

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

Regional reports

NORTH AMERICA

1. This report has been prepared by Rodrigo A. Medellín, the regional representative for North America, and Robert R. Gabel (alternate member).

General information

2. Contributors to the report (authors):

Canada: Management and Scientific Authorities, Wildlife Trade and International Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada.

Mexico: Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Scientific Authority; Dirección General de Vida Silvestre (DGVS-SEMARNAT), Management Authority; and Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFOPA-SEMARNAT), Law Enforcement Authority.

United States of America: Division of Scientific Authority and Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

3. Number of Parties in the region: 3
4. Number of Parties responding to communications: 3
5. Names of other institutions, NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period:
 - a) CANADA: Provincial and territorial Management and Scientific Authorities, Canadian Furbearer Management Committee, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, TRAFFIC North America, Fédération des Pourvoiries du Québec Inc., Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
 - b) UNITED STATES: White House Council on Environmental Quality, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development, Smithsonian Institution, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Regional Associations of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, American Federation of Aviculture, Safari Club

International, Exotic Wildlife Association, Species Survival Network, Defenders of Wildlife, WWF-US, TRAFFIC North America, and IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.

- c) MEXICO: CITES Authorities of Belize and Guatemala, Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE-SEMARNAT); Instituto de Ecología (IE-UNAM); Instituto de Biología (IB-UNAM); Durrell Institute, University of Kent (United Kingdom); Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University (United States); World Conservation Union (IUCN) Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG); Subcomité Técnico Consultivo para la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de los Crocodylia en México (COMACROM); Zoológico Regional Miguel Álvarez del Toro (ZOOMAT), Cocodrilos de México (COCOMEX), Instituto de Historia Natural del Estado de Chiapas; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) (United States), International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), TRAFFIC North America–Mexico; Subcomité Técnico Consultivo para la Conservación, Manejo y Aprovechamiento Sustentable de Psitácidos en México; and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP-WCMC.

Regional directories and representatives

6. An updated version of the regional directories (including additional contact persons) of Canada, Mexico and the United States is presented as an Annex to this report.
- a) CANADA: Cecilia Lougheed has been appointed Head of the Scientific Authority at Environment Canada, replacing Carolina Caceres who is on maternity leave until January 2007;
- b) UNITED STATES: The position of Branch Chief for non-detriment findings and trade monitoring in the Division of Scientific Authority is currently vacant. Javier Alvarez resigned from this position at the end of March 2006.

Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee and follow-up on AC22 agenda items

7. CANADA: Canada participates in the Felidae review working group and provided the Working Group Chairman with information on the status and management of and trade in *Lynx rufus* and *Lynx canadensis*, in collaboration with Canadian Provincial and Territorial Scientific Authorities and the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee.

Significant trade

8. CANADA: Canada provided information to the Secretariat in response to the Animals Committee's request for information on Canada's implementation of Article IV of the Convention for narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*) on 16 August 2005. The information provided by Canada includes a detailed response on Canadian practices against all provisions under Article IV and appends a short review on the Status and management of and International Trade in Narwhal from Canada. Canada expects the information provided will satisfy the Committee's request for information regarding how Article IV of the Convention is being implemented in Canada for narwhal exports.

Appendix revision

9. MEXICO: **White turtle and Mexican axolotl**. Mexico has completed population studies of two species selected during the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee in Madagascar for inclusion in the periodic review of the Appendices: the white turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) and the Mexican axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*). During the 21st meeting of the Animals Committee, the Committee recommended that Mexico should collect more information on the status of both species and carry out an analysis of the positive and negative outcomes (scenarios) that might result from their inclusion in the various CITES Appendices. Accordingly, a couple of workshops and meetings were held (more information below), the results and conclusions of which are being submitted as working documents under the agenda item "Periodic review of animal species included in the CITES Appendices", to be considered during this meeting.

Felidae (*Lynx* spp.). As part of the review of the family Felidae, in particular the genus *Lynx*, Mexico has begun a study of the *Lynx rufus* population in Mexico aimed at determining its current conservation status. The study is based mainly on sampling by photo-trapping in areas representative

of the species' distribution in the country. It will be completed in 2007. Financial support for the study is being provided by Mexico (CONABIO) and the United States (IAFWA, TPWD).

