

## INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

### Contents

1. Wildlife Trade and CITES in the EU
  - [1.1 EC Wildlife Trade Regulations - overview](#)
  - [1.2. Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 338/97](#)
  - [1.3 Species listed in the Annexes](#)
  - [1.4 Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 865/2006](#)
  - [1.5 The Committee](#)
  - [1.6 The Scientific Review Group \(SRG\)](#)
    - 1.6.1 Negative and positive opinions of the SRG
    - 1.6.2 EU Import Suspensions
  - [1.7 The Enforcement Group](#)
2. CITES mechanisms
  - [2.1 CITES Reservations](#)
  - [2.2 CITES Resolutions and Decisions](#)
  - [2.3 CITES Notifications](#)
  - [2.4 CITES Export Quotas](#)
  - [2.5 CITES Conference of the Parties \(COP13\)](#)
3. Other EU legislative measures
  - [3.1 Nature conservation](#)
  - [3.2 Animal welfare and animal transport](#)
  - [3.3 Veterinary](#)
  - [3.4 Phytosanitary](#)
  - [3.5 Zoos](#)
  - [3.6 Customs](#)
4. International Environmental Conventions



WWF-Canon / Gerald S. CUBITT

---

## 1. Wildlife Trade and CITES in the EU

### 1.1 EC Wildlife Trade Regulations - overview

Due to the European Single Market and the absence of systematic border controls within the European Union (EU), the provisions of CITES, the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** ([ref. 4.1](#)), have to be implemented in a uniform way in all 25 EU Member States. This is done through the adoption of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations, principally Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 856/2006. EU provisions regulate international as well as EU-internal wildlife trade and include additional provisions that differ from CITES. For example, import permits are not only required for species listed in Annex A (which broadly corresponds to Appendix I of CITES) but also for species listed in Annex B (which broadly corresponds to Appendix II of CITES); in addition, the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations have four **Annexes** ([ref. 1.3](#)) (instead of three Appendices in CITES) that also include some non-CITES species. General provisions, including the composition of the Annexes, and the mechanisms established by the EU to implement and enforce these, such as the possibility to establish temporary **import suspensions** ([ref. 1.6](#)), are outlined in the present document.

Although the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations are directly applicable in all EU Member States, the necessary enforcement provisions must be transferred into national legislation and supplemented with national laws, as these are matters that remain under the sovereignty of each Member State who must ensure that infractions are punished in an appropriate manner.

Similarly to all other CITES Parties, EU Member States have designated their own,

- **Management Authority** as the co-ordinating agency in charge, among others, of administrative measures, including the issuance of CITES permits and certificates; and
- **Scientific Authority** that must be consulted by the Management Authority to verify that conservation provisions are observed, and that the level of trade will not harm the survival of the animal and plant

species in the wild. Scientific Authorities are often composed of zoologists and botanists that have the relevant expertise (herpetologist, ornithologists, etc.).

In order to adequately monitor levels of trade and be able to adopt the necessary trade limits on time, such as annual export quotas, each EU Member State is required to report annually on all trade in specimens of species covered by the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. These reports are called the ‘Annual Report’. Every two years an additional report must be submitted (the ‘Biennial Report’) on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures adopted by the country to better implement and enforce the regulations.

The [CITES Annual and Biennial reports](#) for the EU are available to the public.

While all EU Member States are Parties to the Convention, CITES does currently not allow for a political entity such as the EU to be a Party in its own right. Before the EU can accede to CITES, the [Gaborone Amendment](#) has to be ratified by a sufficient number of CITES Parties (in total 54).

## 1.2. Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97

[Council Regulation \(EC\) No. 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein](#) provides the general legal framework and lays down the provisions for internal EU trade as well as import, export and re-export of specimens of species listed in the four Annexes, including procedures and documents required (e.g. import and export permits, re-export certificates, import notifications and internal trade certificates – see [Permits](#)). Other subjects covered are the movement of live specimens, types of violations and the establishment of the different bodies at EU level i.e. the [Committee \(ref. 1.5\)](#), [Scientific Review Group \(SRG\) \(ref. 1.6\)](#) and the [Enforcement Group \(ref. 1.7\)](#) as well as the frequency of their meetings.

