

CITES and the shipment of specimens from wildlife

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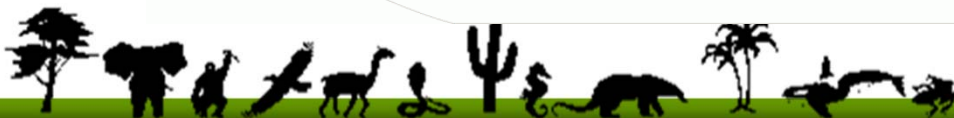
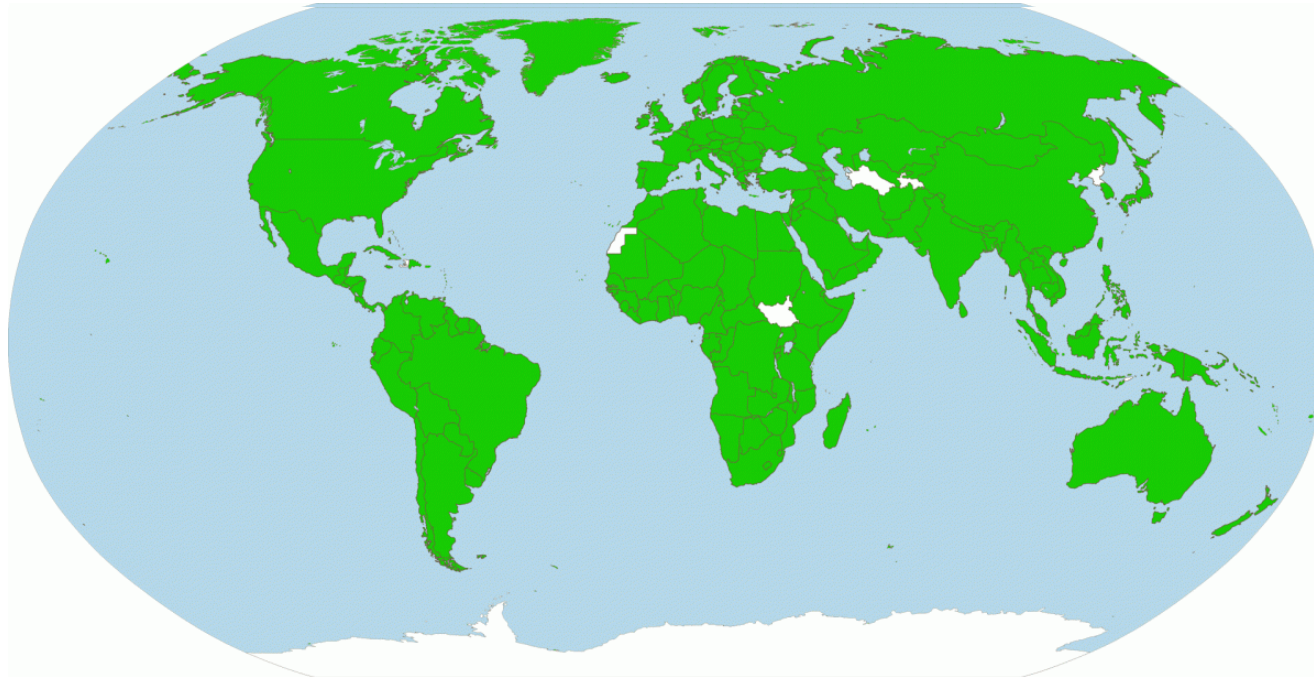
What is CITES?

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



What is CITES?

- Agreed in 1973, in force since 1975
- >35,000 listed species, parts and derivatives
- 183 Parties (members) to date



What is CITES?

A **multilateral agreement** that operates through an **intergovernmental process**,

Combines **wildlife and trade** themes within a legally binding instrument,

achieving **conservation and sustainable use** objectives



CITES Objectives

Ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably, through ensuring:

Legality

Sustainability

Traceability



How does CITES work?



CITES Permits and Certificates

import

export

re-export

introduction from the sea

- Animals and plants (live, dead, parts and derivatives)
- **Permits and certificates** subject to certain conditions



CITES Permits and Certificates

What specimens covered by the provisions of the Convention?

