

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

Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This report has been drafted by the administrative authorities of Colombia in their capacity as regional representatives of South America, with information provided by the CITES Authorities in Brazil, Chile and Peru.¹

The Region comprises 12 Parties and is represented by Colombia on the Standing Committee. The alternate member for South America to the Standing Committee is Peru.

A description of the activities carried out at the domestic level within the region as well as regional, bi-national and tri-national activities related to the enforcement and implementation of the CITES Convention is found below. This enforcement provides a framework for communication and coordinated activity that develops between all implementation bodies.

Training and technical capacity-building are highlighted, which make it possible to establish coordination mechanisms to define bi-national coordination activities to monitor the trade in wild flora and fauna, draft documents such as training manuals, and carry out species identification and population studies, among others,

As such, it is considered pertinent to highlight the existing identification and coordination between different authorities, both administrative and scientific, in the region, which have facilitated the execution of activities of a regional nature. In the case of the Region, we wish to emphasize the spaces for dialogue that have been established with the countries that make up the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), as well as the efforts undertaken to strengthen capacities in order to implement decisions linked to the shark species included in Appendix II.

Report of BRAZIL

Activities carried out by the CITES administrative authorities

I.- Cooperation activities in the region.

Regional workshop organized in Brazil (Recife, 2 to 4 December 2013).

This workshop was attended by more than 70 participants from 28 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of the countries in the region to enforce the new measures on international trade in five species of shark adopted by CITES.

¹ *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

During the workshop, the experts addressed multiple legal, administrative and scientific issues in addition to the specific needs previously identified by the counties. In particular, they provided information and demonstrated the use of tools and techniques that will help to improve identification of the sharks, collection and communication of data on shark catches in the region, and monitoring of shark specimens on the market.

II.- Species trade and conservation

Brazil considers that it is important to report on the review process for the Appendices to the Convention. During the twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee, Brazil committed itself to analysing the situation of the following species: *Cacajao melanocephalus*, *Saguinus martinsi*, *Pionopsitta pileata*, *Leopardus braccatus*, *Leopardus geoffroyi*, *Leopardus pardalis*, *Leopardus tigrinus*, *Leopardus wiedii* and *Puma yagouaroundi*.

Report of CHILE

I.- Implementation of Decisions adopted at CoP16

With the inclusion of hammerhead and mackerel sharks in Appendix II of CITES, whose entry into force is 14 September 2014, a number of requirements were established; Chile has been addressing these requirements bit by bit, holding coordination meetings with different national bodies connected to the export of shark specimens. In addition, Chile has held meetings with the Fishing Subsecretariat, the Institute for Fisheries Development and the National Shark Committee.

At the same time, it is in the process of holding a number of meetings with Chilean Customs in order to analyse tariff items, trade, and identification of product by species and by processing line. At the end of this month, a training course on shark identification will be held for civil servants from different regions from the National Fisheries Service and from the Institute for Fisheries Department; the course will be delivered by Dr. Julio Manilla, of the Austral University of Chile.

However, Chile is concerned that it will not be possible to produce the non-detrimental findings (NDF) in the coming months, mainly as a result of the high costs involved in their production, particularly for limited predator species such as sharks in general. During the recent meeting of the Animals Committee, a number of documents were presented (AC27 Doc. 22.1; 22.2;22.3 and 22.4), however they were all proposals that at the moment contribute theoretically to moving closer to an NDF, but obviously it is necessary to previously have the data required for its production, data that should be obtained during fishing research cruises.

Based on the above and in light of the improbable availability of the NDFs, it would be important to look at the alternative of postponing of the entry into force of the CITES provisions for these species for a period of 12 more months, which would make it possible to acquire all of the records that will make it possible to produce an NDF for these species.

II.- Regional cooperation activities.

Among the regional activities, the Regional Workshop on Sharks included in Appendix II of CITES, held in Recife, Brazil between 2 and 4 December 2013, should be highlighted.

Report of COLOMBIA

I.- Interpretation and application of the Convention

Trade and Compliance

Colombia has developed and adapted the national laboratory for genetic typing of wild species which will improve forensic criminology for crimes of illegal trafficking of species at the national and international level and will operate under the auspices of the DIJIN-INTERPOL offices of the Colombia National Police.

Currently the development of the National Programme for the Conservation of Colombian Orchids is being completed; this programme establishes priority activities that regional environmental authorities should make progress on in order to recover the natural populations of the species of orchids catalogued as in critically endangered and endangered in Resolution 192 of 2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Land Development and in the National Plan for the Sustainable Use of Palm Trees in Colombia. Through this National Plan, actions and activities are established in order to encourage work with rural communities aimed at

using the different species of palm trees found in Colombian territory in a sustainable manner and which will generate economic and social benefits for the rural communities that depend on this resource.

