

CITES Permits and Certificates

What is CITES and how does it apply to me?

The Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) protects many species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand does not threaten their survival in the wild. It regulates trade in listed species and hybrids, including parts and products, through a permitting system. The Wildlife and Sustainable Forest Management Programs within the Forest Department process applications for CITES permits and certificates for Belize.



Photo Credit: Belize Bird Rescue

Yellow-headed Parrot, CITES Appendix I

- Appendix I includes species presently threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade. CITES directs its most stringent controls at activities involving these species.
- Appendix II includes species that are not presently threatened with extinction but may become so if its trade is not regulated.

- Appendix III includes species listed by a range country to obtain international cooperation in controlling trade.

What CITES documents are required?

• Import

The import of Appendix-I specimens requires both import and export permits. Trade in specimens is prohibited except for non-commercial purposes (research).

Import permits will be issued once the import will not be detrimental to the species' survival, and once the importer is suitably equipped to house and care for the live animals and plants.

Import permits are required for the export of Appendix II species, however an import permit for the export of Appendix III specimens is not required.

• Export

The export of Appendix I and II specimens require an export permit. Such permits may be granted once the specimen was legally obtained and its export will not be detrimental to the species' survival.

For Appendix III species originating from a State that has included it in Appendix III, an export permit from that country is required. If the specimen is being exported from any other State, a Certificate of Origin will be required.

• Re-Export

A re-export certificate is required for the export of CITES listed specimens that were previously imported, including items subsequently converted to manufactured goods. A certificate may be issued once evidence of legal import has been provided. If you were the original importer of the wildlife or plant, you need to provide a copy of the canceled CITES permit that accompanied the shipment into Belize. If you were not the original importer, you must provide copies of the importer's documents, as well as documents that prove purchase from the original importer, or a record of sequential transactions.



Photo Credit: Green Iguana Conservation Project

Green Iguana, CITES Appendix II

• Introduction from the Sea

Introduction from the sea certificates are issued for specimens taken on the high seas outside of any country's jurisdiction. Certificates for Appendix I species may be granted once the specimen is not intended to be used for commercial purposes and its introduction is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

Certificates for Appendix II species will be issued once the introduction is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and that any living specimen will be shipped in a manner to reduce risk of injury.

• **Pre-Convention Certificate**

Pre-convention certificates apply to those specimens that were acquired prior to the CITES listing. Pre-convention specimens can either be from wild or captive bred/artificially propagated sources.

Once a Pre-convention certificate is issued, no other permits are required for its import, export or re-export.

• **Bred-in-captivity/Artificially Propagated Certificate**

If a species meets the criteria for bred-in-captivity or artificially propagated as outlined in CITES resolutions, the exporting country may issue an exemption certificate. For Appendix- I specimens, no CITES import permit is required.

• **Scientific Exchange Certificate**

This permit allows for the non-commercial loan, donation, or exchange of museum and herbarium (non-live flora and fauna) specimens among CITES registered scientific institutions.

• **Certificate of Origin**

This permit applies to Appendix III specimens being exported from a State other than the State that made the listing. A Certificate of Origin will be issued once the specimen was legally obtained within the exporting country.

• **Certificate of Ownership**

Certificates of ownership applies to personally owned wildlife. This certificate serves as a “pet passport” and is valid for multiple border crossing for a period of three years.

Shipping live animals and plants

Permits for the shipment of CITES-listed live animals or plants may be issued only when the specimen will be humanely shipped. Live animal shipments must meet the International Air Transport

Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations or CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants.

What exceptions are there to permit requirements?

• **In-transit Shipments**

Under CITES, a shipment transiting a country must be accompanied by a CITES permit from the exporting country to its final destination. The shipment must remain under Customs bond during transit. Verification of shipment requirements by other Parties is encouraged.

• **Shipments within Belize**

CITES imposes no controls on shipments between districts.



Photo Credit: David Hilmy

• **Personal or Household Effects**

Belize recognizes the CITES personal and household effects exemption for wildlife and plants, or their parts and products, when the import or export is part of a household move or accompanying the owner and intended for personal use (does not include specimens mailed or shipped separately). This applies only under the following conditions:

• Appendix-II and III specimens may be imported and exported without CITES documents, provided that the foreign country does not require a CITES permit and there are no quantitative exemptions.

• Legally acquired Appendix I specimens may be exported by a Belizean resident without CITES documents, provided the foreign country does not require a CITES permit. Appendix I specimens acquired abroad by individuals outside their country or usual residence require a CITES permit.

Importing from a CITES Non-Party

When importing CITES- listed wildlife or plants, or their parts and products, from a non-party to CITES, comparable documentation from the competent authorities which conforms with the requirements for trade may be accepted.

Applying for a CITES permit or certificate.

- 1. Complete a standard Import/Export Permit application form and submit with a processing fee to the Belize Forest Department. Allow at least 30 days for review. For more information visit www.forest.gov.bz
- 2. Contact the Management Authorities of the importing, transit and export countries for additional requirements. (Visit the CITES Secretariat’s website at www.cites.org)
- 3. Some CITES-listed species are also protected by the Wildlife Protection Act Chapter 220 and may have additional requirements.

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