

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY MEXICO FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER 2003

During the period between April and December 2003, Mexico's CITES Authorities took part in numerous activities and working meetings in pursuance of the commitments undertaken by Mexico through becoming a Party to the Convention. The main topics tackled included the Review of Significant Trade in certain species (queen conch, cycads), the review of the criteria for amendment of the Appendices and the implementation of recent amendments (seahorses and bigleaf mahogany). The research projects already started were pursued and a number of new ones were started. Furthermore, activities directed towards capacity-building, awareness-raising and improving the implementation of the Convention in Mexico were undertaken.

1. Meetings

The commitments carried out by the CITES Authorities of Mexico during the period included participation in the following meetings:

Meeting	Place	Date	Priority topics
49th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC49)	Geneva, Switzerland	22 to 25 April	FAO-CITES MoU; guidelines on compliance; quotas; enforcement matters; economic incentives; containment strategies; criteria for amendment of the Appendices; periodic review of the Appendices.
Workshop, International Queen Conch Initiative	Montego Bay, Jamaica	11 and 12 June	Recommendations arising out of the TRAFFIC study on significant trade in <i>Strombus gigas</i>
Meeting of the CITES Technical Committee of the CCAD	San Salvador, El Salvador	17 and 18 June	CITES Procedures Manual; CITES schedule; representation on Technical and Standing Committees; Plants and Animals Committees; bigleaf mahogany; the Belize crocodile; training workshops
13th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC13)	Geneva, Switzerland	12 to 15 August	Criteria for amendment of the Appendices; significant trade: cycads and review of the process; periodic review of the Appendices; nomenclature; <i>Guaiacum</i> ; bigleaf mahogany.
19th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC19)	Geneva, Switzerland	18 to 21 August	Criteria for amendment of the Appendices; significant trade: queen conch and review of the process; periodic review of the Appendices; registration of breeding operations; relationship between <i>ex-situ</i> production and <i>in-situ</i> conservation; seahorses; sea cucumbers; sharks.

Second meeting of the Mahogany Working Group	Belem, Brazil	6 to 8 October	Non detriment findings; national and regional programmes for sustainable management; establishment of quotas; exchange of information and experience in the management of the resource and capacity-building
Latin American workshop on synergies between CBD and CITES	Lima, Peru	17 and 18 November	Certificates of origin; support CITES could bring in the area of access to genetic resources (CBD)

2. Significant Trade

2.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

As a member of PC13 Working Group 4, Mexico took part in the evaluation and sent its comments to the Chairman of the Group, on the provisional terms of reference for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade (drawn up by the Secretariat and revised during PC13) which had been mandated by Decision 12.75 adopted during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Santiago, 2002).

2.2 First country-based Review of Significant Trade (Madagascar)

Mexico took part in the review of the action plan arising out of the first country-based Review of Significant Trade, covering Madagascar.

2.3 Cycads

The Management Authority of the United States of America requested information on the situation of cycads in Mexico. Review of the situation made it possible to determine at PC13 that Mexico did not fall under this process, since the greater portion of our exports come from nurseries and the few exports of wild origin have been for purposes of scientific research.

2.4 Queen conch

Mexico sent information to amplify and correct the document prepared by TRAFFIC Europe on the Review of Significant Trade undertaken for the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). Mexico also participated in the workshop under the regional queen conch initiative (held in Jamaica) and in the discussions during AC19 in which the countries in each category were defined, as were the actions and recommendations for each of them.

3. Criteria for amendment of the Appendices

3.1 Review of the criteria

The commitments undertaken by Mexico during the latest meetings of the Plants and Animals Committees (PC13 and AC19) included its participation in reviewing the criteria for amendments of the CITES Appendices. This review was based on two species of Mexican Cactaceae: *Strombocactus disciformis* and *Turbinicarpus pseudomacrolele*, and three animal species: grey whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), yellow-headed parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) and lilac-crowned parrot (*A. finschi*). For this purpose, the sheets were drawn up and sent together with some comments and the corresponding modifications to the criteria.

