

Activity: Migratory Birds, Law Enforcement and International Conservation
Subactivity: International Affairs

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
International Conservation (\$000)	7,574	7,574	-3	-121	-1,150	6,300	-1,274
FTE	22	22	0		0	22	0
International Wildlife Trade (\$000)	6,805	6,805	0	-114	0	6,691	-114
FTE	44	44	0	0	0	44	0
Total, International Affairs (\$000)	14,379	14,379	-3	-235	-1,150	12,991	-1,388

Program Overview

The Service, through the International Affairs Program, works with private citizens, local communities, state and federal agencies, foreign governments, and U.S. and international non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to promote a coordinated domestic and international strategy to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats, with a focus on species of international concern.

The Service implements U.S. wildlife laws, as well as international treaties and agreements including:

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the only global treaty that ensures international trade is based on sustainable-use management of wild and captive populations;
- The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere Convention), a broad accord to conserve wildlife and their natural habitats; and,
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), the only global habitat-oriented convention for wetlands conservation.

The International Affairs Program consists of two functions:

International Conservation provides conservation education and technical training to local communities in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, the Near East, and Asia, pursuant to the Western Hemisphere Convention and bilateral international agreements in concert with the State Department. In addition, it manages the grants programs established under the Multinational Species Conservation Funds for African elephants, Asian elephants, rhinoceroses and tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. International Conservation also works closely with the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation to implement the Neotropical Migratory Bird Program. This function also supports the Department of the Interior's Resource Protection Goal as stated above, as well as by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

International Wildlife Trade implements the management and scientific requirements of domestic laws and international treaties enacted or ratified by Congress for the conservation of species subject to trade. It helps to conserve species at-risk by using best science and management practices to make decisions on the status of species and develop policy to implement laws and treaties effectively, administer an international permitting program, collaborate with States, Tribes, and others, and provide training and technical

assistance to other countries. This function supports the Department of the Interior's Resource Protection Goal by ensuring sustainable use of protected wildlife in trade and thereby meeting species-specific international obligations.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

Established performance measures are set by focusing on only the highest priority species. These target measures establish a framework under which the Service can further the Service strategic goal of influencing sustainable conservation of species of international concern and the four Critical Success Factors related to bi-national and multinational initiatives and federal assistance awards.

International Affairs achieves mission results via performance-based management in conformance with the Departmental Strategic Plan:

- For the past five years (2006 through 2010) the Mexico and Latin America/Caribbean Wildlife Without Borders programs have leveraged over \$18.4 million in matching and in-kind support from a wide range of partner organizations from nearly \$7.8 million in appropriations for ongoing capacity building projects including: 1) a project to teach indigenous people to manage their lands as "Peasant Reserves", based on their cultural and economic needs in Mexico; 2) a project to strengthen the ability of natural resource managers, educators, and community leaders to raise knowledge, awareness, and appreciation about the importance and value of local wetlands and bird life and effectively conserve and manage them for the benefit of species and people in Latin America; and 3) a project to enhance the technical capacity of Peruvian Park Service staff of Alto Purús National Park and strengthen the capacity of local communities to participate in and benefit from conservation efforts aimed at the park.
- During 2010, the Service received 396 proposals for Wildlife without Borders funding and awarded 92 grants for a variety of capacity building activities, leveraging over \$6.3 million in matching resources from \$3.9 million in awarded grants. Projects included support of activities to manage and conserve monarch butterflies and the California condor in Mexico; the Antiquan racer and the guanaco in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the wisent in Russia.
- International Conservation will continue development of a strategic plan designed to evaluate all aspects of operations and staffing consistent with Departmental and Service mission goals.

International Affairs - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change	Long Term
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB	from 2011 to 2012 PB	Target 2016
CSF 10.1 Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries (GPRA)	60	60	87	49	48	46	-2 (-4.2%)	49
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$6,550	\$9,632	\$7,287	\$7,838	\$7,777	\$7,550	-\$227	\$8,043
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$4,024	\$4,510	\$4,891	\$5,510	\$5,581	\$5,654	\$73	\$5,654
Actual/Projected Cost Per Species (whole dollars)	\$109,172	\$160,536	\$83,763	\$159,952	\$162,031	\$164,137	\$2,106	\$164,137

