

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Regional matters

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

1. This report, covering the period from March 2012 to February 2014, was prepared by Rosemarie Gnam, Alternate Regional Representative for North America, in collaboration with the CITES authorities of Canada, Mexico, and the United States¹.

Overview of major developments

a) Review of Significant Trade

2. The Canadian Scientific Authority and the United States' Scientific Authority participated in the Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, which included submitting comments to the meeting in Vilm, Germany in June 2012, and follow-up activities.

b) Periodic Review

3. Canada and the United States are collaborating on the Periodic Review for *Puma concolor cougar* and *Puma concolor coryi* as part of our commitment toward the completion of the Periodic Review of the Felidae.
4. The United States is conducting four Periodic Reviews: Caribbean Monk Seal (*Monachus tropicalis*); Guam Flying-fox, Guam Fruit Bat (*Pteropus tokudae*); Mississippi Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis pulla*); and Puerto Rican Boa, Yellow Tree Boa (*Epicrates inornatus*).

c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

5. Canada has recently registered a new operation that breeds *Acipenser brevirostrum*. There are eleven CITES-registered captive-breeding operations in Canada, breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tragopan caboti* and *Acipenser brevirostrum*.
6. In the United States during the reporting period, the following facilities were registered: Jeffrey L. Rossey for *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, and *Falco peregrinus x Falco rusticolus*; Great Plains Peales for *Falco peregrinus*; South Dakota Raptor Trust for *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, and *Falco rusticolus x Falco peregrinus*; Timothy W. Hickok for *Falco rusticolus*; Hurricane Aviaries, Inc., for *Primolius couloni*;

¹ 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.

Vince Piccioni for *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, and *Falco peregrinus x Falco rusticolus*; and Michael G. Erickson for *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco rusticolus*, and *Falco peregrinus x Falco rusticolus*.

d) Non-detriment findings

7. Standing Non-detriment Finding (NDF) Reports are used to document the current management practices in Canada for commonly-traded Canadian species to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens. Standing NDF reports were completed since the last Animals Committee for Atlantic sturgeon, narwhal, black bear and grizzly bear. We are currently working on Standing NDF reports for porbeagle shark, Sandhill Crane and cougar.

All of the Standing NDF Reports for terrestrial species are available on the Environment Canada website at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1>.

8. With the financial support from the USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in January 2014 conducted both a paddlefish conservation management webinar and a workshop. The purpose was to discuss management measures and the conservation status of paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) based on the draft report "Developing Biological Reference Points and Identifying Stock Status for Management of Paddlefish (*Polyodon spatula*) in the Mississippi River Basin." It was important to provide the opportunity for the USFWS representative, as well as State fish and wildlife agency representatives, to discuss the status of the species, including management measures to ensure the sustainability of the species; domestic and international trade in this species; and future management and trade in paddlefish. Representatives from 20 U.S. State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and 3 USFWS regions attended. Participants left the meeting with several clearly-defined next steps including the finalization and development of management plans, the identification of research and monitoring needs, and schedules for future webinars to discuss funding sources for monitoring and using models to improve the sustainable management of paddlefish.

e) Other

9. U.S. CITES Export Tagging Program: The United States cooperates with its States and Indian Tribes in utilizing a tagging program for the export of skins of the following Appendix-II species: bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); river otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); gray wolf (*Canis lupus*); brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). The USFWS initiated this program 35 years ago to streamline the CITES permit issuance process for the export of skins of these species from the United States. The USFWS currently cooperates with 48 States and 26 Indian Tribes that have instituted approved harvest programs. The USFWS approves a State or Indian Tribe for inclusion in the CITES Export Tagging Program when it can make the two CITES findings based on that State's or Tribe's harvest program and enforcement regime. Each approved State or Tribe applies CITES tags, provided by the USFWS, to new skins of approved species taken in that State or Tribe and intended for export from the United States. The tags serve as evidence that the skins were legally taken and that their export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

During 2012, the USFWS issued over 775,000 tags, and during 2013, the USFWS issued nearly 764,000 tags.

During the reporting period, the USFWS approved for participation in the program one State for exports of river otter and five Indian Tribes for exports of bobcat.

10. Transport Working Group: The United States remained active on the Animals Committee Transport Working Group. Work continued on finalizing the CITES *Guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants*, which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its sixteenth meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013). The new Guidelines replace the *Guidelines for transport and preparation for shipment of live wild animals and plants* adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting (CoP2, San José, 1979) and that have been posted on the CITES Secretariat's website.

A representative of the USFWS in April 2012 participated in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal and Perishables Board (LAPB) meetings in Montreal, Canada. During this meeting, proposals to change penguin transport requirements were finalized and included in the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR). Representatives from the USFWS and the U.S. Department of State also attended the LAPB meeting in April 2013 and discussed the recent Executive Order on Wildlife Trafficking issued by U.S. President Obama. The U.S. representatives introduced a proposal to include a new container

requirement in the IATA LAR for the transport of large sharks following the decision at CoP16 to list five shark species in Appendix II. The proposal will be presented in April 2014 for consideration to the IATA LAPB at its meeting in Miami, Florida, for publication in October 2014 in the 41st edition of the Live Animals Regulations.

A representative of the USFWS participated in the September 2012 meetings of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), gave a presentation on the United States Plant Rescue Center Program, organized a workshop on animal transport methods, and discussed CITES- and IATA-related issues that affect transport. The AZA is also developing a course for their Professional Management School on Live Animal Transport with input from the USFWS.

11. As part of the Protocol on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Conservation of Nature between the Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Affairs hosted a six member delegation from the CITES Management Authority of China from April 11–17, 2012. The first part of the visit consisted of meetings at the Arlington office between Chinese and U.S. officials discussing mutual issues of interest such as preparations for the upcoming CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16, possible CoP16 species proposals, implementation concerns for marine species, and cooperation for elephants and rhinos conservation). 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 the USFWS and the Chinese delegation. They provided a history and background on American alligator management efforts, as well as 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.

Activities of Regional Representatives

12. Ms Carolina Caceres, the Regional Representative for North America and on behalf of the Animals Committee, is co-chairing the Advisory Working Group on the Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. She is co-chairing with the Plants Committee's Nomenclature Specialist, Mr Noel McGough.

Regional cooperation and priorities

13. The members of the North America Region communicate regularly as part of our ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional CITES issues. In 2012, the Region met by teleconference and in person onsite prior to meetings of the CITES Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee to focus on regional preparations and positions for these meetings. A North American Regional meeting was hosted by Mexico in February 2013, in advance of CoP16. In between meetings, the North America Region maintained communication through conference calls and email.
14. In December 2013, the Canadian network of CITES scientific authorities held a meeting to explore Canada's interests and challenges regarding national implementation of the scientific aspects of CITES, to provide advice and comments on Canada's international activities, and to further develop species-specific standing NDF reports for Sandhill Crane and cougar.
15. Canada's CITES scientific authority participated in the annual meetings of the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee in 2012 and 2013. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and communicate on jurisdictional management of furbearer species in Canada. The scientific authority also attended the Arctic Symposium on Wildlife Management and Trade in 2012 and the National Aboriginal Harvesters Conference in 2013.
16. In 2012, Environment Canada added to its series of CITES compliance promotion brochures to inform international travellers about their legal obligations under Canada's wildlife trade law and how it may affect them. The newest brochures address "Endangered species and trade" and "Endangered Species and the International Traveller." The brochures are available at <http://ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=E0EAA954-1>.
17. Canada intends to export wild Atlantic sturgeon caviar as soon as possible. Following the recommendations in CITES Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16), Canada has established sustainable caviar and meat quotas and continues to work closely with colleagues in the United States to develop an appropriate regional conservation strategy for that species.

