

Proposed CITES Implementation Program: Wildlife Conservation and Livelihood support through the Rule of Law in the Americas

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I. Before CITES in the Americas...

- The 1940 Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (1940 Washington Convention)*:
 - highlighted the need for countries to take necessary measures to control and regulate the importation, exportation and transit of protected fauna, flora or any part thereof.
 - provides that exporting countries must issue certificates authorizing the export of protected species and bans the import of any such species unless accompanied by a certificate of lawful exportation.

* signed within the Pan-American Union, today the OAS.



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II. Overview

- Biodiversity: foundation for sustainable development.
- In the past decades, wildlife trade, including unsustainable extraction and illegal trade, has grown in parallel to population growth in the Americas.
- Mandates in the context of OAS and CITES COP

- # • Biodiversity “hotspots”





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III. OAS Member States

- Committed to building capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, through CITES support projects (First SOA, Miami, 1994).
- Committed to strengthen legal framework on SD and call for CITES ratification(Santa Cruz, SOA 1996)
- Emphasized the need to advance hemispheric conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems through cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife (Quebec SOA 2001)
- Inter-American Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development (Santa Cruz+10, 2006)
- Call for collaboration in combating illegal international trafficking of biodiversity;(Port of Spain SOA, 2009)



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IV. Other Relevant Mandates

- 14th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP14, The Hague 2007)
- 15th Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP15, Qatar 2010)
- Millennium Development Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability, which deals primarily with biodiversity and the wise use of biological resources for human development, with the goal of “significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010”



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V. OAS DSD Initiatives

- Facilitating access and exchange of information for biological diversity decision-making through the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN).
- Supporting countries in the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife, including the effective implementation of laws, policies and regulations that address the protection of wild flora and fauna and the illegal trade in endangered species. These efforts also contribute to support the effective implementation of CITES.



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VI. CITES

- Over 25 years worked with countries, through a National Legislation Project (NLP), in developing the fundamental elements that should be present within national legislation for effective implementation of the Convention as follows:
 1. Legislation designates administrative, scientific and enforcement authorities,
 2. Legislation regulates wildlife trade and prohibits trade in violation of CITES,
 3. Legislation establishes offences and penalties for illegal trade,
 4. Legislation authorizes the seizure and confiscation of illegally traded or possessed wild life.



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VII. CITES Implementation

- Effective implementation of CITES requires more than legislation. It requires an enabling policy environment, a thorough understanding of the objectives of the Convention, the effective use of incentives, monitoring and law enforcement mechanisms and strengthened capacities in the administrative and judicial fronts.
- A key aspect for a successful and effective implementation of CITES is having adequate and supportive national legal and institutional frameworks.



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VIII. Objective

Supporting countries of the Americas in Wildlife Conservation and sustaining livelihoods.

Implementing a capacity building program that addresses key legal issues involved in the implementation of the Convention in the phases of:

1. Implementation,
2. Compliance,
3. Enforcement and;
4. Effectiveness.



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IX. Expected Results

- The program will work towards the following interrelated expected results:
 1. National legislation incorporates the four elements for effective implementation of CITES.
 2. Strengthened capacity of the congress and parliamentarians, administrative authorities, and justice administrators to oversee and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.
 3. Use of market based instruments mainstreamed for effective implementation of the convention.



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1. National legislation incorporates the four elements for effective implementation of CITES.

1.1 Review the status of national legislation related to CITES and support for Wildlife trade policies

1.2 Design of self monitoring and assessment process of development and implementation of legislation



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2. Strengthened capacity of the congress and parliamentarians, administrative authorities, and justice administrators to oversee and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention

2.1 Design of tool kit of programs

2.2 Establishment of a network of practitioners

2.3 Training providing the basis for knowledge and technical-based CITES Implementation.



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3. Use of market based instruments mainstreamed for effective implementation of the convention.

3.1 Identification and proposals of MBIs

3.2 Market opportunities for sustainable trade of wildlife



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- Size of global EGS Market
 - US\$548 billions, NAFTA: US\$230 billions, en 2001 (EBI, Inc.).
 - Expected Growth of 45%, reaching US\$800 billions in 2015 (UK Department for Business Innovation & Skills)
- Medicinal Plants and derivatives:
 - Global market US\$70 billions. Banco Mundial forecasts that by 2050 US\$5 trillion worth.
 - Market Value for North America, Europe and Asia US\$52 billions (73% of global market).
 - LAC and Africa market Value estimated at US\$4.6 billones (7% del mercado global).

Source: UNCTAD BIO-Trade,



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Thank You