

“It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.”

Lucio Anneo Séneca (Cordovan philosopher)

A TOOL FOR CITES: UNIA Master's Degree in MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SPECIES IN TRADE. THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK



by

Prof. Dr. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz. University of Cordoba, Spain

Dr. Mercedes Núñez Román. International University of Andalusia, Spain

The Vision, origin and evolution of the UNIA Master's Degree on CITES



**Universidad
Internacional
de Andalucía**

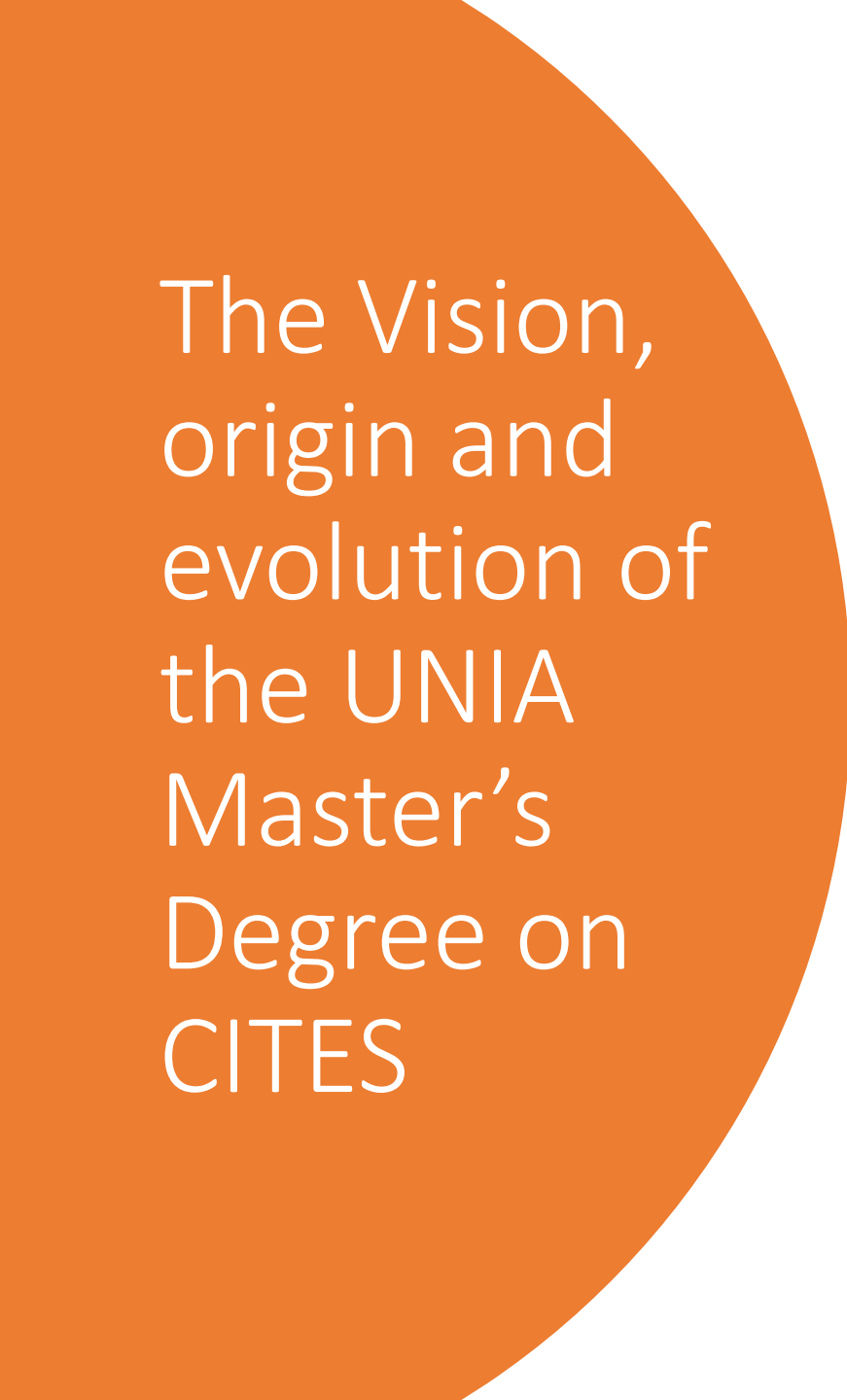
- ✓ UNIA is a public university part of the Andalusian University System that is open and focuses on graduate studies.
- ✓ It is committed to the sustainable development of its environment, with a will to cooperate at international level in solidarity terms.
- ✓ It is committed to respond with quality, innovation, agility and flexibility to emerging challenges in the different fields of science, technology, culture and arts.