## 1.3 Species listed in the Annexes

There are four [Annexes](#) (A, B, C and D) to the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. Annex D comes in addition to the three Appendices of CITES and is often referred to as the “monitoring list”. It includes species that might be eligible for listing in one of the other Annexes and for which EU import levels should therefore be monitored. Also, in order to be consistent with other EU regulations on the protection of native species, such as the [Habitats Directive](#) and the [Bird Directive \(ref. 3.1\)](#), certain indigenous species that are listed in Appendices II and III of CITES are included in Annex A and some that are not listed in CITES at all are covered by the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations.

Annex	
Annex A	All CITES Appendix I species, except where an EU Member State has entered a reservation Some CITES Appendix II and III species, for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures Some non-CITES species
Annex B	All other CITES Appendix II species, except where an EU Member State has entered a reservation Some CITES Appendix III species Some non-CITES species
Annex C	All other CITES Appendix III species, except where an EU Member State has entered a reservation
Annex D	Some CITES Appendix III species Some non-CITES species

The current list of species included in the Annexes of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations, which includes changes to the CITES Appendices made at CoP13, is available in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1332/2005 of 9 August 2005](#) [see the [Amendments to Appendices I and II adopted at CoP13](#) (October 2004)]. Another valuable source of information on the status of species in relation to international trade is the [EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Species Database](#).

**Annotations:** Like CITES, the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations cover all specimens, whether alive or dead, including parts and derivatives, from animal and plant species listed in the Annexes. However, through an annotation to the listing, some parts and derivatives are exempted from certain provisions. *Swietenia humilis* (Honduras mahogany) for example is listed in Annex B, with an annotation that covers 1) seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia); 2) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, in solid or liquid media, transported

in sterile containers; and 3) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants. These specimens therefore do not require any permits or certificates.

**Hybrids:** Hybrids are also covered by CITES and the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations, when at least one of the two ‘parents’ is of a species listed in one of the four Annexes. In cases where the ‘parents’ of such animal or plant are of species listed in different Annexes, or of species of which only one is listed in the Annexes, the provisions of the more restrictive Annex apply (**CITES Resolution**) ([ref 2.2](#)). **Exemption:** In the case of hybrid plants where only one ‘parent’ is of a species listed in Annex A, its provisions shall apply only when the species is annotated to that effect. However, currently there is no such annotation in force.

#### **1.4 Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2001**

The [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 865/2006 of 4 May 2006 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 338/97](#), which replaced Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1808/2001 of 30 August 2001, targets the more practical aspects of the wildlife trade regulation and incorporates CITES measures adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12) held in November 2002 in Santiago, Chile. It provides standard model forms that must be used for permits, certificates, notifications and as labels for scientific specimens and explanations on how to apply for these documents. There are additional rules on the conditions for issuing these documents, their validity and use. Other subjects covered by this Regulation include the provisions for specimens born and bred in captivity, artificially propagated plants (see [Breeding](#)), rules applicable to personal and household effects (see [Personal Effects](#)) and provisions for the marking and labelling of certain specimens (see [Marking](#)). Some of these provisions will be amended soon to incorporate CITES measures adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12) held in November 2002 (Santiago, Chile) for example with regard to the labelling of caviar containers (see chapter Labelling in Topic [Marking](#)).

#### **1.5 The Committee**

Article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 establishes a [Committee](#) on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora that consists of representatives of Member States’ Management Authorities and is chaired by a representative of the European Commission. The Committee meets approximately three times a year in Brussels and decides on measures to improve the implementation of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. The [meeting agenda](#) and [summaries](#) can be obtained from the EU Commission’s CITES website.

#### **1.6 The Scientific Review Group (SRG)**

Article 17 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 establishes a [Scientific Review Group](#) that consists of representatives of each Member States’ Scientific Authority and is chaired by a representative of the European Commission. The SRG meets approximately three times a year in Brussels and examines all scientific questions related to the application of the EC Wildlife Trade Regulations. It also assesses whether trade has a harmful effect on the conservation status of species. The [meeting agenda](#) and [summaries](#) can be obtained from the European Commission’s CITES website.

##### **1.6.1 Negative and positive opinions of the SRG**

The SRG can form opinions on whether or not imports of certain species from a particular country of origin comply with the conditions set out in Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, Article 4.1(a) and 4.2(a).

These conditions are the following:

- 1) trade does not have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species or on the extent of the territory occupied by the relevant population of the Annex A or B species;
- 2) the Management Authority is satisfied, following consultation with the competent Scientific Authority, that there are no other factors relating to the conservation of the Annex A or B species which militate against issuance of the import permit.

