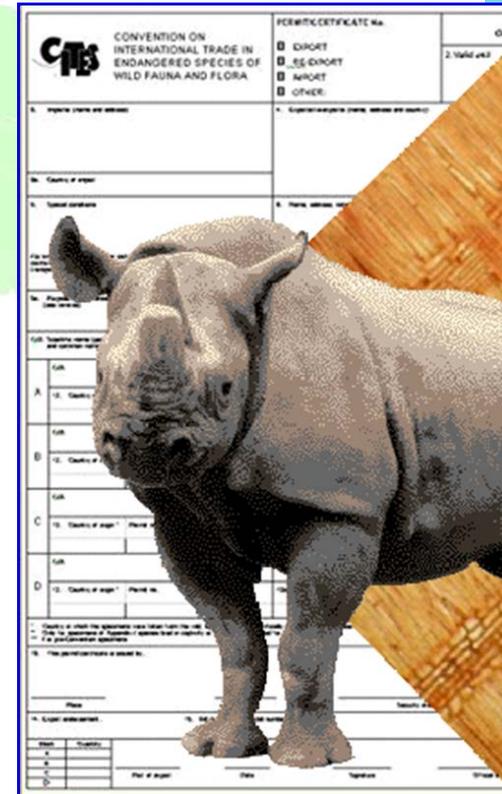




The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): A Conservation Tool

- ❖ 182 Member Countries + EU, referred to as “ 183 Parties”
- ❖ The Convention establishes a **legal framework** together with common **procedural mechanisms** for regulating international trade in species.
- ❖ The strictest regulation is placed on species threatened with extinction, and requires legal and sustainable international trade in other species.

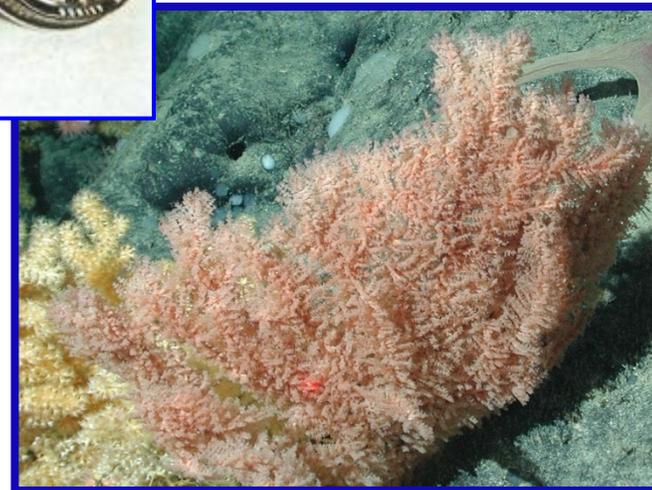


The image shows a rhinoceros standing in front of a CITES permit form. The form is titled "CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA" and includes fields for species name, country of origin, and trade type (import, export, re-export, or other). The rhinoceros is a black and white illustration, and the form is a standard CITES permit template.



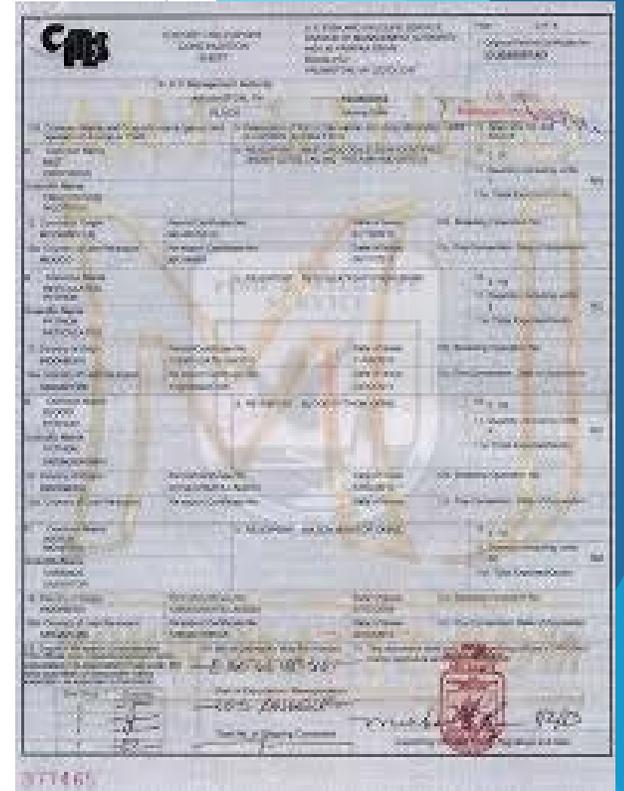
CITES

- ▶ The purpose of CITES is to ensure that international trade in wild fauna and flora is legal and sustainable.



