

The CITES Secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, is currently working to develop an integrated species information platform to enhance the provision of CITES species information services. The platform will support future CITES developments, including electronic permitting, improved data exchange mechanisms, trade visualisation tools and future links with other species-related treaties and relevant external databases.



Resources

Report on trade trends of Appendix II CITES-listed species: www.cites.org/common/docs/Recent-trends-in-international-trade-in-Appendix-II-listed-species.pdf

The CITES trade database: www.unep-wcmc-apps.org/citestrade/trade.cfm

The CITES species database: www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html

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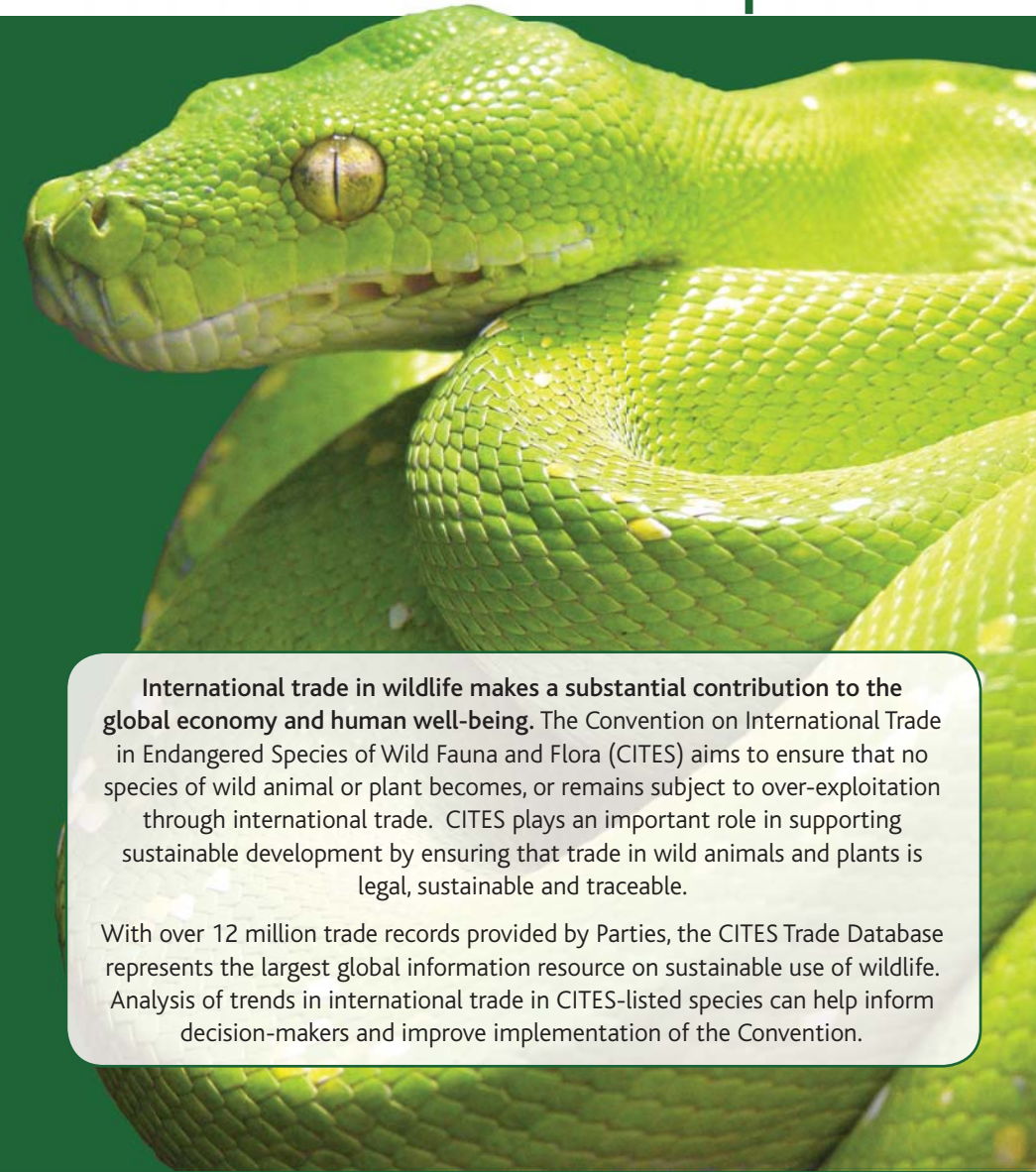


