WBITP involves intensive instruction concentrated on smuggling interdiction at various types of international ports of entry. The curriculum focuses on CITES implementation and enforcement; wildlife trade data; wildlife identification; case initiation and management; interviewing; border interdiction; evidence processing; ethics and corruptions; and court preparation. Instructors offer best practice techniques to combat specific wildlife inspection issues. An open forum session with a USFWS Attaché allows participants to build direct investigative exchanges with their U.S. counterparts. This exchange of intelligence and investigative cooperation is essential in combating trafficking of CITES protected species. During 2021, these VWBITP training courses were attended by many African, and Asian countries.

- d) Wildlife Seizure Training Program (WSTP) and Virtual Wildlife Seizure Training Program (VWSTP): This three (3) day curriculum provides an overview of CITES enforcement and implementation; wildlife identification; seizure authority; inspection techniques and evidence handling at port of entry environments. This program focuses on the legal authority to seize and the ability to meet the legal threshold for seizure illegal wildlife and wildlife products. Elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn parts and products are the primary wildlife identification of focus, but regionally specific wildlife is included in the curriculum for this program. The WSTP encourages interaction between instructors and class participants and concentrates on the wildlife inspection and identification techniques used by USFWS in combating trafficking in the United States. During 2021 and 2022, this WSTP training program was Conducted Botswana, India, Namibia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

- f) otros.

Canada. No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

México.

México sometió el proyecto "Fostering sustainable, legal and traceable use and trade of wild native species in Mexico" (2020) en la séptima reposición del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (Global Environment Facility (GEF-7). El PRODOC se encuentra en fase de desarrollo y se pretende someter al GEF en junio del presente año. El objetivo del proyecto es fomentar la conservación de las especies silvestres autóctonas mexicanas y sus hábitats a través de la extracción y el comercio sostenibles, legales y trazables, la mejora de las cadenas de valor nacionales e internacionales y acciones para abordar los factores principales causantes de la pérdida de diversidad biológica en cinco áreas focales biculturales. La lista de especies focales incluye varias especies incluidas en el Apéndice II de la CITES.

Como parte del GEF-8, se elaboró el anteproyecto denominado "Del conflicto a la co-existencia, salvaguardando los corredores biológicos de México para el desarrollo sustentable" (From conflict to coexistence, safeguarding wildlife corridors in Mexico for sustainable development), que busca contribuir a detener y revertir la pérdida de poblaciones de vida silvestre y sus hábitats en México fomentando la coexistencia y favoreciendo su aprovechamiento legal a través de medios de vida sustentables encaminados a transformar los paisajes en prósperos y resilientes.

La Autoridad Científica (CONABIO) coordinó los siguientes proyectos/actividades:

1. "Evaluación del impacto y pertinencia de las liberaciones experimentales de totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) producida en cautiverio como estrategia de conservación de la población silvestre" realizado por la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California desde 2020, cuyos resultados se publicarán en 2023. A través de muestras genéticas de especímenes liberados y recapturados, decomisados y recolectados con fines científicos, el proyecto sugiere que: la población de totoaba ha permanecido estable demográficamente; existe alta diversidad genética (una de las mayores en la familia Scianidae); el tamaño efectivo de la población no es reducido y no muestra efectos de sobreexplotación; el 99.9% de los ejemplares liberados puede identificarse y trazar su origen a los progenitores de cautiverio diferenciándolos de cualquier otro ejemplar en cautiverio y vida silvestre; no existió evidencia de que las liberaciones pongan en riesgo la diversidad genética de la población silvestre; los ejemplares son liberados entre los 3 y 6 meses de vida, y algunos se han llegado a encontrar en los decomisos de pesca ilegal ya en edades adultas (más de 6 años), lo que refleja que existe reclutamiento de los ejemplares liberados.