4. Relations with international bodies

4.1 FAO-CITES Memorandum of Understanding

Further to multiple internal meetings of its CITES Coordinating Committee, Mexico sent its comments on the draft FAO-CITES Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) prepared by the Secretariat.

5. Implementation of the Convention

5.1 Guidelines on compliance

In response to Notification to the Parties No. 2003/31, the CITES Coordinating Committee of Mexico reviewed the provisional guidelines on compliance with the Convention, proposed by the Secretariat, and submitted the comments and position of Mexico with respect to the document.

5.2 Revision of Resolutions

Mexico worked on harmonization of the wording and terminology of two Resolutions relating to plants: Resolutions Conf. 9.19 and Conf. 11.11. The former, on Guidelines for the registration of nurseries exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species, was reviewed in order to check the wording in Spanish. With regard to the latter, on Regulation of trade in plants, it was found that there were difficulties in applying the definition of artificial propagation to plants grown from seeds taken from the wild, since the seeds are exempt from CITES provisions, and changes were proposed.

5.3 Identification Manuals

In coordination with the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) and with funding from the CITES Secretariat, the Spanish translation of the CITES Appendix-I Cactaceae Identification Manual was completed and sent to the Secretariat.

5.4 Capacity-building

A meeting was held to analyse a document examining the functioning of CITES and its problems of implementation in Mexico. The document had been drawn up by a consultant under contract to TRAFFIC North America. The meeting was attended by Mexico's three CITES Authorities, Customs personnel and TRAFFIC.

In coordination with the other parts of the CITES Coordinating Committee of Mexico, a start was made on compiling the directory of plants specialists in Mexico, who will constitute part of the Scientific Authority's official contingent of consultants on CITES plants species. The directory will be published at a later date on the CONABIO website (www.conabio.gob.mx).

A coordination meeting was held between the CITES Scientific Authority and the representative of TRAFFIC North America in Mexico, to seek to increase cooperation in CITES-related areas such as exchange of information, consultancy by way of experts and participation in joint projects.

The Scientific Authority took part in the Second National Meeting of Cactologists (Oaxaca, Mexico, 24 to 28 November 2003) at which a presentation was given of the process of amendment of the Appendices and the minimum required information which will have to be generated by studies in order for such amendments to be carried out. The Group is about to undertake a review of the status of the populations of the Appendix-I Cactaceae, which will make it possible to re-evaluate their CITES listing.

5.5 Awareness-raising

The Scientific Authority, in coordination with the Management Authority and the Legal Enforcement Authority (PROFEPA), addressed numerous forums to widen knowledge of the Convention, the way it operates and how it is implemented in Mexico, and organized

exhibitions relating to species protected by the Convention. Additionally, two public education articles were published on the operation of the Convention and the activities of CONABIO as the Scientific Authority in Mexico.

Furthermore, the Office of the Federal Authority for Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA), which is the legal enforcement authority in Mexico, worked in cooperation with the non-governmental organizations Defenders of Wildlife and Teyeliz on the preparation of the publication *Guía del Viajero Responsable / How to travel responsibly in Mexico: A passport to sustainable tourism*. Written in a simple manner, this publication gives information in both Spanish and English on how countries are working to control international trade in specimens of species of flora and fauna, as well as a set of recommendations on how to avoid illegal purchases of such specimens. This guide was prepared using funds provided by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

In this same area, during August 2003, PROFEPA together with the National Commission on the Understanding and Use of Biodiversity prepared the exhibition *Wild life and how to protect it (La vida silvestre y su protección)*, shown at Mexico City international airport. This exhibition displayed the different products and sub-products originating from protected species of flora and fauna which had been seized by PROFEPA, including species listed in the CITES Appendices. This same exhibition was presented at the central offices of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico during the month of October.

5.6 Inspection and surveillance

PROFEPA reviewed the insurance and confiscation databases in order to support the various reports which the country is required to submit to CITES. This Authority is a member of the various working groups on the review of the amendments criteria, as well as of different aspects relating to the Convention.

