

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. This report was prepared by the Management Authority of Colombia*, as Regional Representative for South America, based on the information provided by the CITES Management Authorities of Chile and Brazil.
2. The Region comprises 12 Parties, and is represented by Colombia on the Standing Committee; Peru is the Alternate Representative for South America on the Standing Committee.
3. The following paragraphs describe the activities that took place within the region, including activities developed at a regional level relating to the application of the CITES Convention by the Parties, which is the reference framework for communication and coordination at all levels of implementation.
4. The main activities include capacity-building, technical capacity-building, events to establish mechanisms for coordination in defining activities related to the control of international wildlife trade, preparation of documents such as capacity-building and species identification manuals, population studies, etc. Particularly important are the spaces for dialogue that have been established with the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization – ACTO.

Republic of CHILE

5. In 2014, within the framework of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement between Chile and the United States of America, the joint work of the CITES National Committee and the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) led to new institutional capacities, and a revival of the legislative debate. In 2015, work continued in the area of institutional capacity-building, and was extended to include civic education and public awareness-raising about CITES:
 - a) **2014-2015:** Drafting of a bill on compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The bill was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, and is currently before the Committee for Agriculture at the Chilean Senate.
 - b) **June 2014:** International workshop on Forensic Techniques, Protocols, and Best Practices for border controls of CITES species. The workshop was held in Santiago, and was attended by 40 civil servants from various institutions. Speakers were experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the CITES National Committee (the Chilean Natural History Museum, Investigative Police (PDI), and Dr. Julio Lamilla, Scientific Authority for aquatic species), the General Attorney's Office, and the National Customs Service.

* *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.*

- c) **September 2014:** Seminar “Opportunities and Challenges for CITES implementation in Chile”. The seminar took place at the National Congress, and was attended by over 100 people, and by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Chair of the Committee for Agriculture of the Chamber of Deputies, the United States Ambassador, and the Director of Environment from the Chancellery. Presentations were made by Mr. Juan Carlos Vásquez from the CITES Secretariat, Mr. Bryan Arroyo from FWS, and Mr. Rafael Asenjo from the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) – the Management Authority for non-forest wildlife. Mr. Vasquez and Mr. Arroyo had meetings with the National Director of Customs, the CITES National Committee, and the plenary of the Agriculture Commission of the Chamber of Deputies.
- d) **November 2014:** Workshop on the implications of CITES implementation for criminal law. The workshop was held at the Courthouse Auditorium, and was attended by 20 district attorneys, public defenders, and examining judges. The workshop was sponsored by the CITES National Committee and the Santiago Court of Appeal. Speakers were experts from the Chilean Investigative Police, the Carabiniers of Chile, the National Customs Service, and the General Attorney's Office through UDELCO.
- e) **December 2014:** Dissemination of 40 copies of the “CITES in Chile” CD-ROM to various authorities and decision-makers. The CD-ROM describes the work done by the CITES National Committee and DOI-ITAP in 2014, including a national awareness-raising campaign on CITES, as well as the aforementioned workshops and seminar; detailed information on the bill to implement the Convention (comparative law, doctrine, jurisprudence); and 4 especially prepared videos to raise awareness about the significance of CITES for CHILE.
- f) **June 2015:** Training course on forensic techniques for investigating crimes against vicuñas. The course was held at the FWS Forensics Laboratory (Ashland, Oregon, U.S.A.). Participants included representatives from the PDI, the SAG, the Carabiniers of Chile, the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), the University of Chile, the Judiciary, and the General Attorney's Office.
- g) **August-December 2015:** Launch of the CITESCHILE website (www.citeschile.cl); a travelling exhibition in the Valparaíso and Metropolitan regions – “Protecting Biodiversity: 40 years of CITES in Chile”. The exhibition was prepared by the Natural History Museum of Valparaíso, and sponsored by the CITES National Committee, under the auspices of DOI-ITAP. Several national and foreign NGOs cooperated in the exhibition, which was visited by more than one million people over the first 90 days, thus proving to be an excellent opportunity for educating citizens about CITES.
- h) **May 2015:** The Forestry Institute (INFOR), which is the Scientific Authority for timber species, and CONAF, the Management Authority for timber species, in cooperation with DOI-ITAP and the FWS, started work on the recognition of three emblematic species in Chile, all of which are listed in CITES Appendix I: Chilean Pine (*Araucaria araucana*), Guaitecas Cypress (*Pilgerodendron uviferum*), and Chilean False Larch (*Fitzroya cupressoides*). INFOR is currently dealing with the paperwork required to start collecting samples of the three species to be forwarded to the FWS Forensics Laboratory for analysis.
- i) **November 2015:** Latin American workshop on Non-detriment findings for shark species, organized by the National Fisheries Service (Sernapesca) – the Management Authority for aquatic species, and sponsored by the CITES National Committee, under the auspices of PEW and DOI-ITAP. The workshop will be held in Santiago, and will be attended by representatives of all countries in Latin America in which sharks are fished. The objective is to apply data analysis methodologies for making NDFs for relevant shark species in the region. Participants will include CITES Management Authorities, and shark experts from each country.
- j) This is a highly practical workshop that represents the culmination of previous work in Brazil and Colombia.
- k) **December 2015:** International workshop on Forensic techniques for investigating crimes against vicuñas, organized by DOI-ITAP and CONAF, the latter in its capacity as CITES Management Authority and Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña. The purpose of the workshop is to transfer knowledge acquired at the FWS Forensics Laboratory to the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru (signatories of the Vicuña Convention).

