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# **International Wildlife Law Enforcement Training 2000 – 2009**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement**



## Overview

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement is committed to building wildlife law enforcement capacity around the world. Our officers have long been the instructors of choice when other nations look to improve their ability to prevent the illegal take and trade of wildlife and plant resources.

During the period 2000 through 2009, Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and forensic scientists conducted or served as instructors for 79 training programs for international counterparts. These training efforts encompassed instruction on implementation and enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as well as training programs addressing poaching prevention, smuggling interdiction, investigative skills, marine resource protection, crime scene analysis, and wildlife forensics. Students have included customs inspectors, CITES management staff, park rangers, environmental police, criminal investigators, and natural resource protection officials from 66 CITES member nations.

Service Law Enforcement also organized and/or provided presentations at multilateral workshops, conferences, and other educational forums focused on specific wildlife enforcement concerns or building international enforcement capacity through improved communication and coordination. Examples range from a U.S.-Russian workshop on sturgeon conservation to a North American seminar on intelligence sharing.

These training programs and capacity building efforts represent partnerships with multiple U.S. and international organizations and agencies (see list on p. 2). Service law enforcement officers often team with staff from the agency's International Affairs program (which serves as the CITES management and scientific authorities for the United States) to conduct training on CITES implementation and enforcement. Other training partners from the U.S. Government include the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program, the Department of State, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which regulates the importation of CITES-listed plants), and the U.S.-funded International Law Enforcement Academies in Africa and Asia.

Service Law Enforcement has conducted training in cooperation with natural resource protection agencies in North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Sponsors of international wildlife law enforcement training programs have also included a number of non-profit wildlife conservation groups.

## **“Partner” Organizations**

The organizations listed below sponsored, co-conducted, or hosted international law enforcement training or capacity building programs involving the Service Office of Law Enforcement:

- CITES Secretariat
- North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation
- North American Wildlife Enforcement Group
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs
- U.S. Department of the Interior International Technical Assistance Program
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries
- National Park Service
- International Law Enforcement Academy, Botswana
- International Law Enforcement Academy, Thailand
- Interpol
- South American Network for Combating Illegal Trade of Wild Fauna
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network
- Brazilian Federal Police
- Botswana Wildlife and National Parks
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- Cambodia Ministry of the Environment
- Philippine National Environmental Crime Task Force
- Mexican Center for Environmental Rights
- SEMARNAT/PROFEPA, Mexico
- South African National and Provincial Parks
- Endangered Species Unit, South African National Police
- Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership
- Tanzania National Parks
- Thai Royal Forestry Department
- Royal Thai Police
- Lusaka Task Force
- African Wildlife Foundation
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Humane Society
- Partnership for Biodiversity
- Traffic East Asia
- Wildlife Alliance
- Wildlife Conservation Society

## Countries

From 2000 through 2009, enforcement officials from the following countries attended training conducted by Service Law Enforcement staff or participated in conferences, symposia, and other capacity building meetings where Service officers played an informational or instructional role:

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Jamaica
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Laos
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Zambia
- Zaire

## **International Training and Enforcement Capacity Building 2000-2009 Accomplishments**

### **2009 Accomplishments**

**Service Provides On-Site Support of Wildlife Law Enforcement in Southeast Asia** – For the second consecutive year, the Office of Law Enforcement detailed an experienced special agent as a liaison officer to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). This officer conducted the following on-the-job training efforts and formal courses for wildlife enforcement officers:

- Conducted month-long on-the-job training for Cambodia's Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team; operations included a successful raid on a Phnom Penh restaurant selling pangolin and other protected wildlife.
- Helped present intensive two-week enforcement ranger training course for Laotian forest rangers, police and military personnel to increase capacity to protect forest reserves from poaching and illegal logging.
- Teamed with the Australian Federal Police to teach advanced intelligence analysis techniques at the Transnational Crime Coordination Center in Bangkok, Thailand, to improve support available to police, customs and border patrol units targeting illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia.
- Supported ASEAN-WEN's first Special Investigation Group Meeting and Workshop on Trafficking in Big Cats and Pangolins in mapping out broad strategy to address organized crime syndicates dealing in these species.
- Conducted on-the-job training for Thai and Cambodia investigators in connection with probe of Thai-Cambodia wildlife trafficking.
- Instructed Royal Thai Customs on investigative planning and followup activities in connection with the seizure of 270 pangolins.
- Taught interviewing techniques on the job to Royal Thai Police and Customs officers in tandem with investigations of criminal syndicates involved in black market wildlife trade.
- Provided on-the-job training at six locations along the Thai-Malay border in support of wildlife trafficking assessments and interdiction efforts.
- Presented formal training to the Cambodian Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (a wildlife enforcement operational task force).
- Participated in two-week training course for 20 Thai and 20 Laotian rangers to enhance skills needed to protect forest reserves from poaching, illegal logging, and other threats. Attendees also include six observers from India.
- Conducted on-the-job training with Thai police along that nation's southern border, enhancing efforts to target organized criminal rings rather than low-level transporters.
- Supported workshop on wildlife crime investigative and prosecutorial strategies in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Investigators Course Presented in Africa** – In June 2009, a Service Law Enforcement team presented a two-week wildlife crime investigations course at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. The course, which has been conducted yearly as part of the core curriculum at the Academy since 2002, focuses on skills that enforcement personnel need to

combat the illegal take of wildlife in sub-Saharan Africa. Participants this year included 30 officers from seven countries (Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia). The training covered endangered species laws and CITES, intelligence gathering, crime scene processing, surveillance, undercover operations, interviewing and raid planning, and preparing cases for court and featured both classroom presentations and field exercises.

**Service Supports Ranger Training in Republic of Georgia** – A Service senior special agent and two National Park Service rangers provided resource protection training to 43 ranger supervisors in Georgia – a country that manages the last remaining wilderness areas in Europe. The training, which was held in the Lagodekhi Protected Reserve, covered risk management, wildlife protection techniques, interviewing, rural surveillance, man-tracking, and intelligence.

**CITES Humane Transport Training Provided in Costa Rica** – A Service wildlife inspector provided training on humane transport of CITES-listed live wildlife at a Humane Society International conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. The program, which was organized by the Humane Society and the International Air Transport Association, attracted enforcement and industry representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

**Service Agent Participates in CITES Exchange Program** – A senior special agent represented Service Law Enforcement as a member of a seven-person U.S. CITES delegation to China. The delegation, which also included six staff members from the agency's International Affairs program, briefed Chinese CITES authorities on implementation and enforcement matters as part of an official U.S. government exchange program under the U.S.-China Nature Conservation Protocol. A similar exchange was hosted by the Service in 2008, with headquarters briefings and port visits.

**Service Officers Participate in State-Department Program Supporting Jurisprudence in the Philippines** – A Service wildlife inspector and special agent provided instruction on wildlife laws and law enforcement to Philippine government officials enrolled in a State-Department-funded "Strengthening Governance" program at Michigan State University.

## **2008 Accomplishments**

**Service Provides Investigative Training to African Officers** – In June 2008, the Service presented a two-week wildlife crime investigations course at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. The course, which focuses on skills that enforcement personnel need to combat the illegal take of wildlife in sub-Saharan Africa, was completed by 29 officers from eight countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia).

**Service Agent Detailed to Asian Enforcement Alliance** – A Service special agent with broad expertise in the development, management, and execution of investigative training programs as well as significant experience in conducting investigations of illegal wildlife trafficking completed a 10-month assignment as an on-site technical advisor to ASEAN-WEN. Efforts

included training development, investigative consultation, and intelligence liaison as well as the presentation of multiple in-country training programs. Examples of the latter include:

- Taught two-week “Nature Crime Investigation Course” to 41 Indonesian officers in Bogor, Indonesia (course covered informant recruitment and management, surveillance, interviewing, raid planning and crime scene processing and included practical field exercises).
- Taught two-week “Nature Crime Investigation Course” (see description above) to 33 officers in Tam Ky, Vietnam.
- Taught two-week “Nature Crime Investigation Course” to 32 officers (see description above) in Sam Pran, Thailand.
- Presented training on combating international wildlife crime to 64 law enforcement managers and supervisors from Cambodia, China (including the special administrative districts of Macau and Hong Kong), Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.

