

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

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Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

NORTH AMERICA

This document has been submitted by the United States of America as the Regional Representative for North America.\*

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

**2. INTRODUCTION**

This Regional Report for North America covers the period from the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (July 2009) through May 2011. It includes summaries of key measures taken by Canada, Mexico, and the United States in their implementation and enforcement of CITES during the reporting period. It is presented in the new format provided in Document SC59 Doc. 23 at the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (March 2010) and adopted by the Standing Committee at that meeting.

At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15), the United States was elected to be the North American Regional Representative to the Standing Committee. All three countries in the North American Region are in close contact. All three countries also regularly coordinate with NGOs within their respective countries, in preparation for meetings and on other CITES-related issues.

**3. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

**CANADA**

Canada would like to report to the Standing Committee that the Government of Canada has entered what is known as "holding reservation" for decisions taken at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties. The Convention, drafted in 1975, allows 90 days for countries to update their regulations. Canada, like with many other Parties to the Convention, is unable to meet the short timelines for making the necessary regulatory changes. We have initiated the normal regulatory changes to Canada's Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR) so the listing changes agreed to at CoP 15 can be legally enforced in Canada as soon as possible. Completion of the regulatory changes is targeted for the summer of 2011 at which time the holding reservation will be lifted. The Government of Canada is serious about protecting species at risk within its

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\* *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.*

borders and internationally, and committed to our responsibilities to CITES. Canada continues to strongly support the decisions made by the 15th Conference of Parties to CITES.

Canada continues to work on a new CITES web-based electronic permitting system. While Canada's current electronic system increased the efficiency of permitting by compiling accurate and consistent information which in turn facilitates the production of annual reports on international trade in wildlife in Canada, Environment Canada is committed to offer an online permit application for all wildlife permit including CITES. This will improve access to CITES permits. We anticipate deploying this new on-line system for CITES in 2013.

## **MEXICO**

Annotations: The number of annotations for plants listed in the Appendices is increasing and their implementation is becoming more and more difficult. Six documents related to annotations for plants were submitted at PC19 (Geneva, April 2011). As a result of the meeting, several intersessional working groups were created to address the following issues: (1) definitions of terms used in the annotations; (2) annotations for *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi*; (3) annotations for timber species; and (4) a web survey of finished orchid products. Mexico will be the general coordinator of these working groups. Additionally, upon recommendation of the Plants Committee, the North American region, in consultation with the Secretariat, is submitting a revised version of document PC19 Doc. 11.6 on the review of annotations in the Appendices for consideration of the Standing Committee.

Periodic review: *Agave victoriae-reginae* (Queen Victoria agave): At PC19, Mexico presented the results of the periodic review of *Agave victoriae-reginae* (PC19 Inf. 15), recommending that the species remain in Appendix II due to the vulnerability of some of its wild populations and the fact that it is still attractive in the market because of its rarity and beauty.

*Panthera onca* (Jaguar): At the next meeting of the Animals Committee (AC25; Geneva, July 2011), Mexico will present the results of the periodic review of the jaguar (document AC25 Doc. 15.2.3.), recommending that the species remain listed in Appendix I, as it meets criterion C of Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

Promotion of Wildlife Management Units (UMAs) for *Dermatemys mawii* by the Mexican General Wildlife Directorate (Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, DGVS): Mexico's Development Programme is aimed at the use, conservation and restoration of the habitat and natural resources available, as well as the breeding, conservation and sustainable use of species at risk.

*Crocodylus moreletii*: After years of shared efforts by various institutions and interested Parties, the species was finally downlisted from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II. The DGVS implemented procedures for the conservation, management and use of natural habitat, populations and individuals of the species through ecotourism and mangrove management programmes.

Monitoring Programme for *Crocodylus moreletii*: CONABIO (the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico) coordinates the development and implementation of the Monitoring Programme for *Crocodylus moreletii* in Mexico. Its main objective is long-term monitoring of the status and trends of the main wild populations of the species and their habitat. Mexico has developed a Procedure Manual that describes and standardizes sampling design, field data collection methods and reporting. Five hundred copies of the manual have been printed, and the Manual will also be available on CONABIO's website.

Forged CITES export permit for seahorses (*Hippocampus erectus*): On 6 May 2011, the DGVS received an e-mail communication from the CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong requesting confirmation of the validity and authenticity of CITES export permit No. MX 56811 of 24 November 2010, authorizing the export of 300 kg of *Hippocampus erectus*. A reply was sent to the government of Hong Kong stating that the permit was not valid, and the Mexican environmental law enforcement authority (PROFEPA) was notified of the issue.

