

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

NORTH AMERICA

The attached report for North America has been submitted by Canada*. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English and Spanish only, the languages in which it was submitted.

* *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.*

(English and Spanish only / únicamente en inglés y español / seulement en anglais et espagnol)

General Information

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

Introduction

This Report was assembled by Canada as the Regional Representative for North America. It covers the period between the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 14 – 18 July, 2008, and the 58th meeting of 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. Annex 1 provides the National Report for the Canada; Annex 2 for Mexico; and Annex 3 for the United States.

Regional Report presented in three attached annexes

Annex 1: National report for Canada (English)

Annex 2: National report for Mexico (Spanish)

Annex 3: National report for the United States of America (English)

ANNEX 1

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA SINCE THE 57th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE -FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 58th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE-

This report outlines the activities that have taken place to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Canada from July 2008 to May 2009.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Regional representative: Canada continues to serve as the North American regional representative on the CITES Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15. Ms. Virginia Potter, Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service will perform this function.

Working Group on Purpose Codes: Canada has participated in this intersessional working group, through a forum on the CITES website, to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties as directed in Decision 14.54.

Working Group on the Introduction from the Sea: Decision 14.48 directs the Standing Committee to establish a working group on Introduction from the Sea to consider a definition for 'transportation into a State', clarification of the term 'State of introduction' and the process for issuing a certificate of introduction from the sea as well as other issues identified for further consideration in the final report of the CITES Workshop on Introduction from the Sea Issues (Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2005). Contingent on the availability of external funding, the Standing Committee was also directed to convene a meeting of the working group between SC57 and SC58. Finally, the Standing Committee was directed to ask the working group to prepare a discussion paper and draft revised resolution for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC58 and for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In accordance with the decision, the Standing Committee established a working group at SC57, Chaired by Chile, to function intersessionally. The working group agreed to develop a discussion paper for a meeting of the group in Geneva, approximately February or March 2009. Canada has participated on this working group, which continues electronically, deliberating on drafts of the discussion paper.

CITES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Plants Committee

Plants Committee alternate representative: Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of the Canadian Scientific Authority office continues to serve as the Alternate Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

18th Meeting of the Plants Committee (PC17): Canada was represented at PC18, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 17 – 21, 2009, by a delegate from Environment Canada and one from the Canadian Forest Service. Canada was tasked with chairing the WG on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for timber species and *Prunus africana*, as well as the WG on *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*. Canada actively participated in a number of working groups, particularly the WG on the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings and the WG on NDFs for medicinal plants.

Animals Committee

24th Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC24)

Canada sent a five person interagency delegation to AC24, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 20-24, 2009. The representatives were from Environment Canada and Fisheries

and Oceans Canada. The Canadian delegation was active on numerous issues and participated in several working groups at AC24. Canada submitted a document requesting the advice of the Animals Committee on a means to reconcile the adoption of the new nomenclatural reference for mammals (Mammal Species of the World 3rd edition) with the CITES listings for *Puma concolor*. The new reference includes under *Puma concolor cougar* the Appendix I species *Puma concolor coryi* and the 16 subspecies included in Appendix II. Canada raised this issue at AC23 and it was confirmed that the adoption of the new nomenclature cannot change the intent or effect of the original listings. AC 23 recommended that the old reference (Mammal Species of the World 2nd edition) be used for *Puma concolor*; however a means to reconcile the CITES Appendices with the new nomenclature would be the ideal to avoid confusion. The WG on nomenclatural matters at AC24 addressed this issue, and in accordance with the recommendation of AC23, recommended that the old nomenclatural reference (Mammal Species of the World 2nd edition) be used as the standard reference for *Puma concolor*.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES — IMPLEMENTATION

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

CITES Reports: The CITES 2007-2008 Biennial Report is being prepared. Canada will submit its CITES Annual Report for 2007 to the CITES Secretariat and to UNEP-WCMC by end of July 2009.

Statistics on CITES Permits: In 2007, Canada issued the following number of permits and certificates:

Type of Permit Issued by Canada	Number in 2007
Export	14356
Export / Re-import	2
Import	140
Import / Re-export	3
Re-Export	1989
Temporary Movement Certificate	68
Scientific Certificate	5
Certificate of Ownership	16
Total	16579

CITES Electronic Permitting System: Business requirements will be sought from users including applicants, permit issuers, and management, to ensure all needs are met in the web-based CITES Electronic Permitting System (CEPS). This web based system increases the efficiency of permitting by compiling accurate and consistent information and facilitates the production of annual reports on international trade in wildlife in Canada. Environment Canada is committed to future development of an online CITES permit application form accessible to the public through the CITES Canada website. Access to a web application could be expanded to the majority of federal, provincial and territorial CITES partners.

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

International Expert Workshop on Non-detriment Findings: Canada served on the Steering Committee and attended the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings in Cancun, Mexico, from November 17 to 22, 2008. Scientific Authority representatives from

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the province of British Columbia participated in the mammals working group. Scientific Authority representatives from the Canadian Forest Service and Environment Canada participated in the trees working group and the perennial plants working group, respectively. Canada prepared and presented a number of species-specific case studies (grizzly bear, Canada yew, and American ginseng) and Co-Chaired the perennial plants working group.

Non-Detriment Findings: Canada continues efforts to prepare standing non-detriment finding reports for key Canadian species in trade in collaboration with Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Scientific Authorities and other experts within the species' ranges. The Scientific Authority led on the development of NDF reports for polar bear, cougar, and otter. These reports are scheduled for completion in 2009. National Standing Non-Detriment Finding reports for American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) are published on the CITES-Canada website (www.cites.ec.gc.ca).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada held a scientific peer-review meeting in January 2009 to evaluate *Acipenser oxyrinchus* (Atlantic sturgeon) in regards to making a non-detriment finding for the export of wild specimens of this species from Canada. Participants included species experts from the Canadian federal government, academia, and industry. A sturgeon expert from the United States also participated.

Captive Breeding Operations (Appendix-I): Currently, Canada has 10 CITES-registered captive-breeding operations breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tragopan caboti*, or *Acipenser brevirostrum*.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Environment Canada carried out over 2,500 inspections under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA). A significant proportion (20%) pertained to commercial shipments, which are an Environment Canada inspections priority. Significant commodities include *Prunus africana*, hunting trophies, *Panax quinquefolius* and other medicinal herbs. Although *Hoodia gordonii* imports have dropped off compared to last year, this commodity still accounts for a significant percentage of inspections.

Environment Canada conducted over 124 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife. Most of these investigations concluded with the forfeiture and confiscation of goods and the issuance of a ticket.

The Pacific office regularly intercepts commercial quantities of medicinal plants, illegally imported through the mail. These are typically the result of orders placed over the internet. Frequently, these packages contain commercial quantities of *Prunus africana* and *Saussuria lappa*.

In 2008, Canada intercepted a large shipment of *Pericopsis elata* floorboards that were imported into Canada with an incorrect permit.

One case resolved in June 2008 involved the illegal importation of an ocelot coat and a python purse by a company set up specifically by a Canadian family specifically for importing and exporting goods.

The year 2008 saw the continuation of a joint investigation with the USFWS involving the illegal importation of *Strombus gigas* (queen conch) meat. Canadian and U.S. federal wildlife officials announced on September 26, 2007 that the smuggling ring had been dismantled and subsequent convictions and fines were announced in Halifax on November 8, 2007; in Vancouver on January 4, 2008; and in Miami, Florida on January 25, 2008. This importation was part of a large organized trafficking scheme which trafficked 120 metric tonnes of *S. gigas* meat in total. An important seizure of elephant ivory was also reported to INTERPOL.

CITES E-commerce Workshop: Recent studies have raised concerns that the growth and accessibility of the Internet has led to an increase in illegal wildlife trade. Following recommendations from the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, CITES asked Canada to host an E-Commerce Workshop given its proximity to North American E-commerce industry leaders and relatively straight-forward travel requirements for international participants. This workshop was held in Vancouver from February 24-26, 2008.