If the SRG determines that these conditions are met, a positive opinion is formed (see 1. in diagram 1 below) and import into the EU can take place. Otherwise, the SRG can form a negative opinion (2.). In this case, imports of the species from the country under consideration are temporarily suspended and EU Management Authorities will reject all EU import permit applications for the relevant species-country combination. As soon

as a negative opinion has been formed, a Member State or the European Commission informs and consults with the range State involved. Negative opinions are of a temporary nature and may be lifted immediately (3.) when new information on the trade or conservation status of the species in the country of concern is provided. In cases where a negative opinion is established, this is published in the [EU Wildlife Trade Database](#) and in a [List of Negative Opinions](#) on the European Commission's CITES website (4.).

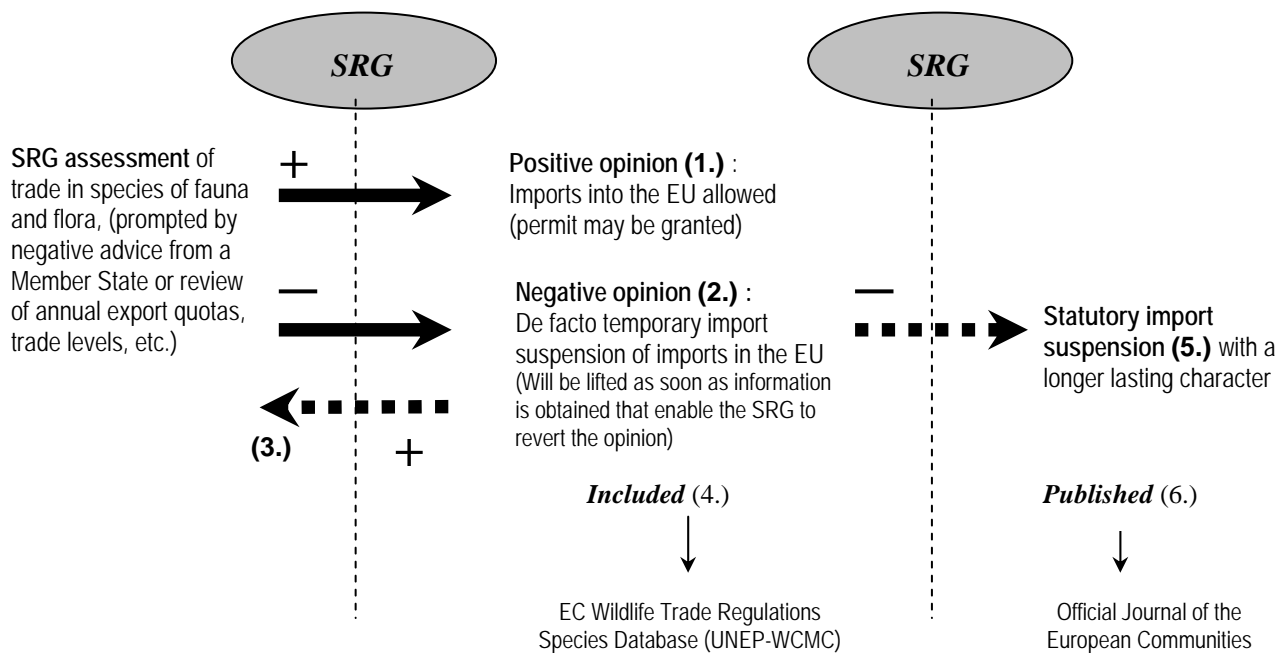
### 1.6.2 EU Import Suspensions

The European Commission can change negative opinions into import suspensions (5.), which become EC law and have to be followed by the Scientific Authorities of the Member States in all cases. In addition, import suspensions can also be established for the following species categories (Art. 4.6 (c) and (d) of Reg. 338/97):

- 1) live specimens of species listed in Annex B that have a high mortality rate during transport or are unlikely to survive in captivity for a considerable proportion of their potential life span; and
- 2) live specimens of species whose introduction into the EU presents an ecological threat to wild species of fauna and flora indigenous to the EU.

Once established, the import suspensions tend to have a longer lasting character than negative opinions. The list of such import suspensions should be published on a quarterly basis in the Official Journal of the European Communities (6.). The last version is the [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 252/2005 of 14 February 2005](#).