During 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) held a national workshop with captive breeders of brown caiman (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*) and American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*), which are listed in CITES. The Autonomous Regional Corporations (CARs) attended this workshop and a coordinated working agenda was defined which will mainly lead to the issue of a resolution establishing measures to inspect, monitor and control the export of skins and other products resulting from breeding of brown caiman, as well as the resolution on trade within the national territory of products manufactured as a result of breeding of this species. In addition, progress was made with regard to agreement between the breeding sector in Colombia and monitoring and police bodies regarding the draft resolution which establishes inspection, monitoring and control measures for export of skins from species of caiman (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*) (*Caiman crocodilus crocodilus*). Certifying bodies were given training on subjects related to inspection responsibilities for cargos of skins and other parts of the species and guidelines on the inspection of skins, flanks and tails were drafted as supporting material.

In order to fulfil its commitment to preserve its biodiversity and provide inputs for the good management of naturally-occurring species of trees in the country, Colombia has developed management plans for cedars (*Cedrela odorata*), mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and rosewood (*Aniba rosaeodora*), and has defined a baseline for monitoring the natural populations of oak (*Tabebuia spp.*). There is a document containing available information covering issues related to distribution maps of the species, assessment of relictual populations, data analysis, molecular typing and the conservation management plan, among others. These documents were produced as a result of joint efforts by the Administrative Authority, represented by the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the Scientific Authority, represented by the SINCHI Research Institute.

Resolution 192 of 2014 has been issued, "which establishes the list of threatened wild species of Colombia's biodiversity which are found within the national territory, together with other provisions.

II.- Species trade and conservation

Colombia has carried out genetic typing of populations of *Saguinus leucopus*, assessed the health status of various populations living in freedom in its original range areas and designed the first phase of an environmental education strategy within the framework of the National Programme for the Conservation of the Endemic *Saguinus leucopus*.

Colombia has carried out molecular DNA typing of the populations of *Crocodylus intermedius*, ratified the National protocol on the reintroduction of members of this species and developed a risk communications strategy within the framework of the National Programme for the Conservation of the Orinoco Crocodile in Colombia.

In addition, within the framework of the implementation of the National Programme for the Conservation of the Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*), a captive breeding programme was developed and implemented for the *Crax Alberti* and *Vultur gryphus*, which ensures the breeding of viable individuals for their subsequent reintroduction into the natural environment, as well as the maintenance of the captive populations and fulfils the community educational and awareness-raising objectives in general.

Colombia assessed and developed the action and socialization plan for the National Programme for the Conservation of *Saguinus oedipus*.

On 22 October 2013, a socialization workshop was held on developments in the field of information on trade, conservation and management of species of freshwater rays found in Colombia, organized by the Administrative Authority (MADS). Research developments regarding the species, in particular those related to *Potamotrygon magdalenae* were shown. However, more information is required on the biological, ecological and population status of species of rays present in Colombia. MADS has the financial resources to support a study to identify and characterize the impact of both national and international trade on freshwater rays found in Colombian territory. Moreover, under the coordination of the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNAP), Colombia held a workshop in order to review the scope of the activities of the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras in Colombia (PAN), establishing the necessary strategies and commitments.

Colombia issued a publication on freshwater rays (*Potamotrygonidae*) in South America. Part I. Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana. Diversity, bioecology, use and conservation. (Humboldt).

III.- Implementation of decisions adopted at CoP16

World Wildlife Day (Resolution Conf. 16.1)

On 3 March, World Wildlife Day, celebrated for the first time by different countries, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, as the CITES Administrative Authority, uploaded information related to biodiversity in Colombia on different social networks such as Twitter and Facebook. In the case of Facebook, the uploading of information was done via the *Colombiva* account, the account of the institutional programme of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the aim of which is to publish the Ministry's policies and documents and raise awareness among Colombians of the benefits of the appropriate use of our natural resources and to enable them to participate in the building of a greener Colombia.

In addition to this, over the course of 3 March, within MADS a participative mural on movable panels was set up related to threatened species of Colombia's biodiversity, to which persons from different offices within MADS, the National Environmental Licencing Authority, different scientific research institutes, civil society, universities, NGOs and the private sector contributed. Parallel to the design of the mural, participants had the opportunity to place their fingerprint in colour on an additional panel. Both activities were enlivened during the day by sounds of natural ecosystems in Colombia and informative posters and publications about the species. Information on the subject can be found at the link below:

<http://www.minambiente.gov.co/contenido/contenido.aspx?catID=1390&conID=9171>

On 9 March, the *Colombiva* television programme was broadcast on the institutional channel in homage to World Wildlife Day; the programme included a report on the participative mural from 3 March, as well as information on the situation of the wild species that make up Colombia's biodiversity. The programme included data on their distribution, their current conservation situation and conservation activities that were being undertaken to help preserve these species. The programme can be viewed for free at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aSc_b4MDdg&feature=youtu.be

Another link to which information was uploaded was the official page of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development:

<http://www.minambiente.gov.co/contenido/contenido.aspx?catID=1387&conID=9162>

IV.- Regional cooperation activities.