Approximately 80 people participated at the workshop including about twenty countries, non-government organizations, international organizations, and a representative from industry. In response to findings from this workshop, Environment Canada is proactively developing a national strategy to address illegal wildlife trading on the Internet. In recognition of the importance of this issue, this strategy will be created in consultation with key partners including other federal government departments, and provincial counterparts. As well, there is opportunity to expand Canada's strategy to include relevant agencies in the United States and Mexico, given the international scope of the issue.

Capacity Building: In 2008, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate increased its capacity by 28 new enforcement officers for a total of more than 84 officers. The capacity building included putting together a 6 week training course offered in January and February 2009. This course includes CITES related training on legislation and occupational health and safety during inspections. These new officers have now been deployed.

CITES Identification Guide: In 2009, Environment Canada published the *CITES Identification Guide to Falconry Species*. This guide has been published in two editions, one for enforcement and customs personnel, and the other for the public at large. Both editions are available in English and in French. The guide will be distributed electronically. A launch date for the guide has yet to be determined.

North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group: The Wildlife Enforcement Authority is directly involved in the North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group. Created in 1995, the Group is a network of senior wildlife enforcement officials from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. It has focused on improving North American capacity to enforce laws regulating the sustainable use and conservation of our wildlife, particularly with respect to CITES. It works with other cooperative enforcement and compliance programs in collaboration with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America. Canada chairs the group every couple of years on a rotational basis with Mexico and the United States. The Group met twice during the reporting period.

Interpol Wildlife Working Group: Throughout the reporting period, the Canadian Enforcement Authority continued to maintain contact with the Interpol Wildlife Working Group and to communicate on major investigations.

ANNEX 2

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY MEXICO SINCE THE 57th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 58TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE-

Comité de Flora

Candelilla (*Euphorbia antisiphilitica*)

Durante el PC18, en el grupo de trabajo sobre revisión periódica, México presentó el documento informativo PC18 Inf. 10 con los resultados de la revisión periódica de la candelilla, indicando que la especie debe permanecer en el Apéndice II de CITES. El grupo apoyó la conclusión de México y además estuvo de acuerdo en la exención de los productos terminados de esta especie, sin embargo esta cuestión fue revisada en otro grupo de trabajo.

Colaboración con la Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (GSPC)

En calidad de Presidente del grupo de trabajo entre sesiones (PC17 WG12) México presentó el documento PC18 Doc. 7.2. Se formó un Grupo de trabajo (WG 2) presidido por México. El WG2 señaló que es preciso que la CITES contribuya con la GSPC en su fase actual así como en su nueva fase de planificación más allá del 2010, por lo que se acordó enmendar la decisión 14.15. El Grupo de trabajo trabajará de manera electrónica, en las actividades identificadas por el Grupo de trabajo y se elaborará un documento a ser presentado en el COP15 por México en calidad de presidente del Grupo de Trabajo.

Grupo de trabajo sobre especímenes de herbario

Durante la 17^a reunión del Comité de Flora (Ginebra 2008), se formó un grupo de trabajo intersesional para analizar la posible exención de especímenes de herbario de los controles de la CITES. Durante la 18^a reunión del Comité de Flora (PC18, Buenos Aires, 2009), México en calidad de copresidente del grupo de trabajo entre sesiones presentó el documento PC18 Doc. 12. Se formó un grupo de trabajo (WG6) copresidido por Austria y México (Patricia Dávila), el cual concluyó que no es necesario elaborar una exención adicional para especímenes de herbario con fines no comerciales, sino fomentar la difusión del registro de herbarios de acuerdo a la Resolución Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12), enfatizando en sus repercusiones y beneficios. Se acordó establecer un grupo de trabajo entre sesiones con la finalidad de elaborar un folleto para someterlo a la consideración del PC19. Austria ofreció financiarlo y propuso trabajar con México en su elaboración por vía electrónica.

Anotaciones

Durante el PC18, se formó un grupo de trabajo copresidido por el representante de América del Norte y México que examinó los documentos PC18 Doc. 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.6 y 16.1.2. Con relación a la nueva anotación que fusiona la #1 con la # 4, se acordó incluir dos elementos que se refieren a los productos terminados de *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*, así como las vainas de orquídeas. Con relación a las Anotaciones para las especies de árboles enlistadas en los Apéndices II y III, se concluyó que el grupo de trabajo no contaba con el *expertise* necesario para tomar una decisión y que el tema requiere mayor revisión. Se plantearon algunos proyectos de decisión a ser presentados en la COP15. Con relación a la exención de productos terminados se acordó continuar con la revisión de algunos taxa.

Caoba (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

México, en calidad de presidente del GTC, presentó su propuesta de estrategia regional de la caoba (PC18 Doc.13.1.2) y argumentó las bondades de seguir con las actividades en el marco del grupo de trabajo. El Comité de Flora acordó que el grupo de trabajo de la caoba continuaría su labor bajo un nuevo mandato, dirigido a apoyar las acciones de los países cuyas poblaciones están siendo evaluadas en el marco del Examen de Comercio Significativo (ECS), y se eliminó el

plan de acción aprobado en la CoP14 (Decisión 14.145). Después de revisar la situación e informes de los países solamente Belice, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras y Nicaragua quedaron dentro del ECS para la caoba.

Adicionalmente, el grupo de trabajo para la caoba amplió su mandato para revisar el cumplimiento del plan de acción para *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia granadillo*, *D. stevensonii* y *D. retusa*. Al respecto, el GTC preparará un análisis de los informes nacionales que será presentado por la presidencia del GTC al Comité de Flora a más tardar el 1 de septiembre 2009.

Comités de Flora y Fauna

Taller Internacional de Expertos sobre Dictámenes de Extracción No-Perjudicial

México en calidad de Presidente del Comité Organizador Internacional del Taller, presentó los resultados del Taller de NDF's contenidos en los documentos PC18 Doc. 14.1 y 14.2, AC24 Doc. 9 y AC24 Doc. 9.1, en las pasadas reuniones de los Comités de Flora (PC18 Buenos Aires, 2009) y de Fauna (AC24, Ginebra 2009). Durante el AC24, México adicionalmente mencionó que los resultados del taller ya se están presentando y que se está evaluando su aplicabilidad en México y en países centroamericanos (CAFTA-DR).

Durante el PC18 se formó un grupo de trabajo (WG8) copresidido por México y el Representante Regional de Oceanía, el cual analizó los documentos PC18 14.1 y 14.2, generando varias recomendaciones entre las que destaca un borrador de resolución (PC18 WG8 Rev.1), Adicionalmente se formaron 3 grupos de trabajo para revisar los demás documentos relacionados con los NDF's (PC18 Doc.14.2, 14.3, 14.4 y 14.5). Estos tres grupos de trabajo lograron consensar principios generales para la elaboración de NDF's y sugirieron incluir las guías específicas como parte de la propuesta de Resolución. El Comité de Flora acordó que los resultados del WG8 con pequeñas modificaciones, fueran presentados en el AC24.

Durante el AC24, Canadá presentó el documento (AC24 Doc. 9 *Addendum*) que incluía los resultados del Comité de Flora. El proyecto de Resolución recibió apoyo por parte de algunos representantes regionales, sin embargo se expresó molestia de que el Addendum estuvo disponible apenas 2 días antes de la reunión y no conforme a las reglas de procedimiento. Debido a lo anterior se resaltó la importancia de realizar las reuniones conjuntas de los comités científicos. Se formó un grupo de trabajo (AC24 WG7) para revisar los documentos (AC24 Doc 9, 9.1 y Addendum) presidido por los representantes regionales de África (Richard Bagine) y Asia (Siti Prijono, Indonesia) y en el que participó México. El GT7 recomendó enviar una Notificación a las Partes solicitando comentarios a los resultados del Taller, mismos que serán revisados por dos representantes de cada Comité (Greg Leach, Oceanía y Hesiquio Benítez, México para el Comité de Flora; y Richard Bagine, África y Zhou Zihua, China para el Comité de Fauna). El Comité de Fauna no logró consenso sobre la pertinencia de presentar el proyecto de Resolución sobre NDF a la CoP15, por lo que se prepararon proyectos de Decisión para promover la consideración de los resultados del Taller por las Partes y los Comités Científicos, complementarlos incorporando otros trabajos sobre NDF y asegurar que la CoP16 considere los resultados de estos esfuerzos en mayor detalle. En su intervención final la Secretaría además de felicitar a México por la organización del taller y los resultados obtenidos, lamentó que los Comités Científicos no adoptaran una Resolución sobre NDF resaltando que después de 30 años de estar en vigor la CITES no existe nada al respecto, siendo los NDF el corazón de la Convención e invitó a las Partes a continuar con el trabajo.