18. In 2013, Fisheries and Oceans Canada initiated comprehensive scientific surveys in collaboration with Inuit communities in order to increase knowledge of narwhals in the areas of Parry Channel, Jones Sound, and Smith Sound. Very limited information is currently available for narwhals in these areas and as a result a Non-Detriment Finding has not been issued for products originating from these areas to date. Preliminary results of these scientific studies are expected in late 2014 and the NDF will be re-assessed based on these results, if appropriate.
19. In October 2012, CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) hired Marco Antonio López Luna, M.Sc. (Juárez Autonomous University of Tabasco), to carry out, in cooperation with other national experts, the project "Assessment of the conservation status of the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) in Mexico, considerations on CITES, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 and IUCN, and proposal for potential sites for a monitoring program, based on existing information." The project's objective was to compile available information on the conservation status, use of and international trade in the species and evaluate it according to the criteria of NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, the IUCN Red List and CITES, as well as to identify potential sites for monitoring of the species in the future.
20. The 2012 and 2013 seasons of the "Mexico-Belize-Guatemala Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) Monitoring Program" were carried out in Mexico. Including the 2011 season, a total of 572 excursions took place, covering 5,532 km of lakes, rivers, mangroves, and estuaries, which led to a population estimate of about 79,000 individuals, with a stable trend and healthy population structure (good production of hatchlings and juveniles).
21. Together with CITES Authorities from the United States and Canada, CONABIO prepared the poster "Tree frogs of the genus *Agalychnis* protected by CITES" which was published in April 2013 for the purpose of identifying the species of frogs that were included in the Appendices at CoP15 (Doha, 2010). The poster was distributed at the country's main ports, airports and border crossings. It is hoped that dissemination of this material will encourage the legality and sustainability of international trade in those species.
22. In preparation for the meetings of the Animal and Plant Committees (AC27/PC21, Veracruz 2014), CONABIO prepared outreach materials (a leaflet and poster) with general information on the Convention, its functioning and national implementation to encourage legal and responsible trade in CITES species.
23. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Decisions 16.13 to 16.16): In compliance with Dec. 16.14 at its 64th meeting (SC64; Bangkok 2014), the Standing Committee (SC) established an intersessional Working Group on IPBES chaired by Mexico. The Mexican Scientific Authority has been closely involved in assisting the implementation of Decision 16.4, and in particular with the development of CITES request [mentioned by par. d) of said Decision], which was summarized by the assessment on "Sustainable use of wild species" adopted by IPBES (IPBES-2; Antalya, 9–14 December 2013) in its 2014-2018 work programme. Additionally, the Mexican Scientific Authority collaborated with the Chairs of the Scientific Committees and the Secretariat in the development of the AC27/PC21 (Veracruz, 2014) working document on IPBES, which, *inter alia*: a) advises the AC and PC to establish a drafting group to develop a brief set of recommendations for consideration of the SC WG on IPBES; b) identification of experts for the assessment on sustainable use of wild species; and c) advise on the pertinence of a draft Resolution on IPBES and CITES collaboration and any other matter relevant to the implementation of Decision 16.4.
24. On 19 December 2012, the Secretariat of the Economy (SE), together with SEMARNAT, published the "Agreement establishing the classification and coding of goods whose importation and exportation is subject to regulation by the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources" which subjects the importation and exportation (submission of CITES permits and authorizations) of species listed in the CITES Appendices and in national standards to non-tariff regulation. A joint SE-SEMARNAT review of that Agreement is to take place in the near future to identify new regulation needs.
25. The CITES law enforcement authority in Mexico, the Federal Environmental Protection Office (PROFEPA), conducted 6,116 verifications in 2012 and 6,498 in 2013 of compliance with legal and regulatory provisions applicable to cross-border movements of regulated wildlife, marine and forest species, thereby promoting the correct implementation of CITES.
26. In 2012, through the Office of the Deputy Attorney General for Industrial Inspection, PROFEPA implemented the "Project to Strengthen the Verification of Exports of Regulated Species" whose objective is to identify irregular situations and areas of opportunity for better compliance with the law in the cross-border movements of regulated wild flora and fauna, marine and forest species. This helped identify tariff items that require inspection, as well as species requiring priority attention or targeted inspections.

27. In 2013, PROFEPA seized two containers with 898,660 specimens of sea cucumber (*Isostichopus fuscus*), an amount equivalent to 686 kg of the product; 78,676 dry specimens of sea horse (*Hippocampus ingens*), an amount equivalent to 197 kg of the product; 108 kg of dried rumen, 21 boxes of dried bladder and 955 boxes of frozen bladder, presumably of totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*). The frozen bladder was mixed with another fish species known as croaker (Spanish: *Curvina*). In addition, during 2012 and 2013, 758 cubic metres of tropical wood was seized in two seaports that resulted in actions in the national territory involving the seizure of 1,356 cubic metres of round wood and squared wood (timber), 27 tonnes of coal, nine cargo vehicles and nine tools, the closure of three sawmills, the suspension of six authorized logging properties due to the misuse of documentation, and the application of 66 administrative procedures. Also, more than 200 reptile specimens hidden in the luggage of Japanese citizens were seized at the Mexico City International Airport. Likewise, the police authorities in the main airports of the country were alerted to the names and pseudonyms (aliases) of alleged international wildlife traffickers.
28. In 2013, the “Operation for Monitoring and Prevention of Illegal International Trafficking of Protected Species” was carried out in coordination with customs, agriculture and livestock health, police, military and migration authorities. Its objective was to prevent and combat the illegal cross-border movement of specimens, parts, and by-products of protected species by carrying out systematic monitoring actions and scheduled inspection, and by establishing control and inspection points at border crossings not usually covered by PROFEPA. The operation included three types of actions: a) sealing of the northern border (2,006 searches at U.S. border crossings), b) seaports (451 searches) and c) ongoing monitoring at airports with international flights. Some 20,000 square metres of wood, 20,000 kg of charcoal, 116 vehicles with fishing products, and 29 specimens of wild fauna were inspected; and 122 cubic metres of tropical wood, 600 kg of charcoal and nine wildlife products were seized.
29. In 2012 and 2013, PROFEPA participated in the international operations CAGE and REPTILE, in which routine surveillance took place at airports with international flights.
30. As part of the cooperation inside NAWEG, PROFEPA carried out investigation and information exchange work on certain species of common interest (totoaba, sea cucumber, clarion angelfish), and seizures were made in both Mexico and the United States.

