



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

[www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)



# ENDANGERED SPECIES AND TRADE

**IN ORDER TO AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES, HAVING YOUR ITEMS CONFISCATED AT THE BORDER, OR RECEIVING TICKETS, FINES OR PROSECUTION, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS.**



## DO YOU BUY, SELL, IMPORT AND/OR EXPORT WILDLIFE SPECIES OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN WILDLIFE PARTS OR DERIVATIVES?

### Are you:

- An **importer or exporter of wildlife animal or plant species**, either live specimens or products that contain their parts and/or derivatives?
- A **breeder/propagator of wildlife animal or plant species** who imports or exports internationally?
- A **store owner** who sells wildlife animal or plant species, either live specimens or products that contain their parts or derivatives? Do you have a **pet or plant store (for example: plant nursery, florist)**? Do you sell **traditional or herbal medicines**? Do you have a **second-hand store, pawn shop or auction house**?

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON WILDLIFE TRADE

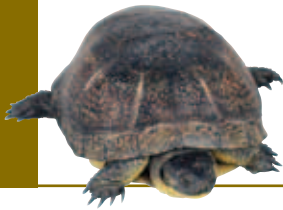
### CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

To prevent over-exploitation of wildlife species through international trade and illegal poaching, the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) was formed on July 1, 1975. CITES is an international agreement to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRITA) is the legislation through which Canada meets its international obligations under CITES.

Canada 

Currently, there are over 170 member countries that are parties to the Convention. Over 5 000 animal species and over 29 000 plant species are listed under CITES.

**Imports and exports of species listed under CITES are controlled through a permit system.** It is illegal to bring a CITES-listed species or its parts and derivatives across Canadian and many international borders without the appropriate CITES permits. CITES-listed animals and plants are classified into one of three appendices, depending upon how endangered they are.



## WAPPRIITA – CANADA’S WILDLIFE TRADE LAW

In Canada, CITES is administered by Environment Canada and is implemented under WAPPRIITA.

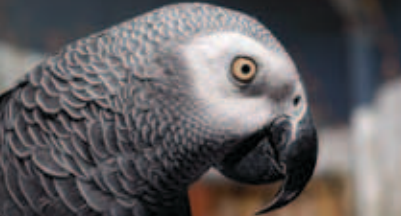
Under sections 6 to 9 of WAPPRIITA, it is unlawful to:

1. Import or possess any wild species of animal or plant, including their parts and derivatives that were obtained or exported illegally from another country. This is not restricted to CITES-listed species.
2. Import or export CITES-listed species without the appropriate permits.
3. In most cases, offer for sale or possess CITES Appendix I wild species.

Importing and exporting includes shipping by air, sea and rail, by mail and courier, and in personal luggage.

**WAPPRIITA – Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act** – is the legislation through which Canada meets its international obligations under CITES. In Canada, imports and exports of species listed under CITES are controlled through a permit system under WAPPRIITA.

WAPPRIITA Schedule I	CITES Appendix	Classification	CITES Permit Requirements	Species Examples
Includes all species listed in the CITES appendices (Appendix I, II and III)	Appendix I	Species threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade.	CITES Export Permit OR a CITES Re-Export Certificate from country of export/ re-export AND a CITES Import Permit from country of import. <b>NOTE: Trade in these species for commercial purposes is generally prohibited.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian elephant (<i>Elephas maximus</i>)</li> <li>• Monkey-puzzle tree (<i>Araucaria araucana</i>)</li> <li>• Arowana (<i>Scleropages formosus</i>)</li> <li>• Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</li> <li>• Queen Alexandra’s birdwing butterfly (<i>Ornithoptera alexandrae</i>)</li> </ul>
	Appendix II	Species that are not currently considered threatened with extinction but could become so if their trade is not strictly regulated.  Includes species that are listed because they are similar in appearance to other listed species.	CITES Export Permit OR a CITES Re-Export Certificate from country of export/re-export.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American alligator (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>)</li> <li>• Tree frogs (<i>Agalychnis spp.</i>)</li> <li>• Great white shark (<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>)</li> <li>• Hoodia (<i>Hoodia spp.</i>)</li> <li>• Venus fly-trap (<i>Dionaea muscipula</i>)</li> <li>• Northern river otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)</li> <li>• Polar bear (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>)</li> </ul>
	Appendix III	Species under special management in certain countries to prevent or restrict exploitation.	CITES Export Permit OR a CITES Certificate of Origin from country of export/re-export.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walrus – Canada (<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>)</li> <li>• Pink coral – China (<i>Corallium secundum</i>)</li> <li>• Cocobolo rosewood – Guatemala (<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>)</li> <li>• Alligator snapping turtle – USA (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>)</li> </ul>
WAPPRIITA Schedule II	Lists the animal and plant species requiring an import permit. These species are NOT listed in the CITES appendices. These are species that may pose a risk to Canadian ecosystems.			
WAPPRIITA Schedule III	Lists the CITES species that are recognized as endangered or threatened within Canada.			



A complete list of species listed in the CITES appendices is published on Environment Canada's website at. In order to do your research, it is advisable to know the scientific name of the species.

WAPPRIITA Schedule I, II and III listed species can be found on Justice Canada's website.

