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International Technical Assistance Program



RESULTS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK WORKSHOP

September 26-30, 2011 - San Salvador, El Salvador



Table of Contents

I.	Introductions (pg. 3)
II.	Objectives (pg. 4)
III.	Inauguration (pg. 4)
IV.	Development (pg. 4)
A).	ROAVIS Meeting (26-27 September) (pg. 4)
A.1)	Country and Professional Working Groups (pg. 4)
	Belize
	Costa Rica
	El Salvador
	Guatemala
	Honduras
	Nicaragua
	Panama
	Dominican Republic
A.2)	Professional Group Results (pg. 4)
	Prosecutor Regional Group
	Police Regional Group
	Customs Regional Group
	CITES Authorities Regional Group
A.3)	Systematization of Regional Priorities (pg. 6)
	Summary of donor and executing agency contributions
A.4)	Conclusions and Recommendations (pg. 8)
B)	Capacity-building workshop to improve law enforcement (28-30 September) (pg. 9)
B.1)	Workshop themes
B.2)	Next steps to implement lessons learned from capacity-building workshop
Annex I.	Programs
Annex II.	Questionnaire
Annex III.	Participants
Annex IV.	Meeting Minutes: Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys
Annex V.	Photo

I. Introduction

In April 2010, during a meeting of the Central America – Dominican Republic Environmental Prosecutors Network in El Salvador, the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) initiated a discussion to create a network to enforce wildlife laws in Central America and the Dominican Republic. After envisioning the benefits of the enforcement network, the participants concluded it was necessary to create a specialized network to address regional issues related to wildlife trafficking. From May to July of that year, an intense process of discussions and negotiations was conducted to discuss the objectives and scope of the Network, the members it would include, and the steps needed to establish and adopt the network. On September 6, 2011, in the chambers of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica, solicitors general and attorneys general of the region and the Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SICA) signed a memorandum of understanding that established the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (ROAVIS for its initials in Spanish).

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI), and TRAFFIC (the wildlife trade monitoring network, a joint program of the WWF and IUCN), established an alliance to support the first steps toward making ROAVIS operational. Together, these organizations coordinated the first ROAVIS workshop from September 26th – 30th in San Salvador, El Salvador. The week consisted of a two-day meeting, followed by three days of specialized training.

The ROAVIS meeting was held from September 26th - 27th, and its purpose was to establish the operational framework and define the first steps to operationalize the ROAVIS. This meeting was followed by the ROAVIS capacity building workshop held on September 28th and 30th.

Each event included 46 Central American participants, along with representatives of several international organizations.

The organizing team was composed of Jason Riley (US Department of the Interior: International Technical Assistance Program / USDOI- ITAP), Adrian Reuter and Ulrich Malesa (TRAFFIC), Margarita Salazar (Commission on Environment and Development / CCAD) and Fatima H. Vanegas Zuniga (USDOI / CCAD / CITES).

Participating as invited experts were Preston Fant and Christina Thornblom Kish from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Paola Mosig of WWF - TRAFFIC; Oscar Pereira Rafael Aguilar, Senior Specialist of INTERPOL's Regional Office for South American headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Jose Ruben Gutierrez, Environmental Prosecutor in Nicaragua; and Sergio

Valdelomar, environmental prosecutor in Costa Rica. The invited experts shared their insight, personal experiences, and expertise of wildlife law enforcement.

The results of the Workshop included identification of priority areas for future ROAVIS capacity building, concrete wildlife enforcement skills, and renewed commitment of the partners to support the ROAVIS.

Funding for these events was provided by the United States Government through the United States Department of State.

II. Workshop Objectives

- Define and establish a foundation for regional and national wildlife enforcement activities.
- Establish mechanisms for coordination and communication to ensure inclusion of all stakeholders in the processes and actions implemented.
- Improve knowledge and skills of participants in specialized topics of wildlife law enforcement.

III. Workshop Inauguration

Participants Jose Ruben Gutierrez, President of the Environmental Prosecutors Network; Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC; Mitchell Ferguson, economic advisor at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador; and Herman Rosa Chavez, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources in El Salvador and President pro tempore of CCAD, all gave opening remarks, inaugurating the event.

IV. Workshop Development

A) ROAVIS Meeting (September 26th-27th)

The first day of the meeting allowed delegates the opportunity to become familiar with the process for creating ROAVIS, discuss areas for collaboration between partners, and learn about successful experiences of other networks and tools for controlling wildlife trade in other regions of the world.

