



“Legal and Illegal Wildlife Trade between the European Union and Mexico”
FRAMEWORK CONTRACT EUROPEAID/132633/C/SER/MULTI

REPORT OF THE PROJECT’S FIRST WORKSHOP

Tuesday 18 April, 2017
Floor 3, Room 7
SEMARNAT
Ejército Nacional, 223. Polanco
Mexico City, México

I. Participants

In total, 34 participants from the following 14 governmental and non-governmental institutions attended the workshop:

- CONABIO (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México)
- CONAFOR (Comisión Nacional Forestal, México)
- CONAPESCA-SAGARPA (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca-Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, México)
- Delegation of the European Union to México
- DGGFS-SEMARNAT (Dirección General de Gestión Forestal y de Suelos, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, México)
- DGTG-SRE (Dirección General de Temas Globales, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, México)
- DGVS-SEMARNAT (Dirección General de Vida Silvestre-SEMARNAT, México)
- European Commission (EC)
- INAPESCA-SAGARPA (Instituto Nacional de Pesca-SAGARPA, México)
- PROFEPA-SEMARNAT (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, México)
- SAGARPA (Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación, México)
- SAT (Servicio de Administración Tributaria, México)
- UCAI-SEMARNAT (Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales-SEMARNAT, México)
- UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
- WCS (World Conservation Society)

The full list of participants is available in **Annex 1**.



II. Opening of the meeting

Participants were welcomed by the co-chairs of the workshop, Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Head of the Mexican CITES Scientific Authority, CONABIO) and Mr. Vincenzo Collarino (Representative of the European Delegation to Mexico).

Opening remarks were also provided by: Mrs. Dagmar Zikova (Scientific Policy Officer, EC); Mr. José Luis Funes (Head of the Mexican CITES Management Authority, DGVS-SEMARNAT); and Mr. Francisco Navarrete (as representative of the Mexican CITES Enforcement Authority, PROFEPA-SEMARNAT).

Mr. Benítez and Mr. Collarino opened a round of presentations by participants, all of them listed in Annex 1.

III. Introduction to the project and workshop objectives

Mr. Benítez recalled that the project “Legal and illegal wildlife trade between the European Union and Mexico”, developed by the consultants Inés Arroyo and Tanya Wyatt, stems from the agreements of the High Level Environment Dialogue between México and the European Union held in 2015, where México presented the initiative to Timo Makela (who at the time was the Director of International Affairs at the General Directorate of Environment, EC), and highlighted its general objective: *“to provide a comprehensive analysis of wildlife trade between Mexico and the EU (whether legally or illegally traded; and whether CITES listed or non-CITES listed species); in order to improve the implementation of CITES and other related policies related to tackling illegal wildlife trade, through closer collaboration on wildlife trade policies, as well as a better understanding of both Parties legal and illegal wildlife market. It will notably provide a clear and updated characterization of the legal and illegal trade in wildlife between Mexico and the EU, and on the basis of this, will provide recommendations towards the development and implementation of actions aiming at ensuring that wildlife trade is sustainable, legal, and traceable, while providing economic incentives to the main stakeholders of their value chain (from the local and indigenous communities to the end consumer markets, e.g. European industry)”*.

Participants noted that the present workshop’s objective was to validate with European and Mexican Authorities, as well as with other relevant experts, the progress, methodology and steps to follow to identify and prioritize the list of priority species that will be the focus of the project.

Furthermore, Mr. Benítez highlighted that this workshop coincides with the momentum of the outcomes of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17, Johannesburg 2016) and of the United Nations Conference of Biodiversity (CoP13-CDB, Cancún 2016). In the former, México and the European Union collaborated to ensure that species from the genus *Abronia* and *Dalbergia* are regulated under CITES provisions; and in the latter, Mexico achieved the commitment of the international community to contribute to the initiative to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in four key productive sectors, i.e. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.



IV. Background of the Project

In order to set the tone for the discussions on the selection of priority species, participants took note of the following presentations:

1. “Study on the analysis of Mexican species relevant under the International trade”, coordinated by CONABIO and carried out by TRAFFIC-Mexico in 2013.

- Presented by Paola Mosig, Coordinator of the CITES Scientific Authority in México (CONABIO) and Adrián Reuter (Wildlife Conservation Society). Full presentation available in **Annex 2**.
- Inter alia, the work of TRAFFIC Mexico analysed trade data from 2005 to 2010 and explained the criteria for species inclusion according to conservation factors (IUCN Red List status, CITES appendices and NOM-059 listings (SEMARNAT)) and commercial factors (frequency, magnitude and trend of trade events). Mrs. Mosig and Mr. Reuter explained the formula that was used in the prioritization of species as well as other relevant factors: distribution status of the species (whether they were endemic or not), whether or not they were included in a conservation project and if they were traded illegally. The result of this analysis was a list of priority species that because of conservation and commercial pressure require more attention, for example birds and reptiles.

