

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

First meeting of the Mahogany Working Group
Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), 3-5 October 2001

National Reports

ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment has been working very hard over the past two years on its national forestry policy. This policy is oriented towards stemming the loss of native woodlands through implementation of development programmes aimed at sustainable management, conserving and managing existing forests and natural resources in the country's natural protected areas, among other locations.

One of the instruments to regulate forestry activities is the "Rule for Sustainable Forestry Management for Timber Use (rules)." These norms were established by the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment (EME), seeking to foster rational use of woodland resources without risking the functions of the forest, thus continuously generating goods and services.

However, it has proven necessary to guarantee compliance with the Forestry Law and other legal provisions comprising the Ecuadorian Forestry Regime. To achieve this, and to have an efficient control mechanism over the mobilization of timber, an inter-institutional convention was subscribed on February 11, 2000, to set up **VIGILANCIA VERDE (GREEN SURVEILLANCE)** in Ecuador. The institutions that belong to the convention are the **Ministerio del Ambiente** (Ministry of the Environment), the **Policía Nacional del Ecuador** (National Police of Ecuador), the **Ministerio de Defensa Nacional** (National Ministry of Defence), the **Corporation for Sustainable Forestry Management – COMAFORS**, **Fundación Natura**, **Fundación Maquipucuna**, the **Ecuadorian Populorum Progressio Fund – FEPP** and **CARE – Ecuador**.

Green Surveillance, in coordination with the nation's Forestry Districts, takes charge of controlling timber and wildlife animals in our country. They gather information on all species of wood harvested and on illegal timber trade. Consequently, as of this year, a special control measure for mahogany has been established to systematically tabulate all data on mahogany, from harvest to marketing.

Below, we include the national report on mahogany according to subjects presented, and a file on the new, modern forestry control programme: GREEN SURVEILLANCE.

NATIONAL REPORT

1. National regulations to control trade

- *Forestry register* – a certificate of inscription issued by the Ministry of the Environment to companies that trade in timber
- *Export certificates* – issued upon inspection by heads of the nation's Forestry Districts

2. Volume of trade

Until December 20, 2000, there was a ban on this species in our country, so trade in *Swietenia macrophylla* was nonexistent. As of December 21, 2000, the ban was lifted but its use is subject to certain conditions, so it requires a sustainable forestry use programme. To date, no such use programme for this species has been presented for Environmental Ministry approval.

3. Problems with granting permits or certificates, and solutions

Problems

- Sustainable use programmes for woodlands are very strict and many timber traders complain of not being prepared to deal with such programmes.
- There is no awareness on the part of most timber traders, who do not want to establish management plans
- Traders with scant regard for regulations always seek a way to deal in timber.

Solutions

- Carry out capacity-building courses on these matters
- Publish the rules in brochures, booklets, etc.

4. Illicit trade (as far as is known)

There was verbal denouncement of timber illegally floating down rivers in the Amazon area, mostly for Colombia. However, we have no official report, except for the claim of a mahogany shipment from Ecuador being held up in Venezuela, denounced by the CITES authority in that country.

When Green Surveillance began, as of July 2000, there were several seizures of this timber species coming from Sucumbíos and Napo, bound for Quito. This timber was held up by the Green Surveillance forest control in Baeza, in the Province of Napo.

5. National development plans and recovery programmes

The Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment is fully immersed in a process that is restructuring all its departments. Within this process, territorial development plans have been devised.

**GREEN SURVEILLANCE
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEASURES TAKEN
July 2000 – June 2001**

1. General aspects

The Ministry of the Environment, endeavouring to involve third parties in forestry management, took the initiative of calling upon Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations (NGOs and GOs) to be directly co-responsible for forest control. Thus, an independent, transparent agency of experts could be formed to take charge of controlling timber mobilization in Ecuador, and in late 1999, the first meetings were held to plan what is today "Green Surveillance".

1.1 Inter-institutional convention

On February 11, 2000, the inter-institutional convention known as "Green Surveillance" was signed by its participating constituents: Ministry of the Environment, National Defence Ministry, National Police, *Fundación Natura*, *Fundación Maquipucuna*, Corporation for Sustainable Forestry Management (*COMAFORS*), the Ecuadorian *Populorum Progressio* Fund (*FEPP*), and CARE-ECUADOR.

1.2 Commercial trust contract

The country had embarked upon an anti-corruption process obliging agencies to keep operations transparent and within the law. Contributing to this process, it was decided to form a Commercial Trust and contract a financial administrator to administer resources. After a competition between several financial administrators, the *Banco de Guayaquil* (Bank) Fund and Trust Administrator was selected. The "GREEN SURVEILLANCE" Commercial Trust was signed on April 11, 2000.

2. Implementation of control posts

The new forest control body, Green Surveillance, began its operational activities in the month of July 2000. From its inception, four forest control posts were implemented at four points strategically determined to be sites where a high level of timber trading takes place.

2.1 General summary of operations

Control Posts	Timber intercepted (m ³) <i>WITHOUT</i> Green Surveillance (July 1999 – June 2000) Total	Timber intercepted (m ³) <i>WITH</i> Green Surveillance (July 2000 – May 2001)				Increase %
		Logs	Sawn	Other	Total	
San Mateo (Esmeraldas)	630.86	2,839.35	541.02	14.00	3,394.37	538.05
Baeza (Napo)	190.00	86.20	608.99	8.90	704.09	370.57
Mera (Pastaza)	135.79	13.99	354.38	0.82	369.19	271.88
Lita (Imbabura)	74.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00	101.35
Mobile Controls	-	-	-	-	1,520.00	-
Total	1,030.65				6,062.25	588.24

3. Official inauguration of Green Surveillance

On July 6, 2000, the official inauguration of Green Surveillance was held in the Salón Amazonas of the Hotel Marrito, with all the representatives of the inter-institutional convention present. The organizations linked to the convention were also represented; so were important national government agencies, and guests from several institutions attended.

