



CITES and the wildlife trade

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Discovering CITES



- What is CITES and how does it work?
- Global wildlife trade: facts and figures
- Movement of biological samples
- CITES-WOAH relations
- CITES/Wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases



CITES is...

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**
- Signed on 3 March 1973, entered into force in 1975
- Over 37,000 species listed in Appendices
- CITES has 184 signatory Parties: 183 States and the EU.



CITES is...

- a multilateral legally binding agreement that operates through an **intergovernmental process**
- An international regulatory framework of trade in wild plants and animals
- aimed at achieving **conservation and sustainable use** objectives



The signing of the CITES Convention. Washington, D.C., 3 March 1973.

Objectives of CITES

To ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably by keeping this trade:

LEGAL

SUSTAINABLE

TRACEABLE

SAFE?

CITES Scope

import

export

re-export

introduction from the sea

Specimens

- Animals and plants
- live, dead, parts and derivatives
- Finished products



CITES Appendices

Species* subject to CITES regulations are included in one of **three Appendices**:

Appendix I



Appendix II



Appendix III



* "Species" means any species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof.



CITES Appendices: international commercial trade is...

Appendix I

*Species threatened
with extinction*

...generally
prohibited

Appendix II

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

...permitted but
controlled

Appendix III

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

...permitted
and monitored



CITES Permit and Certificates

CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		TRAVELLING-EXHIBITION CERTIFICATE	
Original			
3. Owner of specimen(s) (name, permanent address and country of registration)		4. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of issuing Management Authority	
5. Special conditions: a) Valid for multiple cross-border movements. Owner to retain original form b) The specimen/s covered by this certificate may not be sold or otherwise transferred in any State other than the State in which the exhibition is based and registered. This certificate is non-transferable. If the specimen/s dies/die, is/are stolen, destroyed, lost, sold or otherwise transferred, this certificate must be immediately returned by the owner to the issuing Management Authority c) This certificate is not valid unless accompanied by a continuation sheet <small>If for live animals, this certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; if for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations; or, in the case of non-air transport, with the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants</small>		1. Certificate no. 2. Valid until	
6. Country of import Various	7. Purpose of the transaction Q	8. Security stamp no.	
9. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of species	10. Description of specimen/s, including identifying marks or numbers, age, sex	11. Quantity 12. Appendix no. and source	
13. Country of origin	14. Permit no. and date	15. Exhibition registration number	16. Date of acquisition, if pre-Convention
17. This certificate is issued by: Place _____ Date _____ Security stamp, signature and official seal _____			
18. Additional conditions			
19. Customs endorsement (see Continuation sheet)			

Legality

Legal acquisition, source

Sustainability

Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)

Traceability

Trade records (countries, purpose, quantity, etc.)

Movement of biological samples

- **Scientific Exchange Exemption**
- Article VII, paragraph 6/Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP18)
- **Simplified procedures**
- Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18)



Movement of biological samples

Scientific Exchange Exemption

- Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of specimens including diagnostic and forensic research specimens between registered scientists or scientific institutions
- National CITES offices must nominate scientists or scientific institutions for inclusion in register
- Simple conditions for registration
- Over 900 scientists and scientific institutions in over 75 States



Movement of biological samples

Scientific Exchange Exemption

- No CITES permits required – just CITES label on transport container
- Diagnostic testing laboratories recognized as an official reference laboratory or collaborating centre by WOAHP qualify for registration



Movement of biological samples

Simplified procedures

- In Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) 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”*



Movement of biological samples

Simplified procedures

- 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 or for diagnostic purposes
- Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 22

*defined



Movement of biological samples

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

Movement of biological samples

Simplified CITES permitting procedures

Persons and bodies who benefit from simplified procedures:

- Are issued with partially completed permits valid for up six months (export permits) or 12 months (import permits) or certificates valid up to three years
- Are required to only use the pre-filled permits for certain species and purposes
- Are authorized to complete pre-defined parts of the permit or certificate themselves (e.g. destination, specimen, quantity) - 'self certification'



Movement of biological samples

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
- https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/exemptions/E_SimplifiedProcedures_endorsed_SC73.pdf



CITES-WOAH relations

- Cooperation Agreement 2015
- Interim Joint Work Plan
- Longer term joint programme of work?



Wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases

- Spread of COVID pandemic virus SARS-CoV-2
- Transmission/spillover from wildlife-people
- Role for CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade?
- CITES CoP19 proposals: Action now or stepwise review?



Thank you for your attention !



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