- “any specimen which appears from an accompanying document, the packaging or a mark or label, or from any other circumstances, to be a part or derivative of an animal or plant of a species included in the Appendices”

(unless such part or derivative is specifically exempted from the provisions of the Convention)



CITES Appendices

Species subject to CITES regulation are divided amongst **3 Appendices**.



I



II



III



CITES Appendices: Scope

Appendix I

species
threatened
with
extinction

Appendix II

Species not
necessarily
threatened with
extinction, but for
which trade must be
controlled to avoid
their becoming
threatened

Appendix III

species for
which a
country is
asking Parties
to help with its
protection



CITES Appendices: Permit requirements

Appendix I

Export permit / re-export certificate and import permit

Appendix II

Export / re-export certificate permit

(! Some countries required import permits as well under national laws!)

Appendix III

Export permit or certificate / Re-export certificate



CITES Permits and Certificates

Trade in biological samples

- In Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) CITES Parties recognize that:
- *“Trade [i.e. cross-border movement] in many biological samples, because of their special nature or because of the special purpose of such trade, requires expedited processing of permits and certificates to allow for the timely movement of shipments”*



CITES Permits and Certificates

Trade in biological samples

- Simplified procedures for issuance of CITES permits and certificates to facilitate and expedite trade that will have a negligible impact, or none, on the conservation of the species concerned where biological samples* are urgently required for the control of diseases transferable between species listed in the CITES Appendices

- * defined



CITES Permits and Certificates

Biological samples qualifying for simplified CITES permitting procedures

Type of sample	Typical size of sample	Use of sample
blood, liquid	drops or 5 ml of whole blood in a tube with anticoagulant; may deteriorate in 36 hours	haematology and standard biochemical tests to diagnose disease; taxonomic research; biomedical research
blood, dry (smear)	a drop of blood spread on a microscope slide, usually fixed with chemical fixative	blood counts and screening for disease parasites
blood, clotted (serum)	5 ml of blood in tube with or without a blood clot	serology and detection of antibodies for evidence of disease; biomedical research
tissues, fixed	5 mm ³ pieces of tissues in a fixative	histology and electron microscopy to detect signs of disease; taxonomic research; biomedical research
tissues, fresh (excluding ova, sperm and embryos)	5 mm ³ pieces of tissues, sometimes frozen	microbiology and toxicology to detect organisms and poisons; taxonomic research; biomedical research
swabs	tiny pieces of tissue in a tube on a swab	growing bacteria, fungi, etc. to diagnose disease
hair, skin, feathers, scales	small, sometimes tiny pieces of skin surface in a tube (up to 10 ml in volume) with or without fixative	genetic and forensic tests and detection of parasites and pathogens and other tests
cell lines and tissue cultures	no limitation of sample size	cell lines are artificial products cultured either as primary or continuous cell lines that are used extensively in testing the production of vaccines or other medical products and taxonomic research (e.g. chromosome studies and extraction of DNA)
DNA	small amounts of blood (up to 5 ml), hair, feather follicle, muscle and organ tissue (e.g. liver, heart, etc.), purified DNA, etc.	sex determination; identification; forensic investigations; taxonomic research; biomedical research
secretions, (saliva, venom, milk)	1-5 ml in vials	phylogenetic research, production of anti-venom, biomedical research



CITES Permits and Certificates

Simplified CITES permitting procedures

Register of persons who may benefit:

- Issued with partially completed permits and certificates valid for some months
- Authorized to complete parts of the permit or certificate themselves – ‘self certification’



CITES Permits and Certificates

Simplified CITES permitting procedures

- No need for validation of permit by Customs at export provided that the container bears a label that specifies 'CITES Biological Samples' and the CITES document number
- 'One off' non-detriment findings by exporting Scientific Authority



What species are in the CITES Appendices?

- CITES Website – Appendices page (cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php)
- CITES Checklist (checklist.cites.org/)
- Species+ (www.speciesplus.net/)



Thank you very much

