**Objectives**

This project has three objectives:

- Stop illegal shipments of wildlife, in advance and at borders, and improve enforcement capacity to ensure that persons or entities that ship or attempt to ship such illegal materials are appropriately penalized.
- Develop training materials and exchange programs on topics such as wildlife inspection and investigative and identification techniques.
- Conclude CEC support for Mexico’s efforts to institute a domestic capacity-building program on wildlife enforcement, and assess the training activities completed in 2009.

**Background**

**Project History and Foundation**

The North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG) was created in 1994, when representatives of the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Profepa—in Mexico), the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWF) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) agreed to formalize the exchange of intelligence information and training related to wildlife regulations enforcement.

NAAEC Article 1 directs the Parties to support the environmental goals and objectives of NAFTA. These include creating an expanded and secure market for goods and services in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation, promoting sustainable development, and strengthening the development and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. In this vein, the North American Working Group on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Cooperation (EWG), created by Council Resolution 96-06, recognized the NAWEG as necessary to:

- assist in the implementation of the wildlife enforcement portions of the CEC program;
- serve as a contact with the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystems Management and Conservation (Trilateral Committee); and
- act as the North American representative to Interpol on wildlife enforcement.

**Key Stakeholders, Resource Leveraging and Partnerships (to date)**

CEC activity in this area has engaged stakeholders in the enforcement community in each of our three countries responsible for wildlife and environmental law enforcement. Work to date has brought them together to determine needs for coordinated action against illegal trade of wildlife and its products across North America. This work has also engaged the Federal

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Police (PFP) and the General Attorney’s Office (PGR) in Mexico and the US.

FWS and the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the United States.

**Rationale**

The international trade in wildlife is a multibillion-dollar business. The two major categories of traded items are live specimens of wildlife species and products derived from wildlife species. North America is a central player in the international wildlife market as both a consumer and supplier of products. Canada, Mexico and the United States not only engage in direct cross-border commerce in various endemic North American species, but also serve as trade conduits for wildlife products from other regions and continents. The increase in trade among the three countries in North America requires close cooperation to manage the legal wildlife trade, including legal products and byproducts, as well as to combat illegal trade for the sound management and conservation of the our region’s wildlife resources.

From 1992 to 2002, listings of species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) increased from 723 to 1,264 (up 75 percent) and the number of CITES member nations rose from 115 to more than 160. In this context, North America is required to enhance enforcement of wildlife regulations, including the CITES Convention, and to share expertise and best practices to use investigative, intelligence and forensic information-gathering resources to detect, disrupt, and deter wildlife trafficking.

**Fulfillment of Strategic Objectives**

**Capacity Building**

This project directly supports the Capacity Building priority of the Strategic Plan 2005–2010, specifically the delivery of one of three specified multi-year initiatives in Mexico: “training wildlife enforcement officers and other stakeholders, as appropriate.” Training of wildlife officers of the environmental attorney’s office in Mexico (Profepa) is being accomplished with support and advice from the wildlife enforcement agencies of Canada (Environment Canada, Wildlife Branch, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service). Under the 2007 Operational Plan, the CEC conducted a Capacity Building Needs Assessment for the Enforcement of Mexican Wildlife Laws. In early 2008, and with the results of such assessment, Canada and the US supported Mexico in selecting training curriculum objectives, approach and course elements. The CEC Secretariat supported the scope and approach for the training initiative; Profepa identified the Mexican National Institute for Penal Sciences (Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales—Inacipe) to give official recognition to the studies undertaken; and the Mexican Ministry for Public Service (Secretaría de la Función Pública) included the course in the general formation curricula for wildlife inspectors in Mexico.

**Trade and Environment**

This project also supports the Trade and Environment priority of the CEC Strategic Plan. North America is central to the international wildlife market as a consumer and supplier of wildlife products, and is a natural target for Asian and South American wildlife and related products and byproducts.