International Affairs - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change	Long Term
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB	from 2011 to 2012 PB	Target 2016
10.1.2 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. (GPRA)	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2
10.1.3 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar). (GPRA)	2	2	2	2	2	0	-2 (-100%)	2
10.1.4 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the U.S. - Russia Agreement in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources. (GPRA)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
10.1.5 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	33	33	33	33	33	33	0	33
10.1.6 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. (GPRA)	22	22	49	11	10	10	0	11

International Affairs - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change	Long Term
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB	from 2011 to 2012 PB	Target 2016
CSF 10.2 Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	179	179	179	179	179	0	179
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$2,085	\$1,794	\$2,031	\$2,404	\$2,435	\$2,467	\$32	\$2,467
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,650	\$1,549	\$1,765	\$2,108	\$2,136	\$2,164	\$28	\$2,164
Actual/Projected Cost Per Species (whole dollars)	\$11,646	\$10,020	\$11,346	\$13,430	\$13,605	\$13,781	\$177	\$13,781
10.2.1 Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	179	179	179	179	179	0	179
10.2.2 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	33	33	33	33	33	33	0	33
10.2.3 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed on App. II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	110	110	110	110	110	110	0	110
10.2.4 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. (GPRA)	33	33	33	33	33	33	0	33
10.2.5 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. (GPRA)	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3

International Affairs - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 10.3 Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources (GPRA)	32	32	32	56	32	32	0	32
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$11,531	\$11,915	\$17,773	\$15,986	\$9,253	\$9,374	\$120	\$9,374
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$10,636	\$10,987	\$16,623	\$14,673	\$14,863	\$15,057	\$193	\$15,057
Actual/Projected Cost Per Species (whole dollars)	\$360,355	\$372,342	\$555,397	\$285,456	\$289,167	\$292,926	\$3,759	\$292,926
10.3.1 Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources. (GPRA)	32	32	32	56	32	32	0	32

Subactivity: International Affairs
Program Component: International Conservation

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Relates Changes (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Wildlife Without Borders (\$000)	7,424	7,424	-3	-121	-1,000	6,300	-1,124
Caddo Lake RAMSAR Center (\$000)	150	150	0	0	-150	0	-150
Total, International Conservation							
\$0	7,574	7,574	-3	-121	-1,150	6,300	-1,274
FTE	22	22	0	0	0	22	0

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for International Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Wildlife Without Borders	-1,000	0
• Caddo Lake Ramsar Center	-150	0
Program Changes	-\$1,150	0
Internal Transfer –Office of the Science Advisor	-3	

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for the International Conservation program is \$6,300,000 and 22 FTE, program change of -\$1,150,000 and 0 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Wildlife Without Borders (-\$1,000,000/-0 FTE) The unrequested increase of \$1,000,000 for the Wildlife Without Borders program in FY 2010 will not be continued in FY 2012. The funding requested in FY 2012 is sufficient to address the most important priorities: 1) to support capacity-building projects for the long-term conservation of endangered and migratory species occurring abroad; and 2) to provide technical assistance to range countries on managing wildlife and habitats.

Caddo Lake Ramsar Center (-\$150,000/-0 FTE) Since 2003, this Congressional earmark has, through the Service, provided funding to the Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetlands Science Center facility. The Institute implements a 1996 joint U.S. Government and Caddo Lake Institute Ramsar Convention pledge to establish a regional Ramsar Center and academy for wetland education in the United States. The Institute provides the physical venue to support local efforts, and develops projects that demonstrate the ecological values, and opportunities for compatible economic development of wetlands. Since the Caddo Lake RAMSAR Center is not directly related to International Conservation's performance goals under the DOI Strategic Plan, continuing this earmark is not requested. This decrease will not affect International Conservation's ability to meet the program's overall strategic goals, outcome measures, and outputs.

Program Overview

Conservation of wildlife is a global priority. The survival of wildlife species largely depends on the health of habitats extending beyond political boundaries, and the need for international collaboration has never been greater. The Service is mandated through a number of statutes and international treaties to provide support for the conservation of species of international concern. For more than 20 years the Service's International Conservation program, through a series of *Wildlife without Borders* initiatives, has developed projects for training wildlife managers and conserving species of international concern. These initiatives

support DOI's Resource Protection Mission, aimed at sustaining biological communities, by fulfilling DOI's international obligations to manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish. These goals are achieved through projects that provide for habitat management training, education, information and technology exchange, and networks and partnerships.

The International Conservation Program administers the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Ramsar Convention) and supports the *Multinational Species Conservation Acts* (African and Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles). Additionally it supports other international agreements and conventions, which contain provisions related to other species and habitats.