- I) Capacity-building activities implemented by Sernapesca, the Management Authority for aquatic species. In **2014**, officials from National Fisheries Services throughout Chile attended capacity-building activities for shark identification at the Austral University of Chile. A further three internal CITES capacity-building events were held in 2014. In **2015**, four external capacity-building activities were held in the town of Arica for the Investigative Police (PDI), SAG, and Customs. Recently, CITES capacity-building was provided to regional Customs managers from all over the country.

BRAZIL

6. PERIOD: May 2014 till October 2015

Brazil, through the Forest Products Laboratory, and Colombia, through the SINCHE Institute, with support from ACTO and the Amazonia Regional Program (PRA/GIZ), developed an electronic identification key for 17 commercial Amazon timber species in order to provide a user-friendly tool to assist Customs inspectors in identifying the taxonomy of timber species from wood samples; the key is available in English and Spanish. Brazil, with support from the Amazonia Regional Program and ACTO, organized a workshop for CITES Authorities on wildlife data management and analysis. The workshop took place from 8th till 12th June 2015, the objectives being: (i) to standardize knowledge among Scientific Authorities about CITES principles, tenets, and tools; (ii) to build the capacities of CITES National Authorities to identify, analyze, and evaluate reliable data on species and trade to support decision-making processes. Participants included member countries of ACTO, the CITES Secretariat, and UNEP-WCMC.

PERU

I. Implementation of Decisions adopted at CoP16

World Wildlife Day (Resolution Conf. 16.1)

7. Peru celebrated World Wildlife Day on 3rd March 2015 with the slogan “Wildlife trafficking is a crime. Let's put a stop to it now!”. The National Forestry and Wildlife Service – SERFOR, as the CITES Management Authority, organized a number of activities such as street parades, musicals, academic conferences, and a fair where participants included the Huachipa zoo, the Peruvian National Police Force, the National Service of Natural Protected Areas – SERNANP, the Exotic Plants Nursery, El Rosario Nursery, the NGOs WCS and Yunkawasi, and the Natural History Museum of the National University of San Marcos (Peruvian bird colouring workshop). Further, SERFOR, the Ministry of the Environment, and WCS presented the following publications to mark this important day: Identification and immediate care of wild animals that are seized or found abandoned; Management of seized or abandoned wild animals; Identification Guide for orchids most frequently found in trade. These publications include the recommendations made in Res. Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15)* on the Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices.

CITES and Livelihoods (Resolution 16.6)

8. Peru, as Chair of the Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods, attended the workshop on “Sharing successful livelihood experiences” that was held from 11th till 13th February 2015 in Cispatá, Colombia. Peru undertook a commitment to voluntarily implement a practical, rapid assessment of the impacts of CITES implementation, using the yellow-spotted river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) as an example.

