



The Convention on International
Trade in Endangered Species of Wild
Fauna and Flora (CITES)

INTRODUCTION

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an **international convention** that combines wildlife and trade themes with a legally binding instrument for achieving conservation and sustainable use objectives.
- In 1963, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), an NGO devoted to conservation of the environment, passed a resolution calling on all nations to work together to protect endangered species.
- As a result, on 3rd March 1973 in Washington DC, 80 nations adopted CITES, an agreement to regulate the international trade of endangered plants and animals.
- **CITES went into effect on 1st July 1975.**
- Currently with 183 Parties (include countries or regional economic integration organizations) signed to the convention.

AIM OF THE CONVENTION



The overall aim of the convention is to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.



It achieves this by regulating and monitoring exports and imports of live and dead plants, animals and their derivatives.

Examples of trade

- Primates
- Hunting trophies
- Birds of prey
- Parrots & parakeets
- Crocodilians
- Snakes & lizards
- Turtles & tortoises
- Live aquarium specimens
- Food fishes
- Spiders & butterflies
- Molluscs & corals



Examples of trade

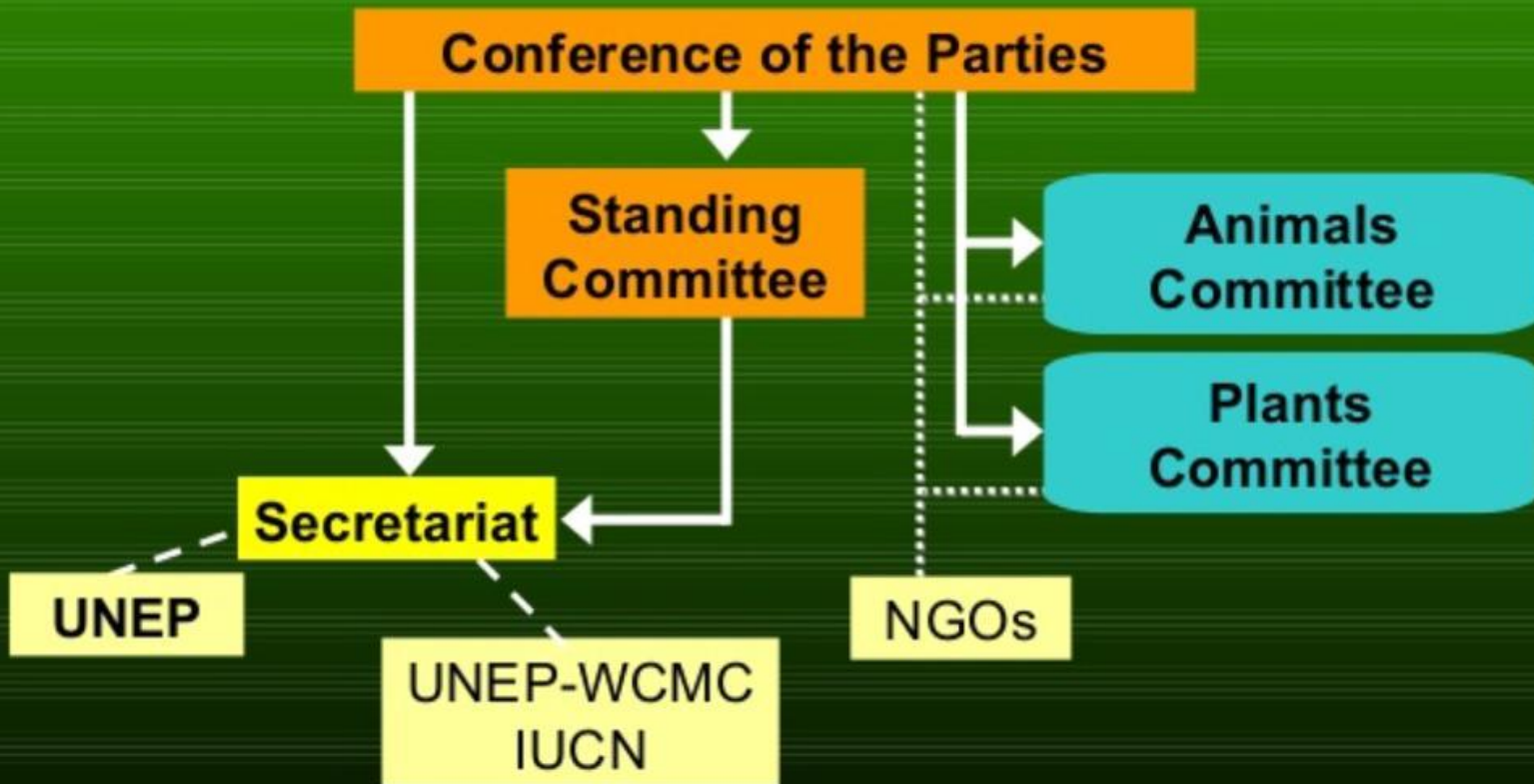
- Orchids
- Cacti & succulents
- Bulbs (Snowdrops, Cyclamens)
- Medicinal plants
- Ornamental trees
- Timber species