Comité de Fauna

Revisión periódica de Ambystoma dumerilii

Durante el AC24, México presentó los resultados de la revisión periódica del ajolote de Pátzcuaro (*Ambystoma dumerilii*). El Comité estuvo de acuerdo con las recomendaciones de México en mantener a la especie en el Apéndice II de acuerdo con el Artículo II, párrafo 2b del Texto de la Convención.

Revisión Periódica de Felidae – *Lynx rufus*

Como parte de la revisión periódica de Felidae, México sometió al AC24 un documento informativo con los resultados de la evaluación de la situación de las poblaciones de lince rojo (*Lynx rufus*) en México. No se formó grupo de trabajo.

Revisión periódica de *Panthera onca* (Jaguar)

En la 23ª reunión del Comité de Fauna, México se comprometió a realizar la revisión periódica de la especie. El proceso incluirá la realización de la Segunda Reunión Internacional sobre Jaguar y la compilación de información de los países del área de distribución mediante un cuestionario.

Taller de Capacitación para la Conservación y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de Tortugas Dulceacuícolas del Sur-Sureste de México.

En marzo de 2009, en Catemaco, Veracruz se celebró el taller de Capacitación para la Conservación y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de Tortugas Dulceacuícolas del Sur-Sureste de México. Las metas de dicho taller consistieron en reunir y promover la interacción a través del intercambio de información y experiencias entre propietarios y técnicos de UMA, estudiantes, investigadores, funcionarios de los tres niveles de gobierno y los gobiernos de Belice y Guatemala para definir y fortalecer las acciones para la conservación y aprovechamiento sustentable de las tortugas dulceacuícolas del sur-sureste de México con particular interés en la Tortuga Blanca (*Dermatemys mawii*).

- Actualizar el conocimiento de este grupo de organismos para mejorar las acciones de conservación y aprovechamiento a través de UMA intensivas y el potencial de UMA extensivas.
- Identificar las regiones de importancia para la conservación del hábitat de este grupo de organismos y las especies asociadas.
- Promover acciones para el fomento de UMA, asistencia técnica, de gestión y de comercialización para la conservación y el aprovechamiento sustentable; y finalmente,

incorporar los lineamientos de gestión y técnicos del Plan de Manejo y Exponer los lineamientos técnicos de “extracción no perjudicial” para este grupo de reptiles. Al taller asistieron académicos, gobierno, ONG’s, manejadores de tortugas y representantes de Belice. Durante el taller se presentó la Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación y el Manejo Sustentable de la Tortuga Blanca (*Dermatemys mawii*), con miras a consolidarla y más adelante ampliarla a toda su área de distribución (Guatemala y Belice). También se presentaron los resultados del Grupo de Trabajo de Reptiles y Anfibios, del Taller de NDF. Algunos resultados y acuerdos del Taller de Capacitación para la Conservación y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de Tortugas Dulceacuícolas del Sur-Sureste de México fueron los siguientes:

- Lograr una amplia participación de todos los sectores.
- Actualización y discusión de la situación actual de este grupo de organismos para el establecimiento y fortalecimiento de acciones.
- Se sugirieron grupos de trabajo por cada uno de los estados del sur-sureste de México, así como la participación de Belice y Guatemala.

Acuerdos

- Actualizar y publicar la Estrategia Trinacional.
- Realizar otro taller orientado a dar seguimiento y fomentar las UMA extensivas y la comercialización.
- Fortalecer la participación y el intercambio de todos los sectores, así como el trabajo conjunto con Belice y Guatemala.

Aplicación de la ley

Por otro lado, el órgano gubernamental encargado de la aplicación de la ley en materia de medio ambiente, ha puesto especial atención y esfuerzos en el desarrollo de acciones que permitan la creación de capacidades. Dichas acciones incluyen diferentes estrategias y líneas de acción tales como la capacitación de la plantilla operativa, el equipamiento y la adecuación de infraestructura así como la mejora continua en los procesos operativos y el establecimiento de sinergias intra e interinstitucionales así como con gobiernos de otros países.

Las Autoridades CITES de México (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Dirección General de Vida Silvestre y Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente), han coorganizado y participado en los **"Cursos de Capacitación Sobre Temas Selectos para la Aplicación de la Ley en Vida Silvestre"**, para la capacitación de inspectores ambientales, personal de aduanas y demás funcionarios encargados de actividades de supervisión, inspección y vigilancia de la CITES. Además, se elaboró y ejecutó el curso en línea "Peritos en Criminalística Ambiental y Vida Silvestre".

En cuanto al equipamiento, como parte del Convenio de Colaboración entre la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) y TRAFFIC-Norteamérica, este último donó equipo para manejo de vida silvestre por un valor cercano a los \$28,000 USD que fue canalizado a las inspectorías del Programa de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras.

En lo referente a la adecuación de infraestructura, la PROFEPA y el Instituto Nacional de Administración de Bienes Nacionales (INDABIN) acordaron la dotación de infraestructura para la adecuada operación de las inspectorías ubicadas en cruces fronterizos formales. Ésta infraestructura consiste en oficinas, áreas de revisión y almacenamiento de mercancías; la primera fase incluye los cruces fronterizos de la frontera sur-sureste de México y una segunda fase incluye la frontera con los E.U.A. teniéndose un horizonte de construcción, adecuación y remodelación de infraestructura al año 2012 y contando las instalaciones con una vida útil proyectada a 50 años.

La mejora de procesos operativos es un punto medular en la creación de capacidades. En este sentido, la PROFEPA ha elaborado una base informática que permite la agilización de los trámites obligatorios para el movimiento transfronterizo de mercancías de vida silvestre, productos y subproductos forestales, sujetos a regulaciones no arancelarias por parte del sector ambiental. El Sistema Institucional del Registro de Verificación (SIREV) permite la captura en línea del Registro de Verificación por parte del particular con la finalidad de reducir el tiempo de espera en la inspectoría y da certeza a lo declarado por el mismo. Durante 2008, se elaboró el aparato informático, se capacitó a la plantilla de inspectores y se corrieron pruebas piloto; para 2009, se equipará a las inspectorías para poder implementar el sistema, se liberará el mismo y se harán pruebas de estrés en coordinación con agentes aduanales. Este sistema le permite a la PROFEPA alimentar su Sistema de Información Institucional (SIIP) y al mismo tiempo integrarse de lleno al Programa de Interconectividad Gubernamental coordinado por la Secretaría de Economía y operado por la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público cuyo objetivo es el intercambio de información, en tiempo real, de las mercancías en tránsito por las fronteras mexicanas entre las diferentes dependencias de la Administración Pública Federal relacionadas con el comercio exterior.

Por otra parte, durante 2008, la PROFEPA estableció acuerdos binacionales con el Gobierno de Guatemala con la finalidad de implementar en el corto plazo mecanismos de intercambio de información relacionada con la comisión de delitos ambientales, por un lado, y de control de movimientos transfronterizos de especies, productos y subproductos de vida silvestre, por otro lado.

Se pretende iniciar a la brevedad con la elaboración del Manual Operativo Binacional Transfronterizo (MOBT) para el control de comercio y tráfico de flora y fauna silvestre con Guatemala y Belice. Estos manuales facilitarán la aplicación local de las disposiciones de la

CITES en la región, para lograr el cumplimiento de los acuerdos binacionales entre las autoridades competentes de Belice, Guatemala y México.

