



Combating Wildlife Trafficking Worldwide

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) works across the globe providing government-to-government technical assistance on a wide variety of natural and cultural resource management issues, including counter wildlife trafficking (CWT).

As a co-chair of the U.S. Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, DOI is a key player in implementing U.S. strategy to combat wildlife trafficking. To help implement its CWT work, DOI-ITAP closely coordinates with other U.S. agencies and leverages the expertise of DOI professionals from across the bureaus, including:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement (FWS-OLE) Special Agents & Wildlife Inspectors;
- FWS-OLE Special Agent attachés stationed at U.S. embassies worldwide;
- Law enforcement officers, resource scientists and visitor managers from DOI's National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- FWS experts on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna);
- DOI's U.S. Geological Survey scientists for analysis and technological tools for CWT.

DOI-ITAP partners with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support and strengthen governments and civil society organizations combating wildlife crime across the globe. Example successes of this work are listed below.

Main Achievements by Region

Asia and the Pacific Islands

- Generated USG **Country CWT Strategic Plans** for Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Nepal;
- Conducted a region-wide CWT survey of USG interventions;
- Completed an anti-trafficking assessment in Indonesia;
- Held a World Wildlife Day event in Laos;
- Facilitated a USG **Regional CWT Planning Workshop** in Thailand.
- Created a Philippines interagency **wildlife crimes database**;
- Led wildlife forensics laboratory training and technical support;
- Conducted training on Green Courts, wildlife crime scene investigations, and Philippine wildlife laws; and
- Completed an **ecosystem valuation policy** to recover fees to restore the environment after damage inflicted on wildlife.



Taipei Zoo Staff presenting a live pangolin during a DOI-ITAP and Taiwanese Forestry Ministry jointly sponsored CWT training workshop. Taiwan, May 2016. Photo by DOI-ITAP.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Established and institutionalized the Central America and Dominican Republic **Wildlife Enforcement Network** (CAWEN, or ROAVIS in Spanish – www.roavis.net);
- Planned successful CAWEN inspection and enforcement operations;
- Increased national and international prosecution coordination and information exchange on criminal networks;
- Facilitated peer exchanges and training at U.S. ports and the world-class **Wildlife Forensics Lab**;
- Strengthened prosecution of wildlife crimes through enhanced investigative coordination and wildlife crime scene investigation trainings;
- Establish electronic CITES permit management systems in Honduras and Costa Rica;
- Developed relevant Spanish-language training tools & materials for law enforcement & CITES officials;
- Improved **CITES legislation** in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Chile and CITES coordination throughout the region;
- Establish an **environmental court** and dedicated environmental prosecutors in northern Guatemala;
- Develop and institute standardized procedures for patrolling and reporting environmental crimes in Guatemala's protected areas; and
- Coordinate within the USG and host country governments to support the South American WEN;



Hawksbill turtle parts seized during a CITES enforcement operation along the Panama-Costa Rica border in October 2015. Photo by Panama's General Attorney Office.

Africa

- Completed wildlife crime assessments in Tanzania and Uganda;
- Facilitated U.S.-based training for Kenyan rangers;
- **Delivered equipment** and law enforcement training courses in Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi;
- Provided financial & technical support to non-government organizations combating wildlife crimes in the region.
- Carried out **species identification training** for wildlife inspectors in Tangiers and Casablanca; and
- Worked with the Morocco CITES Authorities to develop implementation protocols.



The black rhino and macaw are two of many species protected by the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species. Left photo: Colleen Castle, DOI-ITAP; Right photo: Rafael Amado Deras.

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