

A brief account of our achievements at the CITES CoP17

Our monitoring results

We did our monitoring of the e-commerce of elephant ivory in the following countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The total amount of ivory items found was \$50,679,335.96 USD. In 2010 in Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay we found offers of ivory products of an estimated value \$1,236.500 USD. In the newest research in the same 4 countries the total estimated value of offered ivory was \$4,600,685.66 USD. This proves a very alarming increase of the e-commerce of ivory, which truly shocked the Latin American governments, as this is proof that this commerce is important enough to be a threat to elephants in Africa and Asia. This research also exposed the illegal trade of many other endangered animals products and derivatives in Latin America. To share these shocking results is crucial to persuade the governments to combat these environmental cyber crimes effectively. We provide the results and effective manners to find these items online, to facilitate their own monitorings to reduce this trade.

Report

The CATCA EWS printed report was well received an efficient tool during this CITES CoP, not only by providing further information about the e-commerce of ivory in Latin America, but creating a high interest in the few governments which are still not investigating the ivory trade in their countries. Belize and Guatemala were quite interested and asked for further information to help them do their monitorings. Bolivia, Panama and Venezuela are interested in conducting a similar research. Some countries in Africa, such as South Sudan, Benin, Chad and Liberia are also quite interested in implementing such monitorings, especially to protect their elephants and rhinos.

Our report on the E-Commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America was a big success among the governments, and it was a huge instrument to lobby and urge the governments to tackle the illegal trade of ivory and protected wildlife. This report is now with our other e-commerce reports at the INTERPOL database. Interpol had a big interest in our new report, and we had a special informal meeting on this issue during the CoP.

Results of our lobbying activities during the CITES CoP17

Our report was also used as a great tool to lobby with the governments. During the CITES CoP17th, with my constant lobbying we helped in achieving CoP decisions which will serve to successfully protect and conserve at least 35 endangered animal species, including the rejection of the threatening African elephants Proposals 14 and 15 by Namibia and Zimbabwe, which intended to delete the annotation to the listing of their elephant populations (*Loxodonta africana*) in Appendix II, to be able to trade ivory. We also successfully lobbied for the Southern white rhinoceros Proposal from Swaziland to alter annotations to the listings of Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in Appendix II, permitting limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn collected from natural death; recovered from poached Swazi rhino; and harvested in a non-lethal way. We got support of many governments to reject this proposal; Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*), to reject the Proposal of Canada to downlist the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) to uplist them to Appendix I (The lobbying based on the results of our "Ecuador protected wildlife e-commerce report" 2009-10, helped a lot to convince many governments to support this Proposal); Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), Thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), devil rays (*Mobula* spp.), freshwater stingrays (*Potamotrygonidae* spp.), Nautilus (Family Nautilidea), painted snails under the genus Polymita, Ashe's bush (*Atheris desaixi*), Kenyan horned vipers (*Bitis worthingtoni*), flapshell and soft-shelled turtles (*Cyclanorbis elegans*, *C. senegalensis*, *C. frenatum*, *C. aubryi*, *Trionyx triungus*, *Rafetus euphraticus*), False tomato frog (*D. guineti*), Antsouhy tomato frogs (*D. insularis*), Green burrowing frogs (*Scaphiophryne marmorata*, *S. boribory*, *S. spinosa*) and Hong Kong warty newt (*Paramesotriton hongkongensis*) and to include the Titicaca frog (*Telmatobius coleus*) in Appendix I. We got about a 70% of all successful votes for the Titicaca Frog. We brought the issue of the illegal trade and e-commerce of this highly endangered frog to light and convinced the EU to vote in favor. Pangolins: Indian (*Manis crassicaudata*), Philippine (*M. culionensis*), Sunda (*M. javanica*), Chinese (*M. pentadactyla*), the Giant pangolin (*M. gigantea*); South African pangolin (*M. temminckii*); the Whitebellied pangolin (*M. tricuspis*) and Long-tailed pangolin (*M. tetradactyla*).

How the illegal trade of wildlife affect the local communities

Local communities especially in Africa would benefit from the help to protect their endangered animal species from the poachers. These poachers do not only kill elephants for their ivory tusks and rhinos for their horns, but when these animals are scarce or decimated, they also kill other animal species, which are crucial for the survival of these communities. In some places as in the north of Zimbabwe, but especially in some areas close to parks, about an 85% of wild animals have been wiped out by poachers in the last 10 years, which kill these animals not only for bush meat, but also for skins and parts to sale illegally. The animals disappear, the parks get empty and the tourists stop arriving, so as a consequence the few local jobs which sustain these villages and communities vanish too. Also the local communities which defend these animals or have rangers in their family are often attacked by the poachers, which sometimes end up killing complete families. This is sadly seen all over Africa. The reduction in the trade of these animals helps to reduce the poaching and the violent raids on the villages that support animal conservation, plus help the villagers to have a continuous secure form of income.

Our PDF of the printed report is available online at this link:

<http://www.catca-ews.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CATCAEWS-IVORY-LATAM-20161.pdf>

Some few pictures and highlights from the CITES CoP17 in Joburg

October 4, 2016

HAPPY WORLD ANIMAL DAY! FELIZ DIA MUNDIAL DE LOS ANIMALES!

I will be distributing some small souvenirs with a WAD note to delegates and colleagues here at the CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi Day and the animals of the world!.

Have a great day!



[Ericka Ceballos](#)

WAD Canadian Ambassadors

EXCELLENT NEWS! Last night the Plenary extended up to after 8 PM and we managed to get these Proposals decided. Everybody was tired, so there were not long introductions and interventions (which often can take several hours for each Proposal). The record was an estimated 34 seconds! Most of the votes were Pro-Conservation! 😊 This is a record in number of pro-conservation votes and time to vote!

