



**Roundtable Discussion on support activities for the implementation of the  
Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(CITES)**

February 25, 2009

3:00 PM

Organization of American States, General Secretariat Building

**DRAFT PROGRAM\***

**Background and Overview:** Since the first Summit of the Americas, OAS member States have committed to building capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, through CITES support projects. Moreover, the Quebec Summit in 2001 also emphasized the need to advance hemispheric conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems through networks such as the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife. In response to these commitments and to the call of Inter-American Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development (*AG/RES. 2312(XXXVII-O/07)*), the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (OAS-DSD) has been facilitating access and exchange of information for biological diversity decision-making through IABIN and 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 aim to support the implementation of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

During the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14, The Hague 2007), the Parties to CITES identified 44 activities within an output based program to support advancement in the implementation of the Convention. These activities can be grouped in the following seven areas: 1) Regulating and monitoring wildlife trade, 2) Integrating best available scientific information into decision making, 3) Reducing over-exploitation and illegal trade, 4) Building capacity and information systems, 5) Mobilizing resources and raising awareness, 6) Enhancing cooperation with strategic partners, 7) Preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (Qatar, 2010).

The CITES Secretariat is charged with the coordinating, advisory and servicing role in the working of the Convention. With the objective of identifying synergies and opportunities for cooperation it has partnered with the OAS-DSD to hold a roundtable discussion to establish a dialogue with international organizations, development agencies

\*The meeting will be held in English without translation.



and non-governmental organizations on the CITES work program and efforts conducted by different stakeholders in OAS member States within the abovementioned 8 clusters.

**3:00 p.m. Welcome Remarks**

- Alfonso Quiñonez, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, OAS
- Willem Wijnstekers, CITES Secretary General

**3:30 p.m. On the Road to Qatar 2010: CITES Work Program Presentation**

- Willem Wijnstekers/Juan Carlos Vasquez, CITES Secretariat

**3:45 p.m. Roundtable on CITES related Efforts**

- Presentations by World Bank, OAS, IADB and TRAFFIC
- Other Cooperation Agencies
- Other Non-Governmental Organizations

**4:30 p.m. Conclusions and next steps**

**4:45 p.m. Close of meeting**

- Cletus Springer, Director, OAS-DSD