INAPESCA

Durante el AC24, México hizo una declaratoria respecto al Doc. 14.4 sobre la Conservación y Gestión de los tiburones en la que debido al envío tardío de las respuestas a las notificaciones 2008/058 y 2007/033 para dar cumplimiento a las Decisiones 14.104 14.108 y 14.115 sobre la Conservación y Manejo de Tiburones y Rayas, solicito que su información fuera considerada en las discusiones que sostendría el grupo de trabajo AC24 WG5 en el que México participo. También se participo en el grupo de trabajo intersesional cuya labor fue el refinamiento de la lista de especies de tiburón de preocupación en CITES.

Se recomienda que es necesario mejorar el acopio de información sobre manejo, conservación y comercio de estas especies.

Finalmente el WG5 identifico a las especies de tiburones cuyo estatus esta afectado por un inadecuado manejo pesquero y por el comercio, las mismas especies fueron identificadas también por la FAO como prioritarias para monitorear sus pesquerías y comercio.

México a través del INAPESCA participo en el “Taller de conservación y manejo de tiburones del Pacífico Oriental” organizado por la Subsecretaría de Pesca del Ecuador, la Convención Mundial para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUNC) y la APEC del 9 al 11 del julio en Manta, Ecuador.

El objetivo de la reunión fue conocer y analizar los avances en la implementación de los Planes de Acción Nacionales de Manejo y Conservación de Tiburones. Participaron representantes oficiales y ONG's de 11 países: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, México, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panamá, Costa Rica, y los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, y las organizaciones pesqueras de la CPPS (Comisión Permanente Pacífico Sur), OLDEPESCA, OSPESCA y FAO.

Adicionalmente México a través de sus autoridades pesqueras CONAPESCA e INAPESCA organizaron el “Taller Interregional de Manejo y Conservación de Tiburones” que se realizo del 3 al 5 de diciembre de 2008 en Mazatlán, Sinaloa, y cuyo objetivo general fue el de conocer a detalle cual es la información biológica-pesquera con que se cuenta sobre las 5 principales especies de tiburones identificadas en común para la región del Océano Pacífico Oriental: *Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Prionace glauca*, *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *Alopias pelagicus*, con la finalidad de discutir posibles medidas de manejo conjunto. Estas especies forman parte de la lista de especies de preocupación manejadas por CITES.

El Taller conto con la colaboración y subvención de la OLDEPESCA y la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUCN), con la participación del departamento de Estado de los E.U.A. y la presencia de expertos nacionales e internacionales de Instituciones de Investigación y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca (CPPS, OSPESCA, CIAT, y CICCA) que llevan a cabo acciones de evaluación, manejo y conservación de los elasmobranquios.

En ambos talleres se detectaron problemáticas como el control del aleteo, el uso de herramientas genéticas, control de áreas marinas protegidas, y sistemas de trazabilidad, además de identificar al menos cinco especies en común para la región del Océano Pacífico Oriental; (*Isurus oxyrinchus*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *Carcharhinus falciformis*, *Alopias pelagicus* y *Prionace glauca*).

ANNEX 3

REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE 57th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE - FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 58th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE -

Report compiled 6 May 2009

Provided below is a summary of key measures taken by the United States in its implementation of CITES during the period from July 2008 through May 2009:

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CoP14 FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

MARINE ISSUES: Following the proposal at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14) to list red and pink corals in CITES Appendix II, which was ultimately rejected, the United States agreed to convene two workshops on the conservation of and trade in Coralliidae species. The first of these workshops, organized by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, was held 16-20 March 2009 in Hong Kong. International experts from governments, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the CITES Secretariat shared information on biological, fisheries, and trade data. Working group reports from the first workshop will be used to inform the work of the second workshop on Coralliidae, which is scheduled to be held in Italy later in 2009.

CoP15-RELATED ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR CoP15: During the reporting period, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published one notice in the U.S. *Federal Register* as part of the process designed to allow NGOs and the public to participate in the preparations of the U.S. Government for CoP15. This notice, published on 29 September 2008, solicited recommendations from the public for proposals to amend CITES Appendix I and II, as well as recommendations for proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for the United States to consider submitting for CoP15. A notice scheduled for publication in the *Federal Register* in May 2009 will summarize the recommendations received from the public in response to the notice of 29 September 2008; announce those species proposals and proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items that the U.S. Government is considering submitting for CoP15; and seek further information from the public to complete proposals for submission.

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

USFWS PARTICIPATES IN CITES E-COMMERCE WORKSHOP: Representatives from the U.S. CITES Management Authority and USFWS Office of Law Enforcement (including a field investigator, forensics laboratory manager, and intelligence analyst) participated in the Workshop on E-commerce of CITES-listed Species held in Vancouver, Canada, in February 2009. The USFWS Intelligence Unit provided an overview of U.S. efforts to address internet wildlife trafficking, and USFWS representatives participated in workshop sessions that developed recommendations for presentation to the CITES Standing Committee at its 58th meeting (SC58).

WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSAL TAGGING SYSTEM AND TRADE IN SMALL CROCODILIAN LEATHER GOODS: Decision 14.62 directs the Standing Committee to establish a working group at SC57 to review the implementation and effectiveness of the CITES universal tagging system and the trade in small crocodilian leather goods. Decision 14.63 directs the Standing Committee to consider the report of this working group at SC58 and submit recommendations, as appropriate, at CoP15. In accordance Decision 14.62, the Standing Committee, at SC57 (July 2008), established an intersessional working group to carry out this

review and report at SC58 on its progress. The United States is the chair of this working group, which has been carrying out its work primarily via email exchange.

WORKING GROUP ON PURPOSE CODES: Decision 14.54 directs the Standing Committee to establish an intersessional working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties on CITES permits. In accordance with the decision, the Standing Committee, at SC57, established a working group to carry out this review, report at SC58 on its progress and also on any potential recommendations for CoP15 for amendments to the purpose-of-transaction codes and their definitions in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14). The United States is the chair of this working group, which has been carrying out its work electronically through a forum on the CITES website.

WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS: Decision 14.19 directs the Standing Committee to review any proposals from the Secretariat to correct non-substantive errors or minor editorial faults in current CITES resolutions and decide if they should be referred to the CoP. At SC57, the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group to review proposals, prepared by the Secretariat, for non-substantive revisions to the current resolutions and report back to SC58. During the reporting period, the working group, working electronically through a forum on the CITES website, has reviewed and commented on proposed revisions to a number of the resolutions that remain valid from CoP1 through CoP8. The United States has been an active participant on this working group.

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES SERVING AS ALTERNATE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: At CoP14, Dr. Rosemarie Gnam, Chief of the U.S. Scientific Authority, was selected as the alternate North American Regional Representative on the CITES Animals Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

24th MEETING OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a nine-person delegation to the 24th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC24), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2009. The interagency U.S. delegation included four representatives from the USFWS, four from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and one from the U.S. Department of State. The United States submitted two documents for the meeting: a working document containing a progress report of the periodic review of Felidae, including a report from the *Lynx* species meeting in Brussels, Belgium; and a working document containing a report from the Shark Intersessional Working Group Chair on the implementation of Decision 14.107. The U.S. delegation was active on numerous issues and participated in several working groups at AC24.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP: The United States remains active on the Animals Committee Transport Working Group (TWG). The United States participated in the 21st International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals and Perishables Board meeting (LAPB21) in Montreal in October 2008, where an informal meeting of the TWG was held to discuss items raised by IATA and follow up on issues from AC23.

SHARKS WORKING GROUP: The United States chaired an intersessional working group tasked with refining the list of shark species of concern (Decision 14.107) and prepared a report for AC24. The United States participated in the shark working group at AC24.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS: The Non-Detriment Finding Workshop was held in Cancun, Mexico, in November 2008. The United States served as a member of the workshop's Steering Committee and prepared two case studies: American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and black coral (*Antipatharia*).

REPORT TO THE EU-SRG ON PADDLEFISH: The United States received a letter in June 2008 from the European Union's Scientific Review Group (EU-SRG) requesting information on the

conservation status and management measures for paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) in the United States. The SRG had reviewed the CITES Annual Report data for species with high levels of trade, and noted that U.S. paddlefish were in that category. The United States submitted a final report to the EU-SRG in March 2009, on the status, conservation, and harvest management of paddlefish in the United States.