Photo credits:

Frank Wouters (*Morelia viridis*); Alan D. Wilson (*Ursus arctos*); Luc Viatour (*Ara ararauna*); Frank Vincentz (*Mammillaria compressa*); Petra Karstedt (*Cuora amboinensis*); AmericanXplorer13 (*Iguana iguana*); Ridard (*Chamaeleo dilepis*); Richard Ling (Coral reef); Jean-Guy Dallaire (Orchidaceae spp.); Scientist Solutions (*Dendrobates pumilio*).



CITES Trade: A Snapshot



International trade in wildlife makes a substantial contribution to the global economy and human well-being. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that no species of wild animal or plant becomes, or remains subject to over-exploitation through international trade. CITES plays an important role in supporting sustainable development by ensuring that trade in wild animals and plants is legal, sustainable and traceable.

With over 12 million trade records provided by Parties, the CITES Trade Database represents the largest global information resource on sustainable use of wildlife. Analysis of trends in international trade in CITES-listed species can help inform decision-makers and improve implementation of the Convention.



Analysing CITES trade data

CITES affords varying degrees of trade regulation to nearly 35,000 species of animals and plants. About 97% of these species (included in Appendices II and III) can be commercially traded under certain conditions set by the Convention. The remaining 3% of these species are generally prohibited from international commercial trade (Appendix I). The trade is diverse, ranging from live mammals to reptile leather, ornamental corals to plant products (medicines and fragrances) and timbers.

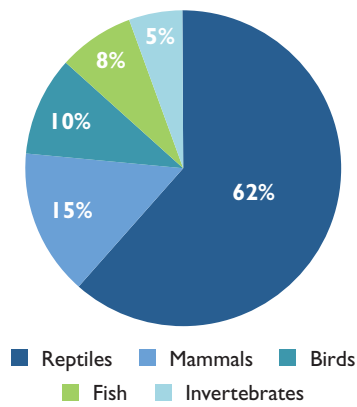
CITES trade data provide the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Convention. The data are used to inform many key CITES processes such as determining whether specimens have been legally and sustainably sourced, managing harvests and setting trade quotas, and reviewing trade levels to ensure sustainable use of species. Analysis of the data can identify unusual patterns or important volumes of trade, help to inform management decisions and identify species in trade that may benefit from additional policy responses.



Value of CITES trade

Globally, trade in all wildlife is valued in the billions of dollars. For key commodities of CITES-listed Appendix II animals the monetary value is conservatively estimated to range from USD350-530 million per year¹, or almost USD2.2 billion over the five year period 2006-2010. For plants, trade in Big-leaf Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* alone is likely to have been worth an estimated USD168 million during the period 2006-2010. Many species that are traded internationally play important roles in the provision of ecosystem services and supporting local livelihoods. Ensuring that use of and trade in these species is legal and sustainable will have many benefits.

Value of trade in Appendix II animals¹



Trade trends

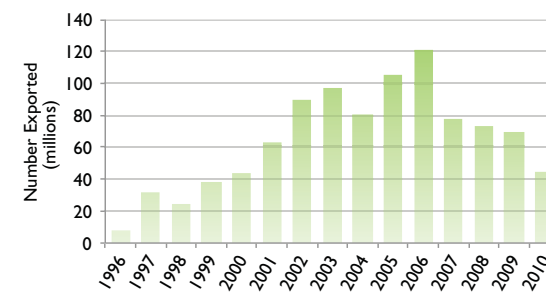
UNEP-WCMC analysed international trade trends in key commodities of Appendix II species over the period 1996-2010¹. The analysis included trade in wild, ranched, captive-bred and artificially propagated specimens.