The International Conservation Program also provides technical assistance and training related to projects funded from the Multinational Species Fund. The *Wildlife without Borders* initiatives bridge the gap between projects that are funded, and long-term viability, which is dependent upon the knowledge and skills of local conservation managers and the advice and ongoing support of Service project managers. More information can be found in the Multinational Species Funds section.

Wildlife without Borders- Latin America & the Caribbean

This initiative was established in 1983 to implement the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere Convention). It assists in the development of locally-adapted wildlife management and conservation programs through grants that provide academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. From 2006 through 2010, \$4.3 million in appropriations has leveraged over \$11.6 million in matching and in-kind support from a wide range of partner organizations. Trainees from these programs now manage some of the most important protected areas all over Latin America, helping protect numerous endangered and migratory species of priority to the United States.

Wildlife without Borders- Mexico

In 1994, the Service and the Mexican Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries created this initiative to assist in capacity building for natural resource managers in Mexico, ecosystem management via sustainable resource use, and information exchange to promote better management and understanding of conservation issues. Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico grants promote sustainable conservation practices through academic and technical training, conservation education, information exchange and technology transfer, networks and partnerships, and informed citizen participation in natural resource issues. For the past five years (2006 through 2010) this program has leveraged \$6.8 million in matching and in-kind support, almost doubling the Service's investment of nearly \$3.5 million.

Wildlife without Borders- Russia & East Asia

The Service cooperates with Russia to conserve shared species and populations of wildlife, such as sea otters, walrus, polar bears, sturgeon, emperor geese, and eider ducks under the 1972 U.S. - Russia Environmental Agreement and the 1976 U.S. - Russia Migratory Bird Convention. A grants program instituted in 1995 has provided needed support to enhance law enforcement, education activities and infrastructure at federal nature reserves. For the past five years, this program has provided \$761,000 for these and other activities.

With its unique wildlife, plant species and landscapes, some of which are found nowhere else, China's biodiversity has long been of interest to the American people. The Protocol on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Conservation of Nature was signed in 1986 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and China's Ministry of Forestry. Since then nearly 85 short term exchanges of biologists have taken place, and

the Service has encouraged China to better safeguard its wildlife resources through conservation education, improved management of wildlife trade and enforcement, and protection of rivers and wetland habitat.

The Service's relationship with its Japanese counterparts is a result of a 1972 bilateral Migratory Bird Convention. The two countries meet periodically to review efforts to conserve the 189 species of birds common to both countries, including the endangered short-tailed albatross.

Wildlife without Borders- Africa

Since 2007 the Service's Africa program has replicated wildlife successes from the New World. The Service has provided almost \$1.6 million and received over \$2.0 million in matching resources to implement a mentoring program, designed to assist countries in this region of the world with development of wildlife management capacity. Support in the form of seed money influences the involvement of other organizations to begin significant conservation activities and facilitate development of innovative wildlife conservation solutions. The focus of this initiative is on bushmeat, an increasing scourge affecting wildlife in all quarters of the continent. By establishing a unique international team of fellows guided by a cadre of world-class mentors, new solutions will be sought to this plague on wildlife. The Service's leadership in efforts to reduce this threat will increase the capacity of local people to manage and conserve species in their natural range habitats.

Wildlife without Borders- Critically Endangered Animals

The Service implemented this program in 2009 to focus on vertebrate species that face an extremely high risk of extinction in the immediate future in natural habitat ranges of developing countries. In its first two years, 180 proposals were received for funding. Federal assistance awards were made for 43 of these projects. The Service provided \$1.2 million and received \$1.9 million in matching resources.

Wildlife without Borders-Amphibians In Decline

The Service implemented this program in 2010 to focus on the increasing threats to amphibians worldwide including chytrid disease. In 2010 68 proposals were submitted and 13 grants were awarded. The Service provided \$358,000 and received \$784,000 in matching resources.

2012 Program Performance

The Service's *Wildlife without Borders* initiative will continue to strengthen the capacity of people in regions throughout the globe to manage and sustain native wildlife populations and their habitats. These activities provide training and fund outreach activities to people in undeveloped nations about alternative approaches to earn a living while using natural resources sustainably. Such subsistence and, often times, illegal activities are significant threats to species conservation, further reducing and potentially destroying the remaining populations of species, such as rhinoceros and elephant. The Service's focus is on outcomes that sustain species populations. Proposals submitted to the Service for funding of projects with this focus are reviewed and funded on a competitive basis under federal assistance guidelines.