2. Programa de Monitoreo del Cocodrilo de Río (*C. acutus*), con el apoyo de Universidades y Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, en cuatro regiones costeras del Mar Caribe y el Pacífico Mexicano en 2021-2022. Los análisis y la línea base del estado actual de la población nacional se publicarán en 2023.
3. Desarrollo del Manual de Monitoreo para las tres especies de cocodrilos mexicanos desde 2021, con base en el manual previo para *C. moreletii* (Sánchez-Herrera, et al., 2010), y de una estrategia de financiamiento para su implementación a largo plazo, a publicarse en 2023.
4. Actualización de la información biológica y comercial legal e ilegal sobre las tortugas dulceacuícolas *Claudius angustatus* y *Staurotypus triporcatus* en México, realizadas por el Instituto de Biología de la UNAM en 2020-2021, que sirvieron de base para su inclusión en el Apéndice II de la CITES en la CoP19 (Panamá, 2022; CoP19 Prop. 28 (Rev. 1); CoP19 Prop.30).
5. Con apoyo de académicos y ONG se elaboró y presentó, en co-proponencia con Brasil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Estados Unidos de América y Panamá, la propuesta de enmienda para incluir dos especies del género *Kinosternon* al Apéndice I, y las demás especies del género (20 especies) en el Apéndice II, misma que fue adoptada por la CoP19 (Panamá, 2022; CoP19 Prop. 29).

Estados Unidos de América

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) provided 50,000 USD in grant funds towards the Sponsored Delegates Project to ensure that delegates of developing CITES countries were able to participate at CITES CoP19, and the 75th and 76th meetings of the CITES Standing Committee.

In fulfillment of Decision 18.229, NOAA Fisheries provided 306,695 USD in grant funds to Project Seahorse for an analysis and study of implementation and enforcement challenges concerning the trade in dried seahorses; an analysis and study on trade in live seahorses in key consumer countries; dissemination and presentation of the results at CoP19; and plans for an expert workshop to advance implementation of CITES for trade in seahorses, focused on Asia. NOAA Fisheries also provided 50,000 USD in grant funds for a consultancy to complement the work undertaken by Project Seahorse and co-funded an expert workshop.

Actividades de los representantes regionales- Un resumen de las actividades de los representantes regionales, incluidos los problemas que han encontrado o que enfrenta su región, incluida la participación de representantes regionales en cualquier reunión o evento nacional, regional o internacional relevante para el trabajo del Comité.

No hay actividades que reportar en este período.

Cooperación regional y prioridades- Un resumen de las actividades de cooperación clave dentro de la región relevantes para el trabajo del Comité, incluidas las prioridades regionales para fortalecer la base científica de la implementación de la CITES, incluidas las actividades para proporcionar capacitación a las Autoridades Científicas (es decir, proyectos y publicaciones, etc.) dentro del región y cooperación con actores relevantes y organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG).

The members of the North America Region communicate regularly as part of our ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional CITES issues including CITES implementation, preparations for CITES meetings, and other CITES issues of interest to our region.

Canada.

Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and Mexico hosted the second edition of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Workshop on Combating Illegal Trade of Wildlife Species, with a focus on sharks and rays, May 2-4, 2023. The focus of the workshop was to highlight the importance of these species to our oceans, to discuss the current status of illegal trade of sharks and stingrays in the Trans-Pacific region, and to learn about some science-based tools for the identification of illegal trade and related species. The overall objective was to inform scientific, legal and policy experts to draw on lessons to continue developing effective public policy to protect these species where needed.

Mexico.

En el marco de la 25a reunión del Comité Trilateral Canadá/México/Estados Unidos para la Conservación y el Manejo de la Vida Silvestre y los Ecosistemas (virtual, mayo 2021), sesionó la Mesa de trabajo sobre la CITES, durante la cual se trabajó en preparación del AC31 y PC25. También sesionó la Mesa de Trabajo de Especies Compartidas de Interés Común, en la cual se planea el apoyo a los movimientos transfronterizos de ejemplares vivos y material parental en los proyectos binacionales de conservación de especies prioritarias.

Posteriormente, durante las 26ª reunión del Comité Trilateral volvió a sesionar la Mesa de Trabajo de Especies Compartidas de Interés Común, en la cual informó que PROFEPA facilitó y verificó el movimiento transfronterizo de bobo patas azules, lobo mexicano, tecolotito abajeño y berrendo.