2. Project “Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected CITES’ Appendix II Species in North America – Phase 1”. Coordinated by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in collaboration with Mexico, USA, and Canada’s CITES Authorities.

- Presented by Mr. Roddy Gabel (Former Head of the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities in the US). Full presentation available in **Annex 3**.
- In contrast to the previous presentation, in this study the trade involved all of North America - Mexico, the United States and Canada - and species had to be traded by two or more countries in North America to be included. Given the inclusion criteria, the results were different from those of the project developed by TRAFFIC particularly in relation to timber and cacti.

3. Presentation of the Project “International Trade in Wildlife involving Mexico: A Critical Appraisal of Wildlife Trade Dynamics between Mexico and the European Union”, funded by the British Academy (2015 – 2017).

- Presented by the consultants of the present project, Dr. Inés Arroyo Quiroz (National Autonomous University of Mexico, Centre for Regional Multidisciplinary Investigations) and Dr. Tanya Wyatt, Northumbria University, UK. Full presentation available in **Annex 4**.
- Dr Arroyo and Dr Wyatt presented which countries, species, items (i.e. large leather product, live), source (i.e. wild, propagated) and trade purpose (commercial, personal, scientific and so forth) featured most in the legal and illegal trade of native and non-native species between Mexico and the EU between 1981-2013. The presentation also included data on the methods used to smuggle illegal wildlife between the two areas.



V. Phase 1 of the Project - Legal and Illegal Wildlife Trade between the European Union and Mexico

1. Presentation of the Project, by Dr Tanya Wyatt and Dr Inés Arroyo Quiroz (Annex 5)

Through the presentation available in **Annex 5**, the consultants presented the project work plan, its objectives, outputs, tasks and deliverables. Furthermore, they presented for consideration of the workshop participants the revisions suggested by CONABIO to the original terms of reference of the project (see slides 20-30).

Additionally, the consultants presented the progress of the analysis WCMC CITES and EU Twix trade data as a first exercise utilising CONABIO's proposed criteria.

2. Feedback from participants to the methodology and criteria to follow in the process of developing the priority species list and the next steps of the Project¹

2.1. European Union:

Concerning project priorities

- The EU understands that for Mexico the priorities are focused on native (in particular endemic) species and species capable of generating higher volume of trade; yet it is crucial to give the EU experts a chance to add species that are important for them, in particular from the enforcement point of view – these might also include some species that are in transit (for example illegal re-export of live reptiles for the pet trade and skins from SE Asia and Latin America via Mexico to the EU).
- Legal and illegal trade are equally important criteria in developing the priority species list.
- CITES source code should not be solely biased towards wild specimens, since captive bred animal species and artificially propagated plants might also be an issue. For example, if it allows for laundering of species of wild origin or if breeding requires important outtake of parental stock of wild origin. This is for example the case of Cactaceae and reptile species from many different countries, and the project should evaluate if there is a similar risk for species, which are in trade between Mexico and the EU.

2.2. Mexico:

Overall recommendation

In order to ensure an equal treatment of legal and illegal trade data, the consultants shall develop two different priority species lists, and each shall have separate prioritization criteria, as follows:

- a) Trade in Mexican native species (legal trade): Promote the sustainable use of species in international trade and improve value chains and traceability
- b) Illegal trade: Combating illegal trade and strengthening law enforcement (include in the analysis re-exports, Mexican non-native species, details of other countries involved in the value chain, etc.)

¹ The participation of the representative from the European Commission was through the *webinar* section of the workshop, and bearing in mind the time difference between Mexico City and Brussels, most of the feedback from the European Union was delivered *a posteriori* to the workshop, and should be given an equal weight to the feedback provided by participants during the workshop, and taken into account by the Project Consultants.



Regarding data analysis

Consultants were advised to:

- a) Be careful in the data comparisons, and make sure all units are standardized and comparable. This is particularly true when considering the number of incidents because a single incident of several tons can be more important than 100 incidents of a few grams.
- b) Differentiate between the actual impact of warnings versus seizures. This comment is mainly based on the final total of warnings that may not reflect illegal trade *per se*.
- c) When speaking of exports from Mexico to the EU in the source code 'live', to avoid confusion, plants and animals should be separated.
- d) The labels of the graphs must be friendlier, instead of using CITES codes.
- e) Use different graphics. The bars cover too many colours and are confusing.
- f) Make all the tables comparable to each other by not using percentages.
- g) Differentiate within the illegal trade, when the merchandise manages to leave the borders of the country in question and is secured or confiscated in another country and when the warning or confiscation takes place before it leaves the exporting country.
- h) Reconsider the use of the Pre-Convention code (it is suggested not to include it in the analysis).
- i) Produce well-established criteria for "value in use".
- j) Focus on the European Union as a whole, as well as focus on concrete results in Phase I (to narrow the list down).