U.S. PADDLEFISH WORKSHOP: The United States hosted a workshop in Memphis, Tennessee, in January 2009, with the Fisheries Chiefs of the U.S. paddlefish harvesting States. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss management measures to ensure the sustainability of paddlefish harvest and domestic and international trade in the species. The information obtained at this workshop was used to submit the final report to the EU-SRG in March 2009.

PERIODIC REVIEW OF FELIDAE: In the summer of 2008, in collaboration with its U.S. State partners and in consultation with Canada and Mexico, the U.S. Scientific Authority conducted a survey of U.S. State and Canadian provincial authorities in order to obtain an updated bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) population estimate for the U.S. and Canadian populations. The results of this survey will be published in the scientific literature and available soon.

LYNX SPECIES MEETING IN BRUSSELS: The United States and The European Union jointly organized a meeting regarding *Lynx* species that was held in Brussels on October 29, 2008. A report on the discussions and outcome of this meeting was presented at AC24 (Doc. 10.3 Annex).

CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES CONTINUES AS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: At CoP14, the Parties from North America selected Mr. Robert R. Gabel, Chief of the U.S. Management Authority, to continue as the North American Regional Representative on the CITES Plants Committee for the intersessional period between CoP14 and CoP15.

18TH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE: The United States sent a six-person delegation to the 18th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC18), which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2009. Four delegates were from the USFWS, one from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and one from the U.S. Forest Service. The United States prepared and submitted four documents for the meeting: one on inconsistent implementation of Appendix-III timber listings annotated to include only the national populations of the listing countries; one on clarification of the exemption for flaked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids; one on amending the annotation for Appendix-II orchids to exempt seed pods; and an information (Inf.) document reporting on the new amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act regarding plants. Two additional documents were submitted by the United States as the chairs of intersessional working groups: one as chair of the working group on annotations for CITES tree species, and one as chair of the working group on review of trade in finished products for certain plant taxa. Also, Mr. Robert Gabel of the United States, as the Regional Representative for North America, submitted the North American Regional Report. The United States was also an active participant in intersessional working groups dealing with non-timber forest products, non-detriment findings, and the Review of the Appendices. The U.S. delegation was active on numerous issues and participated in a number of working groups at PC18. Between PC18 and CoP15, the United States will participate in an electronic drafting group, chaired by Mexico, to revise the Annex to Document PC16 Doc. 13.2 (CITES and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation) and submit this revision for consideration at CoP15.

U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CITES PLANTS MEETING: At the invitation of the European Regional Representative to the Plants Committee, a representative of the U.S. Management Authority attended the European Regional CITES Plants Meeting, held 7-9 October 2008, in Lampedusa, Italy. It provided an opportunity to present information on U.S. efforts to combat illegal logging, recent amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act to more broadly address illegal trade in plants and plant products to the United States, as well as provide an update

on the status of implementation of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

FOURTH MEETING OF THE MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP AND THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON THE JOINT CITES-ITTO TIMBER PROJECT:

A representative of the U.S. Management Authority participated in the Fourth Meeting of the Mahogany Working Group and the First Latin American Workshop on Joint CITES-ITTO Timber Project, held 13-15 November 2008, in Cancún, Mexico. Participants included representatives from most of the bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) range States, the United States, the European Commission, and a representative from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The United States gave presentations on U.S. trade in bigleaf mahogany, *Cedrela odorata*, and *Dalbergia* spp., as well as recent amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act related to plants. The United States also chaired a session on progress on timber issues leading into CoP15.

JOINT ANIMALS COMMITTEE – PLANTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

CITES SOURCE CODE 'R': Decision 14.52 directs the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a number of activities related to the use of source code 'R,' including reviewing WCMC's CITES trade data on species traded under source code 'R,' surveying countries applying source code 'R' to species other than Appendix-I crocodylians transferred to Appendix II subject to ranching, and reviewing literature on wildlife management systems that would resemble ranching. Based on these reviews, the Animals and Plants Committees are directed to propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code 'R' for CITES purposes, and to report the results at CoP15. At their joint meeting in April 2008, the Animals and Plants Committees established an intersessional working group to carry out the directions of Decision 14.52. The United States is an active participant in this working group and carried out a review of literature on wildlife management systems that would resemble ranching for fish and mammals.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CITES IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES

REVISIONS TO U.S. REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CITES: In July 2008, the USFWS published revisions to the U.S. CITES-implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 23), which became effective on 15 September 2008. The new revisions incorporate provisions related to international trade in sturgeon and paddlefish caviar adopted by the Parties at CoP14. The USFWS has also prepared a proposed rule to incorporate other relevant provisions adopted at CoP14. The updated regulations will help the USFWS more effectively promote species conservation, fulfill its responsibilities as a CITES Party, and help those affected by CITES to understand how to conduct international trade in CITES-listed species.

AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. LACEY ACT REGARDING PLANTS: The Lacey Act, first enacted in 1900, is the United States' oldest wildlife protection statute. It has made and continues to make it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any wildlife specimen taken or traded in violation of U.S. or foreign law. However, until 2008, the Act only applied to plants that were U.S. native species and in its application to those plants was limited. On 22 May 2008, the U.S. Congress adopted significant amendments to the Lacey Act expanding its protection to a broader range of plants, including foreign plant and timber species. Now, in addition to its application to wildlife, the Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant specimen (with some limited exceptions) taken or traded in violation of foreign law or the laws or regulations of a U.S. State. The Act also now makes it unlawful to submit any false record of any covered plant and to import any covered plant or plant product without a declaration indicating the genus and species, quantity, value, and country of origin of the covered plant material. The U.S. Government is currently in the process of implementing the new Lacey Act amendments, has developed a phased-in approach to the declaration requirement, and is providing national and international outreach.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CITES LISTINGS OF COMMERCIAL TIMBER SPECIES

U.S. EFFORTS RELATED TO PERUVIAN MAHOGANY: The USFWS continued to work closely with Peru regarding its implementation of the mahogany Appendix-II listing. For 2008, Peru established a voluntary bigleaf mahogany export quota of 3,475.5483 cubic meters. The United States closely monitored the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during 2008, and provided Peru with periodic reports on those imports, which totaled 2,959 cubic meters. The USFWS continues to monitor the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during 2009 and provides this information to Peru on a regular basis to assist Peru in monitoring its exports of mahogany to the United States and in managing its export quota.

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT: In 2008, the United States and Peru concluded the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA). The PTPA commits both Parties to effectively enforce their domestic environmental laws and adopt, maintain, and implement laws, regulations, and all other measures to fulfill obligations under seven Multilateral Environmental Agreements, one of which is CITES. The Environment Chapter of the PTPA includes an Annex on Forest Sector Governance, which seeks to address the environmental and economic consequences of illegal logging and associated trade. The PTPA was ratified by both Peru and the United States and entered into force on 1 February 2009. The United States continues to work very closely with Peru under the terms of the agreement.

UNITED STATES – INDONESIA MOU: In November 2006, the United States and Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade. Through the MOU the two Parties agree to exchange information related to trade in timber and other forest products, and cooperate for the purpose of enforcing or assisting in the enforcement of their respective laws and regulations affecting trade in timber and other forest products. The MOU establishes a Working Group on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade under the United States – Indonesia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). Information exchange and enhanced cooperation related to ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is an important element of the activities under the MOU.

EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN CITES AND ITTO: The United States continues to support the expanded program of work of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to enhance the capacity of members to implement CITES listings for timber species. The current work includes support to enhance CITES implementation for listed taxa, including *Gonystylus* spp., *Aquilaria* spp., *Pericopsis elata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, and *Cedrela odorata*.

RAMIN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: The USFWS continued to work with its partners in APHIS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to ensure that the United States is fully implementing the ramin Appendix-II listing. The CITES Management Authority in Sarawak, Malaysia, has instituted a process whereby it informs the USFWS whenever it issues a CITES export permit for a shipment of ramin from Sarawak destined for the United States. The USFWS distributes this information to the appropriate agencies in the United States to ensure that those ramin shipments are properly inspected and cleared upon arrival at U.S. ports of entry.