**Forensics Laboratory Hosts ASEAN-WEN Training** – Staff at the Service’s National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory provided two weeks of technical training to personnel from ASEAN-WEN member nations. Instruction focused on basic forensic issues relevant to wildlife crime.

**Agent Addresses CITES Enforcement at Workshop and Conference in Colombia** – Service and Canadian wildlife enforcement officers provided a training session on CITES implementation and enforcement at a conch conservation workshop in Colombia and at a Colombia/U.S. Marine Environmental Security Conference in that country. Attendees included law enforcement personnel not only from Colombia but from other South and Central American nations.

**New Zealand Session Focuses on Intelligence** – A Service supervisory intelligence analyst provided instruction on wildlife intelligence gathering and exchange and law enforcement utilization of “open source” information to New Zealand enforcement officers attending the 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the New Zealand Combined Law Enforcement Group.

## **2007 Accomplishments**

**Agents Conduct Validation Studies of Training Efforts in Southeast Asia** – In July and August 2007, Service special agents completed validation studies of wildlife crime investigation courses that had been conducted in the Philippines and Thailand in 2006. The validation assessments, which included reviews of casework and meetings with enforcement officials in both countries, were completed at the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to further support ASEAN-WEN.

**Investigative Training Conducted for African Officers** – In June 2007, Service enforcement officers presented a two-week course on investigating wildlife crime as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. Thirty-two officers from nine sub-Saharan African nations completed the course, which included segments on CITES enforcement, crime scene analysis, surveillance, and interviewing and interrogation.

Countries represented included Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

**Indonesian Officers Complete Investigative Training** – Service special agents provided criminal investigative training to 30 officers from Indonesian police, customs, and forestry agencies in February 2007. The training was sponsored by ASEAN-WEN and USAID as part of an ongoing effort to address illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia.

**Forensics Training Provided at Multi-nation Course** – A scientist from the Service’s National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory provided forensic and crime scene investigation training at the CITES Masters course in Baeza, Spain. The course is an intensive three-months masters program on management, access, and conservation of species in trade sponsored by the CITES member nations.

## **2006 Accomplishments**

**Service Builds Enforcement Capacity in the Philippines** – In December 2006, two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents conducted a two-week criminal investigators course for 30 members of the Philippine National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force, which is responsible for safeguarding that nation’s wildlife and other natural resources. Officers from the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Customs Enforcement, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Coast Guard completed the training, which covered CITES enforcement and the full range of skills needed to conduct wildlife crime investigations. The training, which was held in Subic Bay, was sponsored by WildAid and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – Wildlife Enforcement Network with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Agents Train Mongolian Counterparts** – A team of Service officers provided training on wildlife trade to customs and inspection agents in Mongolia in December 2006. The training, which was sponsored by TRAFFIC East Asia, and related meetings were part of an ongoing U.S. government program to build a global coalition against wildlife trafficking. Service officers reviewed tools and techniques that Mongolian enforcement officers can use to combat illegal wildlife trade. Topics included common smuggling techniques and ways to foil them; conducting undercover investigations and surveillance; vehicle and cargo inspections; evidence handling; and disposal of seized wildlife.

**Investigators Training Conducted for Brazilian Federal Police** – The Office of Law Enforcement presented a wildlife crime investigators course to members of the Brazilian Federal Police Environmental Crimes Division. The course, which was held in Bonito in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul in October 2006, was completed by 37 participants, representing 25 of the 26 states in Brazil plus the Federal District in the Capital of Brasilia. A representative from Brazil’s CITES management authority also attended the training, which marks the second year the course was presented in Brazil. The training, which covered a wide range of topics including internet investigations, surveillance, raid planning, and CITES, has now been completed by

approximately half of the officers assigned to the Brazilian Federal Police's Environmental Crimes Division.