The authorities did not authorize entry into Hong Kong of the shipment covered by the forged export permit.

The reasons why the document was forged are explained below:

- a).- The permit did not include the authentic signature of the head of the DGVS. The signature was forged.
- b).- The permit or certificate number must include a 7-digit alphanumeric code which starts with MX, the ISO country code, and is followed by five Arabic numerals separated by two spaces. On that date, sheet 56811 had not been issued yet. In addition, there were no spaces between the digits.

- c).- On the lower left margin, there was no indication of who had signed with the initials MACG/EHLS. Next to this, there was a registration number assigned to the permit by the National Application System. Such number did not match the records in the database.
- d).- In sections 3 and 4 of the permit, there were traces of a line being erased in the information on the importer and the exporter.
- e).- The forged permit stated that the species was listed in CITES Appendix III when it is actually listed in Appendix II.

The issue is currently being dealt with by the public prosecutor's office at the request of the Baja California Federal Delegation of the *Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente* (PROFEPA), the Mexican environmental law enforcement authority.

CITES Enforcement: Mexico would like to report to the Standing Committee that the Government of Mexico has developed some strategies to strengthen the national capacities for adequate implementation of CITES. In the case of the law enforcement authority (PROFEPA-SEMARNAT), these strategies include: a) strengthening the inspection offices in airports, maritime ports and borders through specialized training of the inspection staff (4 events), equipment (2,500 tools), automation (internet-based platform) and evaluation of the inspection procedures; b) cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g., WWF-TRAFFIC North America), which resulted in the printing and distribution of 45,000 leaflets on "Responsible Buying of Handicrafts made of CITES Wildlife Species", the joint organization of training workshops and the production of specialized guides for quick reference; and c) international cooperation through technical assistance to National Authorities of countries in the Caribbean and Central American Region (the Dominican Republic and El Salvador) and participation in NAWEG.

As a result of enforcement activities, in the 2009-2010 period, 13,205 verifications of wildlife specimens, parts or derivatives were performed. In 2010, 7,120 verifications were made (17% more than in 2009: 6,085). In the period between January and May 2011, 2,860 verifications were made.

Mexico would like to report that it was notified by the CITES National Authority of Hong Kong about the illegal export from Mexico of some 300 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus erectus*) with a forged CITES Export Permit. The Mexican Management and Law Enforcement Authorities started a joint investigation with the public prosecutor's office and the Customs Service Agency: the investigation is under way.

## UNITED STATES

Public participation in U.S. preparations for CoP15: During the reporting period, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published three notices in the U.S. *Federal Register* and held one public meeting as part of the process designed to allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public to participate in the preparations of the U.S. Government for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15). The first notice, published on 13 July 2009, described species proposals and proposed resolutions, decisions, and agenda items that the United States was considering submitted for CoP15, and solicited public comment on these proposals. The second notice, published on 4 November 2009, announced the provisional agenda for CoP15, solicited public comment on the items on the agenda, and announced a public meeting to discuss the agenda items (which was held on 2 December 2009). The third notice, published on 11 March 2010, announced the availability on the USFWS website of the tentative U.S. negotiating positions on the items on the CoP15 agenda.

U.S. submissions for CoP15: On 14 October 2009, the United States submitted eight species listing proposals (five animal proposals and three plant proposals) for consideration at CoP15. The United States also submitted eight discussion documents, including three proposed revisions of existing resolutions, and five proposed decisions. Of the eight species listing proposals submitted by the United States at CoP15, three were adopted. The eight discussion documents submitted by the United States for consideration at CoP14 resulted in the adoption by the Parties of one revised resolution and six new decisions.

Working group on review of the universal tagging system and trade in small crocodylian leather goods: Decision 14.62 directed 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 crocodylian leather goods. Decision 14.63 directed 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 established an intersessional working group to carry out this review and report at SC58 on its progress. The United States chaired this working group, and prepared the working group's report to CoP15.

Working group on purpose codes: Decision 14.54 directed 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 chaired this working group, and prepared the working group's report to CoP15.

Working group on review of resolutions: Decision 14.19 directed 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 United States, as an active participant in the working group, working electronically through a forum on the CITES website, reviewed and commented on proposed revisions to a number of the resolutions that were subsequently adopted at CoP15.

