



CITES and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Promoting the Sustainable Use and Conservation
of Wild Plants and Animals*

Division of Management Authority
Division of Scientific Authority

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES): A Conservation Tool

- ❖ 176 Member Countries, referred to as “Parties”
- ❖ Ensures that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild.
- ❖ Establishes an international legal framework with common procedures and mechanisms.



Common Misconceptions about CITES

❌ CITES addresses all aspects of wildlife conservation



✅ CITES deals *only* with international trade of species listed in its Appendices

❌ CITES bans trade in listed species



✅ CITES *regulates* international trade in listed species



Common Misconceptions about CITES

❌ CITES regulates domestic trade



✅ CITES only addresses *international* trade

❌ The CITES Appendices are a listing of the world's endangered species



✅ The Appendices list only those species that are or may be affected by international trade



How CITES Works:

The Appendices

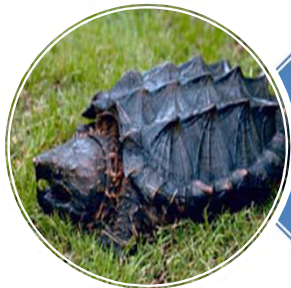


Appendix I (about 1,000 spp.):

- Species threatened with extinction
- No commercial trade
- Requires both an import permit and an export permit

Appendix II (about 30,000 spp.):

- Species vulnerable to overexploitation but not at risk of extinction
- Commercial and non-commercial trade allowed
- Permits/certificates required for export, but not for import



Appendix III (about 300 spp.):

- Purpose is to address legal origin, not sustainability
- Species protected by at least one country that has requested assistance to help regulate trade
- Can be listed unilaterally, at any time



How CITES Works:

Official Meetings

Conference of the Parties

- Reviews how the treaty is working
- Resolves policy issues
- Amends lists of protected species
- Works together to ensure wildlife trade is carried out in accordance with the Treaty

Committees

- Standing Committee
 - Provides general policy and operational direction to the Secretariat regarding CITES implementation
 - Advises the other committees as appropriate
- Animals and Plants Committees
 - Fills gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge
 - Undertakes periodic reviews of listed species
 - Advises when trade in a particular species may be unsustainable



CITES Implementation in the US:

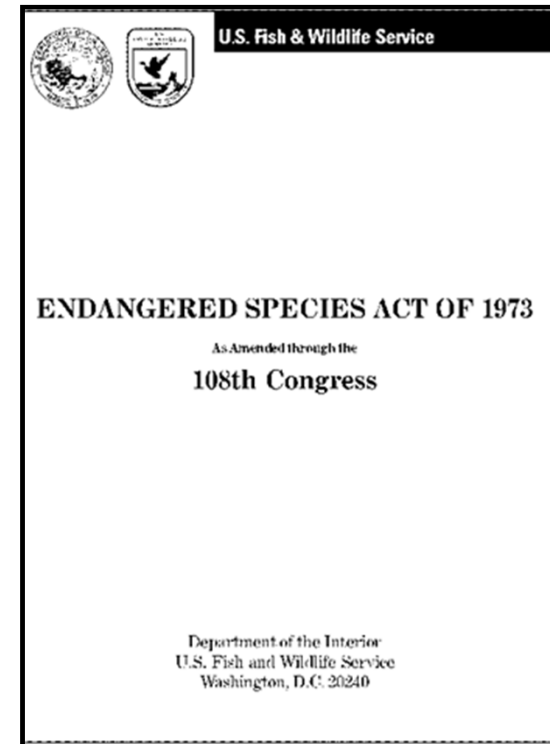
Legislation and Regulations

❖ Legislation:

- ❖ The Secretary of the Interior is designated as the implementing authority through the Endangered Species Act
- ❖ Establishes a Management Authority and Scientific Authority

❖ Regulations:

- ❖ Based on the Convention text and current resolutions adopted by the Parties
- ❖ Include definitions and US-specific information
- ❖ Can be found at 50 CFR Parts 10, 13, 17, and 23



CITES-listed Reptiles and Amphibians

- ▶ Appendix I includes 76 reptile species (and 5 subspecies) and 17 amphibian species;
 - Chinese alligator (*Alligator sinensis*)
 - Bengal monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*)
 - Madagascar tree boa (*Sanzinia madagascariensis*)
 - Bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*)
 - Radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*)
 - Spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*)
 - Kaiser spotted newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*)
 - Giant salamanders (*Andrias spp.*)