Prop 45 Ocelated Ray, introduced by Bolivia, changed to include it at Appx III

47 Clarion Fish Accepted Prop 46 Cardinal fish Accepted!

48 Nautilus Appx II Accepted

49 Cuban snails

34 Bush snake in Appx II Accepted

35 Kenya viper in Appx II Accepted by consensus

36 Turtles (6 species) in Appx II Accepted 34 secs

37 Tomato Frog downlisted

38 False tomato frog Insular tomato frog Appx II Accepted

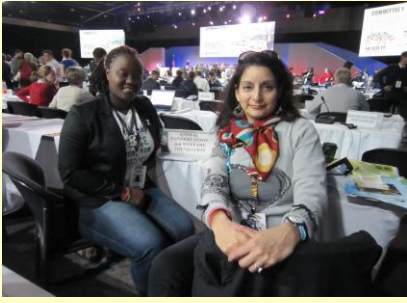
39 Green balloon frog and ????? Accepted

40 Titicaca Frog Appx I Accepted

41 Triton of red belly Appx II Accepted



- 1) Bolivia taking the floor to explain the issues regarding the endemic Titicaca frog
- 2) Committee I from our ACWF assigned seating area



With my lovely Tanzanian adopted delegate!



With Winnie one of the most active delegates of Kenya



Committee I 1) Proposal 15: Top left: Vote REJECTED! 😞 2) Namibia speaking on behalf of their proposal 14. Then Zimbabwe supporting them Bottom left pic is Israel against. Middle pic is the US speaking against and bottom is China.

Top right: Our Brazilian colleagues with a shark in support of the shark Proposals. Middle Benin introduced Proposal 16 Gabon and Chad supported it. Gabon stated that Ivory belongs to the state not the people and is killing our rangers, statement of war that we will not tolerate this crime just like child trafficking, terrorism, drug trafficking. Cote d' Ivoire and other Pro-conservation countries spoke in favor. Amazing! Botswana is in favor!!! Wow. Unfortunately the EU is against! We are still waiting for the vote to take place after lunch.



Clockwise pics order. Top left: Japan in favor. Next Nigeria against, middle Patrick Omondi of Kenya speaking, the votes were REJECTED and bottom left view of Committee I.

October 3, 2016



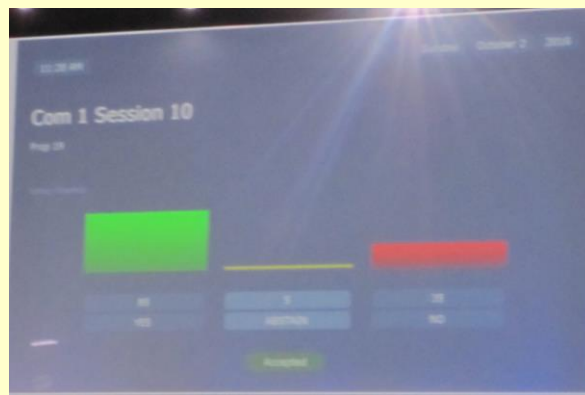
A beautiful CITES banner in the booths area

Ericka Ceballos
October 02, 2016

The African Grey Parrots get up-listed in Appendix I!!!! 😊😊😊



The table where I have all our CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society materials at the Exhibition area (all the colorful ones)



The African Grey Parrots proposal from Angola, Chad, European Union, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and United States of America get up-listed! in Appendix I!
Accepted after vote, in a secret ballot, with 95 in favour, 35 against and 5 abstentions



My table, full of our reports, recommendations for the proposal votes for the delegates in English and Spanish; photocopies that I have been doing for the delegations and our CATCA EWS 20 kilos of reports plus other documents to distribute to the enforcement and management authorities of the parties... Lots of materials and great for lobbying! I represented our sister NGO: Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation (Poland)



- 1) With the delegate of Bolivia. I was lobbying in support of the protection of the Titicaca Frog
- 2) Supporting all the proposals for the Pangolin protection in and outside the Plenary

Ericka Ceballos

September 28, 2016

GREAT NEWS! The Asian pangolins get up-listed to Appendix I!



- 1) The Asian pangolins vote. They got accepted in Appendix I
- 2) A leopard confiscated fur by the South African authorities

Ericka Ceballos

September 28, 2016



My table is much more organized today!



With two amazing and very brave ranger women from the first and well known all women ranger group: "Black Mambas". They are from South Africa. Sadly, this week, one woman of their team was shot and killed. She was pregnant. 🙏 Bless them. I will be interviewing them soon!

Ericka Ceballos

September 28, 2016



Committee I. - Kenya speaking against the Proposal of Canada to transfer *Puma concolor coryi* and *Puma concolor cougar* from Appendix I to Appendix II, which was accepted by consensus.



Canada takes the floor in Committee I to introduce the Canadian Proposal 17, to transfer the Peregrine falcon from Appendix I to Appendix II, which was rejected.

Ericka Ceballos

September 30, 2016

Vote result! This Canadian Proposal was rejected, mostly because the EU wanted to make some amendments, so they were not in favor.



With the Black Mambas again, their boss and our new report on the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America! We were at the Global March for elephants and rhinos Event during the CITES CoP17. We were all celebrating a very successful day for the endangered animals. It was a great event!

THANK YOU! Your donation helped me to go there and lobby to get the necessary votes to protect and conserve 38 endangered animal species, including the African elephants, rhinos, sharks, deviled rays, pangolins, frogs, vipers, turtles so on. It was super hectic, with no time for eating or nothing for 12-15 hrs a day + making reports and preparing materials to lobby for several proposals in English and Spanish, but worth it big time after getting very satisfying results.

Ericka Ceballos CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society



Finally I was able to sit down for a minute with my ele and rhino buddies! ☺