Estados Unidos de América

In this reporting period, we discussed CITES issues at the CITES Table during our annual Trilateral Meeting. 2021 Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management: On May 17-20, 2021, the CITES Table of the Trilateral Committee was convened by the Scientific and Management Authorities of Canada, Mexico, and the United States to coordinate on CITES activities in all three Committees and prepare for the next Conference of the Parties. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual Committee Meetings continued during this timeframe. So too, this was the first ever virtual meeting of the Trilateral. Outcomes from the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC73; May 5-7, 2021) Virtual Meeting were discussed, and priorities and topics of mutual interest were identified for SC74 (March 7-11, 2022), with an aim to ensure a manageable meeting agenda given the constraints of working virtually. In preparation for the 31st meeting (AC31; that was to be held virtually May 31– June 24, 2021) of the Animals Committee 25th meeting (PC25) of the Plants Committee (held virtually, June 2-24, 2021), the meeting facilitated tri-national development, review, and finalizing of multiple Regional Positions, with at least 24 specific AC31 interventions and at least 17 PC25 interventions. Among the outcomes of preparations for the CoP19; initiated at the Trilateral, Mexico and the United States, with Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Panama, submitted a proposal to include *Kinosternon cora* and *K. vogti* in Appendix I and all other species of *Kinosternon* spp. in Appendix II (except the species included in Appendix I), which was adopted by the Parties at CoP19.

Reuniones y talleres – Un resumen de reuniones y talleres significativos realizados dentro de la región relevantes para el trabajo del Comité.

a) Dentro de la Región;

México.

Los días 3 y 4 de marzo de 2021 CONABIO y PROFEPA participaron en el taller sobre el Combate al Tráfico Ilegal de Vida Silvestre, en el marco del Tratado Integral y Progresista de Asociación Transpacífico (TIPAT). Se impartieron charlas sobre “Política Pública y Regulaciones: Desarrollar políticas efectivas para el uso sostenible de especies de vida silvestre mientras se aborda el comercio ilegal” y “Estudios de caso: detección, investigación y notificación del comercio ilegal de tortugas”. Entre los participantes en esta actividad figuran funcionarios de control de fronterizo y cumplimiento de la ley, miembros de la comunidad científica y tecnológica, así como diplomáticos y expertos en asuntos Internacionales.

y

b) Otras reuniones y talleres (fuera de la Región).

México.

Del 3 al 9 de julio de 2022, Chetumal, México, fue sede de la 26a Reunión Mundial del Grupo de Especialistas en Cocodrilos de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (CSG-IUCN), cuyo tema central fue: Aprovechamiento Sustentable para la Conservación. Con más de 200 participantes de más de 35 países, la reunión representó un importante espacio para el intercambio de conocimiento sobre las 24 especies del mundo y de casos de éxito en su manejo y uso sustentable. Se realizaron 4 conferencias magistrales, 84 presentaciones orales y la exposición de 66 carteles, así como un foro público en el que se presentaron 25 ponencias y se proyectaron 77 audiovisuales, con un alcance de más de 11 mil personas a través de las redes sociales de la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) y la Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP). Durante dicha reunión, la participación de DGVS-SEMARNAT fue importante para posicionarse ante investigadores y productores como parte esencial de las actividades con los cocodrilos y presentó los carteles “Comercio Transfronterizo de Ejemplares, Partes y Derivados de Vida Silvestre” y “Manejo intensivo de la vida silvestre en México”.

Inspectores Federales de la PROFEPA, participaron en el “Taller sobre Tráfico y Amenazas a los Felinos Silvestres en el sur de México: Corredor Laguna de Términos-Calakmul” (Cancún, 2-3 de agosto de 2022), impartido por la OSC Panthera, cuyo objetivo fue evaluar y priorizar las amenazas de los felinos a escala regional y en los sitios focales (corredor Laguna de Términos-Calakmul), la identificación de precursores de amenazas en donde se producen las sinergias así como la detección de los probables perpetradores de caza ilegal para comercio de las partes del cuerpo o venta para mascotas principalmente de jaguar (*Panthera onca*) así como la cacería por represalias por ataques y depredación a borregos. Además de la participación de funcionarios a nivel federal también se contó con la participación de funcionarios de aplicación de la ley a nivel estatal y municipal,

así como de la Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), investigadores, ejidatarios y diversas OSC. De acuerdo con Morcatty *et.al.* 2020, CITES 2021, la demanda asiática está asociada con el comercio de felinos en Suramérica debido a la demanda de dientes y garras, así como el trasiego de productos y subproductos de *Panthera onca* en el corredor Mesoamericano México, Guatemala, Belice y Honduras, cruces transfronterizos que facilitan el comercio ilegal y abastecen la demanda del CO, el cual se encuentra diversificado. La capacitación fue proporcionada por un especialista en *Panthera tigris*, exponiendo el *modus operandi* en Bangladesh.