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*); Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*); wolf (*Canis lupus*); brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). The USFWS currently cooperates with 47 States and 21 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 733,000 tags during 2009 and over 640,000 during 2010. 87 percent of these tags were bar-coded. The 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 and fur industries.

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 reporting period, 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.

Amendments to the U.S. Lacey Act regarding plants: The Lacey Act, first enacted in 1900, is the United States' oldest wildlife protection statute. The Act makes it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any wildlife taken or traded in violation of U.S. or foreign law. However, with regard to plants, until 2008 the Act only applied to plants that were U.S. native species and its application to those plants was limited. In 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. During the reporting period, the U.S. Government took a number of steps toward fully implementing the new Lacey Act amendments, including establishing a phased-in approach to the plant declaration requirement, proposing in the Federal Register definitions of the terms "common cultivar" and "common food crop," as they apply in the Lacey Act, and providing additional national and international outreach.

U.S. proposed regulation to list the hellbender in Appendix III: On 8 September 2010, the USFWS published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (75 FR 54579) to list the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), a large aquatic salamander in Appendix III of CITES. The proposed listing includes live and dead whole specimens, and all readily recognizable parts, products, and derivatives of the species. Listing the hellbender in Appendix III is necessary to allow the United States to adequately monitor international trade in the species and to determine whether further measures are required to conserve it. The notice announcing the final decision by the United States to take this action is expected to be published in July or August 2011. Subsequent to publication in the *Federal Register* of the final rule to list this species in Appendix III, we will notify the Secretariat.

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 2009, Peru established a voluntary bigleaf mahogany

export quota of 5,043.7345 cubic meters. For 2010, this quota was 3,565.547 cubic meters, and it remains valid until 22 July 2011. As of May 2011, Peru has not yet established a mahogany export quota for 2011. The United States closely monitored the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru during this period and provided Peru with periodic reports on those imports, which totaled 1,303 cubic meters in 2009, 1,253 cubic meters in 2010, and 420 cubic meters thus far in 2011. The USFWS continues to monitor the volume of bigleaf mahogany imported into the United States from Peru 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.

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 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the U.S. inspection agency for live CITES-listed plants entering the United States. Currently, 82 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 2009, APHIS confiscated 142 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. These shipments contained a total of 3,272 plants and 23 seeds, plus an additional gram of seeds. Of these 142 shipments, 137 were assigned to cooperating plant rescue centers. The assigned shipments contained 2,132 orchids, 580 galanthus, 389 cacti, 93 euphorbias, 30 cyclamens, 18 aloes, and 14 plants of other taxa; plus 14 aloe seeds and an additional gram of aloe seeds. During 2010, APHIS confiscated 89 shipments of live plant material in violation of CITES. These shipments contained a total of 7,554 plants, plus an additional 3 grams of seeds. Of these 89 shipments, 87 were assigned to cooperating plant rescue centers. The assigned shipments contained 4,908 carnivorous plants, 1,267 orchids, 695 aloes, 532 cacti, 133 euphorbias, and 15 cycads; plus 3 grams of cactus seeds.

U.S.CITES Annual Reports: On 28 October 2009, the USFWS submitted, directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2008. The file (140,399 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2008. On 26 October 2010, the USFWS submitted, again directly to WCMC in electronic format, the U.S. CITES Annual Report data file for 2009. The file (138,071 data records) contained data on all U.S. trade with the rest of the world in CITES-listed species of fauna and flora during 2009.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **UNITED STATES**

Regional teleconference in preparation for SC61: In May 2011, the United States, as the North American Regional Representative on the Standing Committee, held a conference call with Canada and Mexico as part of a regional consultation process in preparation for SC61.

#### **5. REGIONAL COOPERATION**

##### **CANADA**

A North American Regional meeting was held November 29 to December 1, 2010 in Montreal, Canada. Among other issues, the Region discussed trade in common species (falcons, sturgeon, freshwater turtles) and the sharing of compliance promotion materials among the Region. In addition, the Region used this opportunity to identify issues of mutual interest where Regional or bi-lateral documents might be considered for submission to Committee meetings or the Conference of Parties. This meeting was followed by a number of regional teleconferences and video conferences to discuss key issues and prepare for CITES Scientific Committee meetings, CITES workshops and the CITES Standing Committee meeting.

