

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



Washington, D.C., on 3 March 1973





CITES objectives

Ensure that wild fauna and flora in international trade are not exploited unsustainably

Legality, sustainability, traceability







S. Heindrichs / PEW, Shark fins, China

CITES is a multilateral agreement

Operates through an intergovernmental process,

which combines wildlife and trade themes within a legally binding instrument,

achieving conservation and sustainable use objectives

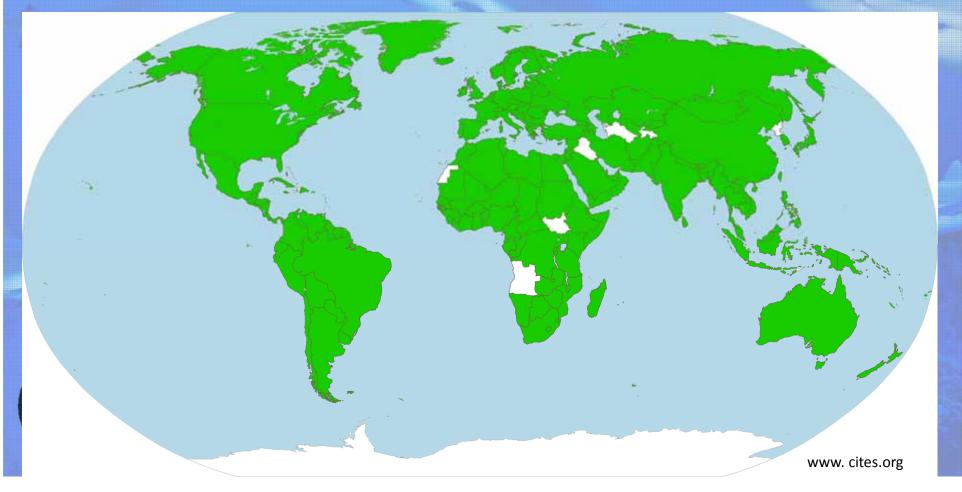


...by setting a common procedural mechanism



CITES coverage & scope

- 179 member countries
- Regulates international trade of 35,000+ listed species (live, dead, parts and derivatives)



Not all species are prohibited from trade...

Of the 35,000+ listed species...

3% Appendix I

(international commercial trade in wild specimens prohibited)

97% Appendix II&III (regulated)





Not all listed species appear in trade...

Of the 35,000+ listed species...

4% commonly traded

1% highly traded

About 150 animal and 1,800 plant species account for 90% of CITES transactions





Wildlife Trade & Economy







Value of CITES trade

- Record of 13 million trade transactions
- Globally valued in billions of US Dollars Examples:
 - Queen conch: \$ 60 MM/year
 - Python skins = \$ 1 BN/year
 - Bigleaf mahogany = \$ 33 MM/year







"Value" of illegal trade...



- Specimens that cannot be commercially traded but for which an illegal market exists (tiger skins, rhino horn, etc.)
- Specimens that can be lawfully traded, but are not handled in accordance with CITES





Wildlife trade – economic sectors

Housing & furniture

Mahogany, ramin, cedar, ...



Pharmaceuticals



Vaccines, herbal, research,...

Cosmetics

Wax, oils,...



Food



Caviar, fish, wild meat, plants,...

Leather & fashion

Bags, watches, fur, fibers,...



Wildlife trade – economic sectors

Pets





Birds, reptiles, fish...

Tourism

Zoos, museums, botanical gardens, circus



Collections







Hunting safaris, falconry, trophies, souvenirs (shells, corals)

Ornamental plants

Decoration, landscape design, gardens, houseplants, cut flowers





CITES Appendices

Species* regulated under CITES are divided

amongst 3 Appendices









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



CITES Appendix I

 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)





Sawfishes: Pristidae spp.

