

List of Parties' interpretations of the annotation exempting  
fossil corals from the provisions of the Convention

China

Fossil corals are remains of coral skeleton buried by natural process and subsequently permanently preserved, that has or has not undergone changes in appearance and does not fall under the definition of coral fragments, coral rock or dead coral.

European Community

Fossils, namely all categories of coral rock, except live rock (meaning pieces of coral rock to which are attached live specimens of invertebrate species and coralline algae not included in the Appendices and which are transported moist, but not in water) are not subject to the provisions of the Convention.

Mexico

Fossil coral: all categories of coral rock [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP12)], except live rock.

Switzerland

Fossils are all petrified corals that are as a rule enclosed in or part of geological rock formations (e.g. in the chalk of the Jura mountain range in Switzerland).

United States of America

Fossil corals are part of limestone deposits with extinct species of corals and other marine invertebrates. These rock deposits are from several thousand to 500 million years old. Limestone can be cut and polished for jewellery and lapidary articles.

- Note: i) limestone (fossil coral) often lacks complete and recognizable coral skeletons and structures (i.e. corallites, septa) but consists of a matrix of lime cement and broken pieces of reef rock and mollusc shells; and
- ii) cavities in limestone and the spaces between coral and mollusc shell structures are filled with a lime cement and often are not porous.