



THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Historic Agreement Reached for the Tiger

Leaders from the 13 tiger-range countries endorsed a Global Tiger Recovery Program when they met at an unprecedented International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, November 21-24, 2010. The recovery program aims to ensure a doubling of the world's wild tiger population by 2022. The estimated number of wild tigers has plummeted from 100,000 a century ago to as few as 3,200 today.

This is the first time such a high-level meeting has taken place to save a single species. The tiger is under threat from ever-diminishing habitats, but even more imminently from poaching and the trafficking of its parts, especially in Southeast Asia and India. The forum was hosted by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and was attended by heads of government and ministers from the tiger-range countries, including Wen Jiabao, Premier of China's State Council.

Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, addressed the forum on the topic of illegal trade. He focused on the results of a recent TRAFFIC investigation, which found that parts from at least 1,069 tigers had been illegally trafficked over a decade in 11 of the tiger-range countries.

Key to the Global Tiger Recovery Program's success in addressing illegal tiger trade will be the effectiveness of enforcement efforts by the tiger-range countries, aided by close regional and international cooperation. The International Tiger Forum highlighted strengthening regional law enforcement activities through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including the ASEAN-WEN (ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network), SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network) and bilateral protocols between key tiger-range countries.

The cost of implementing the recovery program is an estimated US\$350 million. Several governments and organizations committed significant sums toward tiger conservation at the forum. The U.S. government will allocate an additional US\$9.2 million to combat illegal poaching and trafficking. WWF Director Jim Leape said his organization aims to mobilize US\$85 million over the next five years, and actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio announced a US\$1 million donation to support WWF's tiger work.

Overall, the forum was a major success that should herald a new era of high-level attention to the challenges tigers and other

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TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

is a joint programme of



wildlife face from poaching, trade, conflict and environmental degradation.

Contributed by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America

Consortium Formed to Combat Wildlife Crime

On November 24, 2010, Secretary-General of CITES John Scanlon announced the formal creation of a new consortium to fight wildlife smuggling. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC, or "eye-quick") comprises five member organizations:

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- INTERPOL (the international police organization)
- UNODC (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
- The World Bank
- WCO (the World Customs Organization)

These intergovernmental organizations have the majority of the world's governments as Parties or Member States. The consortium aims to support government efforts to stop crimes involving poaching, trafficking, trade, illegal killing, and habitat degradation. Scanlon said the goal of ICWC was "to introduce a new era to wildlife law enforcement by drawing upon the complementary skills of the consortium."

Source: CITES Secretariat, November 2010

TRAFFIC SUPPORT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Strengthening CITES Non-detriment Findings

A capacity-building workshop was held November 15-18, 2010, to formulate Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) and strengthen the implementation of CITES in Central American countries. The initiative was part of several resolutions adopted at the CITES 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the workshop included contributing to the preparation of guidelines for NDFs, with an emphasis on species like queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), the two most traded species from the region.

Participating were delegates from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and Panama. Among the experts invited to share their knowledge were representatives from the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the CORALINA organization, IUCN, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, and the CITES Secretariat.

The workshop aimed to improve the capacities of the CITES Authorities of the region to formulate Non-detriment Findings (NDF), in order to regulate trade of species in Appendix I and II following the principle that "a permit is granted when a Scientific Authority has advised that the import / export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species". The NDF is based on the analysis and evaluation of available scientific information.

The initiative was developed by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Environmental Agency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, and TRAFFIC. The workshop was funded by the U.S. Department of State in support of the Central America Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America - Mexico

Enforcement Inspection Equipment Donated to CAFTA-DR Countries

TRAFFIC North America donated over 600 items to the Dominican Republic government to support law enforcement officers, Customs officials, and other authorities in their daily activities involving wildlife trade. This was the first of six shipments of animal-handling and shipment inspection equipment to CAFTA-DR (Central America Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement) countries. The equipment includes leather protective gloves, animal transportation boxes, snake hooks, goggles, and restraining nets worth approximately US\$60,000.

This initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of State as part of a wider project to strengthen

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wildlife trade control capacities in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The goal is to diminish the health risks (for both handlers and animals) posed during wildlife shipment inspections and related animal handling and transportation activities.

This donation complements other TRAFFIC activities in the region such as efforts to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to conserve and sustainably manage wildlife, and to implement relevant national and international legal frameworks such as CITES. TRAFFIC believes that these efforts will contribute to improved enforcement of wildlife trade laws and better management of wildlife resources.

Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America Mexico

NEWS FROM MEXICO

Early Success for New PROFEPA Program for Circuses

As part of the National Inspection and Monitoring of Wildlife Program, PROFEPA launched the National Inspection Subprogram for Circuses in September 2010. This involved a series of inspections on the source of wildlife being used in circuses in Mexico. The results are now in from the inspections of the first five circuses selected. In total 65 animals were seized. Of these 17 were seized as a precautionary measure due to the lack of documentation necessary to prove their legal origins. Some examples of the species seized were:

- Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris*)
- Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
- Spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)
- Dromedary camel (*Camelus dromedarios*)
- Llama (*Lama lama*)



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Source: www.profepa.gob.mx, September 2010

The Sustainable Use of Wildlife in Mexico

Mexico is one of the top ten most biologically diverse countries globally. This biological richness has historically favored the use and trade of plant and animal resources of wild origins for centuries. This practice continues today with wildlife specimens valued purely from a practical and economic standpoint but also for cultural, religious and traditional significance. Many of the species that are part of Mexico's great biological and cultural heritage are seriously threatened by causes such as habitat destruction for timber exploitation, single-crop farming, opening of grazing areas, tourism development, and industry.