CITES Appendix II

- Species not necessarily currently threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade is strictly regulated to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival
- Also, species that resemble species already included in Appendix II
- International (commercial) trade is permitted but regulated
- 96% of all listings (Conference of the Parties to decide)





Sharks/Manta rays in Appendix II



Cetorhinus maximus (Basking shark)



Carcharhinus longimanus (Oceanic whitetip shark)



Sphyrna lewini, S.mokarran,
S. zygaena
(Hammerhead sharks)



Rhincodon typus (Whale shark)



Lamna nasus (Porbeagle shark)



Manta spp. (Manta rays)

Corcherodon carcharias (Great white shark)

Entry into effect delayed to 14 September 2014

CITES Appendix III

- Species for which a country is asking Parties to help with its protection
- International trade is permitted but regulated (less restrictive than Appendix II)
- 1% of CITES trade (no CoP decision needed)



Lamna nasus*

(Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)



Sphyrna lewini*
(Costa Rica)



*Until 14 September 2014

Other marine species in CITES Appendices

Humphead wrasse
 (Napoleon fish) - Appendix II

Queen conch – Appendix II

- Giant clams Appendix II
- Hard corals, black corals
 - Appendix II
- European eel Appendix II

Sturgeons – Appendix I & II







CITES listing criteria

Biological criteria

Low productivity (slow-growing, small number of pups), behavioral vulnerability to harvesting

Trade criteria

(historic population declines related to international trade in fins, meat and bycatch)

 Great and Smooth hammerheads: specimens most frequently traded resemble those of the scalloped hammerhead to such an extent that enforcement officers are unlikely to be able to distinguish them

What should Parties do by 14 Sept. 2014?

Countries wishing to (re-)export or import specimens of the recently CITES-listed sharks and rays after 14th September 2014 have to meet certain requirements.





What should Parties do by 14 Sept. 2014?

Legality

National laws, legal aquisition, RFMOs, enforcement, ...

Sustainability

NDFs, science, Introduction From the Sea, ...

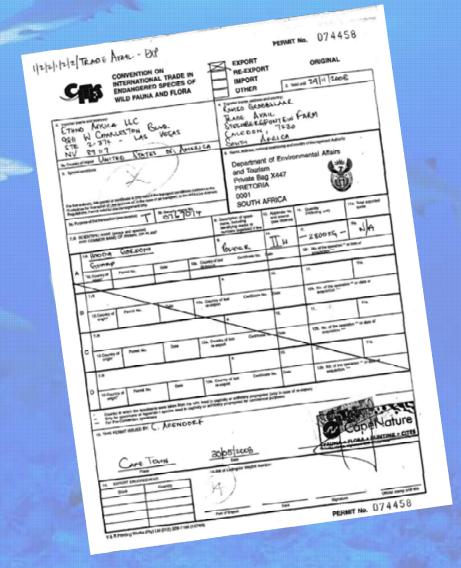
Traceability

Permits, identification, reporting, databases





CITES Permits and Certificates







CITES permits and certificates

import

export

re-export

introduction from the sea

- Animals and plants (live, dead, parts and derivatives)
- Permits and certificates issued under certain conditions:
 - Lawfully obtained
 - Trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species

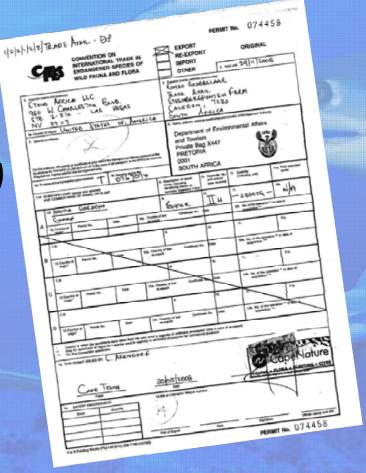


CITES permits and certificates

Provides:

- Scientific information (non-detrimental findings)
- Legal origin & sourcing
- Trade data
- Purpose of the trade







Trade with non-Parties

- Comparable documentation may be accepted
 - issued by competent authorities
 - conforms with CITES requirements for permits and certificates

 Details of the competent authorities and scientific institutions must be included in the CITES Directory

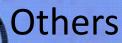




Collaboration and cooperation are essential for CITES implementation

National stakeholders include:

- CITES Authorities
- Natural resources sector (fisheries, forestry, etc.)
- Businesses (traders, wholesalers, transport, etc.)
- Customs
- Police
- Judiciary





Summary: CITES is...

- Intergovernmental agreement on international trade in wild fauna and flora
- Legality, traceability, and sustainability
- Legal framework & procedural mechanisms
- system of permits and certificates
- Inter-agency and inter-sector collaboration





Thank you for your attention!

CITES and FAO working for legal, sustainable and traceable international trade in sharks and manta rays, supported by the European Union