Mapping CITES trade



Structure



The benefits of CITES

- Regulated trade (effective and consistent)
- Science-based decisions
- Cooperation at multiple levels
- Conservation results
- Sustainable use of wildlife
- Towards a 'green' certification?



The benefits of CITES

Effective and consistent **international regulation** of trade in wildlife for conservation and sustainable use

International cooperation on trade and conservation, legislation and enforcement, resource management, conservation science

Participation as a global player in managing and conserving wildlife at the international level

DIFFERENT DEGREES OF PROTECTION

CITES accords varying degrees of protection to more than 36,000 species of animals and plants by applying different provisions to species included in three Appendices.

THREE APPENDICES: 36,000
SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND
PLANTS

APPENDIX I

APPENDIX II

APPENDIX III



Appendix I(3%)

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction, which are or may be affected by trade.
- International (commercial) trade in wild specimens is generally prohibited.
- 3% of all listings (Conference of the Parties to decide).
- All trade in species included in Appendix I shall be managed by authorities of the state and it would be ensured that exports were not obtained in contravention of the laws of that state for the protection of flora and fauna.
- Examples include **gorillas, sea turtles, most lady slipper orchids, and giant pandas**. Currently **1003 species & 42 sub-species** are listed.

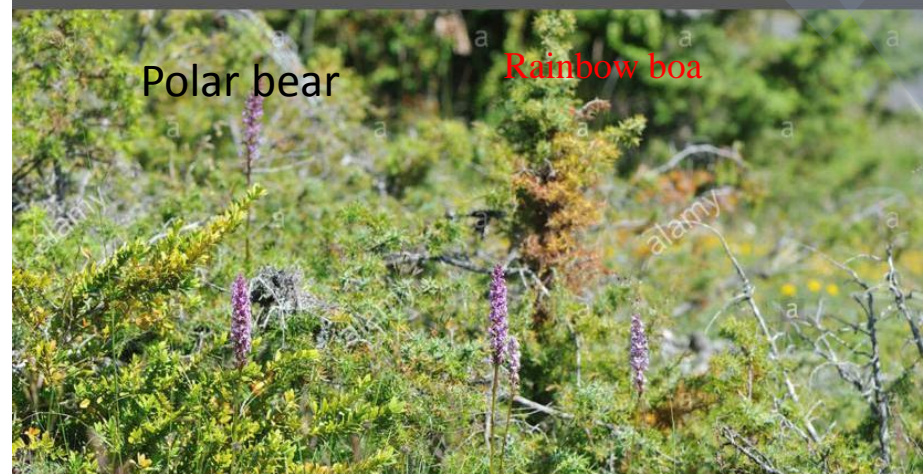


Appendix II(96%)

- Species not necessarily currently threatened with extinction but may become so unless trade is strictly regulated to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.
- Most CITES species are listed in this Appendix, including American ginseng, paddlefish, lions, American alligators, mahogany and many corals. Currently 34,596 species & 12 sub-species are listed.
- It also includes so-called "look-alike species", i.e. species whose specimens in trade look like those of species listed for conservation reasons.
- International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.
- No import permit is necessary for these species under CITES (although a permit is needed in some countries that have taken stricter measures than CITES requires).
- Permits or certificates should only be granted if the relevant authorities are satisfied that certain conditions are met, above all that trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.