The unsustainable and illegal use of wildlife and their parts and products are of particular concern. Mexico's use and trade in wildlife is prolific and varied—Mexico is a source of wildlife, a consumer, and a transit country for trade. And even though fauna and flora have always been an integral part of the Mexican culture, people lack knowledge of their current status, existing threats, legal frameworks, and the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of these natural resources.



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A significant percentage of wildlife trade activities in Mexico are not legal. Wildlife crime impacts wildlife populations and has a negative ripple effect on economic and social fronts. Illegal trade that brings invasive, non-native species and diseases into the country can cause significant disruption of native ecosystems, also resulting in social and economic strain.

In the last few years, Mexico has recognized the need to promote sustainable use schemes for these natural resources. Sustainable practices for wildlife use can generate significant benefits in the

long term, while preventing the local extinction of species and degradation of natural environments. The challenges are many but the opportunities are significant. TRAFFIC has developed a strategic support framework for Mexico to help ensure that the opportunities are maximized and challenges reduced.

Under the strategic support framework for Mexico TRAFFIC has identified potential areas of intervention that would benefit Mexico and its wildlife:

1. Enhance the role of science in the management of wildlife subject to use and trade
2. Strengthen the legal framework and capacities to manage wildlife resources
3. Encourage people's participation in wildlife-related decision-making processes
4. Invest in sufficient resources for wildlife management

5. Introduce strong disincentives to discourage illegal wildlife trade
6. Strengthen coordination between authorities and public policies related to wildlife
7. Promote legal markets for sustainably produced and harvested wildlife
8. Educate and inform the decision makers, consumers and industry on priority wildlife issues that need to be addressed
9. Develop public and private sector partnerships to coordinate and sustain efforts to protect wildlife from illegal and unsustainable use

TRAFFIC North America reiterates its commitment to collaborating on these efforts and seeks partners to assist with implementing this strategic support framework. We aim to maintain the rich biodiversity of Mexico while supporting the needs of community livelihoods.

Contributed by Adrian Reuter and Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America - Mexico

ENFORCEMENT SUCCESSES IN THE NEWS

PROFEPA Seizes Iguanas, Turtles, Armadillos in Chiapas

During a public transport vehicle search on August 11, 2010, PROFEPA (Mexico's Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection) in Chiapas seized six green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*), 13 casquito turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides*), eight cruzalluchi turtles (*Staurotypus salvinii*), and two armadillos (*Dasyops novemcintus*).



© Roger Leguen / WWF-Canon

The operation took place in the coastal region of the Lacandona jungle in Chiapas, and was carried out with the participation of 12 PROFEPA inspectors, 17 members of the State Police, and two members of the State Agency of Investigation from the Mexican Army. The animals were transferred to the city of Tapachula de Cordova and Ordonez for rehabilitation and future release in the Biosphere Reserve of the Crossroads.

The same operation also rescued six ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nests containing a total of 688 eggs, found on the beaches of the Costa Azul Ejido in the municipality of Pijijiapan. The turtle eggs were delivered to the Tortuguero camp of the Nature and Ecology History Institute for incubation.

Source: www.profepa.gob.mx, August 12, 2010

Illegal Logging Suspects Detained in Michoacán

Inspectors from PROFEPA-Michoacán seized 11 vehicles and over 16 cubic meters of pine and oak in the indigenous community of Cheran, in the place known as Puente Quemado, in September 2010. This was a joint operation with the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA) and several state and municipal police forces in the area of the Meseta Purépecha. They detained 10 people suspected of illegal logging. All of the vehicles, the wood, and the suspects were transferred to the federal prosecutor in Morelia, Michoacán, who will decide the legal status of the detainees.



© Fletcher & Baylis / WWF-Indonesia

Source: www.profepa.gob.mx, September 2010

Yukon Enforcement Blitz Finds Over 50 Violations

Environment Canada conducted an import/export border blitz at the Beaver Creek border crossing in Yukon Territory, September 12-24, 2010. Officers uncovered more than 50 violations of federal and territorial laws, including the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. They made 23 seizures or detentions involving whole, or parts of, protected species such as walrus, black bear, grizzly bear, sea otter, caribou, moose, eagle (feathers), coyote, dall sheep and bowhead whale. Enforcement actions included written warnings, seizure of goods, and tickets issued under the Yukon Wildlife Act. Some of the violations have led to further investigations which may result in additional charges.



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Source: Environment Canada, <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=7CDD0C4E-7B44-4EEA-8D11-89225BB64647>, October 8, 2010

Businessman Pleads Guilty to Illegal Ivory Trading

On October 28, 2010, Joseph Barringer, 55, pleaded guilty in federal court in Orlando to violating the Endangered Species Act in connection with the illegal export of African elephant ivory through an online auction site. Barringer's business, Cue Components, in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., manufactured custom pool cues and parts, including parts made from elephant ivory.



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He sold ivory-laden pool cues to an undercover police officer of the London Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard) who was working in coordination with special agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to documents filed in court, federal agents seized 197 pounds of elephant ivory and cut ivory pieces, including 24 elephant tusk tips.

As a result of his sale of the pool cue to the undercover officer, Barringer was charged with a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act for knowingly engaging in trade of ivory specimens contrary to the provisions of CITES, and without a CITES export permit and re-export certificate. The offense carries a maximum sentence of one year of imprisonment, one year of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$100,000, or twice the gross gain accruing from the crime. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Attorney Richard A. Udell of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Ambrose of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division.

Source: Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, October 28, 2010

Downloadable versions of many of TRAFFIC North America's reports can be found at:
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/item4912.html>, and at
<http://www.traffic.org/>.

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