*Diagram 1. Overview of the procedure to establish positive and negative opinions and import suspensions*



## 1.7 The Enforcement Group

Article 14.3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 establishes an [Enforcement Group](#) that consists of representatives of Member States' authorities in charge of wildlife trade controls (e.g. customs and police services) and is chaired by a representative of the European Commission. The Enforcement Group meets twice a year in Brussels and examines technical questions related to enforcement matters raised, either on the initiative of the chairman or at the request of a member of the group or the Committee. The [meeting agenda](#) is available on the EU Commission's CITES website.

## 2. CITES mechanisms

### 2.1 CITES Reservations

Any Party to CITES can make a statement in order not to be bound by CITES provisions concerning a particular species listed in the Appendices (or a part or derivative listed in Appendix III). These statements are called

[reservations](#). For species included in Appendix I or II, there are restrictions on when a reservation may be entered: either when a State becomes a Party to the Convention or within 90 days after the adoption of an amendment to the Appendices. For species (or parts and derivatives) included in Appendix III, a State may enter a reservation at the time of becoming a Party or at any time thereafter.

A Party that has entered a reservation may withdraw it at any time. While the reservation is in effect, the Party is formally treated as a non-Party with respect to trade in the species (or specimen) concerned. All Parties have the right to enter reservations but, since they can occasionally cause implementation problems the Conference of the Parties decided to adopt [Resolution Conf. 4.25](#), which recommends that Parties that have entered reservations with regard to the inclusion of a species in Appendix I should treat the species as if it were in Appendix II and should include records of the trade in these species in their annual reports.

Many EU Member States, for example, have entered reservations for three subspecies of foxes (*Vulpes vulpes griffithi*, *Vulpes vulpes montana* and *Vulpes vulpes pusilla*) and for four taxa of mink (*Mustela altaica*, *Mustela erminea ferghanae*, *Mustela kathiah* and *Mustela sibirica*). These are all CITES Appendix III species listed by India.

## 2.2 CITES Resolutions and Decisions

At each of its meetings, the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES considers issues with regard to the implementation, interpretation and enforcement of the Convention and its effectiveness. The results of its deliberations are recorded either as [Resolutions](#) or as [Decisions](#) of the CoP. Resolutions are generally intended to provide long-standing guidance while Decisions are mostly directed to a specific body of CITES (e.g. Animals Committee, CITES Secretariat) and are designed to be implemented by a specified deadline beyond which they are no longer in effect. Both instruments are important tools for the development of the Convention, but Resolutions and Decisions are non-binding and Parties can choose not to implement them.

## 2.3 CITES Notifications

The Secretariat is the recipient of information and reports on the implementation of the Convention that it has to communicate to the Parties. When all, or a large proportion of, Parties are concerned, this is done through a [Notification to the Parties](#) that announces forthcoming meetings, decisions and recommendations of permanent Committees, details on Parties' legislation, on lost or stolen permits or security stamps, advice on the interpretation or implementation of the Convention, etc. They are also used to distribute revised versions of the Appendices, lists of Parties' reservations and final texts of Resolutions and Decisions adopted at the last CoP.

## 2.4 CITES Export Quotas

There is no specific requirement within the text of the Convention to establish quotas that limit the trade in listed species. But the use of [export quotas](#) has become an effective regulatory tool for international trade in wild fauna and flora. Export quotas are usually set by a Party individually and on a voluntary basis, but they can also be set by the CoP. In most cases, export quotas relate to the calendar year (1 January to 31 December). Before any Party can issue a permit to allow export of specimens of species in Appendix I or II, the Scientific Authority of the State must advise that the proposed export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species (the so-called "non-detriment finding"). The setting of an export quota by a Party should in effect meet this requirement by establishing the maximum number of specimens of a species that can be exported over the course of a year without having a detrimental effect on the survival of the species in the wild. In order to help make sure that export quotas are not exceeded, export permits should indicate the number of specimens already exported in the current year and the quota for the species concerned.

## 2.5 CITES Conferences of the Parties (CoP 13)

Parties to CITES meet every two to three years to consider proposals to amend the Appendices, to review the implementation of CITES and progress made and recommend measures to improve the effectiveness of the Convention. During the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP13), that was held from 2 - 14 October 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, amendments to the Convention have been adopted, including changes to the CITES Appendices and to Resolutions and Decisions. These changes entered into force 90 days after the

meeting (on 12 January 2005). In order to become legally binding in the EU, these amendments are incorporated into new texts that are adopted as new Commission Regulations in order to amend the previous ones.