Meetings and Workshops

Within the Region:

31. In 2012, the PROFEPA Office of the Deputy Attorney General for Industrial Inspection, together with WWF-TRAFFIC North America and with funds from the USFWS Wildlife Without Borders Program, held the “Workshop to Strengthen the Skills of Officials Responsible for the Management and Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation in Mexico”. Training was provided to 81 public servants from the federal environment sector from throughout the country and from local governments, who are responsible for the management, verification and inspection of wildlife for national and international trade. In 2013, they also organized the “Workshop to train instructors in matters of trade in and trafficking of wildlife,” which was aimed at 50 public servants from PROFEPA, CONABIO, the General Customs Administration and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic. To date, the contents of the workshop have been passed on to 119 public servants in the PROFEPA regional offices throughout the country. To continue with this initiative, a proposal was submitted to the USFWS Wildlife Without Borders Program in 2014 and has been pre-approved.
32. During 2012, personnel from PROFEPA attended various events involving training, updating and exchange of technical experiences, which were facilitated by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC): “Theoretical and practical workshop on wildlife crime scene investigation,” “Workshop on enforcement of environmental legislation supported by intelligence data,” “Workshop on exchange of experiences in conducting investigations by electronic information means for enforcing environmental and wildlife legislation,” “Meeting on best forensic practices.” Under the framework of this cooperation, PROFEPA participated during July 2013 in the “Workshop on Exchange of Information and Intelligence on the Trafficking of Protected Marine Species in North America.”
33. In March 2012, PROFEPA attended the “Annual Region 2 Training Meeting of the USFWS Law Enforcement Offices” (San Antonio, Texas), whose purpose was to present actions taken by PROFEPA to enforce wildlife legislation at ports, airports and borders, as well as the existing standards and procedures for verifications/inspections, and monitoring of the cross-border movements of specimens, parts and by-products of wild species.

34. The PROFEPA Office of the Deputy Attorney General for Industrial Inspection attended the “Annual Meeting of State Chiefs for the Enforcement of United States Fish and Wildlife Service Legislation” (Shepherdstown, West Virginia, April 2012) to present the actions and achievements of the Office of the Deputy Attorney General in matters of enforcing the law regarding cross-border movements of wildlife and forest products, and plant health at ports, airports and borders.
35. In September 2012, PROFEPA participated in the “Workshop on Identification of Shark Fins,” held in Roatán, Honduras, where training and updating was provided on suitable implementation and operation of CITES in matters of identifying shark fins. The identification material is used for verification/inspection in seaports where PROFEPA works in coordination with fisheries and customs authorities to inspect export shipments.
36. During the workshop “Mexican crocodiles: monitoring of Morelet’s crocodile 2012–2013 and status of the river crocodile” (Mexico City, November 25–26, 2013), the results of the 2012 and 2013 seasons of the Morelet’s crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) Monitoring Program in Mexico were reviewed. Secondary monitoring sites were identified and the 2014 season was planned. In addition, the results of the project “Assessment of the conservation status of the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) in Mexico, considerations on CITES, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 and IUCN, and proposal for potential sites for a monitoring program, based on existing information” were presented. Over 40 experts participated, including scientists, producers, non-governmental organizations and authorities from Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, as well as a representative of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG-IUCN).
37. To promote the establishment of UMA (Units of Management for Conservation of Wildlife) and its consolidation, the Third workshop on the promotion, conservation and sustainable use of crocodiles in Mexico (Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, December 10–11, 2013) was held with an emphasis on Morelet’s crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*). The workshop, aimed at technical personnel of the UMAs and all those interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of crocodiles in Mexico, was a forum for exchanging information on the species and its management for the establishment and consolidation of the UMAs, as well as for sharing opportunities for financing and marketing.
38. During the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC27) and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (PC21) to be held in Veracruz, Mexico, from April 28 to May 8, 2014, activities will be held in addition to the official meetings to disseminate successful management models for CITES species in Mexico that could be used as a model at the world level:
 - Guided visits to sites where CITES species are successfully used and managed (management units for the conservation of wildlife, botanical gardens, protected natural areas, monitoring sites for *Crocodylus moreletii*).
 - Presentation of posters showing experiences with investigation, management and conservation of CITES species, favouring exchange and cooperation between the Mexican community and CITES experts (May 2nd, during the reception on the first day of the joint sessions).
 - Parallel events of various national and international forums.
 - Seminar on CITES open to the public in which various sectors (governmental, academic and productive), CITES member countries and international organizations are expected to participate as an opportunity to disseminate information on the Convention and promote its correct implementation (May 3rd).
39. 33rd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (Baltimore, Maryland; February 2–3, 2012): The USFWS (Division of Scientific Authority [DSA]) gave a presentation entitled “Turtles in International Trade: Turtle Issues for Consideration at the 2013 CITES Sixteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in Bangkok, Thailand.”
40. Caribbean Region-Wide Workshop on Iguana Conservation (December 2013; San Juan, Puerto Rico): The USFWS, in cooperation with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Diego Zoo Global, Island Conservation, the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Consortium, and the Fort Worth Zoo sponsored a Caribbean-wide workshop on iguana conservation in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The workshop was attended by 61 participants from 16 nations, islands, and non-government organizations who identified the most critical issues for iguana conservation and developed actions plans and timelines for high priority projects focused on alleviating threats to iguanas, including unsustainable or

illegal international trade. Iguanas are the largest native vertebrates that remain on many Caribbean islands and face threats from introduced mammalian predators, habitat destruction, collection for the pet trade, hunting, vehicular mortality, and competition and interbreeding with the invasive green iguana. As seed dispersers, iguanas are vital to maintaining native plant communities and supporting ecosystem health.

Other Meetings and Workshops (Outside the Region):

41. Meeting of the CAFTA-DR CITES Environmental Cooperation Project (December 2012; Managua, Nicaragua): Representatives from the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities participated in a Department of the Interior-International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) meeting with representatives of the Scientific and Management Authorities of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) member countries (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) and Belize in preparation for CoP16 to be held in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Parties involved to share priorities and ideas in advance of the CoP.
42. Workshop to Strengthen the Capacity of Authorities to Implement CITES in the Republic of Panamá (May 22–24, 2013): The USFWS (DSA and DOI-ITAP) and the CITES Secretariat conducted a workshop in Panama City to train Panamanian CITES officials in the preparation of Non-Detriment Findings and general CITES matters. Approximately 35–40 officials, including government lawyers, military personnel, border patrol agents, environmental police, and plant and wildlife inspectors participated in the 3-day event. This course was especially timely given that several government officials in Panama had only recently begun to work on CITES matters.
43. Regional Workshop on Sharks Listed in Appendix II of CITES – Preparing for Implementation (December 2013; Recife, Brazil): More than 70 representatives from 28 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean participated in a workshop on implementation of the five new Appendix-II shark listings adopted at CoP16, which will become effective in September 2014. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provided funding for the workshop. NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities (USFWS) attended the workshop and were involved as well in planning and preparations. Representatives of the Scientific Authority (CONABIO) and the National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA) of Mexico also participated. The workshop included presentations on making a legal acquisition finding, as well as methods for establishing a chain of custody for shark products in trade. Participants also explored techniques for the identification of sharks and shark products.

