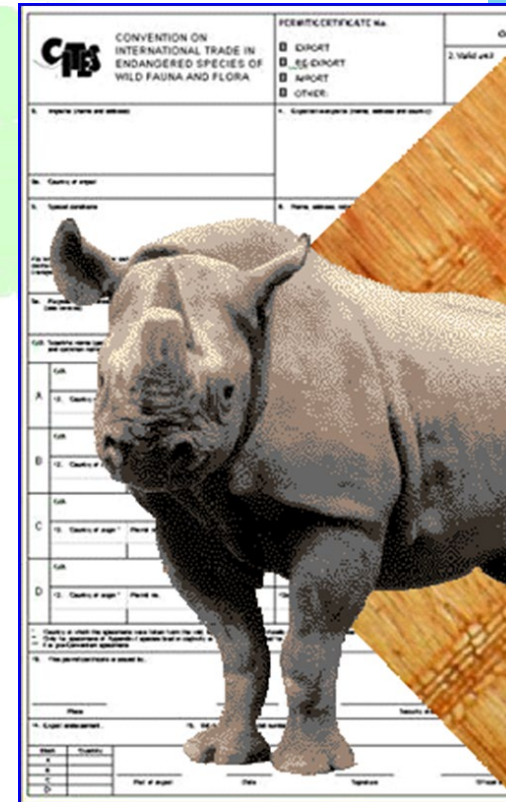




The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): A Conservation Tool

- ❖ 182 Member Countries + EU, referred to as “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.



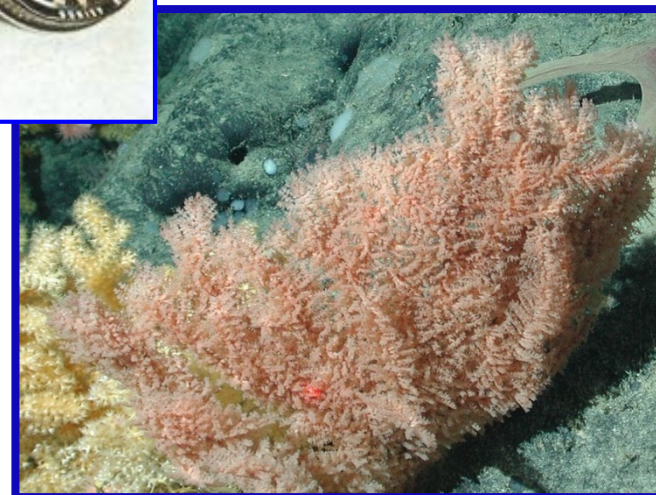
The image displays a CITES permit form for the trade of a rhinoceros. The form is titled "CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA" and includes the following sections:

- IDENTIFICATION:** Species name and authority, Country of origin, and Trade type (Import, Export, Re-export, or Other).
- TRADE:** Quantity of species, Date of issue, and Valid until.
- APPROVAL:** Name and signature of the authority, and Date of approval.



CITES

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



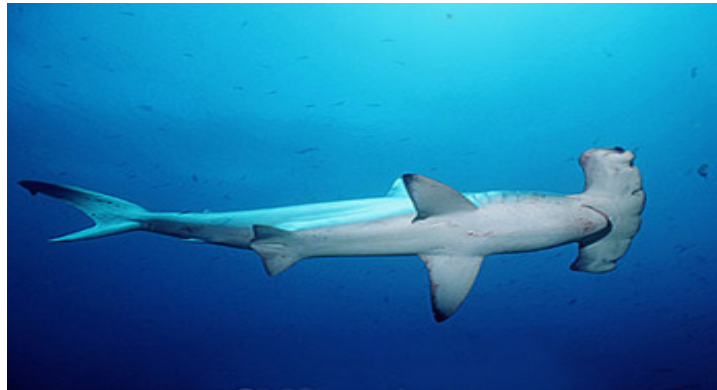
How CITES Works

- 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

