



CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

HOW DOES CITES WORK?

- CITES regulates the international trade of thousands of wild animals (fauna) and plants (flora) and their parts and derivatives through a permitting system. In Belize, permits for terrestrial species are issued by the Forest Department and by the Fisheries Department for marine species.

APPENDICES

- The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendix I

- These are species threatened with extinction. Trade in these species is permitted only in exceptional and non-commercial circumstances such as scientific research.
- Appendix I species include the *Ara macao* (Scarlet macaw), *Panthera onca* (Jaguar), *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead turtle).
- Trade in Appendix I species requires an import permit from the receiving country. In the case of a live animal or plant, the importing state needs to be satisfied that the proposed recipient is suitably equipped to house and care for it.
- In addition, an export permit needs to be issued by the exporting country. This is issued once proof of legal acquisition of the specimen can be presented, trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species and an import permit has already been issued.

Appendix II

- These species are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but whose trade must be regulated in order to avoid its overutilization.
- Appendix II species include the *Isurus oxyrinchus* (Shortfin mako shark), *Crocodylus moreletii* (Morelet's crocodile). Plant species include *Swietenia macrophylla* (Big leaf mahogany), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedar), *Dalbergia stevensonii* (Honduran rosewood) as well as, species in the Orchidaceae (Orchids), Bromeliaceae (Bromeliads) and Cactaceae (Cacti) families.
- Trade in Appendix II species requires an export permit issued by either the Forest Department or Fisheries Department.
- An export permit is issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and its export will be detrimental to the survival of the species.

Appendix III

- These are species that are protected in at least one country and has asked other Parties for assistance in controlling its trade. Species listed includes *Crax rubra* (Great Curassow), *Tamandua mexicana* (Northern tamandua) and the *Penelope purpurascens* (Crested guan).
- The State that has included the species in Appendix III issues an export permit for export from that country. This may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained.
- In the case of export from any other state, a certificate of origin is issued.