You must have all necessary permits **BEFORE** you bring a CITES-listed species, or an item with a part/derivative of a CITES-listed species, across an international border. The complete list of CITES member countries and contact information can be found on CITES.org website.

When an **animal** is listed under CITES, permit requirements apply to live specimens and all parts or derivatives of that species.

When a **plant** is listed under CITES, permit requirements apply to live specimens and all parts or derivatives of that species unless the listing is annotated to specify the regulated items.

**Parts and derivatives can be included in items such as clothing, jewellery, musical instruments, herbal medicines, cosmetic creams and food products.**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO

- **It is your responsibility** to know if you are conducting trade in wildlife species (flora and fauna, and their derivatives) listed in CITES appendices, as well as to follow all of the requirements to legally transport and/or have these species or products in commerce. This includes complying with any other applicable wildlife regulations that apply in the jurisdictions in which the species is transported, imported or exported.
- You must have all necessary permits **BEFORE** you transport, import or export a listed wildlife species, or an item containing a part/derivative of a listed wildlife species.
- All CITES permits must be presented to, and validated by, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) at the border. CITES permits not validated by the CBSA at the time of import or export will be considered invalid, and could result in the shipment being stopped and/or confiscated.
- In most cases, **commercial trade of CITES Appendix I WILD species is prohibited**. Limited commercial trade of captive-bred CITES Appendix I animal species is allowed only from CITES-registered facilities.
- Commercial trade in cultivated CITES Appendix I plants and CITES Appendix II or III species or products containing their parts or derivatives is allowed, but only if the necessary CITES permits were obtained before the importation or exportation occurs.
- It is important to keep your CITES permits. If you are selling CITES-listed species, make sure to **ask the importer to give you a copy of the CITES permits**. Inspections by wildlife officers can be made at any time, so keep a record to prove that the specimens or items were legally imported.
- All of the same legal, permit and validation requirements apply to **online** and **mail order** imports and exports.
- **Exercise Caution** – Just because something is available for sale does not mean that it is legal.
  - Be aware that vendors, although selling legal items, may not be aware of the permit requirements for their import or export. Despite what they may say, it is advisable to **check for yourself**. You do not want a surprise at the border.

If your business relates to traditional or herbal medicines, you can also refer to the Environment Canada brochure entitled *Animal and Plant Ingredients in Traditional Medicine*.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- All cats, except for the domestic cat, are protected under CITES. Many spotted cats are Appendix I species.
- All but four species of parrots are regulated under CITES.
- Orchids account for the majority of the species listed in the CITES appendices.



## Are there other requirements?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has various requirements for the importation and exportation of live animals and plants, as well as for various animal and plant products and by-products for human consumption.

Products for human consumption are also regulated by Health Canada through product-specific regulatory programs, which are administered under the authority of the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Food and Drug Regulations*.

When shipping live animals by air, you must comply with the International Air Transport Association *Live Animals Regulations* to protect their health. Check with the airline for more information. For other means of transport, you are to follow the CITES Guidelines for Transport.

Be aware that Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and provincial/territorial regulations also protect wildlife species by including provisions relating to the possession, buying, selling and trading of Canadian species. It is your responsibility to comply with the applicable Canadian wildlife regulations.

## Are there exemptions from requiring CITES permits to import/export wildlife parts or derivatives?

Yes. There are **non-commercial** exemptions for souvenirs, and personal and household goods, but restrictions apply. Please refer to the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations*, or the *Endangered Species and the International Traveller* brochure for more information, on Environment Canada's Website: [www.ec.gc.ca/cites](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites)

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE LAW?

The goods will be seized, and you may receive a warning or a ticket, or fines of up to \$150,000 and/or up to five years in jail for individuals, and fines of up to \$300,000 for businesses. A separate fine can be imposed for every illegal item. For instance, an individual could be charged for every box of a product containing endangered species parts or derivatives. Beginning in late 2012, serious offences may be subject to a broader range of penalties and higher fines. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Environment Canada Inquiry Centre at [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca) or 1-800-668-6767.

The information presented in this brochure is not to be interpreted as legal advice. If there is a discrepancy with the information presented in the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*, the legislation prevails.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CITES AND WAPPRIITA, PLEASE VISIT: [www.ec.gc.ca/cites](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites)

For information on how and where to apply for a CITES permit, contact Environment Canada at: [cites@ec.gc.ca](mailto:cites@ec.gc.ca)

Management Authority  
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Telephone: **1-800-668-6767** (toll-free number)  
or **819-997-1840** (National Capital Region)  
Fax: **819-953-6283**

### Photos in order of appearance from left to right:

- Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) © iStockphoto
- Orchid (*Phalaenopsis sp.*) © iStockphoto
- Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) © Photos.com
- Ginseng roots (*Panax quiquefolius*) © iStockphoto/Thinkstock
- Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) © iStockphoto/Thinkstock
- Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) © iStockphoto/Thinkstock
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) © Tom Brakefield/Stockbyte/Thinkstock
- Galapagos Giant Tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*) © Getty Images
- African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) © iStockphoto/Thinkstock
- Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) © Getty Images
- Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) © Thomas G. Barnes, USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database
- Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) © Environment Canada

Cat. No.: CW66-304/1-2012E-PDF  
ISBN 978-1-100-20010-1

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at [droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca).

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,  
represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2012

Aussi disponible en français