

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 142: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chapter 7: Assistant Director - International Affairs

Originating Office: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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7.1 Assistant Director - International Affairs advises the Director and is responsible for working 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. The Assistant Director represents and negotiates for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) at meetings with a focus on international conservation issues; develops policies and regulations; manages Service-wide foreign travel; and oversees implementation of U.S. wildlife laws, international treaties, and agreements, including overseeing the international permits program, grants programs, training, technical assistance, and conservation education programs. The Assistant Director supervises the following divisions:

A. The Division of Management Authority.

- (1) Maintains diplomatic contacts with foreign countries with regard to wildlife.
- (2) Serves as the U.S. Management Authority for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including administering the CITES permit program, communicating officially with the CITES Secretariat and other CITES Parties, preparing and submitting required trade and other reports, and managing implementation of CITES resolutions and decisions.
- (3) Represents the United States at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and other CITES meetings.
- (4) Supports CITES meetings by developing technical proposals and draft resolutions and decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and by developing U.S. Government positions on such documents submitted by other countries.
- (5) Coordinates with foreign CITES authorities.

(6) Cooperates with the U.S. States on the CITES Appendix-II Export Program for certain native species, including alligators, furbearers, and ginseng.

(7) Manages the Plant Rescue Center Program.

(8) Provides CITES training and technical assistance to other countries.

(9) Reviews petitions filed under the Pelly Amendment.

(10) Administers the Service's permitting program for native and foreign species regulated under CITES, the Endangered Species Act (all permits for foreign-listed species, import and export permits for native-listed species, section 10(a)(1)(A) permits for ESA-listed marine mammals), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (for Service-jurisdiction species regulated under sections 104(c) and 109(h)), the Lacey Act (for injurious wildlife), and the Wild Bird Conservation Act. Also coordinates with the Migratory Bird Program to include Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act authorizations on permits issued under IA authority.

(11) Coordinates policy, regulation, and financial and technical assistance to support legal and sustainable wildlife trade and combat illegal wildlife trade globally.

(12) Supports the Service Director as Co-Chair on the Task Force for Wildlife Trafficking, assisting in the coordination, development, and implementation of U.S. Government policy.

B. The Division of Scientific Authority.

(1) Provides expertise on biological and technical issues, including species included in the CITES Appendices, permit findings, and policy for activities conducted under CITES and the Wild Bird Conservation Act.

(2) Serves as the CITES Scientific Authority for the United States, which includes making biological findings on CITES permits for international trade in wildlife and plants, developing U.S. proposals for amending the CITES Appendices, evaluating other countries' proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, and developing U.S. positions on CITES technical and biological issues.

(3) Evaluates species in trade to determine whether they pose a threat as invasive species.

(4) Monitors the sustainable use and trade of domestic and foreign CITES-listed species.

(5) Reviews regulations, policies, and grant proposals related to CITES for other Service offices.

C. The Division of International Conservation.

(1) Coordinates implementation of international treaties and agreements and has direct responsibility for many Service programs abroad, including implementation of conservation and resource management activities in the Western Hemisphere, Eurasia, and Africa.

(2) Administers financial assistance programs, through the Multinational Species Conservation Funds, for the conservation of elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, marine turtles, freshwater turtles, tortoises, and great apes, and regional conservation initiatives under the Central Africa, Latin America, and Caribbean regional programs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Assistant Director – International Affairs