### 3. Other EU legislative measures

#### 3.1 Nature conservation

The [Habitats Directive](#) (*Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna*) aims to preserve fauna, flora and natural habitats of EU importance included in Annexes of the Directive. The fundamental purpose of this directive is to establish a network of protected areas throughout the EU, called NATURA 2000, that is designed to maintain the distribution and the abundance of threatened species and habitats, both terrestrial and marine. Areas are included in NATURA 2000 on the basis of the presence of habitats and species, as listed in the Annexes I and II of the Directive. However, the Directive also contains species protection provisions, which prohibit commercial trade for certain species.

The [Birds Directive](#) (*Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds*) imposes strict legal obligations on EU Member States to maintain populations of naturally occurring wild birds at levels corresponding to ecological requirements, to regulate trade in birds, to limit hunting to species able to sustain exploitation, and to prohibit certain methods of capture and killing. Article 1 applies to the conservation of birds and also to their eggs, nests and habitats. Article 4 requires that Member States take special measures to conserve the habitat of certain threatened listed species through the designation of Special Protected Areas (SPA).

*Note: European bird species (other than some vagrants) and species that are listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive that are also listed in CITES were automatically listed in Annex A of Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, regardless of the CITES Appendix they are in.*

#### 3.2 Animal welfare and animal transport

- [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No. 3254/91 of 4 November 1991 prohibiting the use of leghold traps in the Community and the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species originating in countries which catch them by means of leghold traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards](#)
- [Council Directive 83/129/EEC of 28 March 1983 concerning the importation into Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom](#)
- [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 35/97 of 10 January 1997 laying down provisions on the certification of pelts and goods covered by Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 3254/91](#)
- [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 1771/94 of 19 July 1994 laying down provisions on the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species](#)
- [Council Directive 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991 on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directives 90/425/EEC and 91/496/EEC](#)
- [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation \(EC\) No 1255/97](#) will come into effect in 2007.

#### 3.3 Veterinary

European Community legislation related to veterinary checks, animal health rules and food safety can be found [here](#). Some of the most important Directives and Regulations are listed below:

- [Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market](#)

- [Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra- Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market](#)
- [Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC](#)
- [Council Directive 96/43/EC of 26 June 1996 amending and consolidating Directive 85/73/EEC in order to ensure financing of veterinary inspections and controls on live animals and certain animal products and amending Directives 90/675/EEC and 91/496/EEC](#)
- [Council Directive 97/78/EC of 18 December 1997 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries](#)
- [Directive 2002/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2002 amending Council Directives 90/425/EEC and 92/118/EEC as regards health requirements for animal by-products](#)
- [Directive 2004/41/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 repealing certain directives concerning food hygiene and health conditions for the production and placing on the market of certain products of animal origin intended for human consumption and amending Council Directives 89/662/EEC and 92/118/EEC and Council Decision 95/408/EC](#)

### 3.4 Phytosanitary

European Community legislation related to plant health, including legislation about phytosanitary certificates, plant passports and plant health checks can be found [here](#). Some of the most relevant Directives are listed below:

- [Commission Directive 93/50/EEC of 24 June 1993 specifying certain plants not listed in Annex V, part A to Council Directive 77/93/EEC, the producers of which, or the warehouses, dispatching centres in the production zones of such plants, shall be listed in an official register](#)
- [Commission Directive 95/44/EC of 26 July 1995 establishing the conditions under which certain harmful organisms, plants, plant products and other objects listed in Annexes I to V to Council Directive 77/93/EEC may be introduced into or moved within the Community or certain protected zones thereof, for trial or scientific purposes and for work on varietal selections](#)
- [Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Note that this Directive has been \*\*amended by a number of acts.\*\*](#)

### 3.5 Zoos

- [Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos](#)

### 3.6 Customs

European Community legislation related to customs can be found [here](#). Some of the most relevant Regulations are listed below:

- [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No. 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code](#)
- [Commission Regulation \(EEC\) No. 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation \(EEC\) No. 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code. Note that this Commission Regulation has been \*\*amended by a number of acts.\*\*](#)
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 2700/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2000 amending Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code](#)

#### 4. International Environmental Conventions

There are several international conventions and agreements that apply to species and nature conservation and that, directly or indirectly, address wildlife trade issues.