E-permitting

9. Peru is eager to support implementation of a CITES e-permitting system in the context of a single window environment, and to update any such system to bring it into line with UN/EDIFACT (the United Nations rules for electronic data interchange for Administration, Commerce, and Transport), and UNSM (the United Nations Standard Message).
10. Ministerial Resolution No. 189-2014-MINCETUR (21.06.2014) approved the handling of a number of administrative procedures through a Single Window for Foreign Trade (VUCE) at the Ministry of Production, the Management Authority for Hydrobiological Resources – specifically CITES export or import permits, and re-export certificates for hydrobiological species, products or sub-products obtained from aquaculture. The procedure became mandatory as from January 2015, and regional governments and users were provided with capacity-building and technical assistance during the second half of 2014.

11. Under Supreme Decree No. 002-2014-MINCETUR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was incorporated into the Single Window for Foreign Trade through SERFOR. This facility allows standardized data and documents to be input at a single entry point for all import and export procedures. In this regard, SERFOR has included the procedures relative to the issue of CITES and non-CITES export permits on this electronic platform.

II. Trade and species conservation

12. Peru updated its list of endangered wildlife species. The list comprises 535 species, including 100 CITES-listed species, and was approved by Supreme Decree No. 004-2014-MINAGRI, which provides measures for conservation of listed species.
13. From 25th till 28th September 2013, in Iquitos, Peru, capacity-building was provided on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for regional and local authorities, and natural and legal persons.

National workshop on Scientific and Technological Research applied to Conservation

14. In July 2014, a capacity-building workshop was held in Lima, Peru on Identification of Shark Fins, and Implementation of shark and ray CITES Appendix-II listings. The workshop was organized by the Peruvian Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Production, in cooperation with the PEW Charitable Trusts.

National workshop on capacity-building for CITES

15. By October 2014, four (4) capacity-building workshops on Shark Fisheries in Peru had been held within the Implementation Framework of Peru's NPOA-Sharks, the objective of which was to disseminate Peru's NPOA-Sharks to public and/or private organizations, fishing communities, and the general public in order to raise awareness and build capacities among such public and/or private organizations, fishing communities, and the general public with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of sharks, rays, and related species.

III. Analysis of CITES implementation

16. In 2013, Peru was a pilot country for implementation of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit, with a major focus on assessing effective law enforcement. The evaluation was carried out by UNODC, in cooperation with the CITES Management Authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI), the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE), and Enforcement Authorities, i.e., the General Attorney's Office, the Peruvian National Police Force, the National Superintendency of Tax Administration (SUNAT – Customs), the Forest and Wildlife Resources Supervisory Body (OSINFOR), the Peruvian Armed Forces, and Regional Governments.
17. The report (“Peru: An analysis of effective law enforcement relative to wildlife and forest crime”) was presented on 19th September 2014. The recommendations in the report are being taken into consideration in the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking being developed by the National Forestry and Wildlife Service, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and participation of government and civil society agencies

IV. International cooperation activities

Regional workshop on CITES Appendix-II listed Sharks

18. The Regional Workshop on CITES Appendix-II listed Sharks was held on 3rd and 4th December 2013 in Recife – Pernambuco – Brasil. The workshop was organized by the Government of Brazil, in cooperation with the United States Government, Defenders of Wildlife, Teyeliz, the Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, and the Organization of American States, and was attended by the Peruvian CITES Management and Scientific Authority. The workshop brought together Latin American and Caribbean countries, who joined efforts in learning to improve shark conservation and management, identification of CITES-listed species, and product tracking, thereby providing a general framework for developing their own chain of custody.

National Workshop on Research for conservation and sustainable use of shark species: Priority actions for implementing Peru's NPOA-Sharks

19. Peru held a national workshop on Research for conservation and sustainable use of shark species: Priority actions for implementing Peru's NPOA-Sharks. The workshop took place in May 2014 in Lima, Peru, and was organized by the Marine Institute of Peru, with the participation of the Save Our Seas (SOS) Foundation.

Regional Preparatory Workshop for member countries of ACTO for the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

20. The Regional Preparatory Meeting of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization was held in Lima, Peru, on 19th and 20th June 2014, in preparation for the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a space for dialogue for ACTO member countries prior to the 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, and to facilitate the sharing of information and opinions on issues affecting the region. Delegates from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela attended the meeting.