VI. Final considerations and agreements

- a) While developing the priority species list proposal, the consultants will consider all of the feedback and recommendations specified under section V above.
- b) Dr Wyatt will present the workshop outcomes to the European Commission, in their next meeting scheduled on 12 June, 2017.
- c) In order to guarantee a balanced participation from both Mexican and European Authorities, Mexico and the EU (in collaboration with the project consultants) will ensure a balanced participation of experts (taking into account that the EU coordinate with its 28 member states). Furthermore, both parties will ensure that for all of the upcoming meetings and workshops, documents are available prior to the meetings for consideration of all participants.
- d) Mexican and European Authorities will make sure they assist the consultants in obtaining access to relevant databases needed for the successful development of the project. Particularly regarding Forestry data, the consultants were advised to request the information through Ing. Augusto Mirafuentes (DGGFS-SEMARNAT) on forest statistical yearbooks (created in 2008). These yearbooks contain geographic information, authorizations, species outside the lists of NOM 059 SEMARNAT, data without georeferenced information and a list of all legal producers with permission for extraction. Regarding fisheries data, consultants were advised to contact M.Sc. Víctor Manuel Arriaga.



List of participants

Institution	Name	Position	email
EC	1. Dagmar Zikova*	Scientific Policy Officer	dagmar.zikova@ec.europa.eu
CONABIO	2. Emmanuel Rivera	Especialista CITES en temas de Fauna	erivera@conabio.gob.mx
	3. Hesiquio Benítez	Director General de Cooperación Internacional e Implementación	hbenitez@conabio.gob.mx
	4. Isabel Camarena Osorno	Especialista CITES en temas de Flora	icamarena@conabio.gob.mx
	5. Paola Mosig	Coordinadora de la Autoridad Científica CITES	pmosig@conabio.gob.mx
	6. Adriana Valera	Analista de especies prioritarias	Adriana.valera@conabio.gob.mx
	7. Angélica Cervantes	Analista de especies prioritarias	Angelica.cervantes@conabio.gob.mx
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DGTG-SRE	15.	Hernán de Jesús Ruiz Bravo	Director General Adjunto para Temas Globales	hruiz@sre.gob.mx
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DGVS-SEMARNAT	17.	Miguel Ángel Flores Mejía	Jefe de Departamento	miguel.flores@semarnat.gob.mx
	18.	José Luis Pedro Funes Izaguirre	Director General de Vida Silvestre	josel.funes@semarnat.gob.mx
	19.	Leonel Francisco Urbano Gutiérrez	Subdirector de Acuerdos y Convenios para la Vida Silvestre	lurbano@semarnat.gob.mx
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PROFEPA-SEMARNAT	23.	Francisco Javier Navarrete Estrada	Director de Inspección de Vida Silvestre y Fitosanitaria en Puertos, Aeropuertos y Fronteras	fnavarrete@profepa.gob.mx
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UCAI	26.	Ricardo Cano	Subdirector de la Agenda Verde	ricardo.cano@semarnat.gob.mx
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	29.	Luz María Ortiz	Directora General Adjunta de Acuerdos Ambientales Multilaterales	luz.ortiz@semarnat.gob.mx
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	31.	Paulina Díaz Rentería	Alumna de posgrado	-
WCS	32.	Adrián Reuter	Coordinador Regional para Latinoamérica y el Caribe en materia de Tráfico de Especies	areuter@wcs.org

*Mrs. Zikova participated in the opening session, via webinar. The logistics aspects of the webinar session were coordinated by Mrs. Audrey Ferran (AETS).



Acronyms	
CONABIO	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México
CONAFOR	Comisión Nacional Forestal, México
CONAPESCA-SAGARPA	Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca,
DGGFS-SEMARNAT	Dirección General de Gestión Forestal y de Suelos, México
DGTG-SRE	Dirección General de Temas Globales, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
DGVS-SEMARNAT	Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, SEMARNAT
INAPESCA-SAGARPA	Instituto Nacional de Pesca (México)
PROFEPA-SEMARNAT	Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, México
SAGARPA	Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación
SAT	Servicio de Administración Tributaria, México
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