

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

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Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

NORTH AMERICA  
(June 2001 – January 2002)

General information

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

Introduction

This Report was prepared by the United States as the Regional Representative for North America. It covers the period between the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Paris, France, 19-22 June 2001, and the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee. At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP11), the United States was elected to be the North American Regional Representative to the Standing Committee. All three countries in the North American Region are in close contact. All three countries also regularly coordinate with NGOs within their respective countries, in preparation for meetings and on other CITES-related issues.

The Regional Report for North America is presented in three sections in the attached Annexes, one section for each country in the Region. The first section, included in SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 1, provides an executive summary of the National Report for the United States; the second section, included in SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 2, provides the National Report for Canada; and the third section, included in SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 3, provides the National Report for Mexico. It should be noted that the full National Report for the United States is posted on the U.S. Management Authority's Website at <http://international.fws.gov>.

Regional Report presented in three attached annexes

- SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 1: Executive summary of National Report for the United States
- SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 2: National Report for Canada
- SC46 Doc. 20.5 Annex 3: National Report for Mexico



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES  
SINCE THE 45TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 46TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Executive Summary of Report compiled 10 January 2002

Since the 45th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in June 2001, the United States has taken many active measures in its implementation of the Convention. Provided below is an executive summary of some of the key measures that the United States took during the period from June 2001 through January 2002:

**COP12-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

- On 12 June 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting recommendations from the public for amending Appendices I and II of CITES at the 12th regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12).
- On 25 July 2001, the USFWS published a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting recommendations from the public for potential resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for discussion at COP12.
- At its 45th meeting (SC45), the Standing Committee agreed to consider the establishment of a committee or body that could deal with practical CITES implementation issues. The Secretariat was directed, along with a working group, to develop a draft proposal for COP12 on such a committee for consideration at the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC46). From June 2001 through January 2002, the United States, a member of the working group, has aided the Secretariat in the preparation of a draft proposed resolution for consideration at SC46.

**CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

- The United States sent a five-person delegation to the 17th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC17), which was held 30 July – 3 August 2001, in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Dr. Kurt Johnson of the USFWS, currently the North American Regional Representative on the Animals Committee, represented North America at the meeting.
- The Animals Committee established a working group at its 16th meeting (AC16) on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Southeast Asia. The United States is an active member of the Working Group and is active both in Animals Committee discussions on this issue (based on Decision 11.93), and in preparations for a technical workshop on this issue (based on Decision 11.150). The United States also provided significant funding for the technical workshop, which is scheduled for 25-28 March 2002, in Kunming, China.
- The United States is serving as coordinator for an inter-sessional contact group on Review of Animal Taxa in the Appendices, and has been working on tasks resulting from deliberations at AC17. The United States has begun development of guidelines for conducting reviews of taxa in the appendices, and has monitored progress made on taxon reviews agreed to by other Parties, organizations, or individuals.
- The United States continues to participate in an inter-sessional contact group on Trade in Hard Corals.

- The United States continues to participate in the Significant Trade Review process. The United States provided funding for the review of five chelonian species, and reviewed the Terms of Reference for the country-based significant trade review for Madagascar.

#### **CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

- The United States sent a four-person delegation to the 11th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC11), which was held 3-7 September 2001, in Langkawi, Malaysia, attending as an observer Party.
- At its 10th meeting (PC10) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in December 2000, the Plants Committee determined that the study presented by the students of the University of Maryland on *Guaiacum sanctum* should be continued. The Secretariat provided funds donated by the Netherlands and the United States of America. The students worked closely with Mexico to carry out their study. The results were presented at PC11.
- The USFWS analysed the potential implications of a proposal drafted by Switzerland to delist several morphologically distinct species of cacti. The results were discussed at PC11.
- At PC10, the Plants Committee established a Working Group to determine how to proceed with the review of the Orchidaceae. The USFWS conducted this project for the North American Region in collaboration with the American Orchid Society (AOS). The results were discussed at PC11 in September 2001. The USFWS is now working with AOS to draft a proposal for exempting 'supermarket plants' of orchids from CITES controls. The draft proposal will be reviewed by a larger working group and then submitted for further discussion at the 12th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC12), to be held in May 2002 in the Netherlands.
- At PC10, the Plants Committee established the Medicinal Plant Annotations Working Group to address specific recommendations identified in Document PC10.8.4. The USFWS coordinated input from Working Group members and presented a document on this subject for discussion at PC11. The USFWS is now collaborating with France to produce a document that will address the need for improving the consistency and accuracy of annotations for medicinal plants.
- At PC10, the Plants Committee requested that the United States and China conduct a review of the conservation status of *Taxus wallichiana*. The United States has focused on this and related Asian species in the genus *Taxus* due to taxonomic uncertainties. The results were presented for discussion at PC11. The USFWS is currently working with China in an examination of trade in all species of *Taxus* to determine if additional species should be included in Appendix II, and whether traded commodities derived from *Taxus* species are readily recognizable and should be subject to CITES control.
- The USFWS is sharing information with Mexico on artificial propagation of Threatened and Endangered U.S. cacti species. This information is being provided to Mexico to assist them in developing programs for the sustainable harvest of seeds and artificial propagation of their native cacti.
- The United States submitted a document on implementation issues related to Appendix-III timber species for discussion at PC11. The document included five recommendations to help the Parties implement new Appendix-III timber listings.

- The United States submitted a document to PC11 on illegal trade in *Paphiopedilum* orchid species. The document contained several recommendations for addressing this problem. The Plants Committee adopted these recommendations.
- At PC11, the regional representatives on the Plants Committee were tasked with acting as focal points for the collation of information pertaining to plant production processes. The USFWS is currently compiling information on the plant production systems utilized in the United States, which it plans to provide to Canada, the North American Regional Representative on the Plants Committee.
- The United States, a major importer of mahogany, attended the 1st meeting of the Mahogany Working Group in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in October 2001. At the meeting, the United States presented its national report on imports of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*).

#### **ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE CITES LISTING CRITERIA**

- The United States remains actively engaged in implementation of Decision 11.2, regarding the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II (Resolution Conf. 9.24). The United States provided comments on the report of the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Chairman of the Criteria Working Group, as requested in CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2001/37.

#### **CITES TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE**

- TRAFFIC-East Asia in Taipei conducted a CITES enforcement training workshop on Taiwan 15-19 October 2001. Participants in the workshop included representatives of various government entities on Taiwan that deal with trade in CITES-listed species. The USFWS provided one of its staff as a trainer.
- The USFWS participated via teleconference in a regional wildlife enforcement conference held in Peru that highlighted contraband detection strategies.
- The USFWS presented anti-poaching training to park rangers in Tanzania, Cambodia, and the Galapagos Islands, supporting efforts to safeguard natural resources from illegal take and trade.
- In July 2001, USFWS law enforcement sponsored a three-day U.S.-Russia Sturgeon workshop, which brought together scientists, fisheries managers, industry officials, and law enforcement officers from both nations to examine the complex issues involved in protecting sturgeon populations and achieving a sustainable caviar trade.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- During the time period between June 2001 and January 2002, the United States investigated and prosecuted numerous cases involving smuggling or trafficking of CITES wildlife and plants. Species involved in smuggling cases included Asian arowanas, queen conch, bear, Tibetan antelope, sturgeon, and various reptiles and insects.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS**

- During the period from June 2001 through January 2002, the USFWS produced, distributed, and posted on its Website two editions of its CITES Update, a periodical CITES newsletter.

- During the latter half of 2001, the USFWS continued to work with the U.S. traditional medicine community through the community's pre-existing educational infrastructure to raise awareness about the use of endangered species in traditional medicines.

#### **OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

- On 21 November 2001, the United States submitted its response to CITES Notification No. 2001/058, providing information on resolutions for which it has implementation problems and those that it is either not implementing or is only implementing in part.
- The U.S. Congress created the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund to strengthen habitat and ecosystem management, develop protected areas, support surveys and monitoring, and increase resources for anti-poaching efforts, wildlife inspection and forensic work. The Fund also supports educational efforts to increase public awareness of the plight of these species, decrease conflicts between them and humans, and encourage use of substitutes for their body parts and products in traditional medicine. The USFWS review and funding of proposals submitted under the Fund is ongoing. For the fiscal year 2002 (which began 1 October 2001), USD 188,000 has been granted so far under the Fund.
- In 2000, the U.S. Congress passed the Great Ape Conservation Act. This Act established the Great Ape Conservation Fund to assist with the conservation of five groups of primates: gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons. In fiscal year 2001, the Congress appropriated USD 748,000 to conserve these species. These funds provide numerous opportunities to develop partnerships with natural resource agencies, academic institutions, local community groups, governmental and non-governmental entities, and individuals committed to partnering for the benefit of conserving the world's remaining great apes. Several grants have been or soon will be awarded under the Fund for great ape conservation programs in Asia and Africa.
- During June 2001 through January 2002, the United States participated in the CITES Time-sensitive Research Samples Working Group, which was established to examine the issues related to the international transfer of samples of species included in the CITES Appendices.

