

South American Wildlife Enforcement Network

(SudWEN)

Region and countries of the network

South America – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela. In the process of engaging Uruguay, Bolivia, Suriname, Guyana and French Guyana.

Authorities involved

The following stakeholders were present at the launch of the network:

- Environmental Public Ministry (Public Prosecutor Offices) from all countries;
- From Brazil: CITES managing authority (IBAMA), Federal Police, Federal Highway Patrol, State (from many different States) and Federal Prosecutors and Customs.
- Additionally, Latin American Network of Environmental Public Ministry, Freeland Brasil, US Department of State (US General Consulate in Sao Paulo and US Regional Environmental Hub of Lima), US Department of Jus-

Brief description

The South America Wildlife Enforcement Network, SudWEN, was formally launched in September 2014 through the Sao Paulo Declaration. It was created within the auspices and platform of the Latin American Network of Environmental Public Ministry, although it will become independent. Although it is a prosecutor-based network it is a multi-agency effort. SudWEN's launching involved officers of the Public Ministries of eight south American countries, plus several officers of other relevant Brazilian wildlife enforcement agencies. It also involved support of Freeland, the US Department of State and the US Department of Justice. For its full establishment, the network needs to be institutionalized by several relevant agencies and to secure resources to begin its operations of joint capacity

SudWEN is currently a semi-formal network. It has been launched and counts with the institutional support of several Public Ministries ("Fiscalías Ambientales") of the member

Website and other useful links

<http://www.mpambiental.org/site/workgroup/3>
(dedicated website coming soon)

Network focal points

Dra Vania Tuglio—
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Dra Flor de Maria Vega—

Structure/decision-making process

SudWEN is still nestled within the Latin American Network of Environmental Public Ministry's (La Red) platform (website, communications, yearly meetings, etc). It has been functioning as La Red's CITES workgroup. SudWEN's coordinators are Dra Vania Tuglio (Brazil) and Dra Flor de María Vega (Peru), who have been working for SudWEN's institutionalization and beginning of its operations with support from the organization Freeland Brasil. Prosecutors from each member country (mostly the Chief Prosecutors of the National Environmental Public Ministry) are SudWEN's primary national points of contact. They are expected to reach out to other national relevant authorities (CITES Management Authority, CITES Enforcement Authority, Federal Police, Environmental Police, Customs, etc.) to start to build each country's national WENs, as well as to get SudWEN's institutionalization. Prosecutors already maintain constant communication thanks to La Red's platform and activities. All formal matters regarding SudWEN must go

Key activities

To date, SudWEN's prosecutors have kept communications open and meet yearly at La Red's meetings. The Sao Paulo Prosecutor's office (Public Ministry) allowed the use of its criminal analysis lab by SudWEN - a Wildlife Trafficking database is being prepared and, given a part time staff is hired to work on the data base, any SudWEN member country will be allowed to submit information and get a criminal analysis report back. However, countries and institutions need to submit their information to the database and getting that level of information sharing may take a while.

The Sao Paulo Prosecutor's Office also offered physical space for the Program Coordination Unit, with basic furniture, basic hardware, all maintenance services (such as security, cleaning, power, water and internet), and allowed Dra Vania Tuglio to dedicate half of her working hours for SudWEN matters. Both the Sao Paulo Prosecutor's Office and Peru's Fiscalía Ambiental agreed to host SudWEN's capacity building workshops.

Sao Paulo Prosecutor's Office, Sao Paulo City Council and Freeland Brasil are working on an agreement that will establish a Molecular Biology Lab to support the inspection of commercial breeders of animals of wild species, aiming at detecting, prosecuting and preventing the laundry of poached animals, one of the biggest drivers of regional wildlife trafficking.

Lastly, it is important to mention that although SudWEN has not yet been the platform of a formal joint counter wildlife trafficking operation, since the beginning of our planning and first meetings, individual actions by the prosecutors have increased. The articulation and awareness generated by the efforts behind establishing SudWEN have been the driver for this increase in counter wildlife trafficking within member countries.