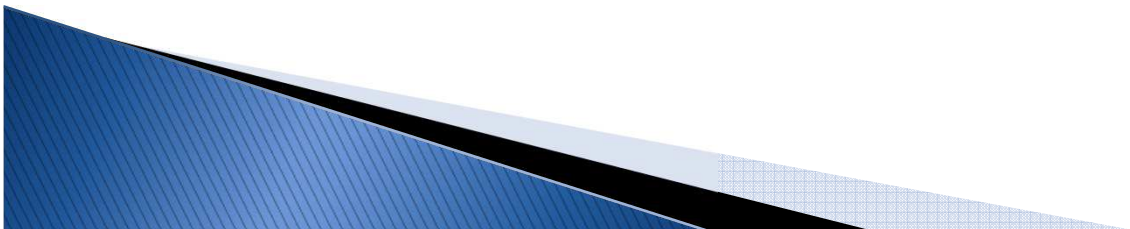
CITES-listed Reptiles and Amphibians

- ▶ Appendix II includes 582 reptile species and 113 amphibian species;
 - All crocodylians not listed in Appendix I
 - All chameleons not listed in Appendix I
 - All tortoises not listed in Appendix I
 - All varanids not listed in Appendix I
 - All boids and pythons not listed in Appendix I
 - Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*)
 - American box turtles (*Terrapene* spp.)
 - Asian box turtles (*Cuora* spp.)
 - All poison and *Mantella* frogs
 - All *Agalychnis* frogs



CITES-listed Reptiles and Amphibians

- ▶ Appendix III includes 56 reptile species and 2 amphibian species;
 - New Zealand geckos (*Naultinus* and *Hoplodactylus* spp.)
 - Alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)
 - Map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.)
 - Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*)





International Affairs

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

*Permits as a Conservation Tool
Role of the USFWS International
Program*





Permits Legal Mandates

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
- **Endangered Species Act**
- **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**
- **Lacey Act**
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**
- **Wild Bird Conservation Act**





International Affairs

Who We Work With in the FWS

- Law Enforcement HQ/Regional/Port Offices
- Endangered Species Regional Offices
- Migratory Bird Regional Offices
- Wildlife Refuges
- International Affairs



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Permits



<http://permits.fws.gov>



Permits

- **Enable legitimate activities that would otherwise be prohibited by law**
- **Ensure activities are carried out in a manner that safeguards wildlife:**
 - **Consider risks and benefits of proposed activities**
 - **Base permit decisions on best available science**
- **Promote conservation:**
 - **Authorizing scientific research and monitor activities consistent with species enhancement**
 - **Generate data**
 - **Allow wildlife management and rehabilitation**



Permits...

- **Help to conserve wildlife and their habitats, although most people are unaware of the role**
- **Can tell us something useful about the resources they regulate**
- **Allow us to monitor activities to determine how they affect protected wildlife populations**
- **Enable scientists to conduct research on protected species to develop information needed to assist with their conservation.**



DMA - Permits

- **A significant way that DMA implements CITES is through the permit issuance process**
- **In FY2011, DMA issued approximately 25,000+ permits and documents under CITES, ESA, Lacey Act, WBCA, and MMPA**
- **The vast majority of these were CITES permits**





CITES Permits Issued

• YEAR	REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS
• 2010	7,000	68
• 2011	7,500	79
• 2012	5,760	18



International Affairs

Please be aware..



- **If specimens are protected by other laws such as the Endangered Species Act, you are required to obtain additional authorizations prior to any export, re-export or import of specimens.**



Application Forms

- **Submit application form (3-200-xx) and proper processing fees**
 - **24 (live captive born)**
 - **27 (export wildlife removed from the wild)**
 - **73 (re-export of wildlife)**
 - **42 (injurious wildlife)**
- **Processing time (60 days)**
- **Valid for six months**
- **Comply with Special Conditions**
- **Comply with Foreign country laws**



Application Forms

- **MASTER FILES**
- **Registration of a Production Facility for Export of Certain Native Species (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Multiple Commercial Shipments (3-200-75)**
- **Establishment of a Master File for the Export of Live Animals Bred in Captivity (CITES) Multiple Commercial Shipments (3-200-85)**
- **Single-Use Export Permits Under a Master File or Annual Program File CITES (3-200-74)**



How to Reach Us

- **Permit-related questions: 800-358-2104**
- **Policy and regulation questions: 703-358-2095**
- **Email: managementauthority@fws.gov**
- **www.fws.gov/international**