



[Protect Wildlife]



4 Ecotourism and Economic Alternatives

HSI creates economic incentives for communities to conserve local wildlife through ecotourism and sustainable income opportunities instead of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. These programs create a strong link between the protection of natural resources and increased community income, motivating local residents to assume a more proactive role in the protection of endangered species and their habitats.

About HSI

HSI is the international arm of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which has worked since 1954 to celebrate animals and confront cruelty. With 10.5 million members and constituents, The HSUS and HSI are the nation's largest and most powerful animal protection organizations, working in the U.S. and abroad to defend the interests of animals.

Find Out More

Learn more about HSI and how you can help protect wildlife and domestic animals in Latin America and around the world at

hsi.org

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Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty
Worldwide



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CITES

and the

INTERNATIONAL TRADE *in WILD ANIMALS*



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Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

Latin America is one of the world's most biologically diverse regions, but as in many developing regions, its biodiversity is under threat from a variety of human-related factors, including illegal logging and poaching, unsustainable methods of farming and fishing, fossil fuel extraction, and pollution. One of the greatest natural resources under threat from human activities is wildlife. In addition to facing the pressures



of habitat loss, wild animals are captured live for the illegal pet trade or killed for food, skins, and medicinal purposes. Such uses may be prohibited or regulated by national laws or CITES. Without programs to protect them, endangered species could disappear forever, robbing communities of sustainable income and their natural heritage.

CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. CITES aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival as species. More than 170 countries are a party to CITES, including all of the Latin American countries where HSI maintains a presence.

Helping Wildlife and People

Since 2003, **Humane Society International (HSI)** has worked with national governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the region to help enforce domestic environmental laws and international treaties and preserve native wildlife. Based on a close relationship with a network of local partners, HSI's comprehensive program rests on four main pillars:

1 Education and Outreach

Local communities are among the principal guardians of wildlife. Through education and outreach programs, HSI works with local partners to urge these communities, as well as tourists and government officials, to preserve and protect wildlife. Our campaigns use television and radio advertisements, billboards, posters, coloring books, stickers, and many other tools to educate people about endangered



species, habitat protection, and the threats of the illegal wildlife trade.

2 Training

HSI's training programs help local officials better understand

and implement CITES and national environmental laws, as well as handle and transport confiscated animals humanely. Our programs include regional and national workshops to develop strategic plans, identify needs, and train local officials. HSI coordinates with officials from government, customs, police, quarantine, and other agencies and fosters communication between and within countries.



3 Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

HSI supports local NGOs' programs to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife. Through small grants and technical assistance, HSI supports their work in helping governments implement environmental laws and rehabilitating animals confiscated from illegal trade.

