

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

Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Regional matters

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

1. This report, covering the period from November 2015 to May 2017 was prepared by María Isabel Camarena Osorno, Alternate Regional Representative for North America, in collaboration with CITES Authorities of Canada, México and the United States*.

2. Overview of Major Developments

2.1 Periodic Review

USA

The periodic review of U.S.-native *Lewisia serrata* (Portulacaceae) is underway and results will be reported to PC24.

2.1 Non-detriment findings:

Canada

- 2.1.1 Canada maintains Standing NDF Reports for frequently traded species including two commonly traded Canadian plants: American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*). A review of these reports is conducted after every Conference of the Parties or when new substantive information becomes available. The Standing NDF Reports for terrestrial species and the science advice used as a basis for the NDFs for marine species are available on the Environment Canada website at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1>
- 2.1.2 In Canada, goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) is listed as Threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act and it occurs in the province of Ontario. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair has prepared an updated Status report for the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada based on field work she completed in July 2015 that will be used to inform the Standing NDF for that species.

Mexico

- 2.1.3 In compliance with Article IV of the Text of the Convention, as well as Res. Conf. (Rev. CoP17), during the period covered by this report, the Mexican CITES Scientific Authority (CONABIO) has formulated a total of 459 NDFs for species of flora, covering in total 9 Appendix II taxa: *Euphorbia antisyphilitica*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo*, *Dalbergia congestiflora*, *Guaiaacum*

* 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.

sanctum y *Opuntia cholla*. Of these, the great majority (around 65%) have been for *E. antisiphilitica* (candelilla).

- 2.1.4 Likewise, CONABIO has formulated a total of 56 technical opinions on Management Plans, to guide the sustainable harvest of *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo*, y *Guaiaacum sanctum*. Once again, the majority of these opinions (around 80%) have been related to the harvest of candelilla.

2.2 Capacity-building

Canada

- 2.2.1 American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is listed under the *Species at Risk Act* as endangered species in Canada. In July and August 2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) organized three training sessions on American ginseng in the Quebec region in collaboration with the Ontario region. The Wildlife Officers and Conservation Officers practiced in the field how to identify wild American ginseng in its natural habitat, to recognize the signs of poaching and the tools used by poachers. The training also focused on the threats to these species, the methods used to mark the plants to protect the populations of wild American Ginseng from poaching and to support prosecutions.
- 2.2.2 The Director General of the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate at Environment and Climate Change Canada, Sheldon Jordan is currently chair of the Wildlife Crime Working Group at INTERPOL. The Working Group, a subgroup of the Environmental Security Sub-Directorate, works and advises on issues related to law enforcement, strategies and ways in which INTERPOL can help to maintain and support an international network of law enforcement experts specializing in wildlife and forestry crimes. ECCC's involvement with the Wildlife Crime Working Group has included building capacity and facilitating the exchange of information in support of coordinated and enhanced enforcement efforts around the world.

Mexico

- 2.2.3 With the aim to promote the sustainable harvest of candelilla (*Euphorbia antisiphilitica*), and during the period covered by this report, the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) has financed the elaboration of the following Technical Supporting Studies (TSS):
- In 2015, five TSS were developed in relation to the sustainable management of 26,855 hectares.
 - In 2016, 32 TSS' were developed in relation to the sustainable management of 118,493 hectares. And,
 - In 2017 (to the date), 40 TSS' have been developed in relation to the sustainable management of 123,067 hectares.
- 2.2.4 In relation with the above, to the date CONAFOR's 2017 National Forestry Programme (PRONAFOR) has granted financial support for the modernization of candelilla wax extraction equipment, as well as for the equipment of a refinery plant.
- 2.2.5 Likewise, through PRONAFOR, CONAFOR has supported 12 requests for the development of a Unified Technical Document related to the sustainable harvest of tropical species, such as big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), covering an area of 23,359 hectares during the period 2016-2017; of which 60% correspond to 2016, and the remaining 40% to 2017.