The second day of the meeting, consisting of two work group sessions, was moderated by the President of ROAVIS. In the first session; participants were organized in groups by country. In the second session, groups were organized by professional sector; police, customs, prosecutors, and CITES authorities. In both cases, the groups discussed a questionnaire that would help guide and define priorities and identify next steps for the national and regional coordination of the Network.

A.1) Country and Professional Sector Working Groups

Priorities identified by Country Working Groups

- **Belize:**
 1. Strengthen the implementation of wildlife laws and training for Forest Department officials.
 2. Establish and maintain an information database that allows information sharing between Police, Customs, and the Forestry Department. No database currently exists.
 3. Review and improve environmental laws and changing fines; these currently don't reflect the true value of wildlife.

- **Costa Rica:**
 1. Integrated trainings (judges and public officials). One problem that has been identified is judicial awareness of wildlife trafficking crime.
 2. Improving functional directorate (coordinated by prosecutors).
 3. Exchange of knowledge (within a country, including representatives from each agency). Judicial Police should train administrative staff how to handle legal and criminal matters, but customs and police should also learn about technical issues (biological, taxonomic, etc.).

- **El Salvador:**
 1. Capacity building for law enforcement officers on legal frameworks related to wildlife
 2. Rescue Centers
 3. Spreading awareness campaigns on issues of wildlife

- **Guatemala:**
 1. National capacity building - including the Environmental Justice Forum and civil society
 2. Inter-institutional coordination (including the coordinating committee on illegal logging and Environmental Justice Forum)
 3. Outreach campaigns on wildlife

- **Honduras:**
 1. Implementation of the ROAVIS structure at a national level, include ROAVIS information on the CITES website
 2. Develop an action plan for ROAVIS, including a review of the ROAVIS strategy
 3. Specialized training for implementing ROAVIS

- **Nicaragua:**
 1. Activate inter-institutional commission and incorporate new members that monitor trade in wildlife, enforce wildlife laws, and prosecute wildlife crimes
 2. Organize a national workshop to establish mechanisms for coordination of and attention to wildlife crime (Action Plan to combat wildlife crime)

3. Revise monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for relevant agencies (MARENA, customs, MAGFOR, Police, etc.). Exchange information across databases and incorporate into institutional websites. Train officers and raise awareness of tools for improving the prosecution of environmental crimes.
- **Panama:**
 1. Financing and coordination among agencies
 2. Provision of inputs (materials and tools) for criminal investigation
 3. Ongoing capacity building among agencies that deal with wildlife
 - **Dominican Republic:**
 1. Training for all national and provincial offices
 2. Strengthen coordination among agencies: Customs and ROAVIS with other institutions, through signed cooperative agreements
 3. Establishment of regional rescue centers because they are concentrated in the capital

A.2) Results of Professional Working Groups

- **Regional Attorneys Working Group:**
 1. Hold training workshops on policies for prosecution
 2. Develop protocols for action on environmental crime
 3. Establish a website to facilitate information and communication of the network
- **Regional Customs Authorities Working Group:**
 1. High-level commitment to support ROAVIS. The ROAVIS initiative must be raised to the high executive level, nationally and regionally
 2. Launch a Green Customs initiative in each country
 3. Strengthen capacities of customs authorities on issues that contribute to improving law enforcement
- **Regional Police Working Group:**
 1. Communications network for police. Fluid regional communication is needed. There is good communication with Interpol, but Red Alerts do not incorporate environmental crimes and don't allow feedback and information from countries to INTERPOL
 2. Integrated training in prevention and investigations
 3. Include of environmental crimes in PRECO
- **Regional CITES Authorities Working Group:**
 1. National and regional interagency coordination
 2. Reduce illegal trade
 3. Control poaching

A.3) Systematization of Regional Priorities

Upon completion of presentations by national and professional working groups about their priorities, prosecutors and environmental attorneys from Central America and the Dominican Republic synthesized the information from groups, concluding that the priorities are to:

- Training:
 - Specific topics
 - Allocation of materials and promoting the exchange of experiences
- Improve inter – institutional coordination:
 - Functional directorate
 - Create local and national networks
 - Improve the mechanisms for monitoring wildlife trade
- Outreach:
 - Create website to maintain communication and dissemination of ROAVIS
- Development of manuals and protocols

Summary of the donor contributions and executing agency

United States Department of the Interior (USDOI):

DOI project manager, Jason Riley stated that considering the framework defined by the working groups, DOI has the resources to support them in 2012 in the following areas:

- Organizing training workshops by US specialists in the CAFTA-DR countries
- A wildlife inspection training at a US port of entry
- Assistance with coordination between the governments
- Facilitation of the participation of international organizations, such as Interpol and the CITES Secretariat, in ROAVIS events

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Adrian Reuter stated that his organization will continue to support ROAVIS in specific activities such as:

- Publication of a ROAVIS newsletter
- A regional meeting for members of the Network to assess the progress of ROAVIS implementation
- A regional training event
- Assisting in the compilation of training materials in topics such as law enforcement for institutional strengthening

Central American Commission on Environment and Development

Margarita Salazar, CCAD Natural Heritage coordinator, reiterated the technical and financial support received, showing the interest of governments to comply with the efficient and effective implementation of

environmental regulations and inter- institutionalization of environmental issues in the Central American Integration System (SICA)

A.4) Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting

The environmental prosecutors of Central America and the Dominican Republic agreed that priorities, recommendations, and conclusions resulting from this first meeting of ROAVIS would be provided to all participants of the meeting, and for that purpose signed the official record below:

Capacity building can enhance the impact of environmental legislation in ROAVIS countries. It should be ensured that training participants retain the knowledge gained through capacity building and become multiplying agents that pass the knowledge along to others.

Many officials in Central America and the Dominican Republic representatives often work on the same functional or thematic areas but do not adequately coordinate with one another, resulting in duplicative efforts. For this reason, coordination should be improved between institutions to efficiently use financial and technical resources.

CITES authorities in the Region should coordinate efforts with Customs to expand tariff codes and including CITES listed species. This initiative is currently in progress in El Salvador and Guatemala.

The management of law enforcement efforts should be more efficient and effective – Public Ministries should work to facilitate a functional directorate.

The creation of local networks, expressions of ROAVIS inside the countries, will strengthen coordination and improve regional wildlife enforcement.

It is essential to improve mechanisms for controlling wildlife trade. Information exchange should be improved to ensure the intervention of other agencies.

Some countries in the region have offices designated "Green Customs". Synergies will need to be established between these programs in the region in order to strengthen management, improve controls, and enhance resources.

There is need for an instant communication forum between ROAVIS parties. It is important to learn from experiences of other countries such as the Dominican Republic, who in the coming days will formalize a committee to work on environmental law enforcement issues.

A website should be developed as a site for publishing information to a wide audience, but also with a section for exchanging confidential information such as successful cases, guides, tools, etc., to the members of ROAVIS. The website should contain links to the relevant legislation in each country.

The development of management protocols that indicate roles and responsibilities of each institution should be a priority. Protocols should define the roles of each institution and how it will contribute to improving wildlife enforcement, working in harmony towards the same goals.

In some countries of the Region, there are prosecution policies and manuals. In the case of Costa Rica, action

protocols already exist. A diagnostic should be conducted to assist countries with developing their prosecution manuals. Prosecution manuals will help with sustainability by allowing future prosecutors to learn from previous experiences, and improving institutional knowledge.

B) Wildlife Enforcement Capacity Building Workshop (September 28th-30th)

From September 27th – 30th 2011, 46 delegates from eight countries of the region participated in the Wildlife Enforcement Capacity Building Workshop. A series of materials were provided to participants, including manuals, diagnostics, presentations, and expert directories, among others.

B.1) Theme

1. Impacts of illegal wildlife trade for governments, regional development, and social welfare
2. Major consumer markets: current status and trends
3. Best Practices for border control: Insight on Smuggling and Concealment methods
4. Interrogation techniques
5. Intelligence principles
6. Interpol information database structure
7. Detection and analysis of false documents
8. Best practices for collecting and handling evidence
9. Preparing for the court: use of scientific expertise and evidence
10. Management reporting and internet research
11. Identification of species

B.2) Next steps to implement lessons learned from Capacity Building Workshop

At the end of the training workshop, participants were organized into working groups by country. They discussed how to apply lessons learned from the training over the next two months. The country group included customs, police, prosecutors, and CITES authority representatives. The following are the detailed actions to implement the lessons learned.

Belize

- Prepare a workshop report and share it with Ministry law enforcement officials working in the field.
- Arrange a meeting with the office to begin data collection on wildlife crimes in Belize
- Establish coordination mechanisms between institutions of law enforcement in the country and maintain regional communication with colleagues.