**Service Supports Coral Reef “CSI” Workshop** – The Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory helped plan and teach “CSI for Coral Reefs: Investigative and Enforcement Forensics Field Training Workshop,” a four-day course conducted in October 2006 in conjunction with the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium in Cozumel, Mexico. The course, which was completed by 21 students from 13 countries, presented newly developed protocols for conducting crime scene analysis on damaged coral reefs and included underwater exercises.

**Service Agents Train Thai Officers** – In August 2006, two Service special agents provided basic wildlife investigations training to 30 Thai trainees and two observers from the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation at the Thai Border Police Academy in Hua Hin, Thailand. Thai students completing the course included officers from the Royal Thai Police, Thai Customs, and the Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation. The training was organized and sponsored by WildAid, the Royal Thai Police, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -Wildlife Enforcement Network and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The special agents provided classroom and field instruction on the six major phases of an investigation and included a major case study exercise.

**Agent Serves as Technical Advisor at Philippine Summit** – A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent participated as a technical expert representing the U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program and U.S. Agency for International Development at the Philippines' First National Environmental Law Enforcement Summit, which was held in August 2006 in Quezon City. Highlights of the Summit included the framing of a “Declaration of Commitment” pledging participating agencies and offices to working together to promote effective and efficient environmental and natural resource law enforcement in the Philippines and development of mechanisms for achieving multiagency/multisectoral coordination in the enforcement arena.

**African Officers Complete Investigator Training** – For the fifth consecutive year, the Service conducted a two-week wildlife investigative training course as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana. This year, 29 enforcement officers (game wardens and customs officials) from eight sub-Saharan African nations completed the program, which covered the basics of conducting a wildlife crime investigation. Countries represented at the June 2006 course included Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

**Service Helps Organize and Present Trilateral Training** – In February 2006, nearly 100 investigators from wildlife agencies in Mexico, Canada, and the United States participated in a joint videoconference seminar on using the internet in combating wildlife trafficking. The seminar, which was sponsored by the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group, focused on the role of the internet in illegal trafficking of exotic species as well as the technical aspects of using the internet as a tool in conducting investigations. The training included presentations by the head of the Office of Law Enforcement's Intelligence Unit and the Special Agent in Charge,

Branch of Special Operations; these officials also played a major role in working with Canadian counterparts to organize the seminar.

## **2005 Accomplishments**

**Enforcement Workshop Presented in the Philippines** – In December 2005, Service special agents developed and delivered a “gap analysis” workshop in the Philippines designed to start implementing goals that had been identified by working with middle managers in agencies involved in natural resource law enforcement in the field. The workshop focused on identifying obstacles to investigations and strategies for resolving them. Instructors also facilitated exchange of information between sectors and agencies, presented investigative management concepts and tools in a “train the trainer” format, and delivered a model for subsequent work and training.

**Service Supports Southeast Asian Wildlife Protection Efforts** – Senior officials from the Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division participated in a three-day inaugural Wildlife Enforcement Network Workshop conducted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at KhaoYai National Park in Thailand in September 2005. The U.S. representatives provided overview presentations on legislative, investigative, and prosecutorial strategies for combating wildlife trafficking. Representatives of the 10 ASEAN member nations drafted a formal agreement creating the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, which will coordinate regional efforts to dismantle illegal trade syndicates.

**African Officers Complete Investigative Training** – Three Service agents and a wildlife inspector provided instruction in criminal investigations to wildlife law enforcement officers at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana in June 2005. The class of 32 students represented six countries (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia, and Botswana) and included wildlife investigators, park rangers, and customs officers. In addition to covering investigative procedures and skills, this year’s course looked at smuggling techniques and analyzed import/export trade data.

**Service Conducts Training for Brazilian Federal Police** – In February 2005, an Office of Law Enforcement training team consisting of three special agents and a forensic scientist conducted a two-week wildlife crime investigators course in Brasilia for 27 officers with the Brazilian Federal Police. The training, which was organized and funded by the U.S. Embassy, covered case management, intelligence gathering, forensics and crime scene processing, surveillance techniques, interviewing skills, raid planning, and court preparation.