6. Implementation of recent amendments

6.1 Timber species (bigleaf mahogany)

Further to the recent inclusion of the bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in Appendix II, Mexico supplied the information required by TRAFFIC South America in the context of its study aimed at promoting proper implementation of the Convention. It also took part in the second meeting of the Mahogany Working Group, held in Brazil. At that meeting it presented the National Report on the species and took part in discussions on various topics, among which the most significant were: guidelines for non-detriment findings, development of national and regional programmes for the sustainable management of the species, establishment of quotas, exchange of information and experience in management of the resource, capacity-building and other implementation-related aspects.

6.2 Seahorses

Hosted by the United States of America and Mexico, the "International Workshop on the Management of Seahorse Fisheries" is going to be held in Mexico. The objective of the workshop is to ensure sustainable trade following the recent inclusion of all seahorse species in Appendix II, which will enter into force on 15 May 2004, by giving all countries an opportunity to develop and implement sustainable management plans for seahorse fisheries and to incorporate the CITES requirements for the granting of permits. A related goal of the workshop is to make recommendations which will help exporting countries administer their seahorse fisheries appropriately and implement the CITES provisions.

The workshop will be held in Mazatlán from 3 to 5 February 2004, and it is expected that about 40 participants will attend, from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the United States of America, the Philippines, India, Mexico, Switzerland, Thailand and Viet Nam.

7. Relationship between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* Conservation

The Scientific Authority is coordinating the preparation of the case study for the Belize crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) together with a group of Mexican specialists, as one of the case studies to be sent to the working group. The latter is chaired by Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín (Mexico), the North American regional representative on the Animals Committee.

8. Review of the Appendices

8.1 Progress in the studies on CITES species

8.1.1. Evaluation of the conservation status of the populations of the lilac-crowned amazon (*Amazona finschi*) in Mexico: The study has been concluded, and the proposal for amendment is being prepared in conjunction with experts. This proposal to transfer *A. finschi* from Appendix II to I will be presented at CoP13.

8.1.2. Current situation of the Central American river turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) population in the south-east of Mexico: The study has been concluded, the total cost (USD 118,300.00) having been covered by CONABIO, and consideration is now being given, in conjunction with the specialists, as to whether to submit an amendment proposal. A report will be submitted to the Animals Committee (AC20) as part of Mexico's contribution to the periodic review of the Appendices.

8.1.3. Abundance and population structure of the axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) in the freshwater systems of Xochimilco and Chalco: The study has been concluded, the total cost (USD 105,200) having been covered by CONABIO, and consideration is now being given, in conjunction with the specialists, as to whether to submit an amendment proposal. A report will be submitted to the Animals Committee (AC20) as part of Mexico's contribution to the periodic review of the Appendices.

8.1.4. Abundance, distribution and conservation status of *Guaiacum sanctum* in Mexico: The terms of reference have been prepared, lead researchers (CIECO, UNAM) have been sought and selected, and funding has been sought: CONABIO allocated USD 100,000, Germany contributed USD 10,000 through the Secretariat (in progress); the United States Forest Service contributed USD 15,000.00. In addition, maps of potential distribution have been generated, first field samplings have been taken and a report on the progress of the study will be presented during PC14.

8.1.5. Determination of the status of the wild populations of the Belize crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Mexico and evaluation of its CITES status: The terms of reference have been prepared, lead researchers have been sought and selected (COMACROM). the project has already started, and CONABIO has contributed USD 150,000 to it.

ANNEX I

CITES PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR MEXICO BETWEEN APRIL AND DECEMBER 2003

ANIMALS	NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES BY TYPE OF TRANSACTION									TOTAL
	IMPORT			EXPORT			RE-EXPORT			
TAXONOMIC GROUP	live	trophy	part or derivative	live	trophy	part or derivative	live	trophy	part or derivative	
MAM	55	45	2	8	44	5	2			161
AV	84			7		2	5			98
REP	42		523			11			119	695
ANF										0
INV	17		6							23
TOTAL	198	45	531	15	44	18	7	0	119	977

Animals: MAM: mammals; AV: birds; REP: reptiles; ANF: amphibians; INV: invertebrates