For additional information about the workshop, see:

English: <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/biodiversity/WHMSI/SharkEvent%20.asp>

Spanish: <http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/Biodiversidad/WHMSI/EventoTiburones.asp>

44. U.S. CITES Trade Delegation to China (June 24–July 3, 2013): USFWS representatives took part in meetings with P.R.C. State Forestry Administration (SFA) in Beijing to discuss results of 16th CITES Conference of the Parties. These representatives also took part in a one-day CITES identification training for Chinese Customs Officials in Guangzhou on turtle species that were recently listed in the CITES Appendices.
45. Sub-Saharan Africa Red List Workshop in Togo (August 20–23, 2013): A USFWS/DSA representative participated in the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group's workshop on Conservation Status of the Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles of Sub-Saharan Africa. This workshop was critically important because it included a discussion on the potential listing of African turtles, particularly Soft Shelled turtles, for CoP17 with other African CITES Authorities (Liberia, South Africa, Kenya, and Tanzania) who attended.
46. Regional Workshop to Build Capacity to Undertake CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) in Central America and the Dominican Republic (San Salvador, El Salvador; September 3–6, 2013): 35 experts from the CITES Scientific Authorities, CITES Management Authorities, and national fisheries agencies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Colombia and Ecuador, as well as representatives from the Organization of the Fishing and Aquaculture Sectors of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), participated in this 3½ day regional training and planning event regarding CITES NDFs.

Workshop participants learned about CITES resolutions adopted at CoP16 pertaining to NDFs, tools and methodologies developed to improve the formulation of NDFs, and successful NDFs developed in other countries. Participants analyzed both plant and animal species case studies from the region and developed a series of recommendations and agreements intended to improve general knowledge and capacity regarding CITES NDFs. The last ½ day of the workshop was devoted to discussions and planning for a follow-on regional CITES NDF workshop that aims to develop a regional CITES NDF pertaining to specific shark species listed in CITES Appendix II at CoP16.

Trainers included Rosemarie Gnam, Ph.D., Chief of the USFWS CITES Scientific Authority; Jon Siemien, biologist with the USFWS CITES Scientific Authority; David Morgan, Chief of the CITES Secretariat Scientific Support Unit; Dr. Alison Rosser, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC); Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC; and regional experts from OSPESCA.

Other Regional Information

CANADA

47. The Government of Canada places temporary "holding reservations" on decisions taken at the Conference of Parties. The Convention, written in 1975, allows 90 days for countries to update their regulations. Canada is unable to meet these short timelines for making the necessary regulatory changes. In October 2013, the CoP15 amendments to the list of CITES-regulated species were legally in force in Canada with completion of the regulatory process to update the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR) of the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and the CoP15 reservation was lifted. Canada has placed a holding reservation on decisions taken at the 16th meeting of the CoP to allow time for implementation of regulatory changes. Completion of the regulatory changes is targeted for late 2014 at which time the holding reservation will be lifted. The Government of Canada is serious about protecting species at risk within its borders and internationally, and committed to our responsibilities to CITES. Canada continues to strongly support the decisions made by the 16th Conference of Parties to CITES.
48. Canada has been active in ongoing monitoring of Canada's polar bear population, involving annual review of the status and trends of the bears within each of Canada's 13 management units. Canada is a leader in advancing the technology of non-invasive monitoring techniques such as remote sensing, aerial survey, and biopsy darting (genetic mark-recapture). In February 2014, Canada's Polar Bear Technical Committee will use these monitoring and research results, as well as Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, in their annual review of the status of bears within all 13 management units. The Range States to the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears have been collaboratively developing a Circumpolar Action Plan for the conservation of polar bear, which is expected to be finalized in 2014. Canada also participated in the December 2013 meeting of the Ministers of Range States, and signed a declaration that spoke to the need for continued collaborative action on polar bear conservation.
49. Additional polar bear news: During December 4–6, 2013, representatives of the United States celebrated the 40th anniversary of the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears at a meeting of the five range States in Moscow, Russian Federation. Also, in November 2013, U.S. President Obama appointed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Geoffrey L. Haskett as the United States Commissioner for the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission. In February 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule under the U.S. Endangered Species Act that incorporated longstanding and more-stringent protections already available under CITES and the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act.

MEXICO

50. In cooperation with TRAFFIC-North America, CONABIO carried out the project "Study to identify relevant Mexican species in international trade (2012–2013)," whose objective was to classify native Mexican species (whether or not included in CITES) based on their international trade from 2005 to 2010 and their conservation status, according to levels or categories for decision-making. As a result, and to address the needs of a first package of species, CONABIO issued summons for projects in December 2013 directed to public organizations, universities and research centres to evaluate the status of four CITES species (*Crax rubra*, *Meleagris ocellata*, *Penelope purpurascens*, *Isostichopus fuscus*) and the relevance of including the following in CITES: *Xenosaurus grandis*, *Claudius angustatus*, *Staurotypus triporcatus*, *Holacanthus clarionensis*, *Beaucarnea recurvata*, and Mexican species of the genus *Abronia*.