Seminar – Reducing the demand for illegal trade in wildlife specimens

21. The Seminar on Reducing the demand for illegal trade in wildlife specimens was held from 21st till 23rd October 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and was attended by CITES Management Authorities from countries in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) such as Peru. The output from the campaigns designed to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife trade is being integrated into the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking that has been underway in Peru since the last quarter of 2014.

Regional capacity-building workshop on the Electronic Identification Key for Timber Species

22. The Regional capacity-building workshop on the Electronic identification key for commercially representative Amazon timber species was held from 5th till 8th November 2014 in Brasilia, Brazil. The workshop was organized by IBAMA, the Amazonia Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ), and ACTO.
23. Peru is currently organizing a Capacity-building and Experience-Sharing Course/Workshop on the Electronic Identification Key for Commercially Representative Amazon Timber Species for Peruvian National Authorities and Experts. The workshop will be held from 9th till 13th November 2015 in Lima, Peru.

Regional workshop on Non-detriment findings (NDFs)

24. The regional workshop on Practical application of the CITES Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) Guidance for Perennial Plants – a nine-step process to support CITES Scientific Authorities was held on 20th and 21st December 2014 in Lima, Peru. The workshop was organized by the MINAM, the CITES Scientific Authority of Germany, ACTO, and the Amazonia Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ). Workshop participants included regional representatives from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Workshop on Implementation of CITES Appendix-II listings

25. A workshop on Implementation of CITES Appendix-II listings was held from 25th till 27th November 2014 in Santa Marta, Colombia. The workshop was organized by the Colombian Government, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, the U.S. Government, and several NGOs.
26. The CITES Management and Scientific Authority of Peru took part in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the mechanisms that would be necessary to guarantee traceability of the sub-products (fins and meat) of shark species listed in CITES Appendix II, and to define strategies for making non-detriment findings for newly listed species.

Capacity-building workshop for CITES Authorities

27. A workshop on Wildlife Data Management and Analysis for CITES Authorities took place from 7th till 13th June 2015 in Sao Paulo. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil, the CITES Secretariat, ACTO, and the Amazonia Regional Program (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ).

COLOMBIA

Enforcement

28. The National Strategy for the prevention and control of illegal wildlife trade (2002) is used to identify, prioritize, guide, coordinate, articulate, and implement actions aimed at reducing the illegal trade in wildlife, and to create sustainable productive alternatives to replace illegal trade, by establishing effective links for coordination among the different institutions and actors that are directly or indirectly responsible for environmental management.
29. The Strategy is aimed at consolidating well-coordinated actions among the different actors involved in environmental management such as Regional Environmental Authorities, Colombia's National Natural Parks, research institutes, and law enforcement and control agencies, that will lead to greater knowledge and the adoption of conservation measures for wildlife species affected by illegal trade, development of sustainable models of wildlife use and trade to replace illegal trade, fair and equitable benefit sharing, and greater awareness-raising and education of Colombian society about the problems affecting wildlife, and recognition of the potential and significance of our biological and genetic resources.
30. Within this framework, the national wildlife genotyping laboratory was developed and adapted to facilitate forensic analysis in the case of crimes involving wildlife trafficking at national and international levels; the laboratory is located in the DIJIN-INTERPOL building of the Colombian National Police.
31. The first phase of the Information System is currently being developed in order to consolidate, analyze, and monitor data on the illegal trade in non-timber wildlife species, and to implement the different instruments for its management and other actions, in application of Law 1333 of 2009, which establishes the penalties for infringements against wildlife, and contains other provisions, and the Environmental Management Policy for Wildlife in Colombia.

Amendments to the Appendices

Proposal to amend Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora – CITES

32. To transfer the population of *Crocodylus acutus* (Cuvier, 1807) in the Integrated Management District in the mangrove area of Cispatá Bay and the adjoining sector of the Sinú delta estuary, in the department of Córdoba, Republic of Colombia, from Appendix I to Appendix II, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens.
33. Natural range states have been consulted on this proposal.

Cooperation activities in the region

34. Both the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority participated in the workshop on Wildlife Data Management and Analysis for CITES Authorities that was held from 8th till 12th June 2015 in Iperó, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
35. The Management Authority and the Scientific Authority attended the twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee in Tel Aviv (Israel), from 30th August till 3rd September 2015, as Observers.