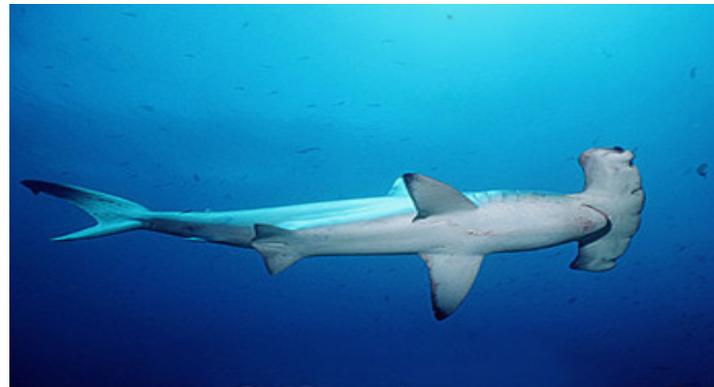
How CITES Works

- CITES regulates the export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea of live and dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives (for listed species only).
- International trade is regulated based on a system of permits and certificates that:
 - are only issued if certain conditions are met; and
 - must be presented when leaving or entering a country.



Species are listed in one of three CITES Appendices

- ▶ Addition of a species to [Appendix I](#) or [Appendix II](#) requires a [2/3 majority vote of the Parties](#)
- ▶ Addition of a species to [Appendix III](#) is a [unilateral decision](#) by the listing country



How CITES Works: The Appendices



Appendix I (about 1,000 spp.):

- Species threatened with extinction
- No commercial trade
- Requires both an import permit and an export permit

Appendix II (about 30,000 spp.):

- Species vulnerable to overexploitation but not at risk of extinction
- Commercial and non-commercial trade allowed
- Permits/certificates required for export, but not for import



Appendix III (about 300 spp.):

- Purpose is to address legal origin, not sustainability
- Species protected by at least one country that has requested assistance to help regulate trade
- Can be listed unilaterally, at any time



What is allowed?

- ▶ Appendix I – generally, commercial international trade is prohibited
- ▶ Appendix II – commercial international trade is allowed, if not detrimental and legal
- ▶ Appendix III – commercial international trade is allowed from country of listing, if legal and with a certificate of origin from other countries of export



Key CITES findings required before issuance of an export permit

- **Legal Acquisition** – a finding by a Management Authority that the specimen to be exported has been legally acquired.
- **Non-detriment finding (NDF)** is a conclusion by a Scientific Authority that the export of specimens of a particular species will not impact negatively on the survival of that species in the wild.



CITES Implementation



- ▶ Effective implementation of CITES requires:
 - ▶ a permitting system
 - ▶ national control of import and (re-)export of CITES-listed species
 - ▶ measures to stop illegal international trade in CITES-listed species (prohibit and penalize such trade; allow for confiscation of specimens)



Permits assist in combatting wildlife trafficking by serving as a tool:

To implement the regulation and monitoring of protected species to ensure their legal and sustainable use; and

To discern legally traded wildlife from illegal wildlife.

Permits allow the U.S. public to engage in activities involving protected species, including international wildlife trade.

Permits facilitate trade by U.S. businesses.

Global legal wildlife trade is valued in the billions of dollars annually.

U.S. is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products.

