



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

Factsheet

General Program

Environmental Cooperation with DOS-OES United States Department of the Interior International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP)

The U.S. Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) collaborates with other countries to protect and sustainably manage natural resources and cultural heritage. DOI-ITAP draws on the diverse expertise of DOI’s 70,000 employees. Our capacity building efforts include on-site technical assistance, U.S.-based training, one-on-one mentoring, and train-the-trainer workshops. During the last 20+ years, DOI-ITAP has worked in more than 60 countries worldwide.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) has partnered with DOI-ITAP for the past decade on trade-related environmental cooperation. DOI-ITAP has implemented activities in Central America and Dominican Republic, Chile, Morocco, and Oman, focusing on natural resource management, combatting wildlife trafficking, CITES implementation, and mining regulation.



DOS-OES Chief for Environment and Trade, Robert Wing (center), joins Salvadoran Environmental Police Chief and Environmental Prosecutor during an event of the Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network-CAWEN. (San Salvador, El Salvador, July 2016. Photo DOI-ITAP)

Key Successes

Central America and Dominican Republic

- Created and strengthened the Central America Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN) and helped engage CAWEN leaders in WEN meeting at the CITES COP.
- Facilitated consolidation of interests and proposals in the region among U.S. CITES officials and their Central America and Dominican Republic counterparts.
- Trained judges, prosecutors and inspectors on national and international wildlife laws, wildlife investigations, and CITES implementation and enforcement.



Joint operation by Panama and Costa Rica resulted in seizure of illegal wildlife including sea turtle shell items. (Panama, October 2015. Photo Public Ministry of Panama)

- Assisted El Salvador to draft legislation to upgrade its status to CITES Category 1 compliance.
- Launched public-private-civil society forum in Guatemala for information sharing and consensus building on protected area management, which has been replicated and institutionalized in other geographic areas of the country.



**GUÍA DE CAMPO
PARA TRABAJAR EN EL SITIO DEL SUCESO**
Una herramienta para la investigación de crímenes
contra la vida silvestre



DOI-ITAP's user-friendly Spanish language field guide for processing wildlife crime scenes.

Chile

- Strengthened Chile's implementation and enforcement of CITES. Provided technical assistance and high-level DOI and CITES Secretariat engagement with Ministers and Senators, to promote the passage of a new CITES law to bring Chile to CITES Category 1 status.
- Built capacity throughout the investigative and judicial branches of government through wildlife crime investigation courses and CITES enforcement workshops. Produced the first-ever "1st Responder Field Guide to Wildlife Crime Scenes."
- Engaged more than 100 students and teachers in Our Ocean Science Camp - a 3-day camp with hands-on activities to learn about marine conservation.
- Built capacity to ensure environmentally-sound financial assurances and mine closures and strengthened Chilean mine closure regulations.

Morocco

- Developed and adopted an official signage strategy for national parks. New signs designed and installed in compliance with the strategy.
- Developed and adopted a national zoning plan strategy. Completed pilot zoning plan at Toubkal NP.
- Signed sister parks agreement (the first in the MENA region) between Toubkal National Park in Morocco and Great Basin National Park in Nevada.
- Supported women's cooperatives involved in promoting environmental issues and related income generating activities, such as marketing argan oil.
- Developed a new environmental education teaching kit.
- Established a retail stand to help women's cooperatives bring their eco-friendly products to market.
- Strengthened Morocco's development and implementation of a new CITES law. Provided "CITES 101" training to customs officers and delivered technical assistance in the development of processes and protocols for implementing CITES. Morocco adopted CITES enabling legislation in June 2011.



DOI-ITAP is supporting the establishment and exchange activities of a new Sister Park Agreement between Great Basin NP in Nevada and Toubkal NP in Morocco. (Asni, Morocco. May 2016. Photo DOI-ITAP)

Oman

- Improved conservation and scientific research of loggerhead sea turtles in Oman, including population assessments and satellite tagging.
- Hosted 16 Omani men and women for training and mentorship programs in the U.S. focused on protected areas management and sustainable tourism.



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