Proposals for amendment of the Appendices

10. UNITED STATES: On 20 January 2005, the United States published a notice to request information and recommendations on species proposals, resolutions, decisions and agenda items for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) (see <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/E6-594.html>). The CITES authorities of the United States are currently evaluating comments received in response to this notice. Anyone wishing to learn what was received in response to this notice may contact the Scientific Authority for information on species proposals or the Management Authority of the United States for information on resolutions, decisions, and agenda items (see Annex for contact information).
11. MEXICO: **Request for proposals to amend the CITES Appendices**: SEMARNAT, through DGVS, PROFEPA and UCAI, in collaboration with CONABIO, has issued a request to the general public for proposals to amend (inclusion, deletion or transfer of species) the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 31 July 2006, except for proposals relating to the transfer of populations from Appendix I to Appendix II for purposes of captive breeding, for which the deadline was 23 December 2005. The call for proposals is available on the CONABIO website at the following address:

http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/doctos/convocatoriaenmiendaappendices.pdf

12. Species

UNITED STATES

- a) **Mexican bobcat (*Lynx rufus escuinapae*)**. A subspecies of bobcat that occurs in Mexico has been listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act since 14 June 1976. This subspecies was included in Appendix I when the Convention entered into force on 1 July 1975, but was transferred to Appendix II at CoP8 (effective 11 June 1992). On 19 May 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule to remove this subspecies from the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act. A final decision on this action is pending. The proposed rule may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/05-10002.html>.
- b) **Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*)**. On 29 March 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Tibetan antelope, or chiru, as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This listing will result in stricter domestic measures to prohibit commerce within the United States as well as other activities that may be harmful to this Appendix-I species. The final listing rule may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/06-3034.html>.
- c) **Three African antelopes**. On 2 September 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule to list the scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*), addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*), and dama gazelle (*Gazella dama*) as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. These species are listed in CITES Appendix I. This listing was accompanied by a regulation to exclude these species from many the prohibitions of the Endangered Species Act for animals that are bred in captivity in the United States. These exclusions are intended to recognize and foster the breeding efforts that have already occurred without regulation, and which have resulted in large *ex situ* populations in the United States. The final listing rule as well as the regulation for captive populations of these species can be found at

<http://www.fws.gov/international/fedregister/fedreg.html>.
- d) **Native turtles**. On 14 June 2006, the alligator snapping turtle [*Macrochelys* (= *Macrochelys*) *temminckii*] and all species of map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.) will be included in Appendix III by the United States (see Notification to the Parties No. 2006/019). The decision to include these species in Appendix III was based on extensive consultation with the U.S. States, which have primary responsibility for the management of native species within the United States, and with

experts and the general public. The notice announcing the final decision by the United States to take this action can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/05-24099.pdf>.

- e) **Beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*)**. Under the "Special Rule To Control the Trade of Threatened Beluga Sturgeon (*Huso huso*)" [see <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/05-4278.html>] promulgated in accordance with the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the United States has suspended imports of beluga sturgeon specimens. This species is listed in CITES Appendix II. This import suspension took effect on 30 September 2005 for Caspian Sea range States and on 28 October 2005 for Black Sea range States. More information on the import suspension and conditions under which imports may be authorized in the future may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/international/fedregister/fedreg.html>

Technical workshops on the conservation of particular species

UNITED STATES

13. **Technical Workshop On Queen Conch And Spiny Lobster**. The United States, including personnel from the National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of State, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council and the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, convened a Joint Technical Workshop On Queen Conch And Spiny Lobster Information Needs under the auspices of the Gulf And Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the International Queen Conch Initiative. (It was funded by NOAA Fisheries, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council and the Darden Foundation.) Representatives of many queen conch range States, regional fisheries bodies and the CITES Secretariat, participated in the workshop. During the part of the workshop dealing with queen conch, a Technical Scientific Group was formed to further revise and enhance the FAO Queen Conch Management Manual which will be used by the CITES Secretariat to evaluate the biological and trade status of the species. Personnel from the Caribbean Fishery Management Council also added their expertise to the workshop of queen conch range States convened by the CITES Secretariat in the Dominican Republic.
14. The United States, through the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, continues to provide support to the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the regional FAO body in the Caribbean, as it seeks to strengthen fisheries management in the region, as called for in recommendations of the Standing Committee concerning queen conch.