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA SINCE THE 45TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 46TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, 12-15 MARCH 2002, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

This report outlines the activities that have taken place in Canada from June 2001 to January 2002 to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**45TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, PARIS, FRANCE, JUNE 19-22, 2001**

Canada was represented at the meeting by David Brackett, Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, as head of delegation, and by Bertrand von Arx, CITES Scientific Authority and Jean R. Robillard, CITES Management Authority. More than 115 members representing some 50 countries participated in the Standing Committee (SC) meeting.

The agenda contained a number of noteworthy items including the workplan of the Secretariat and its financial reports; a proposal for the establishment of a Technical Committee; trade in time-sensitive research samples; the national legislation project and the significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species.

**17TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE, JULY 30 – AUGUST 3, 2001**

Canada was not able to send a representative to this meeting held in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

**11TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2001**

Canada was represented at the 11th Plants Committee Meeting by Mr. Bertrand von Arx, Canadian CITES Scientific Authority. The meeting was held in Langkawi, Malaysia.

**MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP MEETING, OCTOBER 3-5, 2001**

Canada was not able to send a representative to this meeting held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

**MEETING OF CANADIAN CITES AUTHORITIES, NOVEMBER 22-24, 2001**

Canadian CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities representing federal, provincial and territorial governments met from November 22-24, 2001, in Ottawa.

The objectives of the meeting were to identify the requirements of CITES, both national and international, clarify the roles and responsibilities in the management and implementation of the Convention to identify areas in need of improvement.

The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen co-operation between authorities at different government levels. Views on implementation experiences and difficulties were exchanged. The meeting focused mainly on the collection of scientific data on native CITES-listed species in order to better define Non-Detriment Findings (NDF). The Checklist for NDF's was also explained to all Agencies involved and it will be used in a pilot project (for a few selected species) at a national level and in each of the provinces and territories. Information was also exchanged on registered captive breeding operations in Canada which will be reviewed in Spring 2002; on the possibility of registering Canadian commercial nurseries and on registered scientific institutions.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to explain the Canadian CITES permit system and how to properly issue a permit, to introduce the automation of permit delivery, to discuss communications and how to better share information and to present technological tools such as DNA analysis, other research activities and how to make best use of Web sites.

## **BIENNIAL REPORT BY CANADA ON LEGISLATION, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES**

On September 12, 2001, Canada provided the CITES Secretariat with a copy of the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA) and of the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* that implement the Convention in Canada, as required under CITES Article VII, paragraph 7.(b).

## **PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS EXEMPTION / PERSONAL PET PROVISIONS / LABELLING**

Effective January 15, 2000, Canada started to implement a Personal and Household Effects Exemption in accordance with CITES Article VII, paragraph 3. Under CITES Notification No. 2001/070 of October 1, 2001, Canada provided Parties with a copy of its CITES-enabling legislation and regulations.

The set of information also included a summary sheet on the Amendment to regulations that implement the personal and household effects exemption in Canada, labelling, and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.20 concerning personal pets. Concerning the latter, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.20, paragraph b), Canada requests Parties who wish to conclude an agreement with Canada for the mutual recognition of Certificates of Ownership for personal pets, to write to the Management Authority of Canada.

## **PREPARATIONS FOR COP12**

As part of its public consultation process, on October 19, 2001, Canada sent out a *Notice of Public Consultation and Call for Proposals for the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*.

In accordance with Canadian policy, the public is invited to consult with federal and provincial CITES authorities on the development of Canadian proposals and positions for the 2002 conference. Two public consultations are expected to be held in April and October 2002.

## **AUTOMATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF CITES IMPORT PERMITS**

Since January 2001 Canada uses a new permit form that meets the recommended standard for CITES permit format in Resolution Conf. 10.2 (Rev.). Canada has started to implement in phases the automation of its CITES permit issuance. In phase one, CITES Import Permits started to be computer-generated in August 2001. Other types of permits and certificates will be automated in phases during January and February 2002. The automation process will be extended to the Canadian provinces and territories during 2002.

