

## Press release

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Mexico, D. F.

# MEXICO RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE OF THREATENED SPECIES



Mexico, D.F.- Mexico is globally recognized for its actions towards the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity. Today, the 2nd of May, during the inauguration of the joint meeting of the [Committees of Fauna and Flora of the CITES](#) held in Boca del Río, Veracruz, and headed by the Secretary of the Environment Juan José Guerra Abud and by the Governor of Veracruz Javier Duarte de Ochoa, before more than 400 participants from the international scientific community, the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity ([CONABIO](#)) was awarded the **Certificate of Merit for Science** by the Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)) John Scanlon, who stated: “... *this is in recognition of the quality and exceptional nature of its contribution to science in the CITES over many years*”.

In this regard, Dr. Margarita Clemente, President of the Flora Committee, stated that: “*Mexico is always a leader in exercising the responsible use of resources, while safeguarding them for the continued benefit of generations to come*”. Likewise, she reiterated the outstanding work of CONABIO at international level over the last 10 years. Secretary Scanlon stated that it is the first time that the CITES has awarded the recognition ‘**Certificate of Merit for Science**’ and that it is well deserved: “... *the participation of CONABIO and its contribution to the work of the Committees of Fauna and Flora in recent years has been exemplary*”. The Secretary stated that the CITES International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings, organized by Mexico in 2008 in Cancún, Quintana Roo, represented a milestone in the history of the Convention.



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Dr. José Sarukhán Kermez, National Coordinator of CONABIO stated: *It is a recognition of the Mexican Government, its institutions and the team of the CITES Scientific Authority in CONABIO, headed by Hesiquio Benítez, for the work of many decades; and added that: We have the greatest interest that society in general, and Mexican society in particular, really benefits from the conservation and sustainable management of the resources of each country.*

The mission of CONABIO, as the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico, is to make sure that the international trade of the species included in the appendices of the Convention is regulated using the best available scientific, technical and commercial evidence, in order to ensure their conservation and sustainable use. Over the last 14 years, CONABIO has coordinated the preparation of information so that Mexico has presented more than 11 scientific reviews to the international community of the CITES, regarding species listed in its Appendices. In addition, it has successfully presented more than 12 proposals of amendment to the Appendices; including for different species of parrots, the Morelet's crocodile, hammerhead sharks, cacti, yuccas and tree frogs.

**To find out more:**

- **CITES in the portal Biodiversidad Mexicana:** [www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/index.html](http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/index.html)
- **International Convention:** [www.cites.org/esp](http://www.cites.org/esp)
- **CITES leaflet:** [www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/veracruz/docs/TripticoCITES2014.pdf](http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/veracruz/docs/TripticoCITES2014.pdf)
- **27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Fauna and 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Flora:** [www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/veracruz/](http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/cites/veracruz/)

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**Note for the editors:**

**The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)** is a permanent interministerial commission; its purpose is to generate the knowledge required by Mexico on which to base public policies and societal decisions regarding biodiversity. For this reason, it is primarily dedicated to forming and updating the National Biodiversity Information System (SNIB, by its Spanish acronym), supporting projects and studies concerning the knowledge and use of biodiversity, providing advice to governmental agencies and those of other sectors, conducting special projects, disseminating knowledge regarding the biological richness, monitoring international conventions and providing services to the public. CONABIO was created by Presidential Decree on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 1992.

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