MEXICO

15. **White turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*)**. The CITES Authorities of Mexico organized the National Workshop on the White Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*): Conservation Status, Use, Trade and Review of its Status in the CITES Appendices, which was held at the Pantanos de Centla Biosphere Reserve, in the state of Tabasco, from 5 to 7 April 2006. The following activities were carried out during the workshop: (a) updating, validation and supplementation of the information in document AC21 Doc. 11.2, Annex 3, for presentation at the present meeting; (b) discussion on the status of the species included in the CITES Appendices; and (c) development of the first draft of the National Strategy for Conservation and Management of *D. mawii* in Mexico.
16. With a view to enhancing the information currently available on the white turtle throughout its distribution range, the CITES Authorities of Mexico, together with the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor–Mexico), organized the Trinational Workshop Guatemala-Mexico-Belize for Management and Conservation of Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*) and Review of the Status of the White Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) in the CITES Appendices. Based on the results, the status of the latter in CITES Appendix II was discussed. It was also agreed to develop a joint regional strategy for the conservation of the species. The workshop was held from 25 to 27 April at CONABIO in Mexico City.
17. **Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*)**. The first draft of a regional strategy for the conservation and sustainable management of *C. moreletii* was prepared during the first part of the aforementioned trinational workshop. Areas of cooperation and specific activities were identified with regard to generation of knowledge, monitoring of populations and habitat, management and protection measures, captive breeding, inspection and surveillance, selection of high-priority areas for

conservation, information exchange and capacity building. During the workshop, information on the current status of the species in the three countries was exchanged, updated and validated, and the role and relevance of the national and international instruments that have a bearing on the management and protection of the species were discussed.

18. **Mexican axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*)**. A meeting was held on 29 November 2005 to share information and experiences among people engaged in research on the axolotl at Xochimilco with a view to incorporating interested researchers and students into the Xochimilco Axolotl Research Group (*Grupo de Investigación del ajolote en Xochimilco*, GIAX). In addition, CONABIO held a meeting with the researcher responsible for carrying out the above-mentioned study of the axolotl, in which the advantages and disadvantages of transferring the species to Appendix I or eliminating it from the Appendices altogether were discussed (analysis included in the document submitted under the agenda item on periodic review of the Appendices). The topic was also discussed and analysed during the meeting of the Interministerial Committee on Implementation of CITES in Mexico, which took place on 21 April in Mexico City.
19. **Meeting of the intersessional Shark Working Group**. The Working Group met from 4 to 6 April in Slimbridge, England, to prepare a draft report on international trade in sharks, pursuant to Decision 13.43, to be presented at the present meeting. A representative of Mexico's CITES Management Authority attended the meeting. The Working Group: (a) reviewed implementation issues related to species of sharks listed in the CITES Appendices (*Carcharodon carcharias*, *Cetorhinus maximus* and *Rhincodon typus*), analysing the responses from Parties to Notification No. 2005/044, and also examining the issue of identification of whole specimens, products, parts and derivatives of these species; (b) noted that fishing continues to affect several species of sharks and rays, despite the management or protection measures that have been implemented in various countries; (c) made some specific comments and recommendations on *Squalus acanthias*, *Lamna nasus*, *Centrophorus* spp., *Galeorhinus galeus*, *Triakis semifasciata*, sawfish (family Pristidae), guitarfish (order Rhinobatiformes), rays of the family Potamotrygonidae, manta rays (family Mobulidae) and several carcharhinid species; (d) prepared a report on trade-related measures adopted and implemented by Parties that are aimed at improving the conservation status of sharks, noting the importance of taking into account the management plans and agreements of other agencies, such as regional fishery management organizations, as well as the use of Customs referral procedures; and (e) considered the results of the expert consultation on implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), held in Rome in December 2005. The president of the working Group will present the final document for consideration by the Animals Committee during the present meeting.

Non-detriment findings

20. **CANADA**: Canada continues efforts to prepare standing non-detriment finding reports for key species identified through consultation with Federal, Provincial and Territorial Scientific Authorities.