**Agents Conduct Philippines “Needs Assessment”** – At the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Service special agents conducted an assessment of wildlife law enforcement in the Philippines. Needs identified included raising the profile of environmental law enforcement in the country; promoting cross-agency discussion of responsibilities, jurisdictions, and capabilities of the various agencies that enforce environmental laws; and

encouraging continued efforts by highlighting both the short-term and long-term benefits of proper resource management by the various agencies.

## **2004 Accomplishments**

**Service Supports Marine Enforcement in Galapagos Islands** – In September 2004, a Service special agent provided on-the-job law enforcement training to officers at the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve in Ecuador. The training, which was coordinated by the Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program, was timed to coincide with the annual sea cucumber harvest and included “on the water” instruction during actual patrol operations.

**Service Conducts Marine Enforcement Training in Tanzania** – In August 2004, Service special agents conducted a two-week law enforcement training program for 23 local conservation officers in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, located about 50 kilometers north of Dar es Salaam along the Indian Ocean. The course covered the basics of wildlife law enforcement as well as watercraft safety. Students worked with a motorized patrol boat, which was transferred to the Bagamoyo Fisheries District by the Interior Department’s International Technical Assistance Program to support enforcement efforts aimed at protecting sea turtles, coral reefs, and fishery resources. Service agents also supplied the students with \$3,500 worth of camouflage clothing donated by the Federal Wildlife Officers Association. This training program, which was coordinated by the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership, marked the first instruction of its kind ever provided to district level enforcement officers in Tanzania.

**U.S., Mexican Officers Focus on Environmental Crimes** – In May 2004, Service officers participated in a bilateral transboundary environmental enforcement workshop in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, which reviewed regulatory requirements and explored ways to combat wildlife smuggling and other crimes. A Service presentation on protected species covered U.S. wildlife laws and recommendations for improving cooperative enforcement efforts. Other U.S. agencies participating included the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Justice, and Department of State; the program was sponsored by the Mexican Center for Environmental Rights, Commission on Environmental Cooperation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and SEMARNAT (Mexico’s Federal environmental enforcement agency).

**Service Conducts Criminal Investigators Course for African Officers** – In June 2004, a Service training team consisting of three special agents and a forensic scientist presented the Service-developed two-week Wildlife Poaching Investigators Course for the third time at the International Law Enforcement Training Academy in Botswana. Students completing the course, which is now part of the Academy’s annual curriculum, included 30 enforcement officers from Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, and Tanzania. The course covered CITES and endangered species law; case initiation and management; intelligence gathering; forensics and crime scene processing; surveillance; undercover operations; interviewing; raid planning; and preparing cases for court. New components presented this year included modules on African bushmeat trade and wildlife poisoning investigations.

**Service Hosts CITES “Experts” Meeting** – In February 2004, the Office of Law Enforcement hosted a five-day CITES Experts Law Enforcement meeting that was organized by the CITES Secretariat to address problems identified at the 12th Conference of Parties. Held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the meeting focused on ways to improve the flow of enforcement-related data to and from relevant international, regional, and national law enforcement organizations, CITES management authorities, and the CITES Secretariat. Officials participating included delegates from Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, Israel, Zambia, Kazakhstan, China, the Lusaka Task Force, the Tiger Enhancement Task Force, Chile, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.

**Service Participates in North American Wildlife Crime Intelligence Seminar** – The Office of Law Enforcement’s Intelligence Unit participated in an Intelligence Led Enforcement for Wildlife Crimes Seminar in Ottawa, Canada, in January 2004. The seminar, which was sponsored by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation and the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group, featured Service presentations on species of concern; cross-border movement of hunters; sea turtle egg and meat trafficking; and caviar trade patterns. Attendees included representatives from U.S., Canadian, and Mexican wildlife enforcement agencies.

**Laboratory Provides “On the Job” Training to EU Counterpart** – A visiting veterinary scholar from the European Union spent three months working under the tutelage of forensic specialists at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon.