4. Capacity-building activities

Several capacity-building activities have been organized for operational representatives of Green Surveillance. These included members of the Armed Forces, National Police, Ministry of the Environment and Civil Society who work as forest guards at the various forest control points that have been implemented. The intent is to maintain staff permanently skilled in forest control procedures. The "skill-builders" for these activities are always professionals and consultants from the National Forestry Department, with experience in technical forestry matters and legal procedures.



4.1 Training workshop for forest guards

A first workshop was organized to train civil forest guards participating in Green Surveillance along with personnel from the National Police, Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Environment. This was in the month of June 2000, at the facilities of the National Research and Extension Department (*DINICE*). Several representatives of the Green Surveillance Trust Committee were present at this event to explain the reasons for forming the new forestry control body.

4.2 Capacity building for Green Surveillance staff on regulations for keeping wild animals

Since the month of March of this year, Green Surveillance began to keep wild animals. For this purpose, two training workshops were held on the reasons and regulations for keeping wild animals. These workshops were held in coordination with the *Dirección nacional de Áreas naturales y Vida Silvestre* (National Department of Natural Areas and Wildlife).

4.3 Capacity building for Green Surveillance staff on CITES and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties in effect

Training workshops on the provisions of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**, held between June 4 and 18, 2001, by professionals from the National Department of Natural Areas and Wildlife.



6. Donations

6.1 House building (*VerdeGreen*)

A donation of labour and materials was obtained from the “VerdeGreen” Foundation to build five houses at five Green Surveillance forest control posts. Three of these houses have been erected at the San Mateo, Mera, and Baeza posts, located in the Provinces of Esmeraldas, Pastaza, and Napo respectively. The two remaining houses will be constructed in the Provinces of Loja and Ibarra, respectively.





6.1 Wood donation for house building (timber firms)

To accompany VerdeGreen's house-building donation, a donation of wood prepared for such construction was acquired through the timber firms.



6.2 UCP-PATRA billboard donation

Through the Ministry of the Environment and the UCP-PATRA Project, a donation of two, one-sided billboards and one, two-sided billboard was obtained. Built by Induvallas and valued at USD 6,000, they are located at the San Mateo, Mera and Baeza forest controls. These billboards illustrate all the logotypes of the Green Surveillance constituent institutions.

6.4 CHASQUINET Home Page

We received the donation of a section of a website from the Chasquinet Foundation. The address is <http://www.chasquinet.org/vigilanciaverde>, where one may find out all about the Green Surveillance programme. This page is still being developed and translated into English. In the future, it will cover all reformed legislation issued by the Ministry of the Environment resulting from Green Surveillance operations. It will also carry news on the environment, links to the institutions that make up the trust committee, etc.

7. Instruction manual on cubage of timber

An instruction manual on cubage of timber was prepared, through a research study on the different types of timber trade that exist in the country. This project was supported by timber firms and timber traders' associations from diverse sectors and forestry districts around the country.

This instruction manual was discussed over several sessions with various parties involved, and was published in Ministerial Agreement No. 053 on April 25, 2001. It comprises six chapters on the following topics:

- Tropical wood in the rough
- Tropical sawn wood
- Logs from plantations
- Sawn wood from plantations
- Balsa

8. Regulations for the Donation of Timber from Species Considered as Banned

Issuance of the *Regulations for the Donations of Species Considered as Banned that have been Seized by the Ministry of the Environment* came on April 25, 2001, though Ministerial Agreement No. 054.

9. Rules for Application of the Penalty of Seizure and Auction of Vehicles in Accordance with Rule 81 of the Law on Forestry and Conservation of Natural Areas and Wildlife

Publication of the *Rules for Application of the Penalty of Seizure and Auction of Vehicles in Accordance with Rule 81 of the Law on Forestry and Conservation of Natural Areas and Wildlife* occurred on April 25, 2001, through Ministerial Agreement No. 052.

10. Free loan contract between the Ministry of the Environment and Green Surveillance

In the month of July of this year, the Minister of the Environment signed a free loan contract with the legal representative of the Green Surveillance Trust. By virtue of this contract, Green Surveillance is to have the use of two Toyota Hylux 4-wheel-drive, double-cab vehicles for a period of four years, to improve its operation. With this contribution we will be able to set up mobile units in various sectors of the country, besides performing controls on the stationary control posts established.

11. Measures to implement new forest-control posts

No.	Name of the proposal or project underway
1	Implementation of a forest control post in Yangana, within the framework of the Green Surveillance Programme
2	Forest control in the area of influence of the Chongón Colonche mountain chain: a) Petrillo – Stationary Control b) Palmar – Mobile Control
3	Implementation of a forest control post on the route between Loja and Zamora within the framework of the Green Surveillance Programme.
4	Implementation of forest control in Plan de Milagro (the Macas – Cuenca route), within the framework of the Green Surveillance Programme
5	Strengthening the Green Surveillance Forest Control Programme: a) establish and operate two mobile control units (over one year). b) operation of five posts (over 1 year).
6	Costs of creating and operating the Mobile Forest Control Unit for Ecuador's Southern Region for one year CAF – BEDE

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