CITES Implementation

- ▶ Effective enforcement is achieved through:
 - ▶ Inspections of wildlife shipments
 - ▶ Legal actions
 - ▶ Investigations
 - ▶ Law enforcement intelligence
 - ▶ National; international collaboration
 - ▶ Promotion of compliance



Benefits of CITES



- ▶ Establishes a **legal framework** to regulate international trade and prevent overexploitation
- ▶ **Promotes cooperation.** Import and export countries share responsibility to ensure trade is sustainable
- ▶ Encourages assessment/analysis of population status of species in trade and effects of international trade on wild populations



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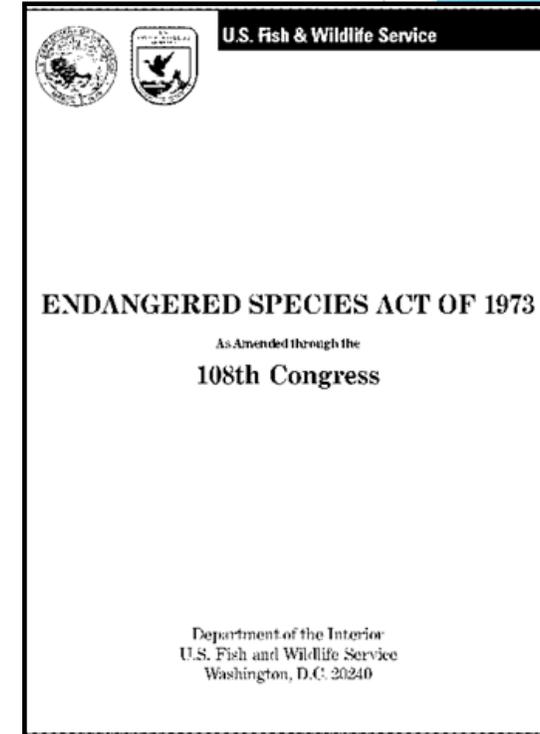
CITES Implementation in the United States: Legislation and Regulations

❖ Legislation:

- The Secretary of the Interior is designated as the implementing authority through the Endangered Species Act
- Establishes a Management Authority and Scientific Authority to be carried out by USFWS

❖ Regulations:

- Based on the Convention text and current resolutions adopted by the Parties
- Include definitions and US-specific information
- Can be found at 50 CFR Parts 10, 13, 17, and 23



In the U.S.

Management Authority

A single office for CITES policy and coordination
Verifies that specimens were legally acquired
Issues CITES permits and certificates

Scientific Authority

A single office for CITES science policy
Provides non-detriment findings for permits and findings on whether recipients are “suitably equipped to house and care for” live Appendix-I specimens

How CITES Works: Official Meetings

COP

- Reviews how the treaty is working
- Resolves policy issues
- Amends the inclusion of species in Appendix I & Appendix II
- Works together to ensure wildlife trade is carried out in accordance with the Treaty

Committees

- Standing Committee
 - Provides general policy and operational direction to the Secretariat regarding CITES implementation
 - Advises the other committees as appropriate
- Animals and Plants Committees
 - Fills gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge
 - Undertakes periodic reviews of listed species
 - Advises when trade in a particular species may be unsustainable



18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18)

May 23 – June 3, 2019 (**POSTPONED**)
Colombo, Sri Lanka

- ▶ CITES Parties will meet to:
 - ▶ review how the treaty is working;
 - ▶ resolve policy issues;
 - ▶ amend lists of protected species; and
 - ▶ work together to ensure wildlife trade is carried out in accordance with the Treaty



CoP18 Marine Species Proposals

- ❑ CoP18 Prop. 42: *Isurus oxyrinchus* and *Isurus paucus* (Mako sharks) - Inclusion in Appendix II (55 Parties co-sponsored proposal).
- ❑ CoP18 Prop. 43: *Glaucostegus spp.* (Guitarfish) - Inclusion in Appendix II (50+ Parties co-sponsored proposal).
- ❑ CoP18 Prop. 44: *Rhinidae spp.* (Wedgefish) - Inclusion in Appendix II (60+ Parties co-sponsored the proposal).
- ❑ CoP18 Prop. 45: *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogliva*, *H. nobilis*, & *H. whitmaei* (Sea cucumbers) - inclusion in Appendix II (The United States co-sponsored this proposal with EU, Kenya, Senegal, and Seychelles).



Thank you!

Management Authority

Telephone: 1-703-358-2104

Email: managementauthority@fws.gov

Scientific Authority

Telephone: 1-703-358-1708

Email: scientificauthority@fws.gov

<http://www.fws.gov/international/>



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