**North American Scope of the Project**

Collaboration at an operational level among Canadian, Mexican and US authorities has proven to be indispensable when considering both legal and illegal trade in wildlife and genetic resources. The United States is recognized as one of the most important centers of the wildlife trade, and Canada and Mexico are sometimes used to import and re-export shipments of wildlife intended to reach that market. Both Canada and Mexico represent high-potential exporters of legally traded wildlife and genetic resources. Wildlife trade in all three countries is regulated by national laws and through the CITES Convention, a treaty signed by all three countries. North American countries are then a potential target for illegal shipments of wildlife and wildlife products.

In the field there have been major successes in combating illegal traffic of protected species. NAWEG-coordinated operations have led to imprisonment of smugglers and more protection of our borders and shared region by combating criminal organizations exporting wildlife resources not only across North America but through our borders to Asian and European markets as well. The EWG has recognized the need for further actions under NAWEG and the opportunity to catalyze the support and expertise of Canadian and US experts.

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4 See: http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/October/08-enrd-916.html
and senior enforcement officials to enrich and share best practices and knowledge in combating cross-border wildlife smuggling.

Enforcement officials from each Party convened in November 2009 to discuss and analyze North American priorities for more effective, coordinated enforcement action to counter illegal traffic in the region.

**CEC Niche and Added Value**

The NAWEG, with the support of the CEC Secretariat, has been a vehicle to focus support of effective wildlife enforcement across the region.

As a result of this focus and the continued engagement of senior enforcement officials, via NAWEG and EWG, the CEC is well suited to support fulfillment of NAAEC objective 1(g), to “enhance compliance with, and enforcement of, environmental laws and regulations.” Moreover, this project represents specific fulfillment of the CEC’s 2005–2010 Strategic Plan (5.2): “Specifically, the CEC’s goal is to strengthen the capacities of the three countries to manage environmental issues of common concern. Its objectives over the next five years—focusing on Mexico—are to cooperate to: 1. Strengthen capacities, where needed, to improve compliance with wildlife laws…” Thus, this project “will benefit all three countries: more effective Mexican enforcement of its wildlife laws, for example, will help protect migratory species that the three countries share…”

**Linkage with Other CEC Projects**

Potential cross-references and linkages are with the Trade and the Enforcement of Environmental Laws initiative, not only because in Canada and in Mexico two of the key agencies are involved in those initiatives, but also because intelligence-led work can bring benefits to the other project and vice-versa.

**Activities and Outputs**

**Key Activities**

The activities under this project are intended to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and best practices for more effective and coordinated wildlife enforcement across North America.

Under **Task 1**, the Secretariat will complete an assessment of lessons learned and support dissemination of the training model, in order to replicate this approach where appropriate.

Under **Task 2**, the CEC will support an *ad hoc* official’s group to exchange intelligence and relevant data on species, trends, patterns, *modi operandi* and routes commonly used for illegal wildlife traffic across North America. This group includes environmental administrative authorities and law enforcement officials from federal enforcement agencies in the three countries.

Under **Task 3**, the CEC will update information and facilitate collaboration of the NAWEG activities and accomplishments; and will facilitate outreach to other international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, research institutes, forensic laboratories and local enforcement agencies. Information and features of the CEC website will be available for future training/reference to officials of each country.

**Target Groups and Stakeholders**

- Enforcement officials from the three countries
- Law enforcement agencies from the three countries
- National Institute for Penal Sciences (Mexico)
- Prosecutors
- Customs agencies
- Forensic laboratories
- Universities and research institutions
- Nongovernmental organizations

**Leveraging**

Each public institution will leverage resources for the completion of the training course. Leverage is also to occur in the conformation of the *ad hoc* group for addressing wildlife smuggling across North America.
### Outputs and Associated Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Report on wildlife enforcement training reach, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges</td>
<td>To be completed by the Spring 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coordinated action plans to confront illegal wildlife traffic in North America</td>
<td>Execution of action plans to start in January 2010; action plans to be reviewed in May 2010 and completed with CEC support by December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Support to the annual meeting of the NAWEG Website update</td>
<td>Meeting of the NAWEG co-chairs to occur in May 2010. 2010 website updates and features launched as developed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anticipated Outcomes and Performance Indicators