The priority needs for conservation in undeveloped countries continue to grow. Species conservation is at a critical juncture. The people in these poorest of nations rely upon subsistence involving the consumption of bushmeat and destruction of habitat. Without knowledge of the results of these activities or alternative survival methods that allow coexistence with other species, wildlife disease will continue to spread and habitats will be destroyed, effectively reducing or eliminating species.

Individuals trained or working in a conservation field is a reflection of the success of capacity building for the countries where the individuals reside. Their knowledge and work in wildlife management and conservation will translate into local conservation efforts with greater impact than that which could be provided by stand-alone U.S. involvement. Through capacity building and the active participation of local

people who positively influence species in their natural domains, the Service's goals related to sustainment of biological communities is achievable.

The Service has established a cadre of well-trained and highly skilled staff to address the most critical conservation issues that impact endangered species and their habitats in other countries, including involvement in multinational conventions and range country meetings to discuss approaches for managing and sustaining wildlife and wildlife habitat and the increase in human-animal conflict.

Significant planned accomplishments in 2012 include:

- By the end of FY 2012, the Latin America and Caribbean region will have identified coalitions of partners based in the region who will design an inter-disciplinary Masters of Science level training program for wildlife managers. This innovative training program, called "Smartlands," responds to needs identified in the region and will include training modules in leadership, management, communication and community engagement while also providing practical on-the-ground training in a team environment--much like the real world scenario future conservationists enter upon graduation. The Latin America and Caribbean region will identify partners, ensure that curriculum and training modules are developed and approved, recruit mentors, accept students, and launch the program by the end of FY2012.
- The Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund will enter its third year in FY 2012. This program is regarded as very successful by conservation partners. Forty three projects totaling \$1.2 million dollars have been awarded and have been matched by \$1.9 million in leveraged funds. This fund is popular because it seeks to conserve critically endangered animals worldwide and provides crucial funding to save species from extinction.
- Amphibians are more threatened and are declining more rapidly than either birds or mammals. Although many declines are due to habitat loss and overutilization, other, unidentified processes threaten 48 percent of this rapidly declining species. In FY 2012, we will build on previous successes of this grant program by identifying projects such as the Mr. Burns Beaked Toad. The Amphibians in Decline program provided catalytic support in 2010 to the project that led to this discovery.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's International Conservation Strategic Planning Initiative will develop a Plan to guide the Service's efforts to conserve species and habitats at risk. The Strategic Plan, which will be published in FY 2012, will help to guide our work in a coordinated, efficient, and effective way. It will lay a roadmap for our activities to conserve animals, plants, and their habitats for future generations. The production and publication of a final Strategic Plan in FY 2012 will be the culmination of more than three years of process development, information gathering, and plan drafting. The FWS will present our stakeholder audiences with goals, objectives, and actions for the Service's international work over the next ten years.

Subactivity: International Affairs
Program Component: International Wildlife Trade

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
			DOI-wide Changes & Transfers (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
International Wildlife Trade (\$000)	6,805	6,805	0	-114	0	6,691	-114
FTE	44	44	0	0	0	44	0

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The FY 2012 budget request for the Service’s International Wildlife Trade program (IWTP) is \$6,691,000 and 44 FTE. There is no program change from the 2010 Enacted/annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Program Overview

As the world’s largest importer and exporter of wildlife (animals and plants) and their products, the United States plays a significant role in the global wildlife trade, which is currently valued in billions of dollars annually. An efficient, responsive permits system to regulate this trade is critical to ensure international trade in listed wildlife and plants is legal, and will not adversely affect the biological status of the species in the wild. Leadership from the Service’s IWTP international meetings and negotiations helps ensure decisions on the listing of species and on policies and procedures for international wildlife trade are consistent with U.S. conservation priorities.

The Service has 35 years of history of implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – the only international treaty designed specifically to conserve certain animal and plant species that are now or potentially may become threatened with extinction due to trade. CITES is one of the most effective forces in the world today for conservation of fauna and flora, both in halting the trade in species threatened with extinction and in fostering sustainable use of other vulnerable species. Bigleaf mahogany, sturgeon and paddlefish, orchids, queen conch, and American ginseng, which are commercially imported and exported by the United States, represent some of the approximately 35,000 species protected by CITES. The IWTP also implements domestic laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Lacey Act, Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA), African Elephant Conservation Act, and Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, to regulate the trade and movement of species of international concern.



