

# UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

## Enhancing Intelligence, Targeting and Analysis, and Training

### BACKGROUND & MAIN OBJECTIVES

Through an interagency agreement with USTR, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is supporting the monitoring and enforcement of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Chapter 24 environmental obligations. USTR and CBP share the objective of implementing Chapter 24 (Environment) of USMCA and the Environment Cooperation and Customs Verification Agreement (CVA) between the United States and Mexico. To do so, CBP will increase capabilities to produce and utilize intelligence and data to target high-risk shipments for inspection and entities for verification, and support USTR requests related to customs verifications under the CVA.<sup>1</sup> The work is divided into the following three goals:

**GOAL 1: Improve CBP’s enforcement tools and enhance collaboration among CBP and partner agencies to produce and utilize intelligence and data that will effectively target high-risk shipments for inspection and entities for verifications.**

- Throughout FY 2023, CBP participated in several interagency coordination meetings, including the DOJ-led Timber Working Group, Forest Service-led Lacey Act monthly call, the DOS-led nature crime quarterly meeting, and the Maritime SAFE Interagency Working Group (IWG). The IWG serves as a forum for sharing best practices, challenges, common USG priorities to countering Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the National Five-Year Strategy for combating IUU fishing.
- In April 2023, CBP organized and led an interagency wildlife trafficking workshop with U.S. and Canadian counterparts in Ottawa, Canada. U.S. participating agencies included Fish and Wildlife Service and Homeland Security Investigations. Canadian participating agencies included Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada Border Services Agency and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. U.S. and Canadian counterparts exchanged information about enforcement approaches and best practices, enforcement priorities, and potential areas for collaboration.
- In May 2023, CBP organized and led a virtual timber workshop with Mexico to exchange information about enforcement approaches, targeting methodology, and share best practices in combating illegal logging and timber trafficking. Workshop participants included Mexican officials (from customs and federal police) and representatives from HSI, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- Throughout FY 2023, CBP collaborated with internal and external partners on targeting high-risk imports, which lead to civil enforcement actions such as refusal of entry, audits, and seizures.

**GOAL 2: Expand U.S. border enforcement capacity to implement environmental obligations of the USMCA, specifically concerning but not limited to Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (ILAT) and IUU fishing.**

- In January 2023, the Office of Trade presented to CBP employees about Natural Resources Enforcement priorities to increase awareness and enhance coordination. Topics included wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and IUU fishing.
- CBP will deliver two in-person trainings to personnel (including CBP Officers) at the two ports of entry about the USMCA Chapter 24 obligations in relations to wildlife trafficking, IUU fishing, and ILAT.

**GOAL 3: Expand CBP’s engagement with the trade community to ensure compliance with U.S. laws and regulations associated with the environmental obligations under USMCA, facilitate legitimate imports, and effectively manage risks and enforcement resources.**

- In March 2023, CBP participated in a wildlife trafficking panel at George Mason University.
- In March 2023, CBP delivered a presentation about IUU fishing and obligations under the USMCA environmental chapter at the Seafood Expo North America in Boston, a leading event for all sectors of the seafood industry.
- In April 2023, CBP participated in the 2023 Trade and Cargo Security Summit in Boston, where staff engaged with the trade community about natural resources enforcement as it related to trade agreements such as the USMCA.

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1. The CVA is a separate agreement between the U.S. and Mexico regarding specific shipments of fish, timber, and wildlife (including live) products. It allows the parties to request information and verify whether an importer has provided accurate and adequate documentation demonstrating shipment legality.