El 2 de septiembre de 2022, se impartió a la Organización Mundial de Aduanas, dentro de un webinar en vivo, el “Curso práctico de identificación de vejiga natatoria de Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), con la participación 200 asistentes de diferentes partes del mundo, el cual fue traducido gracias a la aportación de Corea del Sur, al inglés, francés, chino, el cual tuvo el propósito de hacer llegar a los países de destino y tránsito la problemática que enfrenta nuestro país por su tráfico ilícito, principalmente en mercados asiáticos.

CONABIO apoya la organización del “Taller regional de la UICN para la actualización del estado de amenaza en las tortugas dulceacuícolas y terrestres mesoamericanas” a celebrarse en la Ciudad de México en julio de 2023, donde la UICN y expertos evaluarán los criterios de la Lista Roja de 36 especies.

Estados Unidos de América

Saiga antelope efforts - In March 2023, USFWS convened a cohort of project partners working to counter the illegal trade of saiga antelope with USFWS funding. The purpose of this meeting was to strengthen collaboration amongst the partners, align with broader saiga conservation initiatives, identify joint opportunities, and avoid duplication. During this meeting, the project partners mapped their activities onto the 2021-2025 Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (MTIWP) to identify where each project was contributing to the MTIWP. The project partners also conducted a collaborative evidence gap analysis to identify where evidence gaps still exist and how those gaps can be filled. Efforts are underway to ensure that this work is aligned with complementary investments, including those also led by the United States, to support the CITES Secretariat's efforts related to stockpile management and monitoring.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP), with funding from the U.S. Department of State and the USFWS and partnerships with governments, NGOs, and academia, provided a variety of support to CITES officials and efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period June 2021 – April 2023. Highlights include the following:

Regional coordination and support to attend CITES CoP19:

- June 2022 and August 2022 – DOI-ITAP hosted virtual pre-CITES CoP19 coordination meetings for CITES Scientific and Management authorities from the U.S., Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Panama.
- Nov 2022 – DOI-ITAP and USFWS supported participation of regional official in global Wildlife Enforcement Network meeting in Panama including CITES officials and NGOs from the Caribbean, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, and Argentina.
- Nov 2022 – DOI-ITAP and USFWS supported participation of regional officials at CITES CoP19. A total of 17 officials from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay received support.

Creation and launch of technological solutions to improve CITES implementation and enforcement:

- Throughout 2021 - DOI-ITAP and a USFWS database specialist provided ongoing support and technical advising on the CITES permit database developed for Morocco.
- March 2022 - The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), in partnership with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), and the US Embassy in Amman hosted an event to launch the CITES electronic application for mobile devices that was developed during the past years to support the implementation of CITES in Jordan. High level attendees included Princess Basma and Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein from Jordan.
- 2021-2023 - DOI ITAP contributed to the development of CITES+ permit and border control electronic systems: El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama (development stage completed). DOI also donated computer tablets to these CITES offices to support user access to the electronic systems. With the operation of these systems, countries will be able to electronically manage:
 - Procedures and payments in lines of permits and CITES licenses
 - Management, monitoring and issuance of permits electronically
 - Verification of permits at control points, using QR code and electronic signatures
 - Automation of annual reports of illegal trade and traffic
 - Digitization of incidents

- March 2023 - DOI Assistant Secretary Carmen Cantor participated in “Our Ocean” conference in Panama including a visit to the CITES offices in Panama to see electronic CITES+ permit system.
- 2022-2023 – DOI-ITAP, Instituto Costarricense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INCOPECA), and start-up fisheries tech company Remora created and launched a fisheries digitalization platform project with Costa Rica including CITES-listed species. The system will also include a module adding INCOPECA as a CITES Authority to the platform.

Strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement via collaborative training, scientific research, networking, and coordination:

- June – July 2021. 106 Panamanian officers graduated from two diploma courses on environmental law applied to wildlife. Both diploma courses included modules on the general aspects of CITES, the observance and application of the agreement in Panama. This effort was possible thanks to the collaboration between DOI ITAP and the Higher Institute of the Judiciary (ISJUP) and the Fiscal Training School of the U.S. Department of Justice Nation's Attorney General's Office.
- October 2021 – 109 officials from different countries participated in the Virtual Seminar on CITES legal issues and enforcement “Strengthening Capacity on the CITES Convention” virtual presentation and CITES training -. CITES Secretariat This effort was coordinated by the Legal Unit of the CITES Secretariat, the ROAVIS Enforcement Network and DOI ITAP. Participants included CITES and Enforcement Authorities. Countries included Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and the USA.
- October 2021 – 100 Guatemalan officials graduated with a diploma in environmental law which included modules on international treaties/CITES and CITES implementation and enforcement in Guatemala. This effort was coordinated with the Training Unit (UNICAP) of the Public Ministry and the School of Judicial Studies of the Supreme Court of Justice. Participants included judges and prosecutors.
- October 2021 - DOI-ITAP supported a CITES training for Jordan's Royal Rangers, which monitor environmental rules. The one-day training focused on CITES regulations and the challenges that Jordan faces with wildlife trafficking and confiscation. The training also included biodiversity education and the importance of cooperation between different agencies and organizations.
- October 2021 - DOI-ITAP supported the Jordanian Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN)-led training that focused on CITES education and orientation, the importance of eco-tourism revenue for local communities, and safety interacting with wildlife. Trainees learned how to write CITES violations, how to manage wildlife confiscation, and how to identify illegal activities inside the protected areas. This training was followed by case studies and mock situation practices.
- October-December 2021 - DOI-ITAP, in partnership with RSCN, held three trainings for the Customs Department for agents stationed at the borders. RSCN delivered a hands-on training on the CITES mobile application using newly issued computer tablets. The sessions included interactive discussions about CITES and the challenges that Jordan faces, Jordanian regulations and its position as a Category 1 country, and partnerships to implement CITES.
- December 2021 – DOI-ITAP, in conjunction with the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, Fundación Entropika, and the Colombian and Peruvian National Police, delivered an animal handling and sampling training course, which included hands-on exercises, in Leticia, Colombia. Participants also included police, CITES officials, veterinarians, and U.S. technical experts. Because of this workshop, Fundación Entropika created the first ever Spanish language animal forensic sampling field guide.
- December 2021 – DOI-ITAP provided support to the International Primatological Society meeting in Ecuador.
- 2022-2023 – DOI-ITAP facility supported the CITES and Fisheries authorities of Guatemala in the implementation of the Study on Estimation of biometric data and parameters to set the commercial quota for dry fins and skin of dusky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and thresher sharks (*Alopias pelagicus*, *Alopias superciliosus*, *Alopias vulpinus*) landed on the Pacific coast of Guatemala. The generation of biometric parameters of fresh and dry fins of the species included in the study are an important input for the elaboration of the NDF. As a result of the study, a mobile app has been developed to track equivalency of dry versus wet fins when carrying out the inspection of landings in Guatemalan ports.
- 2022-2023 – The USFWS National Forensics lab and DOI-ITAP are working on a jaguar DNA forensics project with NGOs, researchers, and government officials through the jaguar range countries. The goal is to analyze georeferenced jaguar DNA samples and develop a method that allows researchers and officials to determine the individual identification and geographic/population provenance of a jaguar DNA sample. Results will be shared for use by all countries.
- March 2022 - 51 Honduran officers graduated from the Diploma "Environmental Law applied to wildlife and forest resources in Honduras." This effort was coordinated by the Doctor Orlando Arturo Chavez Public Ministry Training School and implemented by the Zamorano Agricultural University. The Diploma included modules on the legislation applicable to CITES in Honduras, the international framework of

application and the mechanisms for the observance of the law. Participants included prosecutors, judges, and technicians.