51. CONABIO, together with Oscar Sosa Nishizaki (Centre for Scientific Research and Higher Education of Ensenada, Baja California; CICESE) and experts from the National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA), is coordinating the publication of "Mexican sharks under observation by CITES: What we know about them," to which various national specialists are contributing. Its objective is to compile the available information on the species of Mexican sharks listed in CITES (*Rhincodon typus*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran*, *Sphyrna zygaena* and *Carcharodon longimanus*), identify shortcomings and propose measures to correct them. The first version of the full document is expected in early 2014.
52. As part of the activities coordinated by the Mexican CITES Authorities in matters of conservation, management and sustainable use of the Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*), a pilot project on *C. moreletii* in Mexico was presented to the Responsible Ecosystem Sourcing Platform (RESP) in November 2013. That project includes actions and coordinated work between the relevant actors to strengthen the information on traceability of skins and captive breeding systems and to identify the conditions and possible sites for ranching activities in the future. The main goal will be to link local communities and Mexican producers (farms) with international companies in the fashion industry.
53. In October 2013, UNAM signed an agreement with the Smithsonian Institution of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History to carry out the project "Wildlife Bar Code-Mexico." That project will seek to use bar codes as a tool to support the CITES law enforcement authority in Mexico (PROFEPA) in identifying species traded internationally that are difficult to identify. The CITES authorities, in cooperation with the academic sector (UNAM), the MEXBOL network of the National Science and Technology Commission (CONACYT), the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) and the Scientific Division of the Federal Police, have developed a document that describes the scope of the project in Mexico, and a list of 800 species (200 priority species in addition to similar and associated species) that require sequencing for inclusion in a genetic reference library.
54. The initiative of the "Program to support the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of wildlife of the Directorate General of Wildlife" (in effect since 2010) of the Directorate General of Wildlife (Mexico's CITES Administrative Authority), supported nine UMAs for Mexican crocodiles in 2013, and has contributed financial resources for the development of the production industry for crocodile skins and products through the UMAs in rural zones and communities of the Mexican Republic.
55. The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), with technical support from CONABIO and the participation of experts from UMAs, specialists, and state and federal institutions, will soon be publishing the electronic "Master Management Plan for Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Mexico" as well as its Annex: Captive Breeding. This document will standardize activities for the conservation, management and sustainable use of this species. In particular, the Annex will describe the techniques and requirements for captive breeding. Guides are to be developed for other types of management (ranching, ecotourism, life in the wild [free ranging], etc.).
56. SEMARNAT will soon be publishing the "National Protocol for Handling Conflicts with Crocodilians in Mexico" in electronic form. The objective of this document is to identify and implement actions to prevent and address conflicts that may arise between crocodiles and persons within the distribution zones (geographic ranges) for crocodiles in Mexico.
57. In 2012, PROFEPA implemented the "Project to Strengthen Attention (Respond) to Potentially Invasive Species," which seeks to identify exotic species associated with international trade, particularly imports, with the potential to invade wildlife, marine and forest species. As a result, a preliminary list of exotic species for priority attention was drafted, which is to be included in the reference list prepared by CONABIO. The request for financing to the *Global Environmental Facility* (GEF) for creating and building capacities to handle invasive species was authorized.
58. In 2012 and 2013, PROFEPA set about remodelling three verification/inspection offices for the purpose of strengthening the verification of goods marketed between Central America and Mexico, thereby consolidating the national capacity to promote compliance with the law and to guarantee the legality of cross-border movements of regulated wildlife, marine and forest species.

UNITED STATES

59. On February 4, 2014, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell certified to U.S. President Obama that she had determined that the continued commercial export by Icelandic nationals of whale meat and products diminishes the effectiveness of CITES. This determination was made in response to a petition submitted by several non-governmental organizations under the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967. Secretary Jewell has recommended that U.S. President Obama reinforce and strengthen Cabinet directives already in place to increase diplomatic pressure, especially within the context of CITES, and to promote non-lethal uses of whales.
60. President's Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking: On July 1, 2013, U.S. President Obama issued an Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, elevating the issue of illegal wildlife trade as a national priority for the United States. The order mandated all U.S. Government agencies to "take all appropriate actions within their authority" to address this crime. It also called for the creation of a Presidential Task Force and Federal Advisory Council and the development and implementation of a national strategy for fighting wildlife crime. The Executive Order is available online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/07/01/executive-order-combating-wildlife-trafficking>.
61. National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking & Commercial Ban on Trade in Elephant Ivory: On February 11, 2014, the United States issued a National Strategy on Combating Wildlife Trafficking as mandated by U.S. President Obama's July 1, 2013, Executive Order. This strategy commits the U.S. Government as a whole to addressing this issue through improved enforcement, efforts to reduce demand for protected wildlife, and continued partnering with other countries, international bodies (such as CITES), conservation organizations, and private sector stakeholders.

The National Strategy is available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2014/trafficking/national-strategy-wildlife-trafficking.pdf>.

See also: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/11/fact-sheet-national-strategy-combating-wildlife-trafficking-commercial-b>.
62. U.S. Ivory Crush: On November 14, 2013, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement crushed approximately six tons of elephant ivory seized over the years by its special agents and wildlife inspectors in connection with violations of CITES and U.S. wildlife laws. This event, which was covered by more than 1,800 online news outlets, successfully sent a message to the world about the plight of African elephants and the global wildlife trafficking crisis. The U.S. Ivory Crush prompted the destruction or plans for the destruction of ivory stockpiles in France, China (which destroyed six tons in January 2014), and Hong Kong (which has announced plans to destroy 28 tons later this year), as well as endorsement by the European Union of ivory destruction.
63. FWS Senior Special Agent/International Attache Program: The USFWS has created the first program for stationing wildlife special agents at U.S. Embassies as international attaches to coordinate investigations of wildlife trafficking and to support wildlife enforcement capacity building. The first posting was effective January 2014 at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. The USFWS will also hire and recruit four additional agent/attaches in the coming year. Plans call for two postings in sub-Saharan Africa, one posting in South America, and one posting in Asia.
64. Wildlife Detector Dog Program: During this reporting period, the USFWS launched a wildlife detector dog program by stationing professionally-trained "sniffer" dogs with their corresponding inspectors/handlers at four major U.S. ports of entry (Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, and express mail hub Louisville). The program is designed to enhance smuggling interdiction capacity. These dogs can "sniff" cargo and mail packages in a fraction of the time that would be needed by enforcement personnel to open and inspect each container.
65. Operation Crash: This ongoing USFWS undercover investigation of rhino horn trafficking has already broken up two smuggling networks operating in the United States, securing 15 arrests and nine convictions to date. Defendants successfully prosecuted during the reporting period include a smuggling kingpin from China who pleaded guilty to multiple felony counts and an Irish national with links to an Irish crime family operating in Europe whose activities have included rhino horn thefts on that continent.
66. Totoaba Swim Bladders: During this reporting period, the USFWS secured the prosecution in southern California of seven individuals charged with smuggling swim bladders of the endangered totoaba fish

[*Totoaba (Cynoscion) macdonaldi*; CITES Appendix I; ESA endangered; IUCN Red List Critically Endangered] fish from Mexico into the United States for ultimate export to Asia. More than 500 smuggled swim bladders were seized with an overseas black market value as much as \$10,000 per swim bladder.

67. **Illegal Coral Trade Intercepted:** In New York City, the USFWS successfully investigated a wholesale marine life supplier for extensive smuggling of live, CITES-protected stony coral. This businessman pleaded guilty to felony smuggling in connection with the illegal importation of more than \$532,000 worth of rare coral. The case began when a USFWS wildlife inspector found coral hidden in a shipment of tropical fish at John F. Kennedy International Airport.
68. **Narwhal Tusk Trafficking:** The USFWS teamed with NOAA and the Canadian Wildlife Service to investigate four individuals involved in the unlawful harvest, sale and export of narwhal tusks from Canada into the United States. Two defendants have already pleaded guilty, another has elected to stand trial, and one (who has already been prosecuted in Canada) awaits extradition to the United States.
69. **Enforcement Capacity Building:** USFWS/Office of Law Enforcement special agents and wildlife inspectors taught a two-week course on conducting criminal investigations at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Botswana in May/June and August/September 2013. Some 60 officers from sub-Saharan African nations (including Francophone countries) completed this training. The USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, hosted a one-week training program for forensic experts from southeastern Asia. Laboratory scientists also provided forensics training and consultation in Vietnam and Australia.
70. **International Investigative Liaison:** USFWS Office of Law Enforcement staff completed a 3-month detail focused on investigative coordination in Bangkok, Thailand; spent three weeks in Togo providing investigative assistance to local enforcement authorities; made multiple trips to the Philippines to help that nation develop a wildlife law enforcement database capability; and met with counterparts in South Africa and Namibia on investigative strategies and coordination.
71. **Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program:** The first reward offered under this new U.S. program (which was created by Congress in 2013) was related to wildlife trafficking. In November 2013, the U.S. Department of State announced that the United States was offering up to \$1 million reward for information leading to the dismantling of the Xaysavang Network. Based in Laos – with affiliates in South Africa, Mozambique, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China – the Xaysavang Network facilitates the killing of endangered elephants, rhinos, and other species for products such as ivory.
72. **Grants: Conservation Grants:** The USFWS administers a number of grant-making programs focused on CITES-listed species, including the African Elephant Conservation Fund, Asian Elephant Conservation Fund, Great Ape Conservation Fund, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (collectively termed the Multinational Species Conservation Funds). The USFWS Division of International Conservation implements a competitive award process for each fund biannually. In 2012, the combined awards of these Multinational Species Conservation Funds totaled approximately USD11.10 million, with an additional USD14.39 million leveraged through matching funds. In 2013, the combined awards of these Multinational Species Conservation Funds totaled approximately USD10.03 million, with an additional USD15.94 million leveraged through matching funds.

