



**MEETING : THE MEAs TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT K-PLAZA , BUCHANAN, GRAND BASSA COUNTY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 26- 27, 2020

PRESENTED BY: BLAMAH S. GOLL (MSc.)

CITES FOCAL POINT

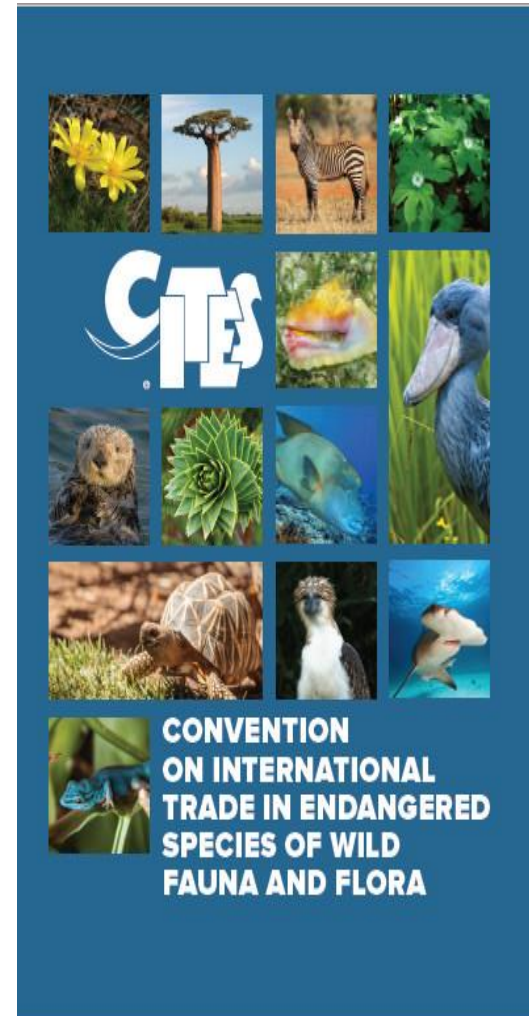
FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)

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OUTLINE

- LIBERIA'S HISTORICAL LINK TO CITES
- CITES OVERVIEW
- CITES PERMIT PROCEDURES
- CITES ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIBERIA
- CITES OPPORTUNITIES
- CITES IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES IN LIBERIA



BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- Liberia is rich in biological diversity, while its dependence on this natural heritage is high, too. In addition to domestic use, many wildlife species are used for food while others are used for medicine in great demand for international trade which may threaten the survival of these species in the wild. In 1982, Liberia acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), bringing over-exploitation of fauna and flora through international trade under surveillance. The establishment of authorities to implement CITES, adoption of legislation to protect wild animals and plants, research and monitoring of trade in endangered species and international cooperation in wildlife trade control are observable achievements in CITES implementation in Liberia. Yet for the biological heritage of Liberia and its neighboring countries to be handed over with sufficient safeguard to the generation to come, endeavors in wildlife research and trade monitoring, policy change and legislation improvements are still needed in Liberia



**CONVENTION
ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE IN ENDANGERED
SPECIES OF WILD
FAUNA AND FLORA**

CITES OVERVIEW

CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- **International agreement, established in 1973, with over 180 member countries.**
- **CITES establishes a legal framework with common procedural mechanisms to regulate international trade.**
- **The intent is to ensure that international trade of specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.**
- **National legislation is required in each country to implement the provisions of CITES provisions**



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- **Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia 2002 (EPML,2002)**
- **National Forestry Reform Law 2006**
- **The Act to amend the Penal Law regarding Extortion, Environmental Crime and Illicit Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling, 2012 (Approved April 29, 2013)**
- **The National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of 2016 (NWCPAML,2016) are the major legislative instruments with which Liberia has implemented CITES.**

THE ROLES WITHIN CITES

Management Authority (MA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountable for permitting decisions• Manage, plan, develop and coordinate implementation of CITES• Implementation coordination with other parties
Scientific Authority (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific determinations on risk to species survival• Scientific advice to MA• Species listings analysis and recommendation
Enforcement Agencies (EAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enforces provisions of NWCPAML• Investigates and coordinates investigations with other agencies• Provides wildlife identification expertise and develops identification manuals

CITES SPECIES LISTING

- The over 35,000 CITES-listed species are divided into 3 categories
- **Appendix I**
 - Species which are threatened with extinction (e.g. Forest elephant, Giant Pangolin, Chimpanzee).
 - International trade is generally **PROHIBITED**.
- **Appendix II**
 - Species not necessarily threatened with extinction but trade must be controlled to avoid becoming threatened (e.g. & green macaw, black-cheeked lovebird).
 - International trade is **REGULATED**.
- **Appendix III**
 - Species for which a country is asking Parties' help with protection (e.g. walrus, aardwolf).
 - International trade is **MONITORED**.

CITES PERMIT PROCEDURES

Relocation of an Appendix I species

CITES permit issued by the exporting country
CITES permit issued by the importing country

Import permit must be obtained before the export permit

Relocation of an Appendix II species

CITES permit issued by the exporting country

Frequent cross-border movement of personally owned pets (any Appendix)
Simplified procedure using a CITES Certificate of Ownership (aka Pet Passport)



ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Trained two (2) Liberians in CITES SPECIFIC MSc. Degree Level**
- **Established two national Wildlife Sanctuaries**
- **Conducted Training for 25 States Prosecutors, Judges and Magistrates**
- **Developed a National Strategy for Combatting Illegal Wildlife Crime and Trade (IWT)**
- **Conducted training for over 20 National Law Enforcement officers and FDA Rangers**
- **Established Species Working Group**
- **Raised more Conservation and Wildlife Management Education and Awareness Raising nationally**
- **Established the National Species Working Group of Liberia (SWGL)**
- **Established the Wildlife Confiscation Unit**
- **Arrested, investigated, and sent 7 illegal wildlife suspects to courts and cases won (7) in Lofa , Grand Gedeh, Montserrado County, etc.)**
- **Strengthened Institutional collaboration and coordination nationally**

CITES IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Overharvesting/Extinction of species (hunting, fishing, shifting Cultivation)
- Illegal and unsustainable trade/ trafficking
- Inadequate and Scatter data of species
- Demand for bush meat
- Money laundry
- Logging /Habitat destruction
- Poaching
- Wildlife Trade regulation
- Weak Law Enforcement and prosecution
- Limited institutional collaboration and coordination
- Failure of Government to pay Dues/its obligation
- Water poisoning
- Interference of institutions when its comes to the Issuance of CITES permit

CITES IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Bring about Changes in trade of bycatch species corresponding to CITES regulations**
- **Reduces the risks for overexploitation of species**
- **It assist us to inform and redefine potential conservation strategies**
- **CITES has demonstrated its role in reducing the pressure of illegal and unsustainable trade in wild flora and fauna on biodiversity**
- **Strengthens institutional collaboration and coordination**
- **CITES have enhanced the benefits to wildlife conservation and human well-being deriving from sustainable, legal wildlife trade**
- **Ecotourism and Tourism**
- **Minimization of money laundry**
- **Control and monitor institutional permitting system**
- **Bring a Balance data collection, analysis and reporting**

THANK YOU.