Polar bear



Rainbow boa



Flag o' archid

Appendix III(1%)

- Species for which a country is asking parties to help with its protection.
- Examples include map turtles, walruses and Cape stag beetles.
- Currently 147 species are listed.
- International trade is permitted but regulated (less restrictive than Appendix II).



Atlantic walrus



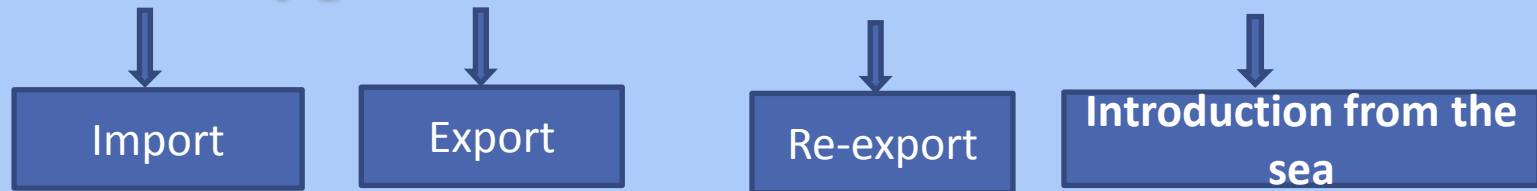
Blackbuck



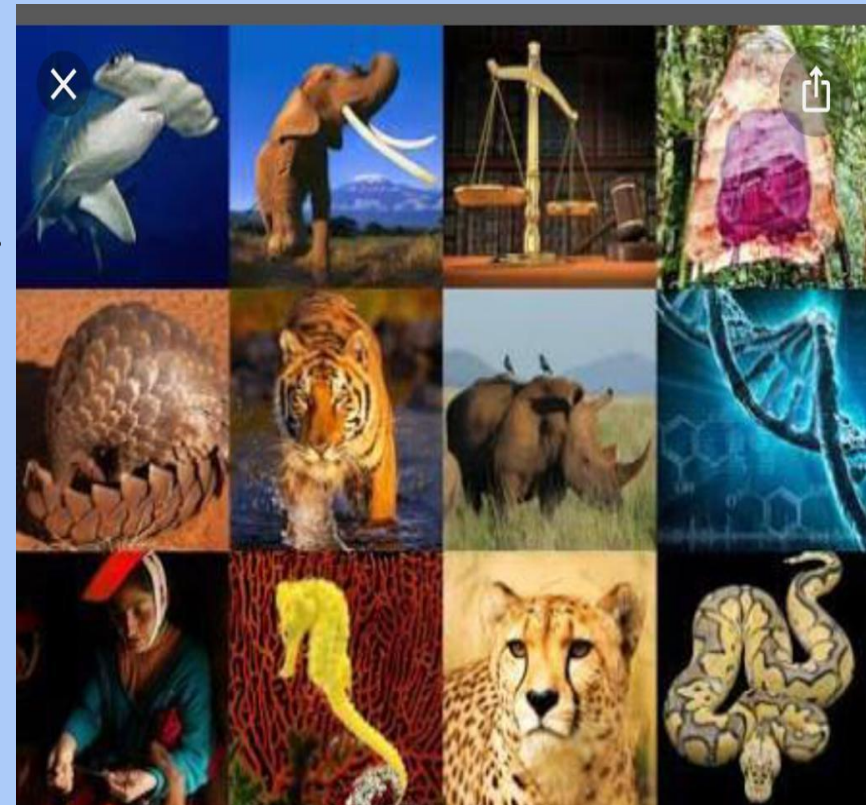
Sacred Ibis

CITES permits and certificates

Four types of CITES documents



- CITES regulates the export, import and re-export of animals and plants (live, dead parts and their Derivatives) through a system of permits and certificates
- Permits and certificates Issued under certain conditions
 - Lawfully obtained
 - Trade will not be detrimental to the survival of species





Customs Organization



Partnerships with Organizations

Partnerships with Conventions

CITES collaborates directly with a number of Conventions such as:

- Convention of Biological Diversity
- Basal Convention
- Ramsar
- Convention of Migratory Species
- International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling
- This collaboration can involve Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, joint work activities etc.
- Collaboration can be across common areas of work such as joint Customs training, enforcement streamlining, annual reporting, harmonization of legislation etc.



THANKS