CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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 USD per year.

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 178 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.

Appendix I - Highly Endangered

- species whose commercial trade is not allowed
- you cannot bring in or take out products or live animal under this Appendix unless under certain circumstances

Appendix II - May Become Endangered

- species whose commercial trade is allowed, but may become endangered if trade in these species is not regulated
- species for which controls are required to ensure that trade is sustainable

Appendix III - Under Protection

- traded species originating from specific countries
- species are under protection in certain countries and may be traded with a certificate of origin or an export permit

For more information contact us:
Forest Department Sarawak
Bangunan Wisma Sarawak Alam
Istana Chadran
Dekam Jaya 01006
Kuching, Sarawak
Contact: 082 - 442180 / 319102
Fax No: 082 - 441210 / 441377
http://www.forestry.sarawak.gov.my

Species for which controls are required to ensure that trade is sustainable are listed in Appendix II. 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.