## **IDENTIFICATION GUIDES**

In November 2001, Canada completed an Identification Guide on Sturgeons and Paddlefish. This guide was published by Environment Canada with the cooperation of the CITES Secretariat, the *Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement, Direction de la nature et des paysages*, France, TRAFFIC Europe, and the Rufford Foundation. It is designed in particular to help staff responsible for enforcing CITES to do their work more quickly and

efficiently. The use of the guide requires no advanced level of training or previous knowledge of biology. It uses a simple visual approach, which facilitates the identification process. The guide has been distributed to all CITES Management Authorities.

Other guides in the same series were previously published on Butterflies (2000), Turtles and Tortoises (1999), Crocodylians (1995) and Birds (1994).

### **CITES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING**

**A computerized training package** on CITES has been developed for Customs officers by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency with the assistance of the HQ Enforcement Branch Inspection staff. It consists of a three hour online (or CD) course with exercises that explains practical aspects of the permit verification and fraud detection. This site will be available in three languages by Spring 2002.

**The CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force** has designed a training package for enforcement officers in range countries. Canada assigned one of its enforcement officers to participate in the training that will be offered by the Tiger Special Enforcement Team. The first course should be presented next year and the development of a training package is underway. Brian Petrar from the Prairies and Northern Region has been assigned the responsibility to prepare and deliver the section dealing with undercover operations. The work is done under the direction of the CITES Secretariat.

### **ENFORCEMENT – TWO SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS**

Two significant investigations on butterflies and tropical birds have been completed with significant fines and jail terms.

Johanne Flikkema along with her husband Mike and son Harold operated Flikkema Aviaries in Fenwick Ontario. Together they faced 483 related charges for importing and exporting over 5,000 CITES-regulated finches. The Flikkemas (Johanne and Mike) were sentenced to jail terms (12 months and 6 months respectively) and given a significant fine (CAD 100,000) and their son had to also pay a CAD 25,000 fine.

Gilles Deslisle, a butterfly collector, was found guilty after an eight day trial in Vancouver of one count of importing wildlife which was taken in contravention of a foreign law under s. 6(1) WAPPRIITA and one count of importing wildlife without a permit under s. 6(2) WAPPRIITA. Mr. Deslisle was acquitted of four other counts relating to two other importations. Mr. Deslisle was given a CAD 25,000 fine on each count for a total fine of CAD 50,000. The judge imposed also 5 year prohibition on the trade, import and export of *Ornithoptera alexandrae* butterflies.

### **INTERPOL-CITES WORKING GROUP**

Canada is chairing the Interpol-CITES working group. The Interpol Wildlife Working Group has been in operation for many years. The work with Interpol has been formalized in an agreement between Interpol and the Secretariat. Working groups are presently being questioned within Interpol and changes in their organization could result in the disappearance of this working group. If the group is abolished, CITES enforcement will have lost its two enforcement coordinating bodies given that the World Customs Organization eliminated its CITES working group last Fall.

## **NEW CITES-CANADA WEB SITE**

The Canadian Scientific Authority in collaboration with the Management and Enforcement Authorities redesigned and reviewed the contents of the Canadian CITES Web site ([www.cites.ca](http://www.cites.ca)). The new Web site is designed to assist the public in obtaining all pertinent information on CITES. Extensive information is provided on how CITES is implemented in Canada, on permit requirements to import and export CITES specimens and where to apply for permits. Permit application forms will be available from the Web site in the near future.

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY MEXICO  
IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2001 AND 4 JANUARY 2002**

14 December 2001

Among the commitments fulfilled by the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of Mexico, was our participation in the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, the 17th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee. Our country also participated or organized meetings as a part of the North American Region, at which we were naturally present. Over this period, we attended the following:

- The 1st dialogue meeting of the hawksbill turtle range States (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the wider Caribbean, 15-17 May 2001, Mexico City, Mexico.
- The 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, 18-21 June 2001, Paris, France.
- The 17th meeting of the Animals Committee, 30 July - 3 August 2001, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The teleconferences of the sub-group of experts on the hawksbill turtle; 24 August and 24 October 2001.
- The 11th meeting of the Plants Committee, 3-7 September 2001, Langkawi, Malaysia.
- The meeting of the Mahogany Working Group; 3-5 October 2001, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

The activities carried out by the Management and Scientific Authorities were:

**45TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE**

*Coordinating meeting for the North American Region.* Some of the conclusions were:

- To detail and possibly create a working group for biological samples, perhaps expanding its scope.
- When Dr. Susan Lieberman (United States) resigned as Chairman, Mexico preferred not to take on the chairmanship of the region in Vietnam. Therefore, the United States was asked to continue chairing the region and to designate a new representative. The United States accepted.