Captive breeding operations

21. **CANADA**: To date, Canada has re-registered the nine operations that breed Appendix-I species for commercial purposes. There have been no new registrations. Canadian registered captive-breeding operations are breeding *Falco rusticolus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *Tragopan caboti*.
22. **UNITED STATES**: Two captive-breeding operations, one for *Falco peregrinus* and the other for *F. peregrinus* and *F. rusticolus*, for which registration was pending at the time of AC21, have been included in the Secretariat's register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes (see Notification to the Parties No. 2005/050). This brings to four the number of U.S. operations included in the register. So far, all registered U.S. operations are for breeding of *F. peregrinus* and *F. rusticolus*. However, the U.S. Management Authority and Scientific Authority are encouraging additional breeding operations to become registered, especially operations for parrots.
23. **MEXICO: Amazonas Project**. The CITES Authorities of Mexico, with support from the Technical Consultative Subcommittee for the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Psittacids in Mexico, are working on a programme for responsible captive breeding of Appendix-I amazon species

of Mexico, as part of an integrated conservation strategy. The project seeks to (a) promote captive breeding of these species; (b) enhance the technical capacity of breeding facilities (e.g. through training in breeding techniques); and (c) link breeding programmes with *in situ* conservation activities. These objectives are being pursued through four lines of action: (a) conservation strategies and management plans; (b) breeding in management and conservation units (UMAs); (c) *in situ* conservation; and (4) technical cooperation, advisory services and capacity building. The project is currently being rescaled and refined based on the comments of the Subcommittee, after which it is hoped that a pilot project can be launched as soon as possible. A UMA on the Mexican Pacific coast has expressed interest in supporting this project, and there are opportunities for collaboration with the Philippines pursuant to Resolution Conf. 13.9 on Encouraging cooperation between Parties with *ex situ* breeding operations and those with *in situ* conservation programmes.

24. **White turtle and Morelet's crocodile.** During the aforementioned national and trinational workshops, it was agreed to support and promote captive breeding of these species as part of regional management and conservation strategies.

Research

25. **MEXICO: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*).** Following the proposal to delete the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) from Appendix II, submitted by the United States during the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13) and subsequently withdrawn for various reasons (in particular the lack of information on populations of the species in Mexico), the family Felidae was included in the review of the Appendices. This review will focus initially on the genus *Lynx*, which includes several species that are listed in Appendix II for reasons of similarity, such as *Lynx rufus*. With financial support from Mexico (CONABIO) and the United States (IAFWA, TPWD), IE-UNAM is carrying out a population study of the species in Mexico aimed at determining its current conservation status. The study is based mainly on sampling by photo-trapping in areas representative of the species' distribution in the country.
26. **Painted bunting (*Passerina ciris*).** During CoP13, Mexico and the United States proposed the inclusion of *Passerina ciris* in Appendix II – a proposal which was rejected. Nevertheless, concern exists regarding the status of wild populations and the impact of trade on this species and others that are also subject to use and international trade. CONABIO therefore commissioned the study "Evaluation of the conservation status of populations of *Passerina ciris*, *P. leclancherii*, *P. amoena*, *P. rositae*, *P. caerulea*, *Cardinalis cardinalis* and *C. sinuatus* in Mexico", which is currently under way. The objective is to assess the conservation status of these species and produce specific recommendations on conservation and sustainable use, as well as to provide additional information that will help to determine the status that this species should have in the CITES Appendices. Thus far, a literature review has been conducted (including unpublished reports), and biological collections and electronic databases on the species have also been reviewed. For *P. ciris*, a total of 422 records in 262 sites have been identified. With this information, potential distribution maps were developing using DesktopGarp. The first part of the field data, collected through visits and censuses in six sites in the northern, central and southern regions of the country, are currently being analysed. Data on use rates and exports are also under analysis.

Capacity building

27. **UNITED STATES:** The United States has specific laws that establish grant programmes for research, education and outreach, enforcement, policy development, and other projects related to a number of CITES Appendix-I species. These include funds for African elephant, Asian elephant, rhinoceroses, tiger, great apes and sea turtles. Information on these grant programmes and how to apply for funding can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/international/grants/grants.html>.
28. **MEXICO: Theoretical-practical course on identification, management and conservation of freshwater turtles from the south-southeast of Mexico.** This course was held in Villahermosa, Tabasco, in May 2005 with the aim of facilitating the identification of freshwater turtles. Several species found in the south-southeast region of Mexico were included: *Dermatemys mawii*, *Rhinoclemys areolata*, *R. pulcherrima*, *R. rubida*, *Claudius angustatus*, *Kinosternon acutum*, *K. creaseri*, *K. herrerae*, *K. integrum*, *K. leucostomum*, *K. oaxacae*, *K. scorpioides*, *Staurotypus salvinii*, *S. triporcatus*,

Trachemys scripta and *Chelydra rosignoni*. The course was attended by 36 inspectors from PROFEPA-SEMARNAT offices in the States (Campeche, Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz and Yucatán), as well as personnel from the central offices and from the Nacajuca turtle farm (owned by the Government of the State of Tabasco).