- May 2022 - DOI-ITAP worked with RSCN to conduct a training for 14 judges and Reserve Managers in Jordan, as they play major role in evaluating cases and enforcing wildlife laws. During the training, participants discussed case studies, CITES basics, how to deal with confiscated products, and how to effectively work with law enforcement personnel.
- June 13-16, 2022 - DOI-ITAP worked with USFWS law enforcement officers and a CITES Management Authority specialist to conduct a four-day training on CITES and wildlife law enforcement. Participants included the Environment Authority and the Royal Oman Police's Customs unit. The training was the first time these two groups were trained together, and advanced cooperation between the two while simultaneously highlighting the issue of wildlife trafficking.
- Sept. 2022 - March 2023 – DOI-ITAP supported a series of four workshops in Honduras with local officials regarding updates in Honduran environmental law including CITES implementation and enforcement.
- September 2022 – DOI-ITAP, USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, and the Brazilian NGO Freeland conducted a Wildlife Inspection and Enforcement Training to include CITES training at Port of Santos, Brazil for a group of Brazilian port and related enforcement officials.

Raise awareness of CITES with governments and the public:

- June 2021 - DOI-ITAP provided a presentation regarding CITES priorities and needs in the region to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
- June 2021 - DOI-ITAP provided an overview of CITES and other support to the Environmental Security Council of the Govt of Costa Rica at request of the government.
- December 2021 – February 2022 - DOI-ITAP remotely supported three CITES public awareness campaigns held by DEF, the Management Authority in Marrakech, Rabat, and Tangier; the USFWS continued to assist DEF by providing remote support in operating and maintaining an electronic CITES database.
- September 2022 - DOI-ITAP supported and organized three counter-wildlife trafficking workshops in Tanzania and Zanzibar targeting 60 personnel working in the aviation industry, with a focus on companies operating charter flights in the priority areas of connectivity (e.g. Kwakuchinja and Amani-Nilo corridors).
- January 2023 – DOI-ITAP virtual presentation regarding ITAP and DOI work on CITES and other topics in Central America to Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) countries.

Develop CITES-related training and awareness materials, equipment, and tools:

- January 2021 - DOI-ITAP and Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN) launched the first ever Spanish language jurisprudence and case example manual based on cases in Central America, including CITES cases.
- February 2021 – CITES 101 training video launched in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWRA9N-pB9Y>.
- September 2022 - DOI-ITAP donated computer tablets to CITES office to support users and access to electronic system. The tablets will be used by the wildlife inspectors and the phytosanitary services of Costa Rica whose role is the inspection of shipments and validation of documents, including Box 14 of the CITES permits/certificates at the main ports of entry/exit.
- January 2023 – DOI-ITAP donated equipment to INCOPECSA, the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities for Costa Rica, to improve inspection processes for landings of marine species and validation of Box 14 of CITES permits/certificates at seaports authorized for international trade.
- DOI-ITAP continues to work with partners to expand the Vida Silvestre mobile app. Since 2022, portions of the app are now available in English as well as the existing information in Spanish. See: www.videsilvestre.net for additional information.

Otros temas

Mexico.

La Autoridad CITES de Aplicación de la Ley (PROFEPA) realizó las siguientes actividades:

- Trabajó diversas líneas estratégicas para el periodo reportado, siendo el fortalecimiento de la verificación de los movimientos transfronterizos de especies reguladas por la CITES, el establecimiento de esfuerzos cooperativos para una mejor implementación de la Convención así como la prevención y atención a intentos de tráfico ilegal internacional los temas prioritarios, entre otros.

- Sin embargo, a nivel de Cooperación entre las Partes se considera que la falta de uso del mecanismo de notificación contemplado en la CITES (Artículo VIII) por parte de los Países Parte, dificulta el conocer oficialmente los casos de exportación o importación ilegal y el proceder en consecuencia.
- Para el periodo reportado, se realizaron 10,136 verificaciones a embarques con especies silvestres reguladas, de las cuales 1,448 correspondieron a especies de flora silvestre. Con esto se garantizó el cumplimiento de las Restricciones y Regulaciones No Arancelarias (RRNAs) relacionadas al movimiento transfronterizo de estas especies. Con la finalidad de garantizar el cumplimiento de las obligaciones posteriores al uso de los Permisos CITES verificados y validados, se efectuaron 25 actos de verificación e inspección a personas físicas o morales haciéndose la notificación respectiva a la Autoridad Administrativa CITES en México, en caso de ameritarse.
- También se participó en diversas operaciones cooperativas, regionales y mundiales, coordinadas por la Oficina de la Policía Internacional (INTERPOL) con la finalidad de prevenir, detectar y atender el tráfico internacional de vida silvestre y recursos forestales, a saber: Operativo “THUNDER 2020”, Operativo “MADRE TIERRA III 2021”, Operativo “IRAKERE 2021”, Operativo “MADRE TIERRA IV 2022”, Operativo “THUNDER 2022”. A nivel nacional se ejecutó el “Operativo Permanente de Vigilancia en Aeropuertos con Frecuencia de Vuelos Internacionales” con la finalidad de detectar, prevenir y combatir el tráfico ilegal de especies silvestres con fines de exportación irregular.
- Se trabajó en la firma de instrumentos de colaboración con instituciones gubernamentales y privadas, con la finalidad de promover el cumplimiento del marco legal en materia de movimientos transfronterizos de especies silvestres reguladas, incluida la CITES, y para la coordinación en la prevención, y atención a casos de tráfico ilegal internacional. Se encuentran con un porcentaje alto de avance los convenios de colaboración con el Servicio Postal Mexicano, Estafeta, Volaris, Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA) y ANAM.
- En el periodo reportado, se trabajó, en conjunto con la Autoridad Administrativa CITES, la Secretaría de Economía y la ANAM, en la actualización del “Acuerdo que establece las mercancías cuya importación y exportación está sujeta a regulación por parte de la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales” con la finalidad de adecuar la legislación nacional a la “Séptima Enmienda a los Textos de la Nomenclatura del Sistema Armonizado de Designación y Codificación de Mercancías”, aprobada por el Consejo de Cooperación Aduanera de la Organización Mundial de Aduanas, para facilitar el comercio exterior de especies silvestres reguladas por la CITES, entre otras cosas.

Estados Unidos de América

On December 20, 2022, President Biden signed the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) into law. The BCPSA covers species and hybrids of lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, jaguar, cheetah and cougar. The law will effectively end private ownership of big cats in the United States by allowing current private owners to keep their big cats, but will require owners to register each big cat with the USFWS no later than June 18, 2023, and prohibit owners from breeding their big cats (whether internationally or negligently). The BCPSA also includes prohibitions on import, export, transport, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, except for certain exceptions for licensed exhibitors, licensed federal facilities, certain State entities, State licensed veterinarians, and wildlife sanctuaries. The BCPSA also prohibits facilities that exhibit big cats from allowing direct contact between the public and the big cats. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/what-you-need-know-about-big-cat-public-safety-act>.

On March 3 2023, USFWS co-hosted a World Wildlife Day event at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, DC with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in partnership with the Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and Jackson Wild (a non-profit organization). This World Wildlife Day marked the 50th anniversary of CITES, and the theme for World Wildlife Day this year was Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation. The event was broadcast via the CITES Secretariat’s YouTube channel. U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Haaland provided the opening remarks.

During the week of World Wildlife Day, USFWS also participated in a Congressional Reception on International Wildlife Trade: Past, Present, and Future, which was sponsored by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and held at the U.S. Dirksen Senate Office Building. USFWS Director Martha Williams provided remarks and introduced CITES Secretary General Ivonne Higuero.

On March 3 2023, USFWS co-hosted the first of three “Toss the Tusk” events with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) Safari Park. At each event, members of the public had the opportunity to surrender unwanted ivory or other wildlife products to USFWS. At SDZWA, USFWS wildlife inspectors provided education around the illegal wildlife trade and facilitated the surrender of 222 wildlife

products including ivory, with support from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Toss the Tusk events follow at Dallas Zoo on April 14 and the Saint Louis Zoo on August 11, 2023.

The USFWS has undertaken significant outreach to the U.S. States regarding the new reptile and amphibian taxa that were included in the Appendix II at CoP19. These efforts included an in-person meeting with the regional members of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to discuss implementation and hosting a CITES informational webinar with AFWA and State agency personnel. USFWS has also reached out to the hobbyist community with an article in Reptiles Magazine on *New 2023 CITES Herp Listings. What do the new listings mean to herp owners?* At: <https://reptilesmagazine.com/new-2023-cites-herp-listings/>.