USA

- 2.2.6 In partnership with Tetra Tech (funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) supported government officials from 14 countries in West (12) and Central African (2) to participate in the Master's Degree Program on the *Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework* (CITES Master's Course in Andalusia, Spain) April 2016 to March 2017.
- 2.2.7 The USFWS Forensic Laboratory with researchers in Canada, Australia, Argentina, and the United States recently published findings demonstrating that the wood of CITES Appendix-I listed *Araucaria*

araucana can be distinguished from that of look-alike species using a form of chemical analysis (known as Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry (TOFMS)). As reported in PC21 Doc. 15 on Development of a timber identification directory for CITES-listed species, DART-TOF MS allows analysis of solid wood samples, which reduces preparation time and the cost of analysis. The cost of a DART TOFMS machine is similar to the cost of DNA analysis and requires someone with expertise to understand the data, but the analysis costs about USD 0.10 per sample and it is easy to analyse and obtain results for more than 100 samples per day. These findings are published in the journal of the International Association of Wood Anatomists (Abstract available at: <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/22941932-20170171>).

- 2.2.8 XyloTron Training (January 24-26, 2017, Guatemala): U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-International Programs facilitated a targeted technical training on the XyloTron. The XyloTron is a device and database system developed by the USFS's Forest Products lab that allows for the rapid, on-site identification of wood species. USFS instructed a select group of 12 that included students, faculty, and port officials, on the theoretical background and applied utilization of the XyloTron for species identification and adding specimens to the reference image collection. Additional to the training, all the XyloTron equipment was donated to the Wood Forensic Laboratory of Guatemala, and remote technical assistance from the USFS to the Guatemalan laboratory is ongoing.
- 2.2.9 U.S. outreach efforts related to rosewood: The U.S. Management Authority developed a suite of outreach tools to support stakeholders that trade in the genus *Dalbergia* spp. (except for Brazilian rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*), which is listed in Appendix I), the three bubinga species of *Guibourtia demeusei*, *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, and *Guibourtia tessmannii*, and kosso (also called African rosewood) (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*), which have been listed in CITES Appendix II, effective January 2, 2017 and now may require CITES documentation for import and re-export of these species and items made from them. The materials are available online and include:
- A November 17, 2016 (revised April 13, 2017) letter to U.S. importers/ re-exporters of rosewood species, available from <https://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/letter-appendix-ii-timber-listings-november-2016.pdf>;
 - An online Questions and Answers document, available from <https://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/questions-and-answers-appendix-ii-timber-listings-december-2016.pdf>; and
 - Two webinars hosted by the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) and League of American Orchestras (LAO). To view the International Wood Products Association webinar, which features guidance for commercial timber and wood products traders, please visit the following URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/825012870722049>. To view the League of American Orchestras webinar, which features guidance for traveling musicians, please visit the following URL: <https://youtu.be/p7EXqrPNFFM>.
- 2.2.10 DOI-ITAP: With funding from the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and complementary funding from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of International Affairs via their International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) engaged in the following activities:
- September 17-18, 2015 in San Jose, Costa Rica - National CITES Implementation and Enforcement Workshop for Inspectors. Thirty-two Costa Rican CITES officials and Customs Inspectors received training from a USFWS Office of Law Enforcement Wildlife Inspector and regional CITES authorities on topics such as CITES general background, documentation and reporting requirements, and conducting inspections of CITES specimens.
 - January 26, 2016 in Panama City, Panama - Regional Coordination and Information Exchange Meeting of 6 CITES Administrative Officials from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.
 - June 21-22, 2016 in San Salvador, El Salvador - Regional Information Exchange and Coordination Meeting of CITES Officials. Twenty-three CITES officials from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and the United States discussed topics of mutual interest in preparation for CoP17.

- August 30-31, 2016 in San Salvador, El Salvador - National CITES Implementation and Enforcement Workshop for Inspectors. Twenty-three Salvadoran CITES officials and Customs Inspectors received training from a USFWS Office of Law Enforcement Wildlife Inspector and regional CITES authorities on topics such as CITES general background, documentation and reporting requirements, and conducting inspection of CITES specimens.
- February 21 - March 4, 2017 in Rabat, Morocco - At the request of the Moroccan CITES Management Authority, the High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD), 2 USFWS CITES technical experts and a retired Law Enforcement Officer from Environment Canada conducted a CITES technical mission focused on improving protocols and procedures for implementing Morocco's CITES legislation, particularly with regard to coordination between their Management Authority and Customs Authorities.
- *Activities in Chile*
 - August 2015-present - Throughout 2015, DOI-ITAP worked closely with Chilean authorities, including the CITES National Committee and the Museum of Natural History, to design, develop, and deliver a large-scale visual exhibition regarding the history and importance of CITES in Chile to celebrate 40 years of CITES.
 - May 4, 2016, Valparaiso - DOI-ITAP coordinated with a variety of Chilean agencies to present an inter-agency 1-day seminar on implementation and enforcement of CITES at the national and local levels.
 - October 24, 2016, Santiago - DOI-ITAP, the CITES National Committee, and its constituent agencies presented a 1-day workshop for government officials and other stakeholders regarding CITES implementation and enforcement.
 - 30-31 May 2017, Valparaiso - Regional Workshop for Customs and Police Inspectors to Enforce CITES at Ports of Entry. Instructors included CITES officials and USFWS Office of Law Enforcement Attaché for South America for workshop participants from Chile and Colombia. Topics included best practices in conducting wildlife inspections, application of CITES law, and determination of duties and jurisdiction across the government.