29. **Training for law enforcement authorities.** The three CITES Authorities of Mexico, together with specialists in various areas, offered several modules of the training workshop on selected topics for wildlife law enforcement officials (South–Southeast Region), developed and coordinated jointly by PROFEPA and TRAFFIC North America–Mexico. The workshop was aimed at environmental inspectors, police forces, and public safety and Customs personnel responsible for or involved in inspection, surveillance and law enforcement in relation to wildlife. The workshop was conducted from 2 to 4 May 2006 in the city of Oaxaca, Mexico. The topics covered included trade in wildlife, national legislation and legal framework, CITES (structure, operation, use of the Appendices, management of export, import and re-export permits and certificates) and wildlife checks and inspections, as well as topics relating to the identification, seizure and management of reptile, bird, mammal and orchid specimens, products and by-products traded in Mexico.
30. **CITES Master’s Course:** With support from *Fundación Carolina*, the University of Andalusia and CONABIO, the Coordinator of Mexico’s CITES Scientific Authority attended the fifth “Master’s Course in Management, Access, Conservation and Trade of Species: The International Framework”, offered by the International University of Andalusia (Antonio Machado Campus) in Baeza, Spain, from 3 October to 16 December 2005. The course provided tools that will enable a better understanding of how CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) work and how they are implemented in practice, complementing the continuing education programmes offered by the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico. The representative of TRAFFIC North America in Mexico also attended the course.
31. **Workshops on management of wildlife along the northern border of Mexico:** Two workshops on wildlife management along the northern border of Mexico were held as part of the work being carried out by the General Wildlife Directorate (*Dirección General de Vida Silvestre*, DGVS), Mexico’s CITES Management Authority, with regard to decentralization of functions, and in fulfilment of the agreements arising from the 10th Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. The capacity-building group of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC) also collaborated in organizing the workshop, with additional funding provided by Canada, Mexico and the United States. The workshop was organized in response to the need for training in research techniques and in species and habitat management, as well as training needs for projects of common interest to the three countries.
32. The first part of the workshop took place in November 2005 in San Roque, Nuevo León (Mexico), and the second in February 2006 in Hermosillo, Sonora (Mexico). In each part, a total of 80 hours of instruction was offered, including presentation and analysis of relevant policies, theories, approaches, methods and techniques, and the application of these principles in the field. One segment of the workshop was devoted specifically to the implementation of the international agreements to which Mexico is a party, including CITES and CBD. Representatives of federal and state agencies from North America, together with renowned researchers and project leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States, took part in the workshop. This created an ideal opportunity for the development and consolidation of a network of personnel involved in wildlife management who are working together on projects and programmes of common interest with a view to creating a dynamic process of support and collaboration for these activities in North America.

Enforcement

33. **CANADA:** The Wildlife Enforcement Directorate conducted 3,360 inspections and 350 investigations in 2005, with 26 charges being laid for 32 prosecutions, resulting in 10 convictions. Special efforts were made on commercial shipments and live specimens entering Canada.
34. **MEXICO:** In 2005, solely at ports, airports and borders, PROFEPA conducted 11,939 inspections of wildlife specimens, products and by-products, and seized 1,955 wildlife specimens (not all of them CITES species).