## **2003 Accomplishments**

**Service Scientists Support Forensics Efforts in Africa** – In November 2003, staff from the Service’s National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory traveled to South Africa to conduct a pathology symposium on wildlife forensics cases. This training program, which was attended by 50 wildlife veterinarians from throughout the African continent, focused on showing veterinarians how to recognize pathology consistent with crimes involving wildlife. Such information often provides crucial evidence in securing successful wildlife crime prosecutions.

**Service Conducts CITES Training in the Caribbean** – In September 2003, staff from the Service International Affairs and Law Enforcement programs participated in a CITES training program for CITES member nations from the Caribbean region. Service presentations covered improvement of domestic legislation, smuggling case examples, detection of document fraud, property disposition, and use of the CITES appendices. The training, which was held in Saint Lucia, was co-sponsored by the CITES Secretariat, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Saint Lucia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

**Asian Officers Trained in Wildlife Crime Investigation** – In September 2003, two Service special agents taught portions of an Asian regional training course on conducting wildlife crime investigations, which was presented in association with the International Law Enforcement Academy, Bangkok (ILEA), the Wildlife Conservation Society, and WildAid. Held in Thailand at the ILEA training facility and Khao Yai National Park, the two-week course drew participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Students included administrators and staff from police agencies, customs, and CITES management and scientific authorities; forest and park rangers; and biologists. Instruction in Bangkok on CITES and wildlife identification skills was followed by a week of hands-on training in investigative techniques conducted in the field in Khao Yai National Park.

**Service Provides Wildlife Law Enforcement Training in Africa** – In June 2003, a team of Service special agents and forensic scientists provided wildlife investigative training to 29 officers and investigators from six African countries at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Gaborone, Botswana. The students included wildlife and customs enforcement professionals with patrol, inspection, and investigative responsibilities in Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia. The Service first developed and presented this training program in 2002 at ILEA's request. The course focuses on skills that investigators need to combat the illegal take of wildlife in sub-Saharan Africa. Officers from Botswana Wildlife and National Parks helped present material and facilitate field exercises for the two-week training program, which covered endangered species laws and CITES, intelligence gathering, crime scene processing, surveillance, undercover operations, interviewing and raid planning, and preparing cases for court.

**Trilateral Training Targets Plant Protection** – Service Law Enforcement staff participated in a North American plant protection workshop sponsored by the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group. The workshop, which was held in Xalapa, Mexico, in February 2003, reviewed international and national protections for plants and focused on helping U.S., Mexican, and Canadian officers improve their plant identification skills for species of global and regional concern. U.S. participants included Service special agents, who addressed the investigation of CITES plant smuggling cases and violations involving plants listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

**Service Officers Support Ongoing Training in Tanzania and Ecuador** – During 2003, Service special agents continued to serve as instructors for two ongoing wildlife law enforcement training programs sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development. A five-person team conducted anti-poaching enforcement training for 35 game protection officers in Tanzania. Another Service-led training team provided marine resource protection training to 30 Tanzanian coastal law enforcement officers. A Service agent served as an instructor for a wildlife protection training program for law enforcement officers in the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve in Ecuador. Students completing this most recent course included 25 park officers and three Ecuadorian environmental policemen.

**CITES Enforcement Training Provided to Mexican Border Inspectors** – Service wildlife inspectors in El Paso, Texas, conducted a CITES enforcement training program for PROFEPA border inspection officers working in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua. Instruction on identifying species common in the U.S./Mexico wildlife trade was also provided.

**Service Supports Marine Enforcement Training in Micronesia** – A Service special agent based in Hawaii served as an instructor for a marine enforcement workshop held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The training program, which was sponsored by WildAid, was

designed to help Pohnpei State officers improve safeguards for marine resources in newly designated protected areas in what is currently a relatively healthy coral reef ecosystem.