2.3 Other

Canada

- 2.3.1 During 2016, ECCC contributed to the development of the Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification, a project led by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime (GPWLFC) and the Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS) (https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Guide_Timber.pdf). This Guide is intended to support front-line enforcement officers worldwide in identifying species and geographical provenance of timber samples through the use of forensic technology and laboratory data. The information collected, while applying methods of forensic analysis of timber can be instrumental to design targeted law enforcement responses. It will help ensure that resources are directed to areas where illegal logging occurs and will support countries in combating the illegal trade in products of protected timber species more effectively. In addition, identifying where illegal logging activities occur assists countries to respond to these illegal activities within their borders and helps to promote international cooperation to address the problem.

Mexico

- 2.3.2 At the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg 2016), Mexico:
- a) Submitted the following proposals related to flora, all successfully adopted by the CoP, and currently reflected under CITES Appendices:
 - Proposal CoP17 Prop. 50, on the listing of ponytail palms (*Beaucarnea* spp.) under Appendix II;
 - Proposal CoP17 Prop. 51, on the elimination of *Tillandsia mauryana* from Appendix II;

- Proposal CoP17 Prop. 54, on the listing of 13 timber species of *Dalbergia* spp. native to Mexico and Central America (with Annotation #6);
- b) Submitted the following documents, the recommendations of which were successfully adopted by the CoP17:
 - CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on “International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]”; which derived in the current Decision 17.234;
 - CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1) on “Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation on Biological Diversity”, which derived in the current Decisions 17.53 to 17.54.

2.3.3 Updates on Mexican National CITES Authorities: Since November 1st, 2016, Mr. José Pedro Funes Izaguirre holds the position of Head of the Mexican Management Authority (DGVS-SEMARNAT). This update is currently reflected under the “National contacts & information” section of CITES website.

USA

2.3.4 In 2016, U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with Freeland and other partners with funding through USAID’s Asia’s Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST) program, co-developed a toolkit for governments and partners in building, establishing, and sustaining a wildlife enforcement network (WEN). The toolkit describes step-by-step processes to lay the foundation, launch a WEN, and implement its three key pillars: capacity building; networking; and communications. The process outlined in the toolkit ensures all members in the network share a common understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and commitments. The toolkit can be easily used to create a WEN at a city, provincial, national or regional level in any location around the globe. The toolkit reflects lessons learned and best practices from experience facilitating efforts by the governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) to develop ASEAN-WEN, which is now the world’s largest wildlife enforcement network and implements a robust suite of activities.

3. Activities of Regional Representatives

3.1 Dr. Adrienne Sinclair, Plant Committee Chair and Regional Representative for North America in her previous role as Plant Committee Chair ad interim prepared or supported the preparation of Plants Committee reports to the 17th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties. She also attended the IPBES Scoping Meeting for the Assessment on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, August 2-4, 2016 in Bonn, Germany as a resource person for CITES. She also was co-chair with Switzerland on the Plants Committee Working Group on reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants.

Dr. Adrienne Sinclair and Ms. Carolina Caceres in their role of Plant Committee Chair ad interim and Animal Committee Chair respectively co-authored a paper with the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on “Mainstreaming CITES and synergies for contributing to Aichi Targets and 2030 SDGs” at the request of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4. Regional cooperation

Canada/México/USA

4.1 The members of the North America Region communicate regularly as part of our ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional CITES issues. The North American Region meets annually as the CITES Table at the Canada/U.S./Mexico Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest. In this reporting period, meetings were held in Ottawa Canada, August 15-19, 2016 and in Ensenada Mexico, May 15-18, 2017. The three countries discussed CITES implementation issues, preparations for CITES meetings, and other CITES issues of interest to our region.