Second Workshop on Sharks

The Government of Colombia decided to organize an international workshop with the aim of assessing the monitoring and control mechanisms required to guarantee the traceability of international trade in sub-products (fins and meat) from species of sharks included in Appendix II of CITES and defining strategies for the development of non-detriment findings for this group of species.

This workshop seeks to bring together CITES administrative and scientific authorities, fisheries authorities and customs authorities from each country in order to carry out a full analysis both at the regional level and on a wider scale to enable the identification of strategies for the monitoring, follow-up and control of imports and exports of meat and fins from sharks from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. In addition, it will involve non-detriment findings through technical work with the countries' CITES scientific and fisheries authorities in order to define the strategies and activities necessary to complete population assessments for sharks included in Appendix II of CITES.

It is proposed to hold the abovementioned workshop in September 2013 in the city of Santa Marta (Colombia); representatives from countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean will be invited as well as representatives of important countries from Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa. Experts in shark population assessments will also be invited in order to analyse case studies, thereby laying the foundation for and guiding the development of non-detriment findings. Organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, CITES, the World Trade Organization and others identified as being relevant to the development of the workshop will also be invited.

Report of PERU

I.- Implementation of decisions adopted at CoP16

World Wildlife Day (Resolution Conf. 16.1)

From 1 to 3 March 2014, Peru celebrated World Wildlife Day with a variety of activities, such as theatre performances, a concert for wildlife and academic talks. Within the framework of this celebration, the Ministries of Agriculture (MINAGRI), Environment (MINAM) and Production (PRODUCE) launched the “National Campaign against Illegal Wildlife Trafficking”. The aim of this campaign is to raise citizens’ awareness in order to prevent the informal trade of wild species in Peru.

CITES and livelihoods (Resolution Conf. 16.6)

With the support of the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO, which has a workplan on the issue of livelihoods, Peru has proposed the holding of a regional workshop in the last quarter of 2014, with the aim of establishing technical and conceptual bases at the regional level to address the issue of livelihoods and CITES and to develop unified criteria for the application of the guidelines and toolkit.

II.- Interpretation and enforcement of the Convention

Wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit. Compliance and Enforcement Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16)

During 2013, Peru was a pilot country for the use of the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Toolkit*, the main idea of which is the analysis of the effective enforcement of the Law. This assessment was carried out by UNODC in collaboration with the CITES Administrative Authorities, namely the General Directorate for Forestry and Wildlife (DGFFS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI), and the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) and the Monitoring Authorities: the Public Prosecution Service, the National Police of Peru, the National Tax Oversight Agency (SUNAT – Customs), the Monitoring Agency of Forestry Resources and Wildlife (OSINFOR), the Armed Forces of Peru and the Regional Governments. The final report is currently being drafted by UNODC.

Policy review

On 14 August 2013, Supreme Decree No. 09-2013-MINAGRI was published in the Official Gazette, which approved the National Forest and Wildlife Policy (PNFFS). The aim of the policy is to contribute to the development of the country through the appropriate management of forestry resources and wildlife. It is a national-level policy, compliance with which is compulsory for all levels of government, namely central, regional and local. The policy has five key areas: institutional mechanisms and governance, sustainability, competitiveness, social inclusion and interculturality, knowledge and science and technology. It is in the interest of Peru to carry out a review of policies related to the use and trade of specimens of wild species included in the Appendices to the Convention.

III.- Regional cooperation activities.

Regional workshop on training and exchange of experiences for CITES Enforcement Authorities

From 9 to 11 July 2013 the *Regional workshop on training and exchange of experiences for CITES Monitoring Authorities of ACTO Member Countries* was held in Lima (Peru). The event will be remembered as the following recommendation was approved by the countries: “*That following the reference made by the Delegation of Peru regarding the proposal for a project to establish an Enforcement Network of ACTO Member Countries, they supported that the proposal should be submitted for consideration by Member Countries.*” Peru, through the ACTO Secretariat has presented a proposal for the opinion of member countries regarding the establishment of an Amazon Basin Enforcement Network.

Regional Preparatory Meeting

From 19 to 20 June 2014, the *Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Standing Committee Member Countries of ACTO* will take place in Lima (Peru), in which the eight Amazon Basin countries, namely the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia (regional representative), Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, will discuss the documents that will be reviewed during the sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee.