

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

Regional reports

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. This document has been submitted by Marcel Calvar and José Alberto Álvarez, the regional representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean.*

General Information

2. Number of countries in the region: 31
3. Number of countries responding to requests for information between November 2008 and January 2009: 5.
4. Only formal communications from the CITES Authorities of the Parties in the region were considered for the preparation of the report.
5. It may be noted that, between 19 November 2008 and 14 January 2009, requests for information were sent on three occasions, in most cases to more than one email address per country.

Key topics on which information was reported

Argentina

Management of foxes

6. In this most recent period, there has been a significant decrease in the export of foxes from Argentina (*Lycalopex griseus*, *L. gymnocercus* and *L. culpaeus*), as a result of the current international economic crisis, as demand has dropped considerably.
7. The *Dirección de Fauna Silvestre* (Wildlife Service), in conjunction with local authorities, is pursuing its nationwide management and monitoring plan for these populations, as presented at the preceding meeting.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

8. The plan consists of field studies (baited locations and transect lines) in line with the characteristics of the area being worked on.
9. The results show that the populations of these species have not shrunk.

Management of caymans

10. As was reported at the previous meeting, Argentina has several caiman ranching operations (for *Caiman latirostris* and *C. yacare*), that are regulated based on proposals approved by CITES.
11. At AC23, information was provided regarding a proposal submitted for the harvesting of wild specimens of *C. yacare* (Appendix II). This project has not yet gone into operation.

Management of psittacids

12. The European Community, the largest importer of psittacids from Argentina, continues to impose public health-related restrictions on the entry of live birds into its territory. Sustainable management plans for these species, which had been successful, have consequently been reduced to a minimum. The greatest impact has been felt by local indigenous populations whose income has been adversely affected, in addition to numerous habitat conservation projects that have lost their funding.
13. Argentina reiterates that, given its status as a country free from avian influenza, it would be very desirable that the European Community adopt a more situation-specific approach.

Management of camelids

14. Based on the significant information obtained from the national census of wild camelids, Argentina is creating a vicuña management plan and reviewing the National Guanaco Management Plan, for *Lama guanicoe*, with the participation of the *Dirección de Fauna Silvestre*, local governments and the academic sector.

Hunting trophies

15. As was reported at AC23, Argentina has drawn up and approved stricter domestic regulations (Resolution 1828/07), to regulate domestic traffic and removal of hunting trophies of native species. These regulations have proven to be an excellent monitoring tool. CITES species are, of course, also covered by these regulations.
16. Resolution 1624/08 has been approved, banning the domestic transit and the export of puma (*Felis concolor*) trophies.

Reclassification of birds in Argentina

17. In conjunction with the NGO *Aves Argentinas*, the *Dirección de Fauna Silvestre* has begun to recategorize Argentina's bird species on the basis of their conservation status (www.ambiente.gov.ar/default.asp?IdArticulo=5620).

Chile

CITES promotion in South America

Training and awareness campaigns

18. In 2008, in its capacity as the CITES Management Authority for terrestrial fauna and non-forest flora, the *Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero* (Agriculture and Livestock Service) held a total of seven training courses on CITES topics throughout Chile, covering the northern, central and southern regions of the country.
19. These workshops were aimed at professionals working with the Service.

20. Each course was attended by an average of 30 professionals from the various border control stations in the country.
21. The subjects covered were primarily intended to reinforce awareness of the role of the Convention, with emphasis on the monitoring and supervisory duties that must be performed in border zones in order to achieve its goals most effectively.

Costa Rica

22. Publication of Law 8689, modifying Chapters 10 and 11 of the Wildlife Conservation Act, dealing with violations and offences and providing for penalties for the harvesting of, trade in and export or import of species listed in the CITES Appendices.
23. National Workshop on CITES Implementation, held on 19 and 20 June 2008, in Ciudad Nelly, Costa Rica. Aimed at officials of the Customs, police, animal and plant quarantine service, and the Ministry of the Environment.
24. Binational Costa Rica-Panama Workshop, held on 29 to 31 October 2008, in Tres Ríos, Cartago. Aimed at enforcement authorities at exit points in both countries.
25. Regional Workshop: Best Practices for Management of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centres, held from 7 to 10 April 2008, Guatemala City.
26. International Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings for species listed in the CITES Appendices, held from 17 to 22 November 2008, Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Cuba

Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

27. Pursuant to the recommendations made pursuant to the Review of Significant Trade in *Strombus gigas*, the Republic of Cuba has set up a voluntary catch and export quota for processed meat, as an additional measure for the management of this species.
28. A total of only 50,000 kg was authorized for 2008, by way of fishery and environmental permits. This is the maximum catch authorized for domestic consumption and export. The same quota has been maintained for 2009.
29. A project to be undertaken with FAO (TCP/CUB/3201 Facility) has been approved for implementation in the first half of 2009, for technical cooperation assistance in designing a project with a broader scope with which to implement the 'Fishery management plan for the conservation and sustainable use of *Strombus gigas* in Cuba'.

Management of crocodiles

30. In 2008, the ranching programme in the Delta del Cauto wildlife refuge continued, under the terms described in the proposal to transfer the Cuban population of *Crocodylus acutus* from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II, as approved at CoP13 (Bangkok, 2004). Collection of eggs and neonates was performed in line with the results of the monitoring of nests carried out in the areas of gregarious nesting located in the north-western sector (Monte Cabaniguán, corresponding to the portion of the wildlife refuge situated in the province of Las Tunas). As a result, collection did not impact more than 40 % of the nests, and preference was given to collecting from nests located at sites having conditions less favourable to natural incubation: low-lying sites, with compacted and badly-drained ground, and sites vulnerable to the action of swell and tides.
31. In all, a total of 710 eggs were collected from 23 nests. Of that total, 661 were incubated at the nursery at the Boca de Jobabo Biological Station, yielding 529 neonates. A total of 132 eggs failed to hatch due to embryo death.

32. No infertile eggs were reported. In addition, 191 neonates were collected from nests that had been abandoned by the mothers. The two methods yielded a combined total of 720 neonates.

Visit by a delegation from the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the IUCN

33. In November 2008, the Republic of Cuba received a visit from a delegation of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), who came to observe and make recommendations regarding the conservation, management and sustainable use of crocodiles in Cuba. A Mission Report is being prepared by the CSG.

Uruguay

Legislation

34. On 11 November 2008, the Uruguayan Government issued Decree 550/008, implementing Law Decree 14.205 of 4 June 1974.
35. The decree substantially improves CITES implementation in the country, bringing into force laws for monitoring compliance with the provisions of the Convention.
36. Uruguay has thus achieved compliance with Article VIII, paragraph 1, of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP14). The country's domestic law thereby meets the requirements for inclusion in Category 1.

Amendments to the Appendices

37. In addition, Uruguay is preparing a proposal for an amendment to Appendix II, relating to a species of freshwater turtle, Williams's side-necked turtle, *Phrynops williamsi*. Distribution of this species is limited to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with small populations throughout its range. It is hoped that those countries will assist Uruguay in obtaining as much information as possible on this species.