CITES TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: The United States continues to build capacity and strengthen efforts to implement CITES obligations through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other international partnership programs. In addition to the many FTA provisions that are broadly supportive of effective implementation of CITES (such as the obligation to effectively enforce environmental laws, as well as provisions on transparency, customs cooperation, and rules of origin), U.S. FTAs are complemented by parallel agreements that provide for cooperation on environmental matters, where CITES implementation has been identified as a priority area of work. During the reporting period, capacity building, education and outreach, and training for CITES

implementation and enforcement were provided in conjunction with the Dominican Republic – Central America – United States FTA (CAFTA-DR), and the U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). The U.S. Department of State has funded a wide variety of workshops, training programs, and other activities, which have been implemented by the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), working with the USFWS, CITES Secretariat, Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), Arcenciel, Humane Society International, IUCN Iguana Specialist Group, Oman Environment Society, Texas A&M University, TRAFFIC, University of Tennessee, Zootropic, and others. Activities under the CAFTA-DR have involved government representatives from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Activities under the MEPI have involved government representatives from Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman. ITAP expects to continue managing similar activities at least through 2010. The U.S. Forest Service has conducted several wood identification trainings in Nicaragua and Honduras to facilitate the ability of customs and other officials to identify CITES and other timber species. The U.S. Forest Service is also currently writing and publishing an identification manual for 60 commonly traded tropical wood species from Central America and the Caribbean that will help facilitate law enforcement in forestry.

INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING CONDUCTED FOR AFRICAN OFFICERS: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement presented a two-week wildlife crime investigations course at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gabarone, Botswana. The course, which has been conducted yearly as part of the core curriculum at the Academy since 2002, focused on the enforcement skills needed to combat wildlife trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa. Participants included 29 officers from eight countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia).

USFWS SUPPORTS WILDLIFE TRADE ENFORCEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: In October 2008, a USFWS special agent with broad expertise in the development, management, and execution of investigative training programs, as well as significant experience in conducting investigations of illegal wildlife trafficking, completed a 10-month assignment as an on-site technical advisor to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). Efforts included training development, investigative consultation, and intelligence liaison, as well as the presentation of multiple in-country training programs. This work is continuing in 2009, with another USFWS special agent detailed to ASEAN-WEN for 6 months of investigative and training assistance. The U.S. Forest Service handles the overall participation by U.S. agencies in this program and has provided an enforcement officer to ASEAN-WEN and facilitated Department of Justice technical assistance in addition to USFWS activities.

USFWS SUPPORTS MARINE ENFORCEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA: USFWS Law Enforcement teamed with Environment Canada to provide presentations on CITES enforcement strategies and queen conch meat trafficking at a Marine Environmental Security Conference in Colombia. The workshop, which was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the Colombian Ministry of Environment, and Conservation International, was attended by enforcement personnel from South American and Caribbean nations. A USFWS special agent also participated in a separate queen conch workshop held in Colombia, where he worked with conservation and enforcement officials to develop collaborative strategies for improving queen conch management in the southwestern Caribbean.

USFWS SHARES INSIGHTS ON REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION: A USFWS Law Enforcement manager attended the 17th Meeting of the European Union Enforcement Group on Trade in Wildlife, which was held in Brussels in October 2008. The USFWS provided a presentation on the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group, spotlighting past accomplishments and ongoing regional cooperation in CITES enforcement.

CHINESE CITES DELEGATION VISIT: As part of the U.S.–China Nature Conservation protocol, the United States hosted a delegation of Chinese CITES officials in June 2008, and traveled with them to the ports of entry and exit in New York and Miami, as well as the U.S. CITES offices in Washington, D.C. The official visit afforded an opportunity for the United States to demonstrate its

CITES inspection procedures and facilities, and discuss training in CITES implementation, inspection, enforcement, and capacity building with its Chinese counterparts.

VISIT FROM SINGAPORE CITES REPRESENTATIVE: In September 2008, the United States hosted a representative from the Singapore Wildlife Regulatory Branch, which is responsible for implementation and enforcement of CITES regulations, issuance of CITES permits, inspections, and investigations of wildlife offences in Singapore. Activities included discussions of CITES issues with staff from the U.S. CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and a tour of the CITES inspection facilities at the port of entry and exit in Baltimore. The representative from Singapore also presented a demonstration of the Singapore electronic certificate, license, and permits system.

PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

BULLETINS ALERT TRADE TO CITES REQUIREMENTS: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement issued bulletins to the U.S. import-export community providing notification of changes in CITES requirements and U.S. CITES enforcement. Subjects addressed included implementation of the Appendix-II listing for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*); ban on trade of CITES species from countries without competent Management and Scientific Authorities; lifting of the CITES trade suspension for Guinea Bissau; U.S. implementation of the lower CITES personal effects exemption for caviar; USFWS enforcement of CITES requirements for validation of documents; clarification of requirements for Appendix-III species; trade restrictions on certain CITES species from Equatorial Guinea, Comoros, and Mali; and implementation of Appendix-III red coral listings from China.

ENFORCEMENT OUTREACH PROMOTES TRADE COMPLIANCE: Efforts by USFWS wildlife inspectors to promote compliance with CITES focused on outreach, liaison, and training for customs brokers at ports of entry nationwide. USFWS inspection staff also met regularly with such trade groups as the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, cargo facility managers and the Port Authority at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York, the Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, and the New York City and Boston Customs House Brokers Associations. Officers provided compliance guidance and assistance to department store representatives in Newark, New Jersey, and museum employees in Michigan; conducted outreach to Hmong vendors and community officials at the International Marketplace in St. Paul, Minnesota; visited stores in the Dallas-Forth Worth area known to sell traditional Asian medicinals to discuss import regulations; continued working in partnership with Federal Express officials at that company's hub in Memphis to improve policing of wildlife trade; met in Texas with hunters, outfitters, and Mexican brokers involved in importing game trophies from Mexico; and coordinated trade enforcement on an ongoing basis with officials from the United Parcel Service at its Louisville hub.

ILLEGAL TRADE PSAs: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement assisted the U.S. Department of State and other members of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking in developing and producing three public service announcements (PSAs) featuring actor Harrison Ford. The PSAs, which were distributed via U.S. embassies worldwide, urged consumers to stop contributing to the illegal wildlife trade with their purchases.

CITES OUTREACH AT FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS: USFWS enforcement staff conducted a month-long compliance promotion effort aimed at vendors, delegates, and visitors to the Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa. Public education proceeded in tandem with inspections and enforcement activities to prevent the exploitation of CITES-listed species. Specific efforts included a presentation on fruit bats and their conservation and multiple direct outreach contacts with vendors during the course of the festival.

OUTREACH TARGETS GLOBAL BIG GAME HUNTERS: USFWS International Affairs and Law Enforcement staff manned an outreach booth at the annual convention of the Safari Club International in January 2009. Outreach to global hunters focused on CITES permit requirements

for trophy imports and exports, and other U.S. import and export regulations.

OUTREACH TO U.S. LEGAL COMMUNITY: USFWS Law Enforcement staff provided presentations on U.S. efforts to address illegal wildlife trade to groups representing the legal community. Outreach audiences included the Washington, D.C. Bar Association, Marshall Law School in Cleveland, Chicago Bar Association, DePaul University Law School, and Vermont Law School.

PUBLIC OUTREACH SPOTLIGHTS WILDLIFE TRADE: Broad-based public outreach on global wildlife trade and the USFWS role in enforcing wildlife laws and treaties included law enforcement exhibits at such events as the Kentucky State Fair, Red River Valley Trade Show in Fargo, North Dakota, and the annual “open house” at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

USFWS WORKS WITH MEDIA, OTHER PARTNERS TO REACH THE PUBLIC: USFWS Law Enforcement staff contributed to print and broadcast news reports, web publications, and magazine articles focused on illegal wildlife trafficking. Media outlets included the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN/Anderson Cooper/Planet in Peril, Inside Edition, Baltimore Sun, U.S. News and World Report, New Yorker, National Public Radio/South Florida, National Geographic On-Line, Calgary Herald, San Mateo Daily News, South Florida Sun Sentinel, and Miami New Times among others. A Law Enforcement manager represented the USFWS on a discussion panel about wildlife trafficking at the 18th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists in Roanoke, Virginia, which drew environmental reporters and writers from throughout the United States and Canada. USFWS Law Enforcement staff also assisted in the production of two nonfiction books on wildlife trafficking published by major publishers; both books feature USFWS investigations of illegal trade in CITES-protected wildlife.