Conservation Partnerships

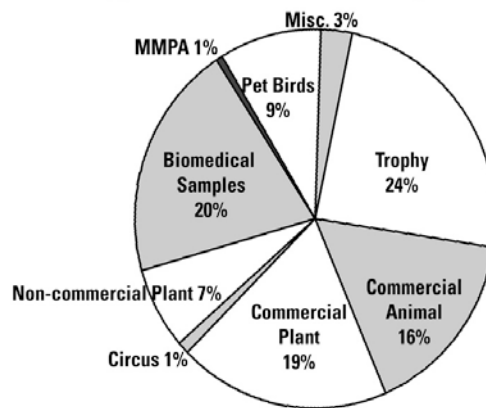
The Service’s IWTP works with private citizens, local communities, state and federal agencies, foreign governments, and nongovernmental organizations to promote a coordinated domestic and international strategy to protect, restore, and enhance the world’s diverse wildlife and their habitats, with a focus on species affected by international trade. When the government of a State (country) decides that it will be

bound by the provisions of CITES, it can accede to the Convention by making a formal declaration to this effect in writing to the Depositary Government. A State for which the Convention has entered into force is called a Party to CITES. At present, 175 countries, including the United States, are signatories or Parties to CITES, which means that CITES is approaching complete global coverage. By carrying out the function of the U.S. CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority, the IWTP is a global leader in working with its counterparts from other CITES Parties to shape the development and implementation of international policy on permitting, scientific and technical matters, and other wildlife trade-related issues. These U.S. Authorities work closely with the CITES Secretariat, and communicate regularly with foreign CITES authorities. The United States, as one of the first Parties to CITES, takes an active leadership role at meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing and Technical Committees. The Service’s IWTP provides technical assistance and training to encourage effective implementation and enforcement of CITES in collaboration with other CITES Parties.

In response to the ever-increasing pressures of wildlife trade and habitat loss affecting species worldwide, the IWTP makes critical decisions on the status of species, on wildlife trade policy, and on individual imports and exports through its permit program. These activities support the achievement of outcome measures related to influencing the conservation of species of international concern through wildlife trade permitting activities and through bi-national and multinational initiatives under CITES, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protect Act, and the Wild Bird Conservation Act.

The Service’s IWTP issues over 20,000 permits annually to customers seeking to engage in a wide variety of wildlife trade activities. The Service uses best available biological information to make findings on whether the import or export of CITES-listed species may be detrimental to their survival, or whether the trade will not jeopardize the existence and enhance the survival of ESA-listed species. These decisions may involve country-wide review of management programs or, in the case

Permit Applications from the Public by Trade Category



of native CITES Appendix-II species, the review of State and tribal management programs. Permit approval is based on findings on whether the specimens are legally acquired, whether trade in CITES Appendix-I species (species threatened with extinction) is not for primarily commercial purposes, whether trade is not detrimental to a species, and whether transport of live specimens will be humane. Decisions regarding the issuance of permits frequently must be made in close consultation with foreign CITES authorities, the States, other federal agencies, the CITES Secretariat, other relevant experts, and applicants.

The Service is also responsible for considering new species listings and whether a change in a species’ listing status under CITES is warranted. For a species to be included in CITES Appendix I or II, a two-thirds majority vote of CITES Parties is required. An Appendix-III listing can be undertaken unilaterally. Listing proposals by the United States may originate from various sources. Some proposals are based on recommendations from the public in response to our requests for information leading up to one of the biennial meetings of the CITES Parties. As part of their regular review of the CITES Appendices, the CITES Animals and Plants Committees may, after determining that a listing change is warranted, ask the United States to prepare a proposal. Consultations with the States and Tribes on native species subject to international trade may result in a proposal, or a foreign country may ask the United States to assist in the preparation of a proposal to protect one of their species. Finally, a proposal may arise as a consequence of new information received by the Service at any time that indicates that a species should be considered for

listing, delisting, or transfer from one Appendix to another. Any proposed listing action is subject to public notification and comment, to ensure that the Service has the best available information on which to base CITES listing decisions.

The Service collaborates with States and Tribes to support their science-based management programs for native species listed under CITES that are commercially traded in high numbers, including American ginseng, American alligator, bobcat, Alaska lynx, and river otter, to appropriately control and monitor the export of these species and support improved conservation efforts for species of international concern. The IWTP oversees and monitors approved export programs for 49 states and 21 tribes. These programs are designed to apply an appropriate level of control while streamlining procedures so as not to impede trade that is legal and not detrimental to the species involved.