#### Direct Outcomes
- Increased awareness and knowledge of the regulations, best practices and expertise pertaining to controlling the traffic of wildlife, including products and byproducts;
- Increased capacity to stop, in advance and at borders and crossing points, illegal shipments of wildlife, including products or byproducts;
- A North American approach to address the threats to biodiversity conservation and wildlife from the import/export of illegal shipments, including products and byproducts; and
- Authorities and officials better prepared and coordinated to address from a North American perspective, threats to biodiversity conservation and wildlife, including products and byproducts that could potentially jeopardize North American endemic, protected and endangered species.

#### Intermediate Outcomes
- The Parties better prepared to combat illegal traffic of wildlife across borders, and better supplied with information on the patterns, trends and modi operandi of syndicates and criminal organizations that threaten the viability of endemic, protected and endangered species of wildlife across North America.;
- Better and more efficiently coordinated enforcement of wildlife regulations across North America; and
- More information available to decision makers and public on the achievements of enforcement personnel and a more unified approach across North America in the enforcement of wildlife regulations.

#### Final Outcomes
- Fewer illegal shipments of wildlife across North American borders;
- Increased understanding on the trends, areas and patterns of illegal activity in violation of CITES regulations;
- Reduction in the rate of wildlife criminal offenses and activity in North America; and
- Coordinated action across North America to guarantee environmental governance and effective wildlife enforcement.

#### Performance Indicators
- Report on the first multi-module training session completed and published;
- Number of institutions participating in intelligence data sharing;
- Phone conferences and agreements reached to address illegal wildlife trade in North America;
- Number of coordinated action plans for wildlife enforcement from a North American approach;
- Coordinated actions and joint operations leading to illegal shipments stopped and offences punished through cooperative work;
- Number of hits on/consultations of the CEC-NAWEG website; and
- Agreements reached at the annual NAWEG meeting.

**Timetable, Project Completion and Sustainability Beyond**

**Task 1** Report on wildlife enforcement training reach, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges to be completed Spring in 2010.

**Task 2** will be implemented through coordinated action plans identified in November 2009. Preliminary results of this task will be discussed and assessed in May 2010 at the annual meeting of the NAWEG.

**Task 3** will start early in 2010. The annual meeting is to be held in May 2010.

**Target End for CEC Involvement**
Training activities concluded in 2009. Appropriate intelligence data sharing to occur in 2010.

**Sustainability Beyond 2010**
Project activity for 2010 will proceed as described herein.
After 2010 the corresponding wildlife enforcement agency in each country will support NAWEG’s cooperative enforcement efforts, on its own, and at the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management as appropriate.

After 2010, each agency will adopt the tools and information on wildlife enforcement and compliance derived from this project and will conduct outreach to the North American public in this field, as appropriate.

**Communications**
The participating agencies will be responsible for communicating the development and results of the course. The CEC will provide outreach through its website to the North American public, the private sector, academia and research institutions.
The Secretariat will provide information on the completion of activities and agreements among the Parties and provide results of its activities on the CEC website.

