



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

Key provisions of the agreement

Article 1: Definitions

- Definitions, including,
 - Species – and species, subspecies, or geographically separate population;
 - Specimen – any animal or plant, whether alive or dead;
 - Trade – export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea;
- Introduction from the sea – transportation into a State of specimens of any species which were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State.

Article III: Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I

- The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit;
- The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an import permit and either an export permit or a re-export certificate;
- The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant of a certificate from a Management Authority of the State of introduction.

Article IV: Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix II

- The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit;
- A Scientific Authority in each Party shall monitor both the export permits granted by that State for specimens of species included in Appendix II and the actual exports of such specimens;
- The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior presentation of either an export permit or a re-export certificate;
- The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant of a certificate from a Management Authority of the State of introduction.

Article V: Regulation of trade in specimens of species included in Appendix III

- The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III from any State which has included that species in Appendix III shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export permit;
- The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III shall require, except in the case of re-export, the prior presentation of a certificate of origin and, where the import is from a State which has included that species in Appendix III, an export permit.

Article X: Trade with States not party to the Convention

- Where export or re-export is to, or import is from, a country that is not a Party to CITES, comparable documentation issued by the competent authorities in that country which substantially conforms with the CITES requirements may be accepted in lieu.

Article XV: Amendments to Appendices I and II

- Any Party may propose an amendment to Appendix I or II for consideration at the next meeting. The text of the proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the meeting;
- Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of Parties present and voting.

This factsheet on [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 18–21.