The USFWS also implements the Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund and the Amphibians in Decline Fund. Both of these annual competitive grant programs make awards for the conservation of CITES-listed species or other species which may be impacted by trade. In addition, the USFWS operates the Wildlife Without Borders–Regional programs, which are regionally (rather than species) based. The Regional programs award competitive grants and support capacity building for conservation work in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, Russia, and East Asia. In 2012, the combined awards of these Funds/Regional programs totaled approximately USD4.69 million, with an additional USD6.70 million leveraged through matching funds. In 2013, the combined awards of these Funds/Regional programs totaled approximately USD10.20 million, with an additional USD13.94 million leveraged through matching funds.

Additional information regarding these grant programs can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/international/grants-and-reporting/>

73. Outreach: 40th Anniversary: Leading up to CITES CoP16, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) launched a social media campaign highlighting facts about the Convention, as well as a representative sample of the animal and plant species that it protects. The forty day campaign, which was anchored by a blog and subsequent posts on Facebook and Twitter, served as a countdown to CoP16 and also as a reminder that 2013 marked the 40th Anniversary of CITES. U.S. Department of State engaged on this campaign and a number of social media posts were shared or retweeted by U.S. Embassies around the globe. USFWS also wrote a series of articles on the history of the Convention and U.S. priorities for CoP16, all of which were prominently featured in the Winter 2013 edition of Fish & Wildlife News – a USFWS publication that is distributed to a variety of stakeholder groups and is available online.

Blog: <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2013/1/24/Were-Counting-Down-to-the-Start-of-CoP>

Winter 2013 edition of Fish & Wildlife News: <http://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cop16/fws-news-spotlight-on-cites.pdf>

**Informe de la Región de Norteamérica para el AC27
(28 de abril al 2 de mayo de 2014, Veracruz)**

Insumos de México

Periodo: Marzo 2012 a febrero 2014

Información provista por: Autoridades CITES de México (DGVS-SEMARNAT, CONABIO, PROFEPA)

Overview of Major Developments

Activities of Regional Representatives

Regional Cooperation and Priorities

- En octubre del 2012, la Autoridad Científica CITES de México contrató al M. en C. Marco Antonio López Luna (Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco), para desarrollar, en colaboración con otros expertos nacionales, el proyecto "Diagnóstico del estado de conservación del cocodrilo americano (*Crocodylus acutus*) en México, consideraciones sobre CITES, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 y UICN, y propuesta de sitios potenciales para un programa de monitoreo, con base en información existente". Su objetivo fue compilar información disponible sobre el estado de conservación, uso y comercio internacional de la especie, para evaluarla bajo los criterios de la NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, la Lista Roja de la UICN y la CITES, así como identificar sitios potenciales para su monitoreo a futuro.
- Se realizaron las temporadas 2012 y 2013 del "Programa de Monitoreo del Cocodrilo de Pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) México-Belice-Guatemala" en México. Incluyendo la temporada 2011, en total se han realizado 572 recorridos, cubriendo 5,532km de lagos, ríos, manglares y esteros, a partir de los cuales se estimó una población de alrededor de 79,000 individuos, con tendencia estable y estructura poblacional saludable (buena producción de crías y juveniles).
- La CONABIO elaboró, en conjunto con Autoridades CITES de Estados Unidos de América y Canadá, el póster "Ranas arborícolas del género *Agalychnis* protegidas por la CITES", publicado en abril de 2013, con el fin de identificar a las especies de ranas que fueron incluidas en los Apéndices en la CoP15 (Doha, 2010), mismo que se distribuyó en los principales puertos, aeropuertos y cruces fronterizos del país. Se espera que la difusión de este material fomente la legalidad y sustentabilidad del comercio internacional de dichas especies.
- En preparación de las reuniones de los Comités de Fauna y Flora (AC27/PC21, Veracruz 2014), la CONABIO elaboró materiales de difusión (tríptico y un póster) con información general sobre la Convención, su funcionamiento e implementación nacional para fomentar el comercio legal y responsable de especies CITES.
- La Secretaría de Economía conjuntamente con la SEMARNAT publicaron el 19 de diciembre del 2012 el "Acuerdo que establece la clasificación y codificación de mercancías cuya importación y exportación está sujeta a regulación por parte de la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales", dentro del cual se sujeta a regulación no arancelaria la importación y exportación (presentación de permisos CITES y autorizaciones) de especies listadas en los Apéndices CITES y en la normatividad nacional. En fechas próximas de efectuará una revisión conjunta SE-SEMARNAT del citado Acuerdo, para identificar nuevas necesidades de regulación.
- La Autoridad CITES de Aplicación de la Ley en México (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, PROFEPA) realizó 6,116 verificaciones en 2012 y 6,498 en 2013, sobre el cumplimiento de las

disposiciones jurídico-normativas aplicables a los movimientos transfronterizos de especies reguladas de vida silvestre, marinas y forestales, promoviendo la correcta implementación de la CITES.