##### Regional and International cooperation for Enforcement

Efforts to improve control of cross-border trade, and efforts to deal with excessive or illegal trade in specific species have been undertaken in cooperation with the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group in the form of two international enforcement operations as follows.

#### ◆ *Operation TRAM*

Operation TRAM, which targeted the illegal trade in traditional medicines containing protected wildlife products, resulted in a series of arrests worldwide and in the seizure of thousands of illegal medicines worth more than EUR 10 million. The investigations into individuals and companies as well as inspections of premises such as seaports and wholesalers revealed a large amount of medicines either containing or marketing the use of illegal ingredients such as tiger, bear and rhinoceros. The operation was successful as a result of the close cooperation and dedication of the police, customs, wildlife law enforcement agencies and specialized units in the 18 participating countries, which included Canada.

#### ◆ *Operation RAMP*

Environment Canada participated in a successful INTERPOL initiative that prevented hundreds of criminals from trafficking reptiles and amphibians illegally in an ever-growing wildlife market. Operation RAMP was carried out in collaboration with over 50 countries including Canada, and focused on illegal activities relating to the trade and possession of turtles, crocodiles, lizards, frogs, snakes, and their derivatives. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring the compliance of lawful traders such as private license holders, public retail outlets and wholesale distributors alongside targeted enforcement actions at national ports of import and export, which collectively resulted in thousands of inspections during the two-month operation. In Canada, all ports of entry were targeted but Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal were the primary sites selected for inspections. As a result over the operation, over 200 reptiles were seized with a value of ~ \$50,000. Some charges have been laid and others are pending.

In response to the continued concern regarding the increased trade in rhino horn internationally, and continued concern for the illegal trade in elephant ivory in general, Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate is currently playing a lead role in an INTERPOL initiative to design, develop and deliver investigative enforcement training to range state countries in Africa. This training course has been designed to lead directly into at least one, and perhaps two, international operations. In addition, Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate has been involved in the design, development and deployment of an Investigator's Internet Toolkit. A final version of the product has been forwarded to the CITES Secretariat (John Sellar) for inclusion on the CITES website.

### **MEXICO**

Mexico would like to report that the Law Enforcement Authority, in cooperation with Environment Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, held two meetings and workshops on the "Use of Intelligence leading to Wildlife Crimes".

### **UNITED STATES**

U.S. hosts North American Regional CITES meeting: In February 2010, the United States hosted a North American Regional meeting at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, to discuss issues on the agenda for CoP15. Delegations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States participated, discussed negotiating positions on CoP15 agenda items and established consensus regional positions where possible.

U.S. supports Canadian border blitz: In late spring 2009, USFWS special agents in New England assembled a team of U.S. Federal and State officers to support an Environment Canada export blitz timed to the spring bear hunt in eastern Canada. This joint enforcement effort resulted in seizures of Appendix-II black bear gall bladders, Appendix-II eagle feathers, and other wildlife contraband, and facilitated intelligence exchanges about bear parts trafficking.

U.S.-Canada intercept reptile trafficking: USFWS and Canadian law enforcement authorities teamed to investigate a U.S. resident smuggling commercial quantities of CITES-protected live reptiles into Canada by boat across the St. Lawrence River. Over 200 CITES-listed specimens were seized on the Canadian side of the border in August 2010, and Canadian officers successfully apprehended the recipient of the smuggled wildlife.

U.S.-Canada cooperation snares feather smuggler: Intelligence sharing by USFWS and Environment Canada investigators resulted in the successful prosecution of a Saskatchewan resident for the unlawful import and purchase of feathers from such CITES-listed species as scarlet macaws. In October 2010, this defendant pleaded guilty in Canada to charges of wildlife trafficking, unlawful possession of contraband, and unlawful import and was fined CAD \$6,300.

Joint investigation secures U.S. charges: Cooperative investigative work by the USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service resulted in the May 2011 U.S. felony indictment of a Canadian citizen for smuggling a tiger skull into the United States from Canada. Charges include smuggling, import fraud, and CITES violations.

## **6. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **CANADA**

The Canadian network of scientific authorities met regularly by teleconference to discuss CITES related issues and further the program to develop standing non-detriment finding (NDF) reports, which are used to support permit decisions on sustainable exports of legally obtained CITES specimens. In November 2010 a workshop was held to initiate preparation on the Standing NDF report for the black bear and the grizzly bear species.

The Canadian Scientific Authority also communicated regularly with an Aboriginal Consult group to discuss CITES related issues as they pertain to Canadian Aboriginal peoples, and maintains ongoing contact with the Canadian Furbearer Managers Committee to keep current with management strategies for commercially traded furbearer species.