**Service Teams with North American Counterparts to Improve Coordination** – In January 2003, Service Law Enforcement officials participated in a transboundary law enforcement workshop sponsored by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (a North American natural resource protection partnership). The workshop, which was held in Washington, D.C., looked at such issues as mutual legal assistance in criminal and civil matters, exchange of investigative data, and national and trilateral enforcement priorities. The program included a Service presentation on U.S. priority areas for wildlife law enforcement.

## **2002 Accomplishments**

**Service Officers Participate in Enforcement Forums in Brazil** – Senior Service enforcement officers participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> South American Conference about the Illegal Trade of Wild Fauna, which was held in Brasilia in December 2002. The conference, which was organized by REDESUL (the South American Network for Combating the Illegal Trade of Wild Fauna) and sponsored by the Brazilian Federal Police, Interpol, and the U.S. and British Embassies, attracted more than 60 attendees from enforcement agencies and non-profit wildlife conservation groups from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Service agents presented briefings on models of action for combating wildlife crime, CITES enforcement, and wildlife protection legislation. While in Brazil, Service officers also helped conduct a seminar on combating wildlife trafficking. More than 40 representatives from local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies in Brazil attended this training, which focused on U.S. and Brazilian efforts to protect wildlife.

**Training Targets Wildlife Protection in Sub-Saharan Africa** – In September 2002, Service special agents and a senior scientist from the Service's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory conducted a two-week training course for African law enforcement officers at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Gaborone, Botswana. Thirty officers from Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, and South Africa (whose jobs ranged from covert operative to customs inspector) completed the Wildlife Poaching Investigators Course. The Service-developed course covered endangered species laws and CITES as well as investigative techniques and procedures. The program was the first course of its kind presented by the ILEA network, which also operates training facilities in Thailand, Costa Rica, and Hungary.

**Service Supports CITES Training in Kazakhstan** – In July 2002, representatives from the Service's Law Enforcement and International Affairs programs teamed with the CITES Secretariat and the State Department's Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation to conduct a week-long training program for 36 government officials and industry representatives in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Participants included customs officers, national police, and scientists from the management and scientific authorities of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The training provided an introduction to CITES and its structure and covered CITES administration, law enforcement, and protections for regional species of concern.

**CITES Training Provided in China** – A four-person Service team consisting of two representatives from International Affairs and a special agent and wildlife inspector from the Office of Law Enforcement traveled to China in June 2002. The team presented a seminar on wildlife import/export policies and procedures for trade monitoring and smuggling investigations. The U.S. delegation also had an opportunity to observe CITES enforcement efforts at Chinese ports of entry.

**Anti-Poaching Training Spans Globe** – Service special agents supported anti-poaching training programs in nations where illegal take of wildlife continues to feed the illegal wildlife trade. Service Law Enforcement provided instructors for on-going enforcement training programs sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Tanzania and the Galapagos Islands Marine Reserve. The Service also teamed with the National Park Service to conduct a resource protection training program at Kruger National Park in South Africa in June 2002. The course, which was attended by 28 law enforcement officers from South African national and provincial parks and the Endangered Species Unit of the South African National Police, covered team tactics, undercover operations, and surveillance techniques.

**North American Conference Seeks Public Support for Law Enforcement** – In February 2002, the Service hosted a Trilateral Conference on Wildlife Enforcement Activities and Public Participation to explore mechanisms for citizen participation in wildlife enforcement in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Held in Washington, D.C., the three-day meeting was sponsored by the Commission on Environmental Cooperation and the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group. Participants included officials from U.S., Canadian, and Mexican wildlife enforcement and resource management agencies and representatives from an array of conservation organizations, including the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Traffic North America, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Canada Institute of Resources Law, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Arctic Institute of North America, Canadian Nature Federation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Primate Protection League, American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Animal Welfare Institute, and WildAid.

## **2001 Accomplishments**

**Service Law Enforcement Hosts Bilateral Sturgeon Workshop** – In July 2001, the Office of Law Enforcement sponsored a three-day U.S.- Russian Sturgeon Workshop, which brought together scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives, and law enforcement officers from both nations to examine the complex issues involved in conserving sturgeon and working to create a sustainable caviar trade. Participants reviewed the status of sturgeon stocks; examined the problems involved in DNA identification of caviar source species; looked at labeling issues; and discussed trade problems with “counterfeit” caviar from various sources, including U.S. paddlefish.