- ✓ It has sites in the cities of Seville, Baeza, Malaga and Huelva


THE THREE C'S
FOR GOOD CITES
ENFORCEMENT ARE:
CAPACITY BUILDING
COORDINATION
COOPERATION

Since 1998, the International University of Andalusia (UNIA) has organized a unique Master's Degree, to promote and strengthen the implementation of CITES in the Parties.

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

The Vision, origin and evolution of the UNIA Master's Degree on CITES

The idea of a CITES Master's course originated in Rome in December 1996. At the 37th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC), the Spanish delegates Dr. Clemente and Mr. Rubio de Urquía reiterated the urgency of strengthening capacities for the implementation of CITES in countries of origin.

A yellow dashed line in the bottom right corner, consisting of several short, curved segments.

The Vision, origin and evolution of the UNIA Master's Degree on CITES

- ❖ A few months later, Dr. Clemente, with the support of the Spanish Management Authority, raised the proposal of a Master's course to the International University of Andalucía (UNIA).
- ❖ The acceptance of this proposal and the support from the CITES Secretariat and the SC made it possible to announce at CoP10 in Harare the first edition of the Master's course, to begin in 1998.
- ❖ The first two editions were taught only in Spanish, then English was introduced and, finally, thanks to funding from the USA, it has been possible to offer this training also in French.

The Vision, origin and evolution of the UNIA Master's Degree on CITES

The **general objective** is to provide high-quality training, focusing on the CITES rules, scientific bases, techniques and instruments that allow effective implementation of CITES.

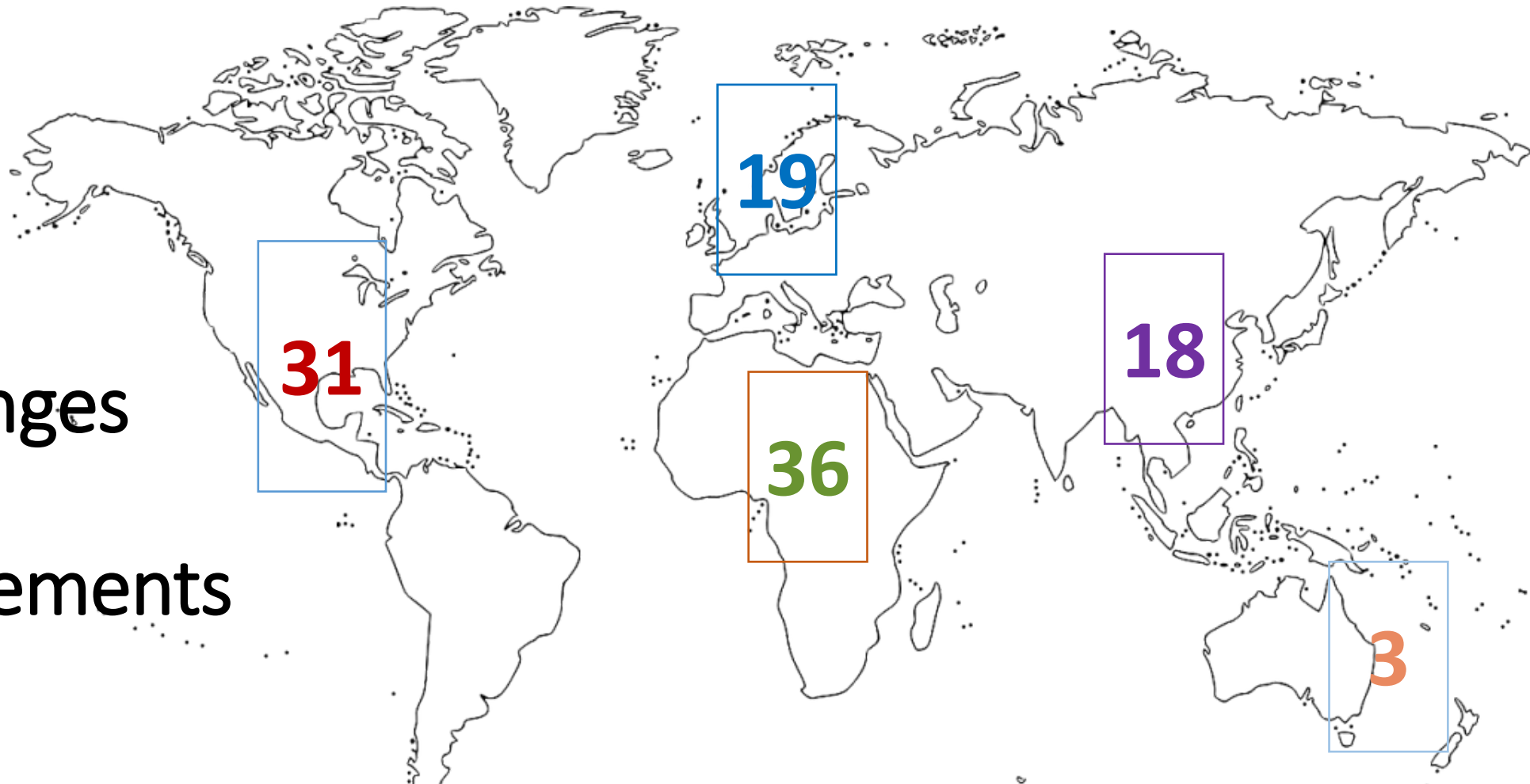
In doing so, we promote sustainable use of wild species that are currently being internationally traded and support their conservation and the fight against their illegal trade.