- En 2012, la PROFEPA a través de la Subprocuraduría de Inspección Industrial, implementó el “Proyecto de Fortalecimiento a la Verificación de la Exportación de Especies Reguladas” cuyo objetivo es el identificar situaciones irregulares y áreas de oportunidad para un mejor cumplimiento de la Ley en los movimientos transfronterizos de especies reguladas de flora y fauna silvestre, marina y forestal. Como resultado se identificaron fracciones arancelarias que requieren revisión y , especies de atención prioritaria o inspecciones focalizadas.
- En 2013, la PROFEPA aseguró 2 contenedores con 898,660 ejemplares de Pepino de Mar (*Isostichopus fuscus*), cantidad que equivale a 686 kilogramos del producto; 78,676 ejemplares secos de Caballito de Mar (*Hippocampus ingens*), cantidad que equivale a 197 kilogramos del producto; 108 kilogramos de panza seca, 21 cajas de vejiga seca y 955 cajas de vejiga congelada presumiblemente de Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), la vejiga congelada se encontraba mezclada con otra especie pesquera llamada Curvina. Asimismo, durante 2012 y 2013, se aseguraron 758 metros cúbicos de maderas tropicales en 2 puertos marítimos que derivaron en acciones en territorio nacional con el aseguramiento de 1,356 metros cúbicos de madera en rollo y escuadría, 27 toneladas de carbón, 9 vehículos de carga, 9 herramientas, clausura de tres aserraderos, suspensión de 6 predios bajo aprovechamiento forestal autorizado por el mal uso de la documentación y la instauración de 66 procedimientos administrativos. También, más de 200 ejemplares de reptil escondidos en el equipaje de ciudadanos japoneses, fueron asegurados en el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México. Del mismo modo, se giró una alerta a las autoridades policiacas en los principales aeropuertos del país con los nombres y pseudónimos de presuntos traficantes internacionales de vida silvestre.
- En 2013, se ejecutó el “Operativo de Vigilancia y Prevención del Tráfico Internacional Ilegal de Especies Protegidas”, coordinado con las autoridades aduaneras, de sanidad agropecuaria, policiacas, militares y de migración, cuyo objetivo fue prevenir y combatir el movimiento transfronterizo ilegal de ejemplares, partes y derivados de especies protegidas, a través del desarrollo de acciones de vigilancia sistemática, inspección programada y el establecimiento de puntos de control y revisión en cruces fronterizos no cubiertos habitualmente por PROFEPA. El operativo incluyó 3 tipos de acciones: a) sellamiento de la frontera norte (2,006 revisiones en cruces fronterizos con EUA), b) puertos marítimos (451 revisiones) y c) vigilancia permanente en aeropuertos con vuelos internacionales. Se inspeccionaron 20,000 metros cuadrados de madera, 20,000 kgs. de carbón vegetal, 116 vehículos con productos pesqueros, 29 ejemplares de fauna silvestre; y se aseguraron 122 metros cúbicos de maderas tropicales, 600 kgs. de carbón vegetal y 9 productos de vida silvestre.
- En los años 2012 y 2013, PROFEPA participó en los operativos internacionales CAGE y REPTILE realizándose acciones de vigilancia sistemática en aeropuertos con vuelos internacionales.
- Como parte de la cooperación al interior de NAWEG, PROFEPA realizó trabajos de investigación e intercambio de información sobre algunas especies de interés compartido (Totoaba, Pepino de Mar, Peces Clarión) lográndose aseguramientos tanto en México como en los EUA.

Meetings and Workshops

- Durante el taller “Cocodrilos mexicanos: monitoreo del cocodrilo de pantano 2012-2013 y situación del cocodrilo de río” (Ciudad de México, 25 y 26 de noviembre de 2013) se revisaron los resultados de las temporadas 2012 y 2013 del Programa de Monitoreo del Cocodrilo de Pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) en México, se identificaron sitios secundarios de monitoreo y se planificó la temporada 2014. Asimismo, se presentaron los resultados del proyecto “Diagnóstico del estado de conservación del cocodrilo americano (*Crocodylus acutus*) en México, consideraciones sobre CITES, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010 y UICN, y propuesta de sitios potenciales para un programa de monitoreo”. Participaron más de 40 expertos incluyendo científicos, productores, organizaciones no gubernamentales y autoridades de México, Belice y Guatemala, así como un representante del Grupo de Especialistas en Cocodrilianos de la UICN (CSG-IUCN).
- Con el objetivo de fomentar el establecimiento de UMA y su consolidación, se realizó el III Taller para el fomento, conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable de los cocodrilos en México (Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, 10 y 11 de diciembre de 2013), con énfasis en el cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*). Estuvo dirigido al personal técnico de las UMA y todos aquellos interesados en la conservación, manejo y

aprovechamiento sustentable de los cocodrilos de México, para el intercambio de información sobre la especie, su gestión para el establecimiento y consolidación de las UMA, además de oportunidades de financiamiento y comercialización.

- Durante la 27ª reunión del Comité de Fauna (AC27) y la 21ª reunión del Comité de Flora (PC21) a realizarse en Veracruz, México del 28 de abril al 8 de mayo de 2014, se realizarán actividades adicionales a las reuniones oficiales, para difundir esquemas exitosos de manejo de especies CITES en México que pueden ser utilizados como modelo a nivel mundial:
 - Visitas guiadas a sitios donde se aprovechen y manejen especies CITES de manera exitosa (Unidades de Manejo para la Conservación de Vida Silvestre, jardines botánicos, áreas naturales protegidas, sitios de monitoreo de *Crocodylus moreletii*).
 - Presentación de carteles con la finalidad de mostrar experiencias de investigación, manejo y conservación de especies CITES, favoreciendo el intercambio y colaboración entre la comunidad mexicana y los expertos CITES (el 2 de mayo durante la recepción del primer día de las sesiones conjuntas)
 - Eventos paralelos de diversos foros nacionales e internacionales.
 - Seminario sobre la CITES abierto al público donde se espera la participación de diferentes sectores (gubernamental, académico y productivo), y países Parte de la CITES, así como de organizaciones internacionales, como una oportunidad para difundir información sobre la Convención y fomentar su correcta implementación (3 de mayo).
- En 2012, la Subprocuraduría de Inspección Industrial de la PROFEPA en conjunto con la WWF-TRAFFIC Norteamérica y con fondos del Programa Vida Silvestre Sin Fronteras del USFWS, realizó 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”. Se capacitaron 81 servidores públicos del sector ambiental federal de todo el país y de gobiernos locales, que tienen a su cargo la gestión, verificación e inspección de vida silvestre para comercio internacional y nacional. Asimismo, en 2013 también organizaron el “Taller para capacitar capacitadores en materia de comercio y tráfico de vida silvestre”, dirigido a 50 servidores públicos de la PROFEPA, CONABIO, Administración General de Aduanas y la Procuraduría General de la República. Hasta la fecha el contenido del taller se ha replicado a 119 servidores públicos en las Delegaciones de PROFEPA en todo el país. Con el fin de continuar con esta iniciativa, en el 2014 se presentó una propuesta al Programa Vida Silvestre Sin Fronteras del USFWS, que ha sido pre-aprobada.
- Durante 2012, personal de la PROFEPA asistió a diversos eventos de capacitación, actualización e intercambio de experiencias técnicas, facilitados por la Comisión de Cooperación Ambiental para América del Norte (CCA): “Taller Teórico-Práctico en investigación de la escena del crimen en vida silvestre”, “Taller sobre aplicación de la legislación ambiental con apoyo en datos de inteligencia”, “Taller de Intercambio de Experiencias en la Conducción de Investigaciones por Medios Electrónicos de Información para la Aplicación de la Ley en Materia Ambiental y de Vida Silvestre”, “Reunión sobre mejores prácticas forenses”. En el marco de esta cooperación, PROFEPA participó durante julio del 2013 en el “Taller sobre Intercambio de Información e Inteligencia en el Tráfico de Especies Marinas Protegidas en América del Norte”.
- En septiembre de 2012, la PROFEPA participó en el “Taller para la Identificación de Aletas de Tiburón”, celebrado en Roatán, Honduras, donde se brindó capacitación y actualización para una adecuada implementación y operación de la CITES en materia de identificación de aletas de tiburón. El material de identificación es utilizado para la verificación/inspección en puertos marítimos donde PROFEPA trabaja coordinadamente con las autoridades pesqueras y aduaneras en la revisión de embarques de exportación.
- La PROFEPA asistió, en marzo del 2012, a la “Reunión Anual de Formación de la Región 2 de Oficinas de Aplicación de la Ley-USFWS” (San Antonio, Texas), que tuvo por objeto exponer las acciones de la PROFEPA en materia de aplicación de la Ley sobre 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 especies silvestres.
- La Subprocuraduría de Inspección Industrial de PROFEPA asistió a la “Reunión Anual de Jefes Estatales de Aplicación de la Ley del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos de América” (Shepherdstown, West Virginia, abril 2012), para exponer las acciones y logros de la Procuraduría, en materia de aplicación de la Ley en los movimientos transfronterizos de vida silvestre, productos forestales y su fitosanidad en puertos, aeropuertos y fronteras.