Meetings, workshops, and communication within the region

35. **Regional meetings:** The 10th Annual Meeting of the Trilateral (Canada/Mexico/United States) Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management was held in May 2005 in Zacatecas, Mexico. The CITES Working Group met during the meeting and continued preparations with regard to the issues under consideration by the CITES committees. The 11th Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee will be held from 15 to 20 May 2006 in San Diego, United States. The CITES Working Group will be meeting again during that period to consider issues such as the periodic review of the Appendices, export quotas, preparations for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14), etc.
36. **CANADA: Canadian CITES Workshop.** In April 2006, the Canadian Management, Scientific and Enforcement authorities from federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions, as well as other governmental agencies and members from non-government organizations (e.g. TRAFFIC) met for the Canadian National CITES Workshop. The objectives of this meeting were: to provide ongoing training, to clarify CITES-related processes and tools, to prepare for CoP14, and to further develop Canada's national strategy for non-detriment findings.
37. **MEXICO: Priority species for Mexico.** A prioritization exercise involving species of commercial interest is being conducted in accordance with the conceptual document (methodology) prepared by CONABIO in collaboration with other government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs. The results will be used to identify species requiring greater attention for which it would be advisable to carry out population studies to determine their current status and develop suitable management and conservation measures and, where appropriate, propose amendments to the CITES Appendices.
38. Compilation and cleaning of the main database that will serve as the source of information for the exercise has recently been completed. This database includes species from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List, the CITES Appendices and Mexico's endangered species list (NOM 059). The data were reviewed for synonymies and orthographic errors in the scientific names, and it was determined whether the species are endemic to Mexico. This information was supplemented by information on species which are not included in the CITES Appendices, but which are known to be traded internationally. The database was cleaned by eliminating species not native to Mexico and species that have not been traded in the last 10 years. Finally, this initial database was added to the (already cleaned) trade databases of CITES species (UNEP-WCMC) and non-CITES species (DGVS). With this database in place, work on the assessment of the species will now begin, applying the aforementioned methodology.
39. **Proposal for an international workshop for Scientific Authorities on non-detriment findings.** This workshop is being organized in response to the need to develop countries' capacity to implement CITES correctly, in particular the capacity to apply the methodologies, tools, information, experience and other resources utilized by Scientific Authorities to make the non-detriment findings required for the export of Appendix-II species. The workshop will build on the results and information derived from similar initiatives, such as the workshop for Scientific Authorities carried out in 2002 in Nicaragua and other more recent workshops focusing on specific taxa (*Swietenia macrophylla*, *Cheilinus undulatus* and *Aquilaria*). CONABIO intends to offer this workshop in October 2006 and is seeking support for that purpose from interested Parties and organizations.

Others

40. **UNITED STATES:** On 16 September 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published an advance notice of proposed rule-making and request for comments on the humane and healthful transport of wild mammals and birds to the United States. This notice may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/05-18416.pdf>.
41. On 19 April 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published proposed revisions to the U.S. Federal regulations that implement CITES in the United States. This is the first substantive update of the U.S. CITES implementing regulations in nearly 30 years. The proposed revisions are intended to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to what is needed to conduct international trade in CITES-listed species with the United States. The proposed rule may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/06-3444.pdf>.

42. The U.S. approach to bilateral and regional trade agreements provides support for effective implementation of CITES. The United States includes core environmental obligations in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the obligation that a Party shall not fail to effectively enforce its environmental laws in a manner affecting trade between the Parties. The scope of this obligation includes laws to implement CITES. In addition, and as a complement to our FTAs, we establish environmental cooperation mechanisms for capacity-building to help our FTA partners improve their enforcement capabilities and increase their levels of environmental protection. The environmental cooperation mechanisms and their work plans have specifically identified endangered species issues and CITES-related enforcement as a priority in environmental cooperation activities.
43. **MEXICO: Review of the protection status of endangered Mexican species.** The Scientific Authority participated in the review of proposals to amend Annex II (lists of species) of Mexico's endangered species list (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001) and to update the status of the species, subspecies and populations currently classified in some risk category. The participation of the CITES Scientific Authority in the working subgroup on invertebrates, fish, amphibians/reptiles, birds and mammals was intended to contribute information and assessment criteria in relation to the use of and international trade in the species under review in order to enhance the species data sheets and help in making decisions on amendments to the risk categories.
44. **Directory of CITES specialists in Mexico.** Since its creation and, more recently, its designation as Mexico's CITES Scientific Authority, CONABIO has built close relationships with a number of specialists concerned with the study, conservation and management of wild fauna and flora. It is considered a priority to maintain and strengthen these ties, in particular with specialists in the various taxa protected under CITES. The Scientific Authority is therefore in the process of formalizing these relationships through the creation, updating and publication of a directory of CITES experts. Its purpose is to publicize and ensure ready access to information on specialists who collaborate and participate in various activities related to the implementation of the Convention, as well as to give them due recognition.
45. **CITES species data sheets:** In connection with the request for proposals for the preparation of data sheets (containing information on biology, threats, management and risk status) for the Mexican species included in CITES Appendices I and II (2004), the Scientific Authority has participated in the review and validation of more than 100 data sheets produced by projects that received funding as a result of the request for proposals, which have to do with groups of CITES species such as orchids and cacti. These species sheets are prepared using Biótica®, an information system designed specially by CONABIO for the management of curatorial, nomenclature, geographic, bibliographic and ecological parameter data. It forms the bio-informatic foundation for the National Biodiversity Information System (SNIB). The data sheets published to date may be viewed on the CONABIO website at the following address:
- <http://www.conabio.gob.mx/conocimiento/ise/fichas/doctos/introduccion.html>
46. **Call for the registration of scientific institutions holding museum and herbarium specimens of species included in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** SEMARNAT, through DGVS, in coordination with CONABIO, has issued a notice to institutions and scientific collections, requesting them to register with DGVS in order to enable them to avail themselves of the simplified procedure for the exchange of herbarium and museum specimens in accordance with the exemptions provided in the text of the Convention. This is expected to facilitate international loans, donations and exchanges among scientific institutions. The text of the notice is posted on the CONABIO website at the following address:
- http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/doctos/ConvocatoriaColeccionesFINAL.pdf

