

# CAFTA-DR

## CITES SUPPORT PROGRAM

Scarlet Macaw



Costa Rica



Dominican Republic



El Salvador



Guatemala



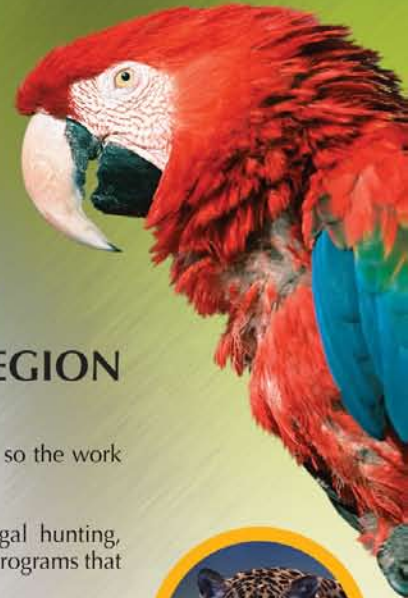
Honduras



Nicaragua



United States



## STOPPING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE IN THE CAFTA-DR REGION

Unsustainable and illegal trade in wildlife is among the most significant threats to certain wild animals and plants. CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, strives to ensure that the international trade in wildlife is conducted so that it does not threaten the survival of species in the wild. People use wild animals and plants for food, clothing, jewelry, pets, and souvenirs. Unsustainable and illegal trade in wildlife, however, is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year worldwide, undermining the conservation of the planet's biodiversity, and impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people dependent on these resources.

To effectively address this issue, the seven countries that are parties or signatories of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) have joined forces to strengthen compliance with their obligations and commitments under CITES.

Under the framework of the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Agreement, a CITES Support Team has been formed comprised of experts from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Humane Society International (HSI), and TRAFFIC North America.

With funding from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science (OES), this Team is working to improve implementation and enforcement of CITES in the CAFTA-DR Region.

Overall, the CITES Support Team is striving to:

- Educate the public and tourists in CAFTA-DR countries on the importance of species conservation and the devastating impact of illegal wildlife trafficking;
- Strengthen each CAFTA-DR government's CITES Scientific and Management Authorities;
- Ensure that CITES inspectors and enforcement officers are equipped to carry out their responsibilities effectively and efficiently;

- Establish a corps of skilled trainers in the region so the work we are doing now will be sustainable;
- Develop feasible economic alternatives to illegal hunting, poaching and wildlife trade, including sponsoring programs that focus on sustainable tourism;
- Ensure that each country has animal rehabilitation and rescue centers that are able to care for the animals that are confiscated or turned in; and
- Protect specific species that are endangered or in decline, including sea turtles, quetzals, macaws, jaguars, parrots and reptiles.

Some accomplishments of the Team include:

- Working with El Salvador to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for CITES implementation;
- Helping the Dominican Republic create literature and other forms of outreach to place in schools, community centers, churches and other public venues to educate on the negative impact of illegal sale of souvenirs and products made from endangered Hawksbill sea turtles;
- Providing direct grants to animal rescue centers so they are able to purchase desperately-needed supplies such as medicine, and to improve the overall rescue center infrastructure;
- Training more than 100 people in wildlife protection, rescue and rehabilitation, and developing and disseminating 400 training manuals, 120 posters and 300 CDs as part of the trainings; and
- Raising public awareness of the unsustainable and illegal wild-life trafficking, and promoting a greater understanding of the importance of rescue and rehabilitation, by reaching out to hundreds of thousands of individuals and almost a hundred thousand tourists through promotional events, educational materials, and literature.



Green Sea Turtle



Jaguar



Green Iguana



Poison-Arrow Frog



White-Faced Capuchin



United States Department of State



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

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