4.2 The two year project on “Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected CITES Appendix II species in North America” funded by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and developed in collaboration with the North American CITES Authorities, was completed in January, 2017. Based on a comprehensive trade analysis of the selected Appendix II priority species groups – sharks, tarantulas, parrots, turtles and timber–, the project resulted in a set of action plans that provide guidance on reducing illegal and unsustainable harvest and trade, improving biological knowledge to allow science-based

management decisions, and promoting traceability, species conservation and livelihoods of stakeholder in their respective trade chains. The final action plans were broadcasted in a parallel Reception to the May 2016 meeting of the Canada/U.S./Mexico Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management in Ensenada, Mexico. A follow-up project under CEC 2017-2018 operational plan, entitled “Sustainable, Legal and Traceable Production and Trade of CITES Sharks, Turtles, Tarantulas, and Timber in North America”, is being developed to support the implementation of key priority actions identified in the Action Plans.

Canada

- 4.3 Over three quarters of Canada’s wildlife trade is within the Americas. In October 2015, Canada participated at the first Regional Conference on Wildlife and Forest Crime: Law Enforcement in the Americas. This conference was held in Cancun, Mexico, and was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Mexican Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) and the World Bank. At the conference, countries committed to a list of fourteen principles and an action plan that aims to better organize local efforts to combat wildlife crime in the region.

5. Meetings and Workshops

Canada/Mexico/USA

- 5.1 “International workshop on tree species in CITES”: Representatives from Environment Canada, the U.S. Management Authority, and the Mexican Scientific Authority (CONABIO) attended the *International workshop on tree species in CITES*, organized with funding from the European Union and held in La Antigua, Guatemala, February 7-9, 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to assist Parties in fulfilling their obligations with regard to CITES-listed tree species and to share experiences on the management and international trade in relevant species. Discussions focused largely on the challenges encountered with regard to the rosewood listings adopted at CoP17. Particularly, Canada chaired a working group which examined challenges and priority work areas associated with existing and new (post-CoP17) Resolutions and Decisions for tree species.

The workshop was attended by representatives from around 15 Parties to CITES (including both range states, and main importers).

Canada

- 5.2 In February 2016, Canada participated in a meeting to provide advice on development on the CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants: A nine step process to support CITES Scientific Authorities making science-based non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II.

Mexico

- 5.3 During the period at hand, CITES Authorities, as well as CONAFOR and others, have actively participated in the following meetings relevant to CITES-listed flora:
- a) Meeting of the Working Group on the elaboration of a first draft for the Guidance to elaborate Management Plans for Mahogany (March 23, 2017; Mexico City, Mexico). Said guide will serve as a basis to aid the decision making processes for the development of Forestry Management Plans that involve the sustainable harvest of big leaf mahogany. The working group was comprised, among others, by CONAFOR, the General Directorate on Forestry Management and Soil Use (DGGFS), DGVS-SEMARNAT, CONABIO, and representatives from relevant NGOs.
 - b) Also related to the implementation of big leaf mahogany CITES listings in Mexico, relevant authorities have actively participated in other consultancies of the species Management Plans, as well as the documentation of success cases under the project “Biodiversity in Productive Forests, and certified markets to facilitate the issuance of CITES permits”.
 - c) Several Mexican and UE authorities, as well as key experts from abroad, participated in the first workshop part of the Project “Legal and illegal trade of wildlife between the European Union and Mexico” (April 18th, 2017; Mexico City), led by CONABIO and the European Commission.

USA

- 5.4 Plant Nursery CITES Workshop: In November 2015, several staff of the U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities were invited to speak at a workshop with Florida-based plant nurseries to present an overview of CITES and the permitting requirements for artificially propagated plants. Many plant nurseries in south Florida are CITES permittees or are suppliers of CITES-listed plants for international trade. The workshop provided an important opportunity to help participants better understand CITES and the U.S. permitting requirements for the export/import of CITES-listed plant species.
- 5.5 APHIS Regulatory Workshop: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) hosted regulatory workshops (April 4, 2016) at the Honolulu Plant Inspection Station, and (December 12, 2016) at the San Diego Plant Inspection Station, for APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) Officers on the implementation and enforcement of CITES policies. The 3-day training workshops are designed as a solid introduction to CITES policy/rules, permitting requirements, inspection, processing of shipments, identification resources, seizure/forfeiture protocol, and other areas of port enforcement in order to strengthen knowledge of the officers' overall roles and responsibilities.
- 5.6 Regional *Dalbergia* Workshop in Central America (May 16-20, 2016): U.S. Forest Service (USFS), International Programs (IP) facilitated a regional workshop with actors involved in combating illegal logging in CAFTA-DR countries, including researchers, CITES officials, a small-scale timber company, and customs officials. This workshop reviewed the general population, ecology, and management of *Dalbergia*, discussed illegal logging in the region, and brainstormed action plans aimed at achieving a long-term, sustainable management strategy for the genus. Additionally, in FY16 USFS contracted the services of a CITES official from Guatemala, who, as part of this agreement, developed a comprehensive report on the population and ecology and trade information of the genus *Dalbergia*. Using this information, two user-friendly brochures were developed on the identification of *Dalbergia* spp. that can be shared with forestry, customs, and industry professionals. Spanish version available – contact scientificauthority@fws.gov
- 5.7 Macroscopic Wood Identification Workshops: U.S. Forest Service-International Programs (USFS-IP) facilitated a total of five wood identification workshops on rosewood for CAFTA-DR countries (four in March and April of 2016 and one in February in 2017). In the workshops, participants from government agencies and universities learned how to properly distinguish *Dalbergia* spp. from other commonly traded wood species. The trainings have also covered information about CITES and have reviewed the listing of the several *Dalbergia* spp. listed under CITES Appendix II and III. In April 2017, USFS IP facilitated a training the trainers regional workshop on wood identification to a core group of specialists, further fostering regional collaboration and capacity-building.
- 5.8 American Ginseng: The U.S. Scientific and Management Authorities hosted a meeting with the State and Tribe program coordinators for American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), July 2017 in West Virginia. The meeting was attended by representatives of 19 States and one Native American Tribe, to discuss current issues facing American ginseng, management and regulatory efforts to continue to ensure the sustainable harvest of American ginseng in international trade. The participants also attended the symposium: The Future of American Ginseng and Forest Botanicals; coordinated by the United Plant Savers, a non-governmental organization, and in collaboration with the U.S. CITES Authority. The Symposium showcased new research and information concerning the status and trade of American ginseng, goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), and other forest plants in trade. Proceeding from the Symposium will be posted on the UpS website: <https://www.unitedplantsavers.org/>

6. Other issues

Mexico

- 6.1 CONABIO is developing the project on the “Assessment of the conservation status and potential sustainable use of candelilla (*Euphorbia antisyphilitica*) in harvested areas in Coahuila”, aimed to determine the species current distribution, abundance and conservation status in areas subject to harvest in order to strengthen its sustainable management. The field work has been completed. However, the consultant and the Scientific Authority are working on the analysis of the data. At the same time, CONABIO is focusing on the development of a manual to improve the studies that support the sustainable use of candelilla.
- 6.2 During the period at hand, the Mexican CITES Enforcement Authority (PROFEPA), conducted around 10,400 verifications to the transboundary movements of flora specimens, parts and derivatives of wild origin.

The main species in transit registered are: *Aloe ferox*, *Bulnesia sarmentoi*, *Cedrela odorata*, *D. latifolia*, *D. nigra*, *D. retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo*, *E. antisiphilitica*, *Guaiacum sanctum*, *Olneya tesota*, *Opuntia cholla*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, and *S. macrophyllase*. The full details of these operations are available in the **Annex** to the present document.

USA

6.3 Red List Assessment of Goldenseal: NatureServe, as the North American Plant Red List Authority, conducted an IUCN Red List status assessment of goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), a U.S. and Canada native medicinal plant species included in Appendix-II. The Red List assessment is under review and may be published as early as Summer 2017. Once published, the assessment will be available on-line at the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (see : <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>). This work was based on a range-wide status review, commissioned by the U.S. CITES Authority in 2012. As a result of that review, goldenseal was ranked as Vulnerable (G3G4) according to NatureServe criteria (see: <http://explorer.natureserve.org/>).

6.4 Law Enforcement Activities:

6.4.1 U.S. v. LUMBER LIQUIDATORS: A joint investigation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) uncovered an ongoing scheme, spanning over several years and multiple shipments, involving the illegal harvest and importation of hardwood flooring into the United States. The successful investigation resulted in the first felony conviction relating to the import of illegal timber and the largest fine ever under the U.S. Lacey Act. The wood flooring was manufactured in China from timber that had been illegally logged in the Russian Far East in the habitat of the last remaining Siberian tigers and Amur leopards. Lumber Liquidators pleaded guilty to a Felony False Statement charge and four counts involving the import and transport provisions of the Lacey Act. Federal Court Sentence: Over \$13 million. In addition, the company was ordered into a 5-year term of organizational probation and mandatory implementation of a government-approved environmental compliance plan and independent audits.