DIRECTORY OF CITES AUTHORITIES FOR NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

The Management and Scientific Authorities at the *Canadian Wildlife Service* (CWS, ENVIRONMENT CANADA) have the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Convention in Canada. There are also other Federal departments involved, such as:

- the *Fisheries and Oceans Canada*: marine species and fish;
- the *Canadian Forest Service*: trees / Timber;
- the *Canadian Customs and Border Services Agency*;
- the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*;
- the *Foreign Affairs Canada*.

Also 12 of the 13 Provinces or Territories have their own designated Management and Scientific Authorities.

In any case, CWS should be contacted at the numbers and addresses below under "*general information*" and CWS will forward messages to relevant authorities. When sending email, please use cites@ec.gc.ca

Wildlife Trade and International

Fed	Lynda MALTBY Director	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 997-2957 F: + 1 (819) 994-3684 E: lynda.maltby@ec.gc.ca
Fed	Carolina CACERES A/Chief, Wildlife Trade and International ON LEAVE until Jan. 07 please contact C. Loughheed	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 953-1429 F: + 1 (819) 994-3684 E: carolina.caceres@ec.gc.ca

Management Authority (MA)

Fed	Jean ROBILLARD Deputy Administrator	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 994-1528 F: + 1 (819) 953-6283 E: Jean.Robillard@ec.gc.ca
Fed	General Information	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada		T: + 1 (800) 668 6767 (Canada) + 1 (819) 997 1840 (abroad) F: + 1 (819) 953 6283 E: Cites@ec.gc.ca
Fed	Lorna BROWNLEE A/Scientific Advisor on Animals	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	GATINEAU, Quebec K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 956 9327 F: + 1 (819) 994 3684 E: lorna.brownlee@ec.gc.ca

Scientific Authority (SA)

Fed	Cecilia LOUGHEED A/Head, CITES Scientific Authority	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	GATINEAU, Quebec K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 956 4602 F: + 1 (819) 994-3684 E: cecilia.lougheed@ec.gc.ca
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Fed	Andrea WHITE A/Scientific Advisor on Plants	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	GATINEAU, Quebec K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 953 9515 F: + 1 (819) 994-3684 E: andrea.white@ec.gc.ca
Fed	Adrienne SINCLAIR Scientific Advisor on Plants ON LEAVE until Dec. 06	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	GATINEAU, Quebec K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 953 9515 F: + 1 (819) 994-3684 E: adrienne.sinclair@ec.gc.ca
Fed	Véronique BRONDEX Scientific Advisor on Animals ON LEAVE until Sep 06	Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Environment Canada	GATINEAU, Quebec K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 956 9327 F: + 1 (819) 994 3684 E: veronique.brondex@ec.gc.ca

Enforcement (ENF):

Fed	Richard CHARETTE A/Director Wildlife Enforcement	Wildlife Division – Office of Enforcement Environment Canada	Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3	T: + 1 (819) 953-4383 F: + 1 (819) 953-3459 E: richard.charette@ec.gc.ca
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MEXICO