**17TH MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE**

AC17 Doc. 8.1, Periodic Review of animal taxa in the Appendices – Evaluation of species selected at AC15 and AC16, was presented. It contained the finished analyses on species selected at previous meetings. At this time, only the North American Region presented analyses, two of which were by Mexico (*Ara macao* and *Totoaba macdonaldii*) and two by the United States (*Falco peregrinus* and *Cnemidophorus hyperythrus*).

**Review of species in the Appendices.** Besides endorsing the decisions on *Ara macao* and *Totoaba macdonaldii*, the situation of *Falco peregrinus* was reviewed. Here Mexico expressed the desire to keep the species in Appendix I. In the case of *Cnemidophorus hyperythrus*,

Mexico offered to provide further information to the Scientific Authority of the United States. Upon review of the list of species pending study, Mexico committed to continuing with the studies of *Ambystoma mexicanum* and *Dermatemis mawii*.

## 11TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

**Follow-up of CoP11 Decisions (*Guaiaecum sanctum*).** The United States and Mexico presented the document on the taxonomic analysis of Mexican *Guaiaecum* species, which was of great aid in advancing our progress on the topic. However, Mexico emphasized the lack of knowledge on the population status of these species and the need for a more thorough study before making a decision on changing their listing in the Appendices. There is a line of thought that considers listing the entire genus in Appendix II instead of moving only *G. sanctum* to Appendix I. It was concluded that Mexico would submit a proposal to conduct this population survey. TRAFFIC (formally) and the United States (informally) offered to finance part of the project, especially if there was a contribution from Mexico (co-funding). The Mexican Delegation prepared a budget estimate of USD 30,000 and undertook to prepare and submit a detailed version to the Secretariat. The estimate was given to the Chairman of the Plants Committee, to the Secretariat, the United States and to TRAFFIC. Germany committed to performing analyses of anatomy and DNA for identification of *Guaiaecum* timber. The Secretariat asked whether Mexico could produce documented evidence of non-detrimental use and mentioned that this species might be considered under the Review of Significant Trade. Mexico was informally told that the European Union would ban trade in this species in shipments from Mexico.

**Technical proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.** Exchange of scientific herbarium specimens of certain plant taxa listed in Appendix II. Mexico opposed Switzerland's proposal for exemption from registry, and supported the system currently in force, whereby herbaria are registered with Management Authorities. The proposal was finally rejected by the Plants Committee.

**Species proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.** Delisting of leaf-bearing cacti (Pereskioideae and Opuntioideae Cactaceae) (from Appendix II). Mexico submitted its document opposing the Swiss proposal, after a long debate pitting Switzerland, the representative for Europe, and Austria against Mexico, the United States, Chile, the representative for South and Central America and the Caribbean, and the representative for Asia. The Plants Committee recommended postponing the proposal until Switzerland and the countries of origin could prepare a new document with the sufficient, necessary information.

**Significant Trade in plants.** Following a rather confused debate, the document prepared by UNEP-WCMC was reviewed. In this document, UNEP-WCMC had compiled data derived from Parties' reports on legal trade in Appendix-II species showing that some species are probably being harvested to unsustainable levels. In order to identify these species, an average of 100 specimens was the number considered an "admissible threshold." Mexico considered this number highly questionable. From this list, working groups were formed. Apart from doubting the procedure, Mexico participated in the review of data on Cactaceae, finding that specimens of Mexican species had been exported. These species were left for future stages of the selection process, after the data are verified and – at Mexico's request – reviewed by experts to assess the impact of such trade, given the biology and situation of the species.

## Review of the Appendices

**Orchids.** Following the review and discussion of the document prepared by the Secretariat, it was concluded that while delisting some orchid genera could be suggested, putting this idea into practice and identifying orchids would be very difficult for Customs personnel. Therefore, the Plants Committee decided to maintain the current status of all orchids.

*Mexican Cactaceae*: In response to the document presented by Switzerland, Mexico submitted its own document, explaining the basis for its rejection of the proposals to downlist five Mexican species. The only ones excepted were *Astrophytum asterias* and the genus *Turbinicarpus*, which we agreed to keep in Appendix I.