The Master's Course has been taught 15 times. It is the only course of its kind in the world and therefore has had a significant impact at a truly global level, with **418 people** from **107 countries** having participated as students in the multidisciplinary and multicultural classroom environment of the Antonio Machado site in Baeza.



Challenges and achievements



Number of participating countries by continent. 15 editions: 418 students from 107 countries

15 editions: 418 people from the following 107 Parties:
(Africa, America, Asia, Europe, Oceania)



Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of the Congo, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

15 editions
of the UNIA
Master's
Course on
CITES: the
participants



PROGRAMME

The on-campus 11-week training programme in Baeza covers all aspects of CITES implementation in depth, such as:

- Administrative, legislative and enforcement aspects
- Scientific bases and methodologies, including analyses for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) and procedures for the CITES Review of Significant Trade
- Customs controls
- Identification and control of CITES-listed species and specimens



Master's thesis



- Participants must prepare a Thesis to be submitted 3 or 9 months after the end of the on-campus teaching period.
- The thesis supervisor must be a Doctor (PhD). Participants can have only one supervisor or choose co-supervisors, but at least one of them must have a PhD.
- Participants must pass the on-campus part and submit the thesis successfully to obtain the Master's Degree.



Thesis topics are usually linked to CITES problem-solving in the Parties, and the research takes place in the participant's country of origin.

Some examples are:

- Review of the implementation of CITES in the Party and proposals for improvement
- Non-detriment findings for animal or plant species that have been used unsustainably
- Establishment of new procedures such as electronic permits or identification tools
- Proposals for prioritization of species for future inclusion in CITES
- Assessments of the conservation status and trade of species of fauna or flora for developing a proposal for inclusion in the Appendices
- Review of legislation and proposal of new laws for a better implementation of CITES
- Trends of proposals for amendment of CITES Appendices I and II in twenty years
- Trade of heavily traded species such as sharks and others
- Analysis of citizens' and institutions' perceptions of CITES
- Registration of captive breeding operations
- Role of zoos as rescue centres

Challenges and achievements



262 lecturers have taught in the 15 editions of the Master's Course, all recognized professionals who, with their great experience, have been key to the success of this course.



Challenges and achievements

Most of the students who have completed the Master's Course are currently working for governmental organizations responsible for the implementation of CITES and/or other related organizations and institutions.



We are a network at regional and global level!

Challenges and Achievements



In the CoP 19 more than 100 people, included in the official delegations, had received the UNIA Master



















Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation









The image shows a grand, ornate stone archway. In the center, a wide staircase leads up to a red-walled area. On either side of the staircase are two large, dark wooden doors with intricate geometric carvings. The archway is supported by two large, fluted columns. The entire structure is made of light-colored stone with elaborate carvings and moldings.

UNIA continues
its collaboration
with CITES and expects
new cohorts of students