Trade Monitoring, Training, and Technical Assistance

In addition to processing permits and furthering U.S. international wildlife trade policy, the IWTP compiles and maintains trade records for U.S. imports and exports for the purpose of monitoring trends in trade over time. Our 2009 U.S. CITES Annual Report compilation, which includes data on the U.S. trade with the rest of the world in live specimens, as well as parts and products, of CITES-listed species of animals and plants during the calendar year, contains 138,075 data records. Of these 138,075 records, 123,084 represent CITES animal trade, and 14,991 represent CITES plant trade. The records form the basis of the U.S. CITES annual report required by the Convention. In conjunction with data from other CITES Parties, they are used to determine trends in trade and to help ensure that significant trade in plants and animals is sustainable. The Service also provides technical assistance and training to encourage effective implementation and enforcement of CITES in collaboration with other CITES Parties. The Service works with range countries and permit holders to generate funding for conservation of high-visibility species in the wild, such as giant pandas in China and argali sheep in Asia.

2012 Program Performance

In FY 2012, the IWTP will be able to achieve goals as a result of: restructuring some elements of its program during FY 2011 to gain management efficiencies; and maximizing contributions from other countries and partners. Significant planned accomplishments in FY 2012 include:

- Placing all IWTP permit applications for electronic (on-line) application completely migrated to a web-based permits system. The Service will continue to seek efficiencies in the administration of the permits program by evaluating processes and eliminating redundancies and procedures that unnecessarily lengthen processing times.
- Preparation for the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16), tentatively scheduled for March 2013 in Thailand. The IWTP has already initiated this process, primarily by seeking input from the public on documents and agenda items that the United States should submit for the meeting. In FY 2012, documents will be developed and prepared for submission, since they are to be due 150 days before the meeting. The development of documents will be based on input from the public, through *Federal Register* notices and public meetings, coordination and consultation with other Federal and State agencies, foreign governments, and private-sector experts. Through its submissions for the meeting, the Service may propose improvements to processes and procedures to more effectively implement the provisions of CITES, based on its own experience with the regulation of wildlife trade into and out of the United States and/or based on discussions with other Parties. U.S. species proposals will be developed through a similar process and by evaluation of the best available scientific and trade information on species under consideration for listing or, if already listed, a change in its listing status, including delisting.

- The IWTP will continue to take an active role in advancing CITES policy initiatives internationally and actively work on issues in the CITES North American Region, the CITES Animals and Plants Committees, and the Standing Committee. In FY 2012, the CITES Animals, Plants, and Standing Committees will each meet at least once, substantially to address fulfilling “Decisions of the Parties” taken at CoP15, completing work directed through various Resolutions, and reporting the results of their work to CoP16. The Service’s IWTP will be responsible for the preparation and submission of documents for consideration at these meetings, as well as evaluation of other submissions to develop U.S. positions and negotiating strategies.
- The Service will also remain engaged in budget oversight of the CITES Secretariat, both as the North American Member and Vice Chairman of the CITES Standing Committee and by continuing as the North American member of its Finance and Budget Subcommittee.
- The Service has provided support and leadership for the non-detriment finding work and the other agenda items for the joint meeting of the Animal and Plants Committees that will occur in 2012.
- The IWTP will continue its collaboration with our State partners and focus on the conservation of native species that are subject to international trade, in particular native freshwater aquatic species that may be at risk due to impacts of trade, such as American eel, paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and freshwater turtles.
- As a consequence of a joint U.S.-China submission to CoP15 to draw attention to the high-volume trade in Asian snakes, the Service’s IWTP will be working closely with its counterparts in China and other Parties to address potential over-exploitation of snakes for food, traditional medicine, and other uses, potentially including the submission of documents and/or proposals to CoP16.
- The Service’s IWTP will continue to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the State Department on issues related to the potential application of CITES to marine species, both with regard to potential listings as well as the implementation of such listings, particularly for commercially important marine fish species. The Service participates on the Introduction from the Sea Working Group of the Standing Committee that is developing new approaches for the issuance of CITES permits by Parties for marine species taken on the high seas. The Service will actively participate in deliberations by the Animals Committee related to the CITES science-based listing criteria for marine.
- The IWTP will continue to work with U.S. breeders of CITES-listed wildlife to assess what species are commonly bred in captivity and meet the CITES requirements for “bred in captivity.” These assessments will help facilitate the issuance of permits in a timely and efficient manner.

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