A presentation CITES as a tool for sustainable use of plants, with specific reference to the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was made (K.Farr, Scientific Authority, Natural Resources Canada) during a spring 2010 joint symposium between the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections and the Canadian Botanical Association.

### **MEXICO**

Non-detriment findings: As a follow-up to Decisions 15.23 and 15.25, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI), TRAFFIC North America and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) organized the Non-detriment Finding Capacity Building Workshop (Dominican Republic, November 2010). The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to improving the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities by building on the outcomes of the *International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings* (Cancun, 2008) and the *International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany* (Cancun, 2007). Working groups on animals and plants were chaired by representatives of the Mexican Scientific Authority. The animals group developed recommendations on regional management, use and cooperation needs to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*). The plants group focused its efforts on the basic elements to consider in making NDFs for bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*).

Signature of the framework cooperation agreement between the Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO) and the WWF TRAFFIC Programme: On 17 May 2011, in the framework of the 16th Meeting of the Mexico-Canada-United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, held on 16-20 May 2011 in the city of Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico, CONABIO (the Scientific Authority of Mexico) and the TRAFFIC programme (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce) of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) signed a framework cooperation agreement aimed at implementing joint actions with a view to generate and exchange information about Mexican species subject to international trade. The ultimate purpose of the agreement is to promote proper implementation of Mexican domestic legislation pertaining to CITES.

As a result of this cooperation agreement, representatives of the Mexican Scientific Authority will participate as lecturers in the *Curso piloto sobre la CITES y aspectos relevantes del comercio de vida silvestre en Centroamérica* (Pilot course on CITES and relevant aspects of wildlife trade in Central America), to be held in Costa Rica in August 2011.

### **UNITED STATES**

Free trade agreements and capacity building: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP), in consultation with USFWS, currently operates CITES capacity-building and training programs for the signatory countries of the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) and for several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Both programs are funded by the U.S. Department of State. During the reporting period, a number of CITES capacity building, education and outreach, and training activities were carried out under these programs in a number of Central American countries, including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Also, two CITES implementation training workshops were conducted in Morocco.

Chinese CITES delegation visit: As part of the U.S.-China Nature Conservation protocol, the Chinese State Forestry Ministry hosted nine U.S. CITES officials in May 2009, and traveled with them to a number of CITES offices throughout China, including Beijing, Kunming, Xishuangbanna and Guangzhou. The official visit was an opportunity to exchange information on CITES inspection procedures, training in CITES implementation, inspection, enforcement, and capacity building between the United States and China. Members of the U.S. delegation included representatives from the USFWS (Management and Scientific Authorities and Law Enforcement) and APHIS. *[Note: Although this visit to China occurred prior to the reporting period, it was not reported in the U.S. report to SC58.]*

USFWS participates in coral trade workshop: USFWS CITES and enforcement authorities participated in and provided presentations at an International Trade in Coral Reef Resources workshop held in Washington, D.C. in May 2009. Participants included scientists, conservation experts, and industry representatives from around the world. Discussions focused on ways for the United States in particular to manage global trade in these resources while controlling its impact on reef ecosystems. *[Note: Although this workshop occurred prior to the reporting period, it was not reported in the U.S. report to SC58.]*

USFWS hosts CITES enforcement experts group meeting: The USFWS hosted the second meeting of the CITES Enforcement Experts Group, which convened in May 2009 at the direction of the Secretariat to identify measures to improve the gathering of data on illicit trade and discuss ways to improve data analysis and understanding of the illegal trade in CITES species. The meeting, which was held at the USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, drew representatives from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. *[Note: Although this meeting occurred prior to the reporting period, it was not reported in the U.S. report to SC58.]*

USFWS prepares intelligence data for regional enforcement partners: The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit prepared assessments of U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada wildlife trade, which were shared with law enforcement representatives of these countries at a May 2009 meeting of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG). The NAWEG is a long-standing regional partnership focused on improving wildlife law enforcement and cross-border cooperation in North America. *[Note: Although this meeting occurred prior to the reporting period, it was not reported in the U.S. report to SC58.]*

USFWS supports intelligence training in Mexico: The USFWS Intelligence Unit developed four training modules for use in a basic intelligence training program that was conducted in Mexico City in November 2010. The program, sponsored by the NAWEG, provided intelligence training to more than 20 Mexican environmental enforcement officials and officers.