U.S. CITES WEBSITE: In October 2008, the USFWS completed an extensive revision of its international affairs website (<http://www.fws.gov/international>) in an effort to achieve more comprehensive coverage of issues relevant to U.S.-related CITES activities. The new website features easier navigation and information for the general public, as well as USFWS partners, and combines the activities of the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities. A general CITES page provides basic information on CITES, and a page is currently under development that will feature information on upcoming CITES meetings for participants and observers and link directly to the Secretariat’s website. The revised website continues to post copies of U.S. CITES biennial reports and include pages on: CITES timber; queen conch; American ginseng and other medicinal plants; trade in Appendix-III species; furbearer and crocodilian tagging; and sturgeon. Other relevant subjects will be added as content becomes available. The permits section of the revised website is also undergoing changes to include information on permits issued under CITES and other U.S. domestic conservation laws.

WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL TRANSPORT SAFETY: The United States participated in a workshop on Animal Transport Safety at the September 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The workshop brought zoo, airline, and government representatives together to discuss transport-related issues and best practices for the transport of live wild animals.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

U.S. CITES EXPORT TAGGING PROGRAM: The United States cooperates with its States and Indian Tribes and Nations in utilizing a tagging program for the export of skins of the following Appendix-II species: bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); river otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Alaskan lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); Alaskan wolf (*Canis lupus*); Alaskan brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). The USFWS currently cooperates with 47 States and 11 Indian Tribes and Nations that have instituted approved harvest programs. Each approved State or Indian Tribe or Nation applies CITES tags, provided by the USFWS, to skins of approved species taken in that State or Tribe or Nation and intended for export from the United States. The USFWS issued over 760,000 tags during 2008. Of this amount, 539,000 were bar-coded tags

issued for American alligator. This was the first time that the United States issued bar-coded CITES tags. These bar-coded tags have proven to have a high degree of scanner readability (over 99 percent) and have been very well-received by the American alligator industry.

U.S. CITES AMERICAN GINSENG PROGRAM: In implementing the CITES Appendix-II listing of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), the USFWS works closely with other Federal agencies and the 25 States that have approved American ginseng export programs. The USFWS relies on those State and Federal agencies to provide information on legal and illegal harvest of American ginseng, the status of the species in the wild, and population trends. During the period covered by this report, the USFWS regularly communicated with the States on issues related to American ginseng, including revision of State ginseng management regulations and administrative changes to the State programs.

U.S. AMERICAN GINSENG WORKSHOP: The United States hosted a workshop on American ginseng 24-26 February 2009, with U.S. State program coordinators, other Federal agencies (U.S. Forest Service and APHIS), American ginseng researchers, trade representatives, and private citizens involved with American ginseng. The first day of the meeting was open to the public and included a half-day symposium on recent research findings on American ginseng, followed by a public meeting (listening session). The remaining day-and-a-half consisted of a closed meeting with State and Federal personnel who manage and regulate American ginseng. The purpose of the workshop was to present recent research findings on American ginseng, discuss the Federal regulatory framework for the export of American ginseng, and gather new information on the biological and trade status of American ginseng to ensure its sustainable harvest and long-term viability. Information from the workshop will be used in the 2009 non-detriment finding for U.S. exports of American ginseng.

CITES PLANT RESCUE CENTER PROGRAM: The USFWS established the CITES Plant Rescue Center Program in 1978 in response to the need to care for live CITES-listed plants that are seized, legally abandoned, or forfeited to the U.S. Government due to non-compliance with the import or export requirements of CITES. The USFWS administers this program in cooperation with APHIS, the U.S. inspection agency for live CITES-listed plants entering the United States. Currently, 81 institutions cooperate as volunteer plant rescue centers. All of the cooperating rescue centers are public botanical gardens, arboreta, zoological parks, or research institutions, and are either government entities or governmentally or privately funded non-profit entities. During 2008, APHIS confiscated 141 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. These shipments contained a total of 1,845 plants and 26 seeds, plus an additional 35 grams of seeds. Of these 141 shipments, 136 were assigned to cooperating plant rescue centers. The assigned shipments contained 1,314 orchids, 247 cacti, 208 carnivorous plants, 25 aruacarias, 3 cycads, 3 euphorbias, 3 aloes, and 14 plants of other taxa; plus 22 cycad seeds, 4 cactus seeds, and 35 grams of cactus seeds.

CONSERVATION FUNDING

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS: The Multinational Species Conservation Funds consist of six programs created to fulfill direct congressional mandates to conserve populations of and habitats for neotropical migratory birds, African and Asian elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, tigers, and marine turtles. Five of these programs involve CITES-listed species: the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1989, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, and Marine Turtles Conservation Act of 2004. These programs provide direct support to range countries through broad-based partnerships with national governments, NGOs, and other private entities for on-the-ground activities to conserve these species and their habitats. The USFWS administers the Multinational Species Conservation Funds. During the period from July 2008 through May 2009, the USFWS granted a total of USD 10,055,388 for various international projects focused on the conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. Listed below is a breakdown of the funding by grant program:

African elephant:	28 projects totalling USD 1,490,593 in funding
Asian elephant:	26 projects totalling USD 1,260,600 in funding
Rhinoceros & tiger:	35 projects totalling USD 1,574,647 in funding
Great ape:	72 projects totalling USD 5,023,317 in funding
Marine turtles:	17 projects totalling USD 706,231 in funding

OTHER U.S. CITES-RELATED ACTIVITIES

U.S. SUBMITS ITS 2007 CITES ANNUAL REPORT: On 30 October 2008, the USFWS submitted, directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2007. The file (152,033 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2007.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

CAPACITY BUILDING: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement strengthened U.S. CITES enforcement capacity on multiple fronts. The agency hired and trained 27 new criminal investigators. Work continued on the planned International Trade Data System – an internet-based U.S. Government trade processing and policing system that will enhance interagency intelligence sharing, smuggling interdiction, and trade enforcement efforts (including those associated with CITES implementation in the United States). The USFWS secured additional funding to support compliance monitoring efforts by increasing import-export inspection fees for commercial shipments and adding new fees for inspections of live wildlife and other specimens of all protected species in trade (including CITES species). USFWS wildlife inspectors conducted CITES enforcement training for new CBP inspectors, new CBP agricultural specialists, and military customs officers as part of their basic training programs. USFWS inspectors at ports of entry and border crossings nationwide conducted ongoing wildlife import-export cross training for CBP and agricultural inspection staff, further expanding the scope of on-the-ground CITES enforcement in the United States.

TRADE MONITORING: The USFWS wildlife inspection program remained the nation's front-line defense against wildlife trafficking. USFWS inspectors examine imports and exports at 38 ports of entry, processing some 180,000 wildlife shipments per year. Smuggled items intercepted on multiple occasions and in multiple locations during the reporting period included elephant ivory, spotted cat skins (such as ocelot and jaguar), caviar, stuffed sea turtles and shell products, sea turtle eggs and meat, live birds from Mexico and China, Asian medicinals made from CITES Appendix-I species, and Asian arowanas. For example, in one case inspectors in Houston intercepted a shipment containing 484 elephant ivory handicrafts valued at USD 185,000 that were smuggled from Ethiopia. Other specific smuggling interceptions of note included the discovery of 12 live beluga sturgeon in a shipment of tropical fish moving from Taiwan to New York; the interception in Chicago of live seahorses hidden in a tropical fish shipment from Indonesia; a commercial shipment from Viet Nam to Tampa containing stuffed hawksbill sea turtles invoiced as ceramic vases; and seizures in Atlanta of over 400 dead seahorses smuggled in personal baggage for a California restaurant, and more than 40 boxes of medicinals made from musk deer and other CITES species, also in personal baggage.

