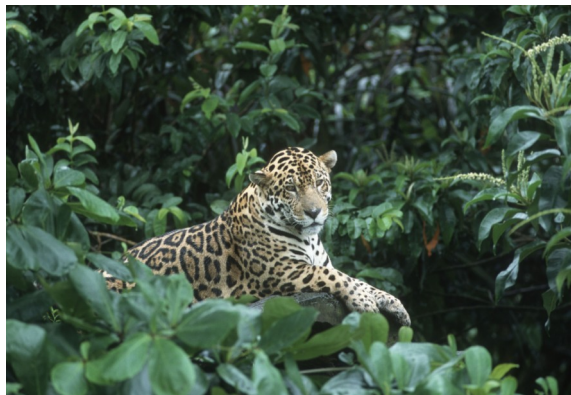


Wildlife Trade Control

Identifying Needs and Enhancing Capacity for CAFTA-DR Countries

The US-Central America - Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR) Free Trade Agreement member countries encompass a wide variety of ecosystems, a spectacular diversity of plant and animal species and some of the largest forests in the world -- but the threats to biodiversity are chronic and cause unsustainable natural resource use. Where consumption and trade of wild plants and animals is a major concern, there is a need to improve the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to monitor and enforce existing laws and regulations in a coordinated manner, support sustainable use practices and deter illegal activities.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the global conservation treaty regulating international wildlife trade. As the demand for exotic leather, ornamental plants, coral and an array of other wildlife products continues to grow, it is important for government agencies and industry to meet the implementation requirements of CITES and support enforcement. They also need to manage the harvest and use of native species that are traded internationally.



Identifying Capacity Building Needs

Since 2007, TRAFFIC has been working with its partners in delivering a multi-year project funded by the US Department of State. The project supports CAFTA-DR member countries in their efforts to regulate and manage the trade in wildlife, countering illegal and unsustainable activities. In 2008, TRAFFIC completed a comprehensive review of gaps and needs in all CAFTA-DR countries which provides the framework to carry activities in the following three main areas during 2009 and 2010.

- Development and integration of a long-term wildlife trade management and control educational course curriculum
- Establishing effective wildlife law enforcement networking between government agencies
- Strengthening CITES science for wildlife trade management

TRAFFIC's contribution to the CITES Support Program capacity building efforts are designed to sustain long term skills, knowledge and build political will. The work will enable CAFTA-DR CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and law enforcement agencies to support sustainable use practices and deter illegal wildlife trade.

Partners

TRAFFIC is a partner in the CITES Support Program, a US government funded initiative to ensure governments and stakeholders in CAFTA-DR countries have the skills, knowledge and resources to manage trade in wildlife and meet the requirements of CITES implementation and enforcement.



TRAFFIC provides technical expertise to key components of the program in collaboration with the implementing partners – the US Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service and WWF Central America.

TRAFFIC Expertise

TRAFFIC is the global wildlife trade monitoring program of WWF and IUCN operating a world-wide network of 25 offices for over 30 years.

TRAFFIC conducts pioneering work on species in trade, policy impacts, market dynamics and countering illegal trade.

TRAFFIC has a MOU to work in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) CITES Secretariat on strategic capacity building to improve the implementation of CITES.

TRAFFIC has established key contacts in the Latin America and Caribbean region for project engagement and capacity building, implementing this work in collaboration with WWF in Central America.

Ongoing and Planned Activities



Completed Activities

Dominican Republic Training
September 2009

CAFTA-DR Regional Gap Analysis
December 2008

Int'l CITES Expert Workshop on
Non-Detriment Findings
Supported Central American experts
November 2008

Costa Rica/Panama Dialogue and
Training Workshop
October 2008

Honduras/El Salvador/Nicaragua
Dialogue and Training Workshop
June 2008

Guatemala/Mexico Dialogue and
Training Workshop
August 2007

Upcoming Activities

Supply identification training guides
and animal handling equipment
*Distribution starting Nov 2009 and
ongoing*

Train the Trainers Modules
Development
Ongoing

Regional Train the Trainers Workshop
Date TBC

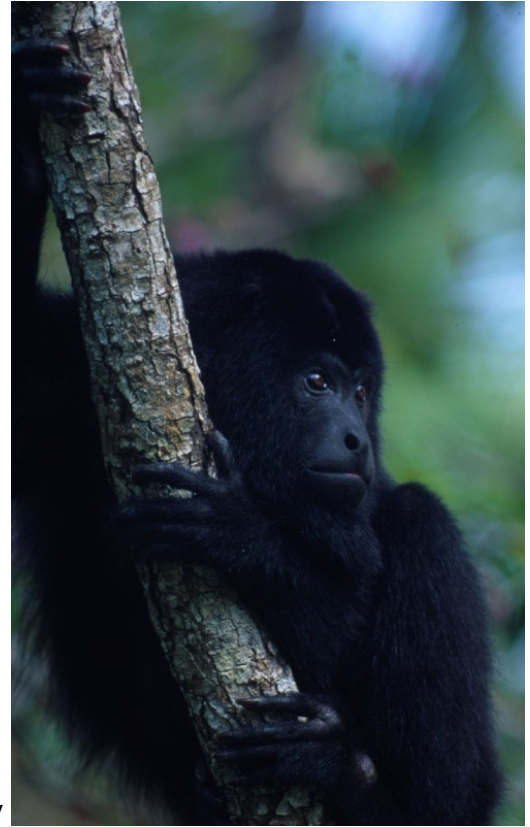
Wildlife Enforcement
Networking events
Starting February 2010

CITES Science Workshop
Date TBC

Long-Term Wildlife Trade Management and Control Course Curriculum Development and Integration

A wildlife trade management and control course curriculum is under development for application through an educational institution in at least one CAFTA-DR country. TRAFFIC is working to identify an appropriate national or regional institution, to offer the course on a yearly basis. The target audience for the course is CAFTA-DR countries CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and enforcement officials, as well as academic students, private industry and nongovernmental organization representatives.

To complement the course, TRAFFIC is developing a series of modular wildlife trade training materials. Wildlife handling equipment for enforcement professionals is also being provided that they are prepared to deal safely and carefully with inspections of wildlife and products. Reference materials and equipment will reinforce training efforts and create better skilled, informed and effective personnel.



CAFTA-DR Wildlife Law Enforcement Networking

Improved cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies in CAFTA-DR countries can help reduce trafficking in wildlife and disrupt organized criminal networks. Combining improved information sharing, best practices and cross border protocols with increased capacity will see a more dynamic response to tackle the loss of wildlife to poaching and trade. TRAFFIC will support partners and governments in the region to build political will and enforcement capacity to facilitate wildlife law enforcement network in CAFTA-DR countries and their trade partners.

Specific elements of this activity include holding enforcement coordination and capacity building workshops, creation and distribution of an enforcement manual compiling findings on enforcement networking and provision of wildlife law enforcement training modules/materials for training academies, institutions and in-house trainers.

Strengthening CITES Science

The ability to formulate and issue scientific Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) is a crucial role in the implementation of CITES to ensure that trade is sustainable and legal. TRAFFIC brought Central American officials and academics to the International Workshop for Experts in Non Detrimental Findings, held in Mexico in 2008. The follow up to that workshop includes workshops in the region to explain the finer details of the NDF process, consolidation of the workshop results to inform training and awareness and a regional directory of scientific experts on key species.

For more information

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