**Information Management**
The CEC-NAWEG website was redesigned in 2009. It will be updated and will include information sharing features as necessary throughout the year.
**Implementation Plan**

**PROJECT 7 – Strengthening Wildlife Enforcement in North America**

**Strategic Objectives:**
- Strengthen capacities to improve compliance with wildlife laws
- Increase the capacity of the three countries to identify and address trade-related environmental concerns to achieve mutual benefits for trade and the environment and improve collaboration among the three countries in these areas

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2010 Tasks</th>
<th>Key Outputs</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Expected Outcomes</th>
<th>Beneficiaries (Reach)</th>
<th>Budget (CS)</th>
<th>Future Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Publication of the report on training reach, lessons learned opportunities and challenges</td>
<td>The report will be submitted for Quality Assurance and publication in February 2010.</td>
<td>Spring 2010</td>
<td>This project contributed to the achievement of the capacity building pillar of the Strategic Plan 2005–2010. The Parties will be able to present these training efforts as a model of international cooperation for capacity building and will be able to document and disseminate lessons learned from the development of these activities. The report will be used by Mexico to follow up and complete institutionalization of wildlife training.</td>
<td>Wildlife enforcement agencies in the three countries Local environmental law enforcement agencies Prosecutors and other law enforcement officials who participate in the effort</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Report to be completed and published in 2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Quality Assurance Summary.**

Stakeholder/expert review: February 2010
Party review: March 2010
Party review–Quality assurance: April 2010
Publication: May 2010
## PROJECT 7 – Strengthening Wildlife Enforcement in North America

### Strategic Objectives:
- Strengthen capacities to improve compliance with wildlife laws
- Increase the capacity of the three countries to identify and address trade-related environmental concerns to achieve mutual benefits for trade and the environment and improve collaboration among the three countries in these areas

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<td>2. Support to the ad hoc official’s group to foster improved understanding of illegal activities to combat and prevent illegal trade of wildlife in North America</td>
<td>Coordinated action plans to address illegal wildlife traffic in North America</td>
<td>Spring 2010</td>
<td>Coordinated action against illegal trade of wildlife across North America&lt;br&gt;Engagement of key stakeholders at a regional level to exchange intelligence on trends, routes, species and relevant data to curb illegal wildlife trade in the region</td>
<td>Wildlife enforcement agencies.&lt;br&gt;Wildlife prosecutors and law enforcement agencies&lt;br&gt;Federal police corporations&lt;br&gt;General attorneys’ offices&lt;br&gt;National Security Officials</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>The co-chairs of the NAWEG will meet in May 2010 to assess potential endeavors for the future and will decide on the necessary activity to complete action plans by December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Facilitate exchange of best practices and information among North American wildlife enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders</td>
<td>2010 updates to the CEC website&lt;br&gt;Support and outreach to the NAWEG and the North American public</td>
<td>Starting 2010 and completed by December 2010</td>
<td>Intergovernmental cooperation, contributing to greater policy coherence and more efficient use of government resources aligned to curb illegal trade in wildlife in the region&lt;br&gt;Dissemination of best practices on wildlife enforcement and compliance monitoring</td>
<td>Enforcement officials from the three countries&lt;br&gt;Law enforcement agencies from the three countries&lt;br&gt;Prosecutors, customs agencies, forensic laboratories, universities and research institutions&lt;br&gt;Nongovernmental organizations</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>The co-chairs of the NAWEG will meet in May 2010 to assess potential endeavors for the future</td>
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**Total Cost: $75,000**
### PROJECT 7 – Strengthening Wildlife Enforcement in North America

**Strategic Objectives:**
- Strengthen capacities to improve compliance with wildlife laws
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<tr>
<td><strong>Task 1</strong></td>
<td>Report on the first multi-module training session completed and published.</td>
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<td><strong>Task 2</strong></td>
<td>▪ Number of institutions participating in intelligence data sharing.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Number of coordinated action plans for wildlife enforcement from a North American approach.</td>
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<td>▪ Coordinated actions and joint operations leading to illegal shipments stopped and offenses punished through cooperative work.</td>
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<td><strong>Task 3</strong></td>
<td>▪ Number of hits on/consultations of the CEC-NAWEG website.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Agreements reached at the annual NAWEG meeting.</td>
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**Key Partners:**
- Wildlife Enforcement branches of the three countries, United Nations Environment Program and World Customs Organization, the CITES Secretariat, prosecutors, customs, public and national security agencies, prosecutors and local enforcement agencies