Shipments seized or re-exported for CITES violations (including invalid documents and lack of permits) included a commercial import of live *Acropora* coral from Viet Nam; a commercial shipment containing over 2,000 *Hippopus* clam shells from the Philippines; 42 dried shark fins from Hong Kong destined for a restaurant; multiple leopard trophies; a commercial shipment from the Marshall Islands containing 1,227 pieces of giant clam and 435 pieces of *Acropora* coral; and two commercial shipments of CITES-listed bats and butterfly specimens from Thailand.

During the reporting period, USFWS inspectors increased proactive inspection efforts targeting smuggling of CITES-protected wildlife. Examples include an inspection blitz of all inbound

packages from China at the Jersey City International Bulk Mail Facility timed to the Chinese New Year; multiple joint inspection operations with other U.S. agencies at the JFK International Mail Facility; blitzes in New York of inbound flights from Eastern Europe targeting caviar smuggling, and passenger baggage inspection of flights from the Dominican Republic after a change in that country's laws regarding sales of sea turtle parts and products; inspection operations focused on inbound flights at the Miami, Orlando, and Sanford International Airports coinciding with a reptile breeders symposium held in Florida; post-Olympic blitzes of passenger flights at JFK International Airport and of parcels at the Federal Express facility in Memphis; intensive checks of passenger flights for sea turtle eggs at Miami International Airport during sea turtle nesting season; and inspections of "high risk" passenger flights from the Caribbean to Boston targeting illegal imports of sea turtle eggs and products.

SMUGGLING INVESTIGATIONS: During the reporting period, USFWS special agents and wildlife inspectors upheld the CITES treaty by investigating illegal trade in CITES-protected species. Case highlights include:

- A Canadian citizen with ties to Cameroon was sent to prison for 5 years and fined USD 100,000 for smuggling ivory from that country to the United States. This woman ran a sophisticated smuggling operation that utilized local artists and craftsmen in Cameroon, operatives within international shipping companies, contacts in the illegal ivory trade, her business in Canada, and partners in three countries.
- Six subjects were arrested for conspiring to smuggle large quantities of African elephant ivory from the Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Uganda into the United States via New York. These individuals shipped ivory that was declared as, and had been coated to look like, wooden statues, wooden musical instruments, and wooden snake handicrafts. Seized ivory from just one shipment alone was appraised at a market value of USD 165,000.
- A Cameroon national arrested for smuggling 36 elephant ivory carvings in his baggage pleaded guilty to felony charges. He was sentenced to 16 months in prison (after which he will be deported) and fined USD 5,000.
- Seven individuals arrested after a USFWS undercover investigation exposed large-scale trafficking in sea turtle shell and shell products from China and sea turtle skins and leather goods from Mexico were successfully prosecuted. Prison sentences, which ranged from time served to 2 years, totaled 9 years. Prosecutions are pending for more than a dozen additional defendants.
- Three individuals involved in the commercial smuggling and interstate sale of guitar picks made from hawksbill sea turtle shell pleaded guilty to wildlife charges.
- Operation Shell Game (a joint U.S.-Canadian investigation of illegal queen conch meat trade) continued with the prosecution of two final defendants in the United States and charges being filed against an individual and two additional seafood companies in Canada. With one U.S. sentencing remaining, total penalties to date in both countries include more than USD 158,000 in fines and the forfeiture of some 80,000 pounds of queen conch meat. The smuggling involved nine companies in the United States, Canada, Haiti, Honduras, and Colombia.
- A Florida caviar company and its owner were convicted on charges of conspiracy, false labeling of exports, and illegal export of CITES-protected American paddlefish roe. The caviar dealer must spend 18 months in prison; he and the company will pay USD 300,000 in fines and forfeit USD 122,000 worth of roe.
- A Russian immigrant in Minnesota, whose internet business acted as a go-between for caviar from former Soviet countries being smuggled through Asia and on to U.S. buyers, pleaded guilty to felony charges and was fined USD 30,000.
- A German national who had been indicted for smuggling more than 40 tons of CITES-protected coral rock from the Philippines was arrested when he entered the United States to attend the Global Pet Expo. He faces multiple felony smuggling and wildlife charges.
- A Miami businessman who illegally imported seven commercial shipments of CITES-protected live corals from Indonesia without permits was ordered to pay a USD 49,400 civil penalty.
- A Houston businessman who illegally imported commercial quantities of coral merchandise from China without a CITES permit paid a USD 10,000 penalty and forfeited 1,383 strands of coral beads.

- Prosecutions continued in a USFWS investigation that exposed guides and hunters who smuggled leopard trophies out of South Africa through Zimbabwe to the United States using fraudulent CITES permits. Subjects sentenced during the reporting period included two hunters who together will pay a total of USD 30,000 in fines and restitution. Another hunter will stand trial in June 2009.
- A Nigerian resident who smuggled four leopard skins into San Francisco by sewing them into three naugahyde bags and was later caught smuggling numerous large cat teeth concealed in his underwear pleaded guilty to felony charges. He was sent to prison for 6 months and ordered to pay USD 10,000 in restitution.
- An Atlanta resident pleaded guilty and was fined USD 20,000 for importing a leopard skin and skull from South Africa with false CITES permits; he must also forfeit the trophy.
- A woman in Oregon was arrested for unlawfully shipping three leopard skins to the United States.
- A Michigan businessman who smuggled thousands of CITES-protected butterflies into the United States from Canada pleaded guilty to violating U.S. wildlife laws; he must pay USD 20,000 in fines and restitution and forfeit approximately USD 18,000 worth of wildlife.
- A married couple in El Paso pleaded guilty to smuggling commercial quantities of exotic leather products into the United States from Mexico. They forfeited USD 8,700 worth of smuggled goods and were ordered to pay USD 1,500 in fines and spend 6 months in home confinement and 4 years on probation.
- A mother and daughter from St. Paul, Minnesota, pleaded guilty to smuggling CITES-protected wildlife parts and products (including Asian elephant and leopard cat) from Southeast Asia. The mother ran a retail sales booth at an international market, where she sold smuggled wildlife for medicinal use while the daughter financed several of her mother's smuggling trips to Laos. Penalties included a USD 9,000 fine, home confinement, probation, and community service.
- Another woman who separately smuggled protected wildlife from Laos (including an Asian elephant hide) faces charges in Minnesota.
- USFWS special agents arrested a South Korean national for illegally importing one kilogram of bear bile via an international mail package sent to San Francisco. The package contained bagged bear gall powder, empty glass bottles for repackaging, and sheets of adhesive labels. Additional bear bile and packaging materials were discovered at the man's residence.
- A Florida resident pleaded guilty to illegally importing over 1,400 CITES-listed orchids taken from the wild in the Philippines using CITES documents and other materials that falsely identified them as artificially propagated.

SEIZURES OF CITES PLANT PARTS AND PRODUCTS IN 2008: During 2008, U.S. plant inspection authorities seized the following specimens of CITES-listed non-living plant parts and products upon import into the United States:

- One shipment of *Swietenia macrophylla*, imported from Mexico, containing 6 cubic meters of sawn wood.
- One shipment of *Gonystylus* spp. from an unknown country of origin, imported from Italy, containing 215 cubic meters of wood products.
- One shipment of *Aquilaria sinensis*, imported from China, containing 96 kilograms of derivatives.
- One shipment of *Pericopsis elata* from an unknown country of origin, imported from Germany, containing 3,247 square meters of wood veneer.
- One shipment of *Dipteryx panamensis*, imported from Panama, containing 22,746 kilograms of sawn wood.
- Three shipments of *Prunus africana*; one imported from Canada, containing 60 grams of derivatives; one from an unknown country of origin, imported from France, containing 312 kilograms of extract; and one from an unknown country of origin, imported from an unknown country, containing 192 kilograms of derivatives.
- One shipment of *Hoodia* spp., imported from Brazil, containing 60 derivatives.