Mexico gave updated information that had been compiled by several different cactus experts. These elements were outlined, species by species, indicating to Switzerland that the data presented by the Swiss delegation was not recent. During the discussions, Switzerland claimed that it had never received an answer from Mexico when asked for information. Mexico apologized, saying that with the change of Government this communication had been left pending. In the intense debate, some European countries supported the Swiss proposal, with Chile, the United States, the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean, the representative for Asia and the representative for Africa supporting the Mexican position. The Plants Committee finally decided to postpone the proposal. Switzerland, Mexico, Paraguay, Brazil and the United States were to establish contact and validate the information in order to be able to base their cooperation on more elements of judgement, and prepare a new proposal.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- A tri-national workshop was organized, among Guatemala, Belize and Mexico, at the Chajul Research Station in Selva Lacandona, Mexico, February 2001, on the scarlet macaw *Ara macao*. The results of this workshop shed new light on the information we have about this species, and can contribute to facilitating the review of the Appendices that is in progress.
- Within the framework of the Plants Committee, the study on biological knowledge and population status of the endemic, threatened cactus species *Mammillaria pectinifera* and *M. solisoides* has been completed.
- Mexico attended the meeting of the Committee of experts on crocodiles. It was agreed that wild populations should be studied with a view to preparing a proposal for amendment of the species *Crocodylus moreletii* in the Appendices.
- The work carried out by the Mexican Scientific Authority, documenting trade in Cactaceae through the Internet, was presented. This work generated a database that was submitted to the Management Authorities of Mexico, Canada and the United States.
- Talks were initiated with the Environmental Co-operation Commission (ECC) of North America. Our objective was to seek funding for other types of projects, including CITES species, within the framework of the Shared Species Programme (among Canada, Mexico and the United States).
- Mexico acquired certain commitments during the meetings of the sub-group of experts on the hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*. As a follow-up to these meetings, Mexico sent a timely reply (30 November 2001) to the request for data in the questionnaire prepared by UNEP-WCMC. Mexico agreed to deliver detailed information later, as soon as the complete report is ready.

## PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Studies are being supported on:

- *Strombocactus disciformis* and *Turbinicarpus pseudomacroechele* (Cactaceae)
- *Guaiacum sanctum* (*Guaiacum*)

## PROJECTS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARATION

*Dermatemys mawii*

*Ambystoma mexicanum*

*Amazona oratrix*

- Concerning issuance of CITES Certificates for imports and exports, Mexico granted a total of 649 import certificates, 152 export certificates and 1190 re-export certificates during this period. The breakdown is shown in **Annex I**. For these purposes, 1991 CITES stamps were used.
- In full compliance with the provisions of the CITES Secretariat, Mexico has fulfilled its obligations by sending timely reports on the issuance of Certificates. Mexico has made its reports annual (the most recent one on October 31, 2001) and bimonthly. Here, it must be clarified that these latter reports were discontinued in March 2001.
- The CITES Management Authority of Mexico maintains constant communication with the authorities of other Parties and with the CITES Secretariat directly. This communication is more regular with the Parties of the North American Region.
- Another aspect covered in the CITES provisions is follow-up on the activities of the so-called "Rescue Centres" (Centres for Wildlife Conservation and Research). The results obtained in Mexico are indicated in Annex II to this report.

## ANNEX I

### CITES CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OF MEXICO FROM APRIL 2001 TO JANUARY 2002

MONTH	IMPORT	EXPORT	RE-EXPORT	TOTAL
APRIL 2001	68	20	79	167
MAY 2001	78	17	111	206
JUNE 2001	86	13	146	245
JULY 2001	68	8	139	215
AUGUST 2001	82	18	211	311
SEPT. 2001	71	9	187	267
OCT. 2001	92	19	158	269
NOV. 2001	77	31	91	199
DEC. 2001	27	17	68	112
TOTAL	649	152	1190	1991

ANNEX II

STATISTICAL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS  
SEIZED OR RECEIVED VOLUNTARILY, SHELTERED IN  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH CENTRES (CECIVS)

