



Introducing international wildlife trade

Animals and plants ranging from caviar to crocodile leather to tropical timber are traded around the world. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of euros per year.

Is the trade regulated?

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ("CITES")** is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. With 175 countries currently signed up to the Convention, it is one of the largest environmental agreements.

How does CITES work?

Over 34,000 species of plants and animals are protected by CITES. Species are listed in one of three Appendices depending on the degree of protection they need. Species threatened with extinction, such as great apes and tigers, are listed in **Appendix I** and commercial trade is not allowed.

Species for which controls are required to ensure that trade is sustainable are listed in **Appendix II**. Most CITES-listed species (97%) are listed in Appendix II and their trade is controlled through a system of permits.

Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country which has asked other countries for assistance in controlling the trade.

How does CITES affect you?

If considering the purchase of wildlife products such as pets, caviar, fashion accessories, exotic plants, wooden furniture or tourist souvenirs, be aware that CITES restrictions may apply.