Freshwater turtle trade management, conservation, and enforcement: The USFWS International Wildlife Trade Program convened a freshwater turtle workshop in St. Louis, Missouri, in September 2010 to discuss the pressing management, regulatory, scientific, and enforcement needs associated with the harvest and trade of freshwater turtles in the United States. The USFWS was responding to a significant increase in the export of native turtles, particularly to Asia, and has been monitoring this situation closely. The USFWS invited all the U.S. States to this workshop, and provided funding for all State government participants. In addition, the USFWS funded the participation of a number of government, academic, and conservation group turtle researchers with specialized knowledge for this four-day meeting. The USFWS contracted with the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group for technical advice prior to the meeting, and had the Specialist Group prepare draft revised assessments of U.S. native turtle species for the workshop participants to consider. Recommendations were adopted covering the areas of conservation biology, law enforcement, and management and the USFWS continues to work with the States and other cooperators to address those recommendations and raise awareness of the conservation implications of the turtle trade.

Asian snake trade management, conservation, and enforcement: The USFWS International Wildlife Trade Program provided funding to the CITES Secretariat in order to organize the CITES Asian Snake Trade Workshop authorized by the Parties in Decision 15.75, adopted at CoP15. The workshop, hosted by China, was held in Guangzhou in April 2011, and representatives of the U.S. Management and Scientific Authorities participated. The U.S. Delegation gave a presentation on U.S. trade in Asian snake species and co-chaired a working group, with China, at the workshop. The USFWS is currently providing significant funding to the IUCN Species Survival Commission to conduct a regional Red List assessment process and workshop for Asian snake species.

U.S. participates in CITES Master's Course in Spain: The United States continues to participate in the annual International University of Andalusia's Master's Course on "Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of



Species: The International Framework.” The USFWS provides instructors to participate in the modules on Introduction and implementation of CITES and the scientific aspects of CITES-related to plant species.

Working Group on Introduction from the Sea: Decision 14.48 (Rev. CoP15) directed the Standing Committee to extend operation of the Working Group on Introduction from the Sea, established at SC57, so that it could continue its work on implementation issues associated with species taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State. The working group was asked to prepare a discussion paper and draft revised resolution for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC62 and by the Parties at CoP16. Following CoP15, the working group elected a Chair and Vice-Chair who developed a draft discussion document for review and comment by the members of the working group. The working group worked electronically from December 2010 through May 2011, and held a face-to-face meeting in Bergen, Norway in May 2011. Considerable progress was made and the working group will provide a discussion document and revised resolution to the Standing Committee for consideration at SC61. The United States served as Vice-Chair and was an active participant in the working group. The United States, along with Norway and the European Commission (EU), provided funding for the meeting in Bergen.

International workshop on red coral science, management, and trade: Lessons from the Mediterranean: At CoP14, the United States agreed to convene two workshops on the conservation of and trade in red coral (Coralliidae) species. The first of these workshops, organized by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, was held in Hong Kong in March 2009. The United States and Italy co-sponsored a second workshop in Italy in September 2009 that brought together scientists and managers from the Mediterranean and around the world to discuss the status and management of *Corallium rubrum*. The reports of these workshops are available from NOAA.

Humphead wrasse workshop: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service funded a workshop on the trade of humphead wrasse that was held in June 2010, in Bali, Indonesia. The workshop participants identified the major issues of concern related to trade in these species and made a number of recommendations. These include: establish a capture fisheries data collection system, enact a ban on catches of small (immature) fish, establish protected areas and/or protected seasons for adults, develop a procedure to test for the use of cyanide, establish a national humphead wrasse traders' association and certificate of best practices, strengthen inspection protocols, develop a coordinated approach to interagency inspection at international airports, increase CITES enforcement through tagging and validation of shipments, compile a list of currently active traders, improve prosecution capacity, and conduct biological and socio-economic assessments for the species. A report of the workshop was published titled, “Workshop Report on the Trade of *Cheilinus undulatus* (Humphead Wrasse/Napoleon Wrasse) & CITES Implementation.”

## **7. PROBLEMS FACED BY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **UNITED STATES**

At SC60 (March 2010), the United States was elected as the North American Regional Representative on the Standing Committee for the intersessional period between CoP15 and CoP16. Since then, the United States can report that coordination within the region has continued to be excellent and it has faced no special problems as Regional Representative.