PLANTS	NUMBER OF PERMITS/CERTIFICATES BY TYPE OF TRANSACTION						TOTAL
	IMPORT		EXPORT		RE-EXPORT		
FAMILY	live	part or derivative	live	part or derivative	live	part or derivative	
CAC	1		2	8			11
ORQ	3		6				9
ZAM			1				1
CYC							0
FMAD		72		35			107
TOTAL	4	72	9	43	0	0	128

Plants: CAC: cacti; ORQ: orchids; ZAM: Zamiaceae; CYC: Cycadaceae; FMAD: forest timber

TOTAL CERTIFICATES: 1105

ANNEX II

Statistical report on the management of wild animal specimens put in custody or arising from voluntary surrenders, kept in the Centres for Wildlife Conservation and Research (CECIVS)

MARCH 2003 – NOVEMBER 2003

Centre	Group	EA	A	L	C	B	In recovery
Los Reyes	Mammals	16	35	15	7	13	16
	Birds	95	83	4	9	79	86
	Reptiles	64	145	17	0	59	133
	Spiders	0	321	0	0	41	280
	Subtotal 1:	175	584	36	16	192	515
Guadalajara	Mammals	4	25	0	0	18	11
	Birds	42	118	0	96	11	53
	Reptiles	48	7	0	0	17	38
	Subtotal 2:	94	150	0	96	46	102
El Arca	Mammals	3	1	0	0	0	4
	Birds	23	0	0	0	0	23
	Reptiles	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Subtotal 3:	28	1	0	0	0	29
Tekax	Mammals	69	51	2	0	5	113
	Birds	27	34	3	0	7	51
	Reptiles	2	5	2	2	1	2
	Subtotal 4:	98	90	7	2	13	166
Grand Total:		395	825	43	114	251	812

EA = EXISTING STOCK
A = SPECIMENS ACQUIRED
L = SPECIMENS RELEASED
C = SPECIMENS TRANSFERED
B = SPECIMENS LOST

ANNEX III – UPDATED DIRECTORY OF THE CITES AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (AA)

AA MEX	* Georgita Ruiz Michael Director-General for Wildlife	Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales [Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources] (SEMARNAT) Management Sub-Secretariat for Environmental Protection Directorate-General for Wildlife	Av. Revolución No 1425, Nivel 1, Col. Tlacopac San Angel, 01040 Mexico D.F. MEXICO	Tel. (55) 5624-33-09 and 10 Fax. (55) 5624-36-42. georgita.ruiz@semarnat.gob.mx
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* Oscar Manuel Ramírez Flores Director of Field Operations and Conservation Conventions		Tel. (55) 56-24-35-09. oscar.ramirez@semarnat.gob.mx		
Leonel Francisco Urbano Gutiérrez Assistant Director for Agreements and Conventions on Conservation		Tel. (55) 56-24-36-59 lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx		

* Officials whose signatures authorize the issuing of CITES Certificates and other official documents falling under the responsibility of the CITES Management Authority in Mexico.

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY (AC)

AC MEX	Dr. Jorge Soberón Mainero Executive Secretary	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad [National Commission on the Understanding and Use of Biodiversity] (CONABIO)	Liga Periférico Sur 4903, Col. Parques del Pedregal, Tlalpan, 14010, Mexico DF MEXICO	Tel. (55) 55-28-91-02. Fax (55) 55-28-91-48. jsoberon@xolo.conabio.gob.mx
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Hesiquio Benítez Díaz Director for International Affairs, CONABIO		Tel. (55) 55-28-91-25. Fax. (55) 55-28-91-85. hbenitez@xolo.conabio.gob.mx		
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LEGAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY (AAL)

AAL MEX	Dr. José Bernal Stoopen Director-General for Wildlife Inspection and Surveillance	SEMARNAT Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente [Federal Authority for Environmental Protection] (PROFEPA)	Camino al Ajusco No. 200, Piso 6 Col. Jardines en la Montaña, 14210 Mexico D.F. MEXICO	Tel. (55) 26-15-20-92. Fax. (55) 26-15-20-92. jbernal@correo.profepa.gob.mx
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