Costa Rica

- Organize a meeting to form the national ROAVIS in Costa Rica.
- Develop a directory of points of contact
- Collect or obtain data from illegal traffic of species to develop a police database
- Share the knowledge gained from the workshop to offices of the participating institutions

El Salvador

- Organize a workshop with the Customs Directorate Operations Division on best practices for border control, smuggling and concealment methods.
- Publish materials provided in the workshop on the Ministry of Agriculture and Customs Directorate websites.
- The Central Investigations Division will train the National Police Immigration Enforcement Division on issues of concern identified by the experts of the workshop.
- Develop a directory of institutional points of contact to improve coordination and communication in El Salvador
- Strengthen inter-agency communication

Guatemala

- Establishment of a national ROAVIS with the support of any parties involved in the application of wildlife enforcement in Guatemala.
- Replicate the knowledge acquired with institutions are involved in law enforcement.

Honduras

- Hold training workshops to train trainers to improve wildlife enforcement.
- Create a ROAVIS directory with representatives in Honduras and share it with counterparts in Central America and Dominican Republic
- Publish information and training materials provided at the workshop on the CITES website.

Panama

- Serve as a multiplier by sharing the lessons learned in the workshop with other institutions, and publishing workshop information on the web site.
- Organize a national capacity building workshop in coordination with the institutions that participated in the workshop and other agencies that have law enforcement functions in Panama.
- Panama's environmental prosecutors and environmental authority will establish a joint activities program to strengthen operational control of information dissemination, information exchange, and ROAVIS awareness.

Nicaragua

- Strengthen inter-agency coordination by developing a cooperation protocols to implement the ROAVIS.
- Develop a plan for training and exchange of information materials.
- Hold the first inter-agency meeting to exchange information, statistics and present cases of interest, promote the use of the CITES website, and strengthen database management.
- Prepare a country report to inform high level management of workshop results and seek greater institutional support.

The Dominican Republic

- Sharing knowledge and tools received in this regional workshop with institutions that influence wildlife enforcement legislation in the Dominican Republic.
- Promote coordination with the national INTERPOL office.
- Promote ROAVIS between different sectoral actors and coordinate follow-up meetings.
- Strengthen border controls
- Create a wildlife database
- Formalize the Monitoring Committee through an agreement

Annex I. Agendas

ROAVIS Meeting 1: Establishment of an Operational Framework and First Steps El Salvador, San Salvador, September 26th - 27th, 2011

September 26th 2011

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
8:30 – 9:00 am	Participant Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	Workshop Inauguration <i>Perspectives, introduction, opening remarks</i> <i>Welcoming Remarks: Jose Ruben Gutierrez – ROAVIS President</i> <i>Adrian Reuter: TRAFFIC</i> <i>Mitchell Ferguson: Economic Adviser to the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador</i> <i>Opening Remarks. Hernan Rosa Chavez – CCAD President pro tempore</i>
9:30 – 10:30 am	General background, challenges and potential benefits of networking <i>Adrián Reuter, TRAFFIC</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Coffee
10:45 – 12:00 pm	Memorandum of Understanding to establish a "Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network" <i>José Rubén Gutiérrez - Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network</i>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Cooperation projects and TRAFFIC/DOI/CCAD <i>Jason Riley (DOI -ITAP) and Adrian Reuter (TRAFFIC)</i>
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Tools for Information Exchange <i>Oscar Pereira, INTERPOL</i>
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Coffee
3:45 – 4:15 pm	TWIX Global and CITES <i>Ulrich Malessa, TRAFFIC</i>
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Development of a wildlife crime central database <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
4:45-5:20 pm	Partnerships / collaborations with actors not directly involved in law enforcement <i>Christina Kish (DOI-FWS) and Paola Mosig (TRAFFIC)</i> <i>Presentation and discussion of potential supporting actors not directly involved in law enforcement that can help ROAVIS (NGOs, academic and research institutions)</i>

September 27th, 2011

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
8:00 – 9:00 am	Professional Sector Working Groups <i>Working Groups: Discuss and complete questionnaire, Priorities by professional group, Next steps for international coordination</i> <i>José Rubén Gutiérrez - Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network</i>
9:00– 10:15 am	National Working Groups <i>Working Groups: Discuss and complete the questionnaire by country priorities, Next Steps for interagency coordination</i> <i>José Rubén Gutiérrez - Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network</i>
10:15 - 10:30 am	Coffee
10:30 -11:45 am	Country presentations of their priorities <i>José Rubén Gutiérrez - Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network</i>
11:45 – 12:45 pm	Bases for logical framework <i>José Rubén Gutiérrez - Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network</i>
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Closing <i>CCAD, DOI, Environmental Prosecutors and Attorneys Network, TRAFFIC</i>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch

Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network Workshop
El Salvador, San Salvador September 28th-30th, 2011
September 28th 2011

Facilitator: Margarita Salazar - CCAD

Time	Event
8:30 – 9:00 am	Participant Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	Inauguration <i>Perspectives, Introduction, Welcoming Remarks</i>
9:30 – 10:30 am	Impacts of trade and unsustainable and illegal wildlife governments, regional development and social welfare <i>Ulrich Malessa - TRAFFIC</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Coffee
10:45 – 11:30 pm	Major consumer markets: current status and trends <i>Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC</i>
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Best Practices for border control; smuggling and concealment methods (steps to inspect at ports of entry and exit) <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Interrogation Techniques <i>Preston Fant, DOI-FWS</i>
2:30 – 4:00 pm	Intelligence Principles (intelligence analysis and potential problems in the process) <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
4:00 - 4:15 pm	Coffee
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Resources and Structure of INTERPOL <i>Oscar Pereira, INTERPOL</i>
5:00 - 5:45 pm	Resources and Structure of the US Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Christina Kish and Preston Fant, DOI-FWS</i>

September 29th 2011

Facilitator: Adrián Reuter - TRAFFIC

Time	Event
9:00 – 10:30 am	Framework for coordinating and implementing joint operations on wildlife enforcement and presentation of case studies at national and multinational levels <i>Oscar Pereira, INTERPOL</i>
10:30 – 10:45 am	Coffee
10:45 – 12:30 pm	False Document Detection and Analysis <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 3:30 pm	Build, maintain and secure an intelligence database <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
3:30 – 4:30 pm	The value of best practices in collecting and handling evidence <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Preparing for court: use of scientific data, experts and visual information <i>Sergio Valdelomar Fallas: Prosecutor - Costa Rica</i>

September 30th 2011

Facilitator: Fatima Vanegas - DOI-CCAD

Time	Event
9:00 – 10:00 am	Information Sources and Internet Research (information on materials and support tools available and discussion of open and restricted sources) <i>Christina Kish, DOI-FWS</i>
10:00 – 11:00 am	Information Management <i>Preston Fant, DOI-FWS</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	<i>Coffee</i>
11:15 – 1:00 pm	Identification and management of wildlife specimens and biosafety considerations <i>Oscar Vargas, UNAM</i>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Identification and management of wildlife specimens <i>Continued....</i> <i>Oscar Vargas, UNAM</i>
3:00 – 4:00 pm	National Working Groups (discussion of how to apply lessons learned)
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Professional Working Groups (discussion of how to apply lessons learned)
5:00 – 5:20 pm	Closing

ANNEX II

Questionnaire

Questionnaire guide for discussions in the framework of the 1st Meeting of ROAVIS: Establishment of an Operational Framework and Definition of the first steps

IMPORTANT NOTE: So working groups can respond with organized and complete information and reviews that are needed for the discussions that take place during the meeting, we welcome you to review and consider the following questions before the discussion. This will help participants understand the themes and issues to be discussed at these meetings and give them time to gather information and make internal consultations, if required, so have his/her contributions are ready for discussion and integration in a single document to be drawn up as a group during the meeting.

Section 1: Country Working Groups

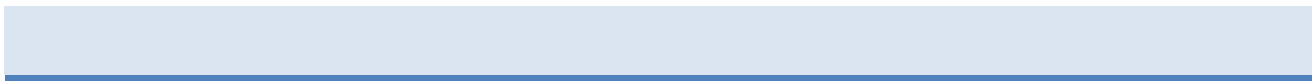
1. What are the biggest challenges faced in your country for the implementation of legal frameworks in the field of wildlife? List the 3 most important (excluding the lack of resources)
2. What are the strengths of the current law enforcement system in your country? Indicate the top 3 strengths.
3. Based on discussions of the strengths and challenges for wildlife enforcement bodies, identify the five most pressing needs (e.g. training, information, materials, tools, equipment, etc.).
4. What other agencies (if any) should be involved in your country's future actions regarding the implementation of the ROAVIS?
5. Who should be the point of contact for each agency in your country involved with ROAVIS?
6. a) What mechanisms for better communication and cooperation among agencies are considered most appropriate for your country?

b) What steps should be taken in the next 3 months to start the process of improving communication and inter-agency coordination at national levels?

c) Who is responsible for organizing this effort and follow up with the points of contact of other relevant agencies? (Indicate the institution and contact information of the person responsible)
7. What mechanisms are considered useful / appropriate to share information on wildlife enforcement events such as the efforts and successes of ROAVIS to agencies and institutions and the general public at national and regional levels? (E.g. regular newsletter, formal report of activities) If applicable, indicate on the timing, coordination required (by agencies, for example), etc.