Other Regional Information

- En colaboración con TRAFFIC-Norteamérica, la CONABIO realizó el proyecto "Examen para identificar especies mexicanas relevantes en el marco del comercio internacional" (2012-2013), cuyo objetivo fue clasificar a las especies nativas mexicanas (incluidas o no en la CITES) con base en su comercio internacional de 2005 a 2010 y su estado de conservación, en niveles o categorías de atención para la toma de decisiones. Como resultado, y para atender las necesidades de un primer paquete de especies, en diciembre de 2013, la CONABIO emitió convocatorias dirigidas a asociaciones civiles, universidades y centros de investigación para evaluar el estatus de 4 especies en la CITES (*Crax rubra*, *Meleagris ocellata*, *Penelope purpurascens*, *Isostichopus fuscus*) y la pertinencia de incluir en la CITES a las siguientes: *Xenosaurus grandis*, *Claudius angustatus*, *Staurotypus triporcatus*, *Holacanthus clarionensis*, *Beaucarnea recurvata*, y varias especies mexicanas del género *Abronia*.
- La CONABIO, en conjunto con Oscar Sosa Nishizaki (Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Baja California; CICESE) y expertos del Instituto Nacional de la Pesca (INAPESCA), está coordinando la publicación "Tiburones mexicanos bajo la observancia de la CITES: El estado de su conocimiento", en la que contribuyen varios especialistas nacionales. Su objetivo es compilar la información disponible sobre las especies de tiburones mexicanos listados en la CITES (*Rhincodon typus*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran*, *Sphyrna zygaena* y *Carcharodon longimanus*), identificar los vacíos y proponer los medios para subsanarlos. Se espera contar con la primera versión del documento completo en los primeros meses de 2014.
- Como parte de las actividades coordinadas por las Autoridades CITES mexicanas en materia de conservación, manejo y uso sustentable del cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*), se presentó un proyecto piloto sobre *C. moreletii* en México a la Plataforma de Abastecimiento Responsable con los Ecosistemas (RESP) en noviembre de 2013. Dicho proyecto incluye acciones y trabajo coordinado entre los actores relevantes para fortalecer la información sobre trazabilidad de pieles, sistemas de producción de cría en cautiverio e identificar las condiciones y sitios potenciales para actividades de rancheo a futuro. Principalmente se buscará vincular a las comunidades locales y productores mexicanos (granjas) con las empresas internacionales de la industria de la moda.
- En octubre de 2013, la UNAM firmó un acuerdo con el Instituto Smithsonian del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de EUA, para desarrollar el proyecto "Código de Barras de la Vida Silvestre-México". Dicho proyecto buscará utilizar los códigos de barras como herramienta de apoyo para la Autoridad CITES de Aplicación de la Ley en México (PROFEPA), en la identificación de especies sujetas a comercio internacional difíciles de identificar. Las Autoridades CITES, en colaboración con la academia (UNAM), la red MEXBOL de la Comisión Nacional para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (CONACYT), la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR) y la División Científica de la Policía Federal, han desarrollado un documento que describe el alcance del proyecto en México, y una lista de 800 especies (200 prioritarias más las similares y asociadas) que requieren ser secuenciadas para incluirse en una biblioteca de referencia genética.
- La iniciativa del "Programa de apoyo para el fomento a la conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable de la vida silvestre de la Dirección General de Vida Silvestre" (en vigor desde 2010) de la Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (Autoridad Administrativa CITES de México), benefició a 9 UMA para cocodrilos mexicanos en 2013, y ha contribuido con recursos económicos al desarrollo de la industria de producción de pieles y productos de cocodrilianos a través de las UMA en zonas y comunidades rurales de la República Mexicana.
- La Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) con apoyo técnico de la CONABIO y la participación de técnicos de UMA, especialistas, instituciones estatales y federales; se encuentra próxima a publicar en formato electrónico el "Plan de Manejo Tipo para la Conservación, Manejo y Aprovechamiento Sustentable del Cocodrilo de Pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*) en México" así como de su Anexo: Cría en Cautiverio. Este documento homogenizará el desarrollo de las actividades de conservación, manejo y aprovechamiento sustentable esta especie. En particular el Anexo describirá las técnicas y requerimientos para su cría en cautiverio. Se desarrollarán guías para otros tipos de manejo (rancheo, ecoturismo, vida libre, entre otros).
- La SEMARNAT se encuentra próxima a publicar en formato electrónico el "Protocolo Nacional de Atención a Conflictos con Cocodrilianos en México". Este documento tiene el objetivo de Identificar e

implementar acciones para prevenir y atender conflictos que pudieran presentarse entre los cocodrilianos y personas dentro de las zonas de distribución de los cocodrilianos en México.

- En el 2012, la PROFEPA implementó el “Proyecto de Fortalecimiento a la Atención a Especies Potencialmente Invasoras” el cual está enfocado a identificar especies exóticas con potencial invasor asociadas al comercio internacional, particularmente importaciones, de especies de vida silvestre, marinas y forestales. Como resultado se elaboró una lista preliminar de especies exóticas de atención prioritaria la cual será incluida en la lista de referencia elaborada por CONABIO. Fue autorizada la solicitud de financiamiento al *Global Environmental Facility* (GEF), para la creación y fortalecimiento de capacidades en la atención de especies invasoras.
- En 2012 y 2013, PROFEPA gestionó la remodelación de 03 oficinas de verificación/inspección en la frontera sur-sureste (Guatemala y Belice) las cuales se encuentran operando, con la finalidad de fortalecer la verificación de mercancías comercializadas entre Centroamérica y México, con lo que se consolida la capacidad nacional de promover el cumplimiento de la Ley y garantizar la legalidad de los movimientos transfronterizos de especies reguladas de vida silvestre, marinas y forestales.