The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES, or ‘Washington Convention’) aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. This is pursued by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species (listed in Appendices I, II and III) to certain controls and a licensing system. CITES accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether traded as live or dead specimens, parts or derivatives (e.g. fur coats, dried herbs or medicine). The Convention was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted at the 1963 IUCN (The World Conservation Union) General Assembly in Nairobi. The text of the Convention was agreed in 1973 at a meeting of 80 countries held in Washington DC and entered into force on 1 July 1975. The number of Parties has since grown and was 169 in July 2006.



The objectives of the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. The Convention was signed by over 150 countries and the European Community at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 1992. 188 countries are Party to the CBD, as of July 2006. This Convention is the first global instrument to take a comprehensive approach to the issues of conserving the world’s biological diversity and to using its biological resources in a sustainable way. The Convention is a framework agreement and its provisions are mostly expressed as overall goals and policies, rather than as precise obligations. Unlike other biodiversity conventions, there are no lists or annexes of accepted sites or protected species.



The [Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Habitats](#) (or ‘Bern Convention’), was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1982 and has been ratified by 44 countries as well as the European Community (February 2006), including a few African and Central Asian States. The objective of this Convention is threefold: 1) to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats; 2) to promote co-operation between states; and 3) to give particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species, including migratory species. The contracting parties have undertaken to protect habitats of wild flora and fauna and give special attention to species listed in its Appendices (I, II and III). Appendix IV lists the prohibited means and methods of killing, capture and other forms of exploitation.



The [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#), also known as the ‘Bonn Convention’, came into force in 1983 and its membership has since grown to 97 Parties (May 2005). The Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. Parties work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for the endangered migratory species listed in Appendix I of the Convention, by concluding multilateral Agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II and by undertaking co-operative research activities.



The [Convention on Wetlands](#), or ‘Ramsar Convention’, was signed in Ramsar (Iran) in 1971. It is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national actions and international cooperation on the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are 152 Contracting Parties to the Convention (July 2006), with 1 611 wetland sites, totalling 145 million hectares, included in the *Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*. The Convention’s mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world (Ramsar COP8, 2002).



The purpose of the [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#) is to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The Convention extends to the protection of natural flora and plant products, includes both direct as well as indirect damage by pests, thus including weeds and covers conveyances, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or materials capable of harbouring plant pests. National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs and RPPOs) work together to help contracting parties meet their obligations.



The [OIE \(Office international des épizooties\)](#) is an intergovernmental organization created in 1924. In February 2006, the OIE totalled 167 Member Countries. OIE promotes the control of animal diseases by developing sanitary rules for international trade in animals and animal products. In addition, the OIE collects, analyses and disseminates veterinary scientific information and information on animal diseases. The OIE develops normative documents relating to rules that Member Countries can use to protect themselves from diseases, without setting up unjustified sanitary barriers. The main normative works produced by the OIE are: the International Animal Health Code, the Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, the International Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases. OIE standards are recognised by the World Trade Organization as reference international sanitary rules.



The [World Heritage Convention \(WHC\)](#) was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972 and has been signed by 182 Parties (April 2006). Its primary mission is to define and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage through a list of sites whose outstanding values should be preserved for all humanity and to ensure their protection through a closer co-operation among nations. Cultural heritage is defined as a monument, group of buildings or site of historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. Natural heritage designates outstanding physical, biological and geological features; habitats of threatened plant or animal species, areas of value on scientific or aesthetic grounds or from a conservation point of view.



The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organization that works on issues such as human rights, media, legal co-operation, social cohesion, health, education, culture, heritage, sport, youth, local democracy and transfrontier co-operation, the environment and regional planning. The Council of Europe has published five conventions relating to animal welfare, the last two of which (animals during transport and pet animals) are the most relevant with regard to wildlife trade:

- [European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes](#)
- [European Convention for the protection of animals for slaughter](#)
- [European Convention for the protection of animals used for experimentation](#)
- [European Convention for the protection of animals during transport \(revised\)](#)
- [European Convention for the protection of pet animals](#)

Copyright © 2006 European Commission

Reproduction is authorized, provided the source is acknowledged.

Prior permission must be obtained for the reproduction or use of images – © WWF.

#### Important Legal Notice:

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of TRAFFIC Europe, the European Commission or EU Member States. In addition, TRAFFIC Europe and the European Commission assume no responsibility or liability with regard to the information contained or any linked external site.