Notable trends identified in the analysis included:

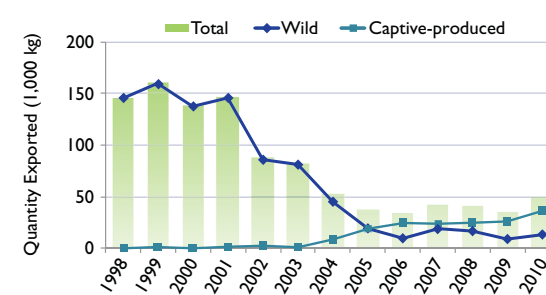
- An increase in mammal skins in trade, particularly in the years 2006-2008;
- A decrease in trade in caviar (kg), with volumes traded in the period 2005-2010 substantially lower than volumes in trade prior to that;
- An increase in trade in timber species (m³) since 2003 in part accounted for by new listings of timber species in CITES Appendix II and;
- For many species, an increase in the number of captive-produced or ranched specimens in trade with a decrease in the number of wild specimens.



Exports of Appendix II live plants, 1996-2010¹



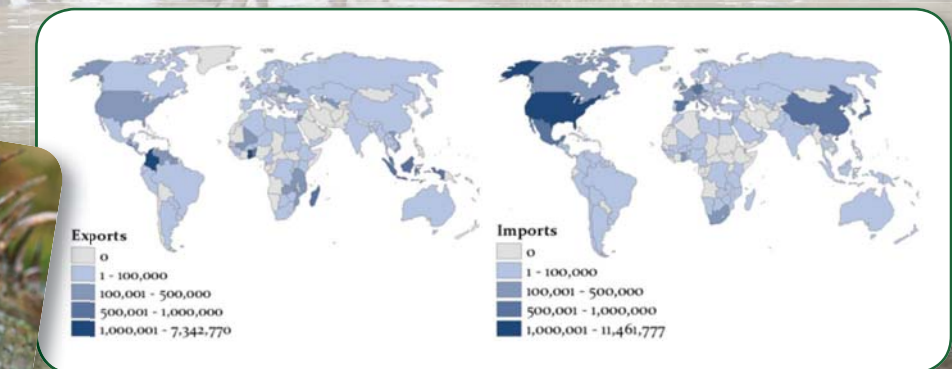
Exports of Appendix II caviar (kg), 1998-2010¹



Highly traded wild Appendix II species for each taxonomic group, 1996-2010

Species	Major wildlife group	Item in trade
<i>Ursus americanus</i> American Black Bear	Mammals	Trophies
<i>Lycalopex griseus</i> South American Grey Fox	Mammals	Skins
<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> Senegal Parrot	Birds	Live
<i>Cuora amboinensis</i> Malaysian Box Turtle	Reptiles	Live
<i>Varanus salvator</i> Common Water Monitor	Reptiles	Skins
<i>Mantella aurantiaca</i> Golden Mantella	Amphibians	Live
<i>Acipenser stellatus</i> Star Sturgeon	Fish	Caviar
<i>Pandinus imperator</i> Emperor Scorpion	Invertebrates	Live
<i>Scleractinia</i> spp. Stony corals	Invertebrates	Live
<i>Strombus gigas</i> Queen Conch	Invertebrates	Bodies
<i>Galanthus woronowii</i> Snowdrops	Plants (bulbs)	Live
<i>Pericopsis elata</i> African Teak	Trees	Timber
<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> Agarwood	Trees	Fragrance products
<i>Prunus africana</i> African cherry	Trees	Medicinal products
<i>Taxus wallichiana</i> Himalayan yew	Trees	Medicinal products
Orchidaceae spp.	Orchids	Ornamental plants
<i>Cyathea</i> spp.	Tree ferns	Ornamental plants
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.	Succulent plants	Ornamental plants
<i>Hoodia</i> spp.	Succulent plants	Dietary supplements

Top exporters and importers of live Appendix II reptiles, 1996-2010¹



¹www.cites.org/common/docs/Recent-trends-in-international-trade-in-Appendix-II-listed-species.pdf