Management Authority

* MVZ Felipe Ramírez Ruíz de Velasco Director General de Vida Silvestre	Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental Dirección General de Vida Silvestre	Av. Revolución No 1425, Nivel 1 Col. Tlacopac San Angel, 01040 México D.F. MÉXICO	T: + 52 (55) 5624-33-09 y 10 F: + 52 (55) 5624-36-42 E: felipe.ramirez@semarnat. gob.mx
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* M. en C. Oscar Manuel Ramírez Flores Director de Aprovechamiento de la Vida Silvestre			T: F: + 52 (55) 56-24-36-42 E: oscar.ramirez@semarnat. gob.mx
* Ing. Miguel Ángel Cobián Gaviño Subdirector de Comercio Nacional, Internacional y Otros Aprovechamientos			T: + 52 (55) 56-24-34-69 F: + 52 (55) 56-24-36-42 E:

* Civil servants entitled to sign CITES permits and other official documents issued by the Mexican Management Authority.

Focal Points

M.V.Z. Leonel Francisco Urbano Gutiérrez Subdirector de Acuerdos y Convenios para la Vida Silvestre			T: + 52 (55) 56-24-34-93 F: + 52 (55) 56-24-36-42 E: lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx
M. en C. Norma Eréndira García Núñez Jefa del Departamento de Acuerdos Internacionales para la Vida Silvestre			T: + 52 (55) 56-24-34-93 F: + 52 (55) 56-24-36-42 E: erendira.garcia@semarnat. gob.mx

Scientific Authority

Mtra. Ana Luisa Guzmán Secretaría Ejecutiva	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)	Liga Periférico Sur 4903, Col. Parques del Pedregal, Tlalpan, 14010, México DF MÉXICO	T: + 52 (55) 50-04-50-02 F: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-48 E: se@xolo.conabio.gob.mx
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<i>Biol. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz</i> Director de Enlace y Asuntos Internacionales, CONABIO	T: + 52 (55) 50-04-50-25 F: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-85 E: hbenitez@xolo.conabio.gob.mx
<i>Biol. Jorge Álvarez-Romero</i> Coordinador CITES, CONABIO	T: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-45 F: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-85 E: jalvarez@xolo.conabio.gob.mx

Focal points

Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín Vicepresidente y Representante Regional de Norteamérica para el del Comité de Fauna, Asesor de la AC CITES (Instituto de Ecología, UNAM)	T: + 52 (55) 56-22-90-42. F: + 52 (55) 56-22-89-95. medellin@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx
Biol. Alejandra García-Naranjo Representante de la AC CITES, CONABIO	T: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-70 F: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-85 E: algarcia@xolo.conabio.gob.mx
M. en C. Paola Mosig Reidl Representante de la AC CITES, CONABIO	T: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-70 F: + 52 (55) 50-04-49-85 E: pmosig@xolo.conabio.gob.mx

Law enforcement authority

Dr. José Bernal Stoopen Director General de Inspección Ambiental en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras.	SEMARNAT Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)	Camino al Ajusco No. 200, Piso 6 Col. Jardines en la Montaña, 14210 México D.F. MÉXICO	T: + 52 (55) 5449-63-00 Ext. 16316 F: + 52 (55) 54 49 63 00 Ext. 16288 E: jbernal@correo.profepa.gob.mx
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

For all issues pertaining to the Animals Committee, letters or documents should be sent (mail and/or e-mail) to the Scientific Authority; they will then be forwarded to the Management Authority.

Management Authority

PETER THOMAS Chief, Division of Management Authority (DMA)	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Division of Management Authority	Room 700 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203 USA	T: + 1 (703) 358-2104 F: + 1 (703) 358-2280/2281 E: Peter_Thomas@fws.gov
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Contacts

Name	Responsibility	Email
<i>TIM VAN NORMAN</i>	Branch Chief - Permits	E : tim_vannorman@fws.gov
<i>CHARLIE CHANDLER</i>	Branch Chief - Permits	E : charlie_chandler@fws.gov
<i>ANDREA GASKI</i>	Branch Chief - Animal transport	E : andrea_gaski@fws.gov

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Scientific Authority

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Contacts

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Enforcement

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Contacts

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