6.4.2 ILLINOIS & MISSOURI GINSENG: In a 2-year, covert operation in cooperation with the State of Missouri Department of Conservation and the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement led a broad-scale investigation involving multiple subjects and businesses engaged in the illegal collection, trafficking, and provision of false records relative to wild American ginseng. In September 2015, 40 federal agents and 66 state officers conducted numerous search warrants in Missouri and Illinois, resulting in the seizure of over 705 pounds of dried ginseng and numerous business records seized from 17 ginseng dealers. Prosecution of U.S. Lacey Act (federal) and/or state violations are pending in U.S. District Courts and in relative state jurisdictions, respectively.

Verifications

2015 (Nov-Dic)		2016		2017 (Jan-May)	
Species	Verif	Species	Verif	Species	Verif
<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	2	<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	80	<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	39
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	1	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	2	<i>Aloe ferox</i>	1
<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	1	<i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	1	<i>Bulnesia sarmentoi</i>	1
		<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	31	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	12
		<i>Guaiaecum sanctum</i>	3	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	15
		<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	33	<i>Guaiaecum sanctum</i>	3
				<i>Olneya tesota</i>	1
				<i>Opuntia cholla</i>	1
				<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	1
				<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	16

Inspections

2015 (Nov-Dic)		2016		2017 (Jan-May)	
Species	Inspectories	Species	Inspectories	Species	Inspectories
<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	Nuevo Laredo	<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	AICM, Altamira, Cd. Hidalgo, P. Colombia, Manzanillo, Nuevo Laredo and Veracruz.	<i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i>	AICM, Cd. Hidalgo, Ensenada, Manzanillo, Nuevo Laredo.
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Lázaro Cárdenas	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Veracruz	<i>Aloe ferox</i>	AICM
<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	AICM	<i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	Lázaro Cárdenas	<i>Bulnesia sarmentoi</i>	Veracruz
		<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	AlMérida, Altamira, Manzanillo, Mazatlán, N. Laredo, Progreso and Veracruz	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	Mérida, Manzanillo, Mazatlán and Nuevo Laredo.
		<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Progreso and Lázaro Cardenas	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Tijuana
		<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	AICM, Progreso and P. Morelos	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Veracruz and Lázaro Cárdenas
				<i>Olneya tesota</i>	Guaymas
				<i>Opuntia cholla</i>	Ensenada
				<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Tijuana
				<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	Manzanillo, Nuevo Laredo, Progreso and P. Morelos

Destinations



2015 (Nov-Dic)		2016		2017 (Jan-May)	
Species	Destinations	Species	Destinations	Species	Destinations
<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	CAN, MEX	<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	AUSTRALIA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CAN, CHINA, COLOMBIA, KOREA, USA, GUATEM., INDIA, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, MEX, NETHERLANDS AND TAIWAN	<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	CAN, CHINA, COLOMBIA, KOREA, COSTA RICA, USA, FRANCE, GUATEMALA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MEX
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	CHINA	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	CHINA	<i>Aloe ferox</i>	SOUTH AFRICA
<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	MEX	<i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	TAIWAN	<i>Bulnesia sarmentoi</i>	PARAGUAY
		<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	CUBA, USA, MEX	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	USA, MEX, DOMIN. REP.
		<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	CHINA, PHILIPPINES	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	USA
		<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	USA, CAN	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	GERMANY, JAPAN
				<i>Olneya tesota</i>	CHINA
				<i>Opuntia cholla</i>	JAPAN
				<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	MEXICO
				<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	USAA, MEX, DOMINICANA N REP.

Origin

2015 (Nov-Dic)		2016		2017 (Jan-May)	
Species	Origin	Species	Origin	Species	Origin
<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	MEX	<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	MEX	<i>Euphorbia antisyphilitica</i>	MEX
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	MEX	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	MEX	<i>Aloe ferox</i>	SOUTH AFRICA
<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	UK	<i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	MEX	<i>Bulnesia sarmentoi</i>	PARAGUAY
		<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	IVORY COAST, C. RICA, GHANA, MEX	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	IVORY COAST, MEX
		<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	MEX	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	INDIA, INDONESIA
		<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	MEX	<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	MEX
				<i>Olneya tesota</i>	MEX
				<i>Opuntia cholla</i>	MEX
				<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	CONGO
				<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>	MEX, PERU