**Agents Provide Peruvian Training via Teleconference** – In June 2001, Service Law Enforcement participated via teleconference in a training program for enforcement officers in Peru focused on the detection and investigation of contraband. The program, which was

organized by the U.S. Embassy in Lima, examined ways to address the illegal trafficking of drugs, endangered species, and items of cultural patrimony. Service instruction focused on interdicting wildlife smuggling.

**Service Reviews CITES Issues at Latin American Conference** – In May 2001, a Service senior wildlife inspector provided an overview of CITES enforcement issues for Latin American officials attending a State Department sponsored environmental law enforcement conference in Washington, D.C. Conference participants included representatives from environmental ministries in 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela).

**CITES Training Workshop Presented in Belize** – In February 2001, Service Law Enforcement and International Affairs teamed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a CITES workshop in Belize. Students included customs officials from Belize, the Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica. Funded by the State Department, the training covered CITES implementation, species identification, and inspection techniques for wildlife and plants.

**Ranger Training Conducted in Tanzania** – Service special agents participated in an ongoing training project in Tanzania under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the African Wildlife Foundation. Field instruction focused on anti-poaching enforcement and fire management techniques for rangers protecting Tanzania's national parks.

**Training Provided in Ecuador** – For a second year, Service Law Enforcement helped develop and conduct a law enforcement training program for rangers at Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve in Ecuador. This program, sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, consisted of a week of instruction on such topics as international wildlife trade, use of digital and video cameras, interviewing techniques, crime scene investigation, patrol planning and execution, and officer safety.

## **2000 Accomplishments**

**Law Enforcement Training Provided in Cambodia** – In December 2000, the Service joined the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, WildAid, and the Wildlife Conservation Society to conduct a three-week training course for rangers and protected area directors from Bokor National Park and six other Cambodian parks and sanctuaries. Students and trainers also included representatives of the Cambodian Wildlife Protection Office and the Forest Crime Monitoring Unit. Service agents assisted with the anti-poaching section of the course, which focused on how to conduct patrols in and around protected areas. Modules included patrol and navigation techniques, weapons safety, wildlife crime scene analysis, and wildlife crime investigation tactics.

**Training and Equipment Donation Support African Wildlife Conservation** – In July 2000, Service special agents presented law enforcement training to 25 criminal investigators from 11 African nations participating in the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. Officers assigned to the task force, which was established in 1997, may cross national boundaries to pursue poachers. The

training covered procedures for law enforcement operations ranging from road blocks and arrests to raids and undercover investigations. The instructors reviewed techniques for collecting evidence, analyzing crime scenes, interviewing witnesses, and preparing courtroom testimony. The Service also facilitated the donation of more than \$40,000 worth of essential outdoor gear and equipment to support the Lusaka Task Force's enforcement efforts in southern and central Africa.

**North American Seminar Targets Trophy Trade** – In August 2000, Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and forensic scientists participated in a “trophy trade” seminar in Monterey, Mexico. Service presentations at the meeting, which was sponsored by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group, included overview briefings on CITES trade controls for trophy species, inspection procedures, document fraud and smuggling techniques, species identification, and forensic analysis. The U.S. delegation also provided training on U.S. import/export laws and regulations for the more than 70 participating enforcement officers from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

**Anti-Poaching Training Conducted in Tanzania** – In March 2000, Service special agents conducted a three-week training program for 32 rangers at Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks in Tanzania. Subjects covered included the handling of firearms, investigative interviews, crime scene investigations, patrol techniques, map and compass navigation, and GPS use. This training, which followed up on a program first presented in 1998, was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Partnership for Biodiversity.

**Service Supports Resource Protection in the Galapagos Islands** – The Service conducted a three-week training program at the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve in Ecuador. Participants included park enforcement officers along with several other government enforcement officials. This training was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Partnership for Biodiversity.