Section 2: Professional Working Groups (by discipline, agency, or profession such as Customs, Police, Prosecutors, Ministry of Environment, etc.)

1. In the context of wildlife enforcement (which may include plants, animals, wood, marine, parts and derivatives of the above, as well as crimes such as poaching, traffic, environmental damage in protected areas) what are the main challenges facing your group in Central America?
2. What are the main strengths in the relationship between professionals of your region regions in your current group?
3. Based on discussions on the strengths and threats in the field of wildlife enforcement in your group, what are the 5 highest priorities?
4. Based on these ideas, who should be the point of contact in the international coordination of your group in each country?
5. Are you currently using any mechanism for sharing information and intelligence on wildlife crimes with colleagues from other countries? If so, briefly describe and indicate whether the mechanism is considered effective and efficient. In the absence of such mechanism, what mechanism could be considered useful?



ANNEX III

Participants

NO.	Participant	Institution	Country	Email
1	Oscar Pereira	INTERPOL	Argentina	o.pereira@interpol.int
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ANNEX IV Environmental Prosecutor and Lawyers Meeting Minutes

Central American and Dominican Republic Environmental Prosecutors Network

San Salvador, El Salvador – September 30th 2011

Gathered in the Crown Plaza Hotel in Sal Salvador, Attorneys: Jose Ruben Gutierrez, ROAVIS Secretary; Bruno Urbina, Prosecutor for the Special Division of Environment in El Salvador; Sergion Valdelomar Fallas, Adjunct Environmental Prosecutor in Costa Rica; Noe Saul Lopez Palacios, Environmental Prosecutor in Guatemala, Reyna Suyapa Pineda, Special Environmental Prosecutor in Honduras; Ruth Morcillo, Special Prosecutor for Environmental Crime in Panama; Andres Chalas Velasquez, Adjunct Environmental Prosecutor in the Dominican Republic; and Dr. Gilberto Ochoa, Solicitor for Environmental and Natural Resources in Honduras.

In attendance at the first ROAVIS meeting, created in the MOU, signed on the sixth day of September of the year two thousand ten in the Republic of Costa Rica by the Attorneys General of the countries.

Within the framework of the first Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (ROAVIS) the objective is to establish an Operationalization Framework and Define First Steps; and thus we are gathered here on the twenty-sixth day of September of the current year to address the following points:

- I. Methodology to coordinate working group participants from the September 27th meetings, where next steps and country priorities were defined.
- II. The importance of information databases to improve the exchange of information and international cooperation; such as the definition of “regionally consented indicators” for ROAVIS.

The following is agreed upon:

- Prosecutors and attorneys will coordinate the Working Groups by country to prioritize at least 3 needs that were expressed; and in a second part of the exercise presented by sector, likewise, the prosecutors will be responsible for drafting regional and national conclusions and recommendations.
- CCAD is recognized as the appropriate entity for the management of partnerships and technical guidance, which results in the fulfillment of the ROAVIS MOU; specifically contextualizing national requirements to strengthen regional work, considering the ROAVIS Statutes (which will be available to participants).
- We thank the United States Department of the Interior and TRAFFIC for the support rendered in the creation and implementation of ROAVIS.
- That the main priorities as well as the methodology used in the meeting from the twenty sixth and twenty seventh days of September two thousand eleven will be sent to each participating ROAVIS prosecutor.

Concluding the first ROVIS meeting, all environmental prosecutors and attorneys from Central America, the Dominican Republic and Panama sign these meeting minutes at sixteen hundred hours on this thirtieth day of September, two thousand eleven.

Bruno Aristides Urbina – El Salvador
Sergio Valdelomar Fallas – Costa Rica
Gilberto Ochoa Vasquez – Prosecutor, Honduras
Ruth Morcillo – Panama
Andres Chalas Velasquez – Dominican Republic
Noe Saul Lopez – Guatemala
Reyna Suyapa Pineda – Prosecutor Honduras
Jose Ruben Gutierrez Campos - Nicaragua

