

Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa de Vida Silvestre de Centroamérica y la República Dominicana (ROAVIS/CAWEN)



Region and countries of the network

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, and Dominican Republic

Authorities involved

Focal Points/Points of Contact = Public Ministries, Attorney General, or Solicitor General Offices, Law Enforcement (police, border forces, public security forces, inspectors), CITES authorities (usually Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Fisheries), Customs.

Brief description

Formal network launched in September 2010 with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Attorneys and Solicitors General of each member country

CAWEN/ROAVIS is a regional network and forum for strengthening law enforcement and related institutions, regional and national cooperation and information exchange, and capacity building for government officials. CAWEN/ROAVIS operates at a regional, multi-national, and national level and participates in local to global events related to countering wildlife trafficking. CAWEN/ROAVIS has evolved to include national-level networks in member countries that promote inter-agency cooperation, support, information exchange, and inspection and operation planning to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of wildlife laws.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

CAWEN/ROAVIS is comprised of seven member countries with the Focal/Contact Points being the Public Ministry, the Attorney General's Office, or the Solicitor General's Office. Per a procedures manual, the Points of Contact hold an internal vote, generally at an annual regional meeting, to elect a country to serve as Secretary of CAWEN/ROAVIS for a two-year period. The Point of Contact for the nominated country usually serves as the working Secretary. The Secretary works for the strengthening, expansion, training, and benefit of CAWEN/ROAVIS.

Key activities

- Coordination and communication between governments, and fluid exchange of information about wildlife trafficking groups and networks.
- Operations to regulate and control the trafficking of species along borders, at ports, and in domestic markets.
- Exchange of experiences and resources between CITES officials and law enforcement agencies to improve regulation of legal global trade of species and detect and deter trafficking of species.
- Training for the next generation of environmental attorneys, prosecutors, solicitors, and judges to strengthen CAWEN/ROAVIS.
- Increasing awareness of judicial officials in order to achieve thorough and impactful adjudication of wildlife cases.
- Education and outreach to government and the public to raise awareness of the regulations on the use, conservation, and protection of wildlife.

Key partners in the region

Financial and technical assistance partners

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (DOS-OES) = principal partner
- U.S. Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) = principal partner
- U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division (DOJ-ENRD)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- CITES Secretariat

Strategic partners

- Red Latinoamericana de Ministerio Público Ambiental
- Red de Fiscales Ambientales de Centroamérica
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- International Consortium on combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)
- NGOs = Traffic, WCS, Asociación Balam (Guatemala), Foro de Justicia Ambiental (Guatemala)

Network focal points

Ms. Thalía Palacios
Special Attorney for Environmental Crimes
thalia.palacios@procuraduria.gob.pa

Website and other useful links

www.roavis.net