PERIOD FROM APRIL 2001 TO JANUARY 2002

CENTRE	CLASS	P.S.	G	F	C	L	IN REHABILITATION
LOS REYES	MAMMALS	27	37	15	9	26	14
	BIRDS	56	37	9	19	20	45
	REPTILES	92	71	73	6	50	34
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>93</b>
GUADALAJARA	MAMMALS	29	6	29	0	6	0
	BIRDS	54	64	14	0	20	84
	REPTILES	38	38	35	0	15	26
	ARACHNIDS	1	0	0	0	1	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>110</b>
EL ARCA	MAMMALS	0	41	1	35	4	1
	BIRDS	7	94	16	51	7	27
	REPTILES	0	5	3	0	0	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>
TEKAX	MAMMALS	58	9	8	1	5	53
	BIRDS	42	12	18	0	0	36
	REPTILES	5	1	6	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>89</b>

P.S. = PREVIOUS STOCK  
G = GAINS  
L = LOSSES  
C = CHANNELLED SPECIMENS  
F = FREED SPECIMENS

### ANNEX III

#### UPDATED DIRECTORY OF CITES AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO

##### MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (MA):

MA MEX	<b>DR. Fernando CLEMENTE</b> General Director of Wildlife	Autoridad Administrativa: Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección General de Vida Silvestre	Av. Revolución No 1425 Nivel 21 Col. Tlacopac San Angel C.P. 01040 México D.F. MEXICO	T: 052 5 624 33 10 F: 052 5 624 35 88 E: fclement@ine.gov.mex
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At the same address:

<b>José María REYES GÓMEZ (Biologist)</b> Director of Promotion, Regional Development and Field Operations	T: 052 5 624 33 12 E: jmreyes@ine.gov.mx
<b>Miguel Angel COBIÁN GAVIÑO (Engineer)</b> Deputy Director – Assistance to the Public	T: 052 5 624 33 14 E: mcobian@ine.gov.mx
<b>Leonel Francisco URBANO GUTIÉRREZ (M.V.Z.)</b> Head of Department– Global Conventions and Agreements	T: 052 5 624 36 05 E: lurbano@ine.gov.mx

##### SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY (SA):

SA MEX	<b>Dr. Jorge SOBERON MAINERO</b> Executive Secretary	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)	Liga Periférico Sur 4903 Col. Parques del Pedregal C.P. 14010 Del. Tlalpan México D.F. MEXICO	T: 052 55 28 91 02 F: 052 55 28 91 48 E: Jsoberon@ xolo.conabiol.gob.mx
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At the same address:

<b>Hesiquio BENITEZ DIAZ (Biologist)</b> Director of External Services CONABIO	T: 052 55 28 91 25 F: 052 55 28 91 85 E: Ubenitez@xolo.conabiol.gob.mx
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## OTHER SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES (OSA):

Technical-Scientific Consultants to CITES Authorities in Mexico

OSA MEX	<b>Dra. Patricia DAVILA ARANDA</b> Researcher; Member of the Plants Committee	Escuela Nacional de Estudios Profesionales. Iztacala, UNAM (ENEP-Iztacala, UNAM)	Av. De los Barrios s/n. Los Reyes, Iztacala Tlalnopantla, Edo. De México 54090 Apartado Postal 314	T: 052 56 23 1219; 052 56 23 12 27 F: 052 56 23 12 27 E: pdavilaa@ servidor.unam.mx
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This institution has a directory of specialists on plant-related issues:

CACTACEAE	Emiliano Sánchez Salvador Arias	Ulises Guzmán	
FERNS	Leticia Pacheco		
CYCADS	Andres Vovides		
BROMELIACEAE	Jose García-Franco	Patricia Magaña	
MEDICINAL PLANTS	Robert Bye Edelmira Linares		
TIMBER SPECIES	Fernando Ortega	Michael Keyes	
ORCHIDACEAE	Miguel Angel Soto	Rolando Jiménez	Eduardo Pérez
PALMS	Miguel Angel García Bielma	Ermilo Quèro	

OSA MEX	<b>Dr. Rodrigo MEDELLÍN LEGORRETA</b> Researcher; Member of the Animals Committee	Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	Circuito Exterior, Anexo al Jardín Botánico s/n. UNAM, Coyoacán C.P. 04510 Apartado Postal 70-275	T: 052 56 22 9042 F: 052 56 22 8995 E: medellin@ miranda.ecologia.unam.mx
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## LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY (LEA):

LEA MEX	<b>Dr. José BERNAL STOOPEN</b> General Director – Wildlife Inspection and Surveillance	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)	Camino al Ajusco No. 200, Piso 6 Col. Jardines en la Montaña C.P. 14210 México D.F. MEXICO	T: 052 2 6152092 F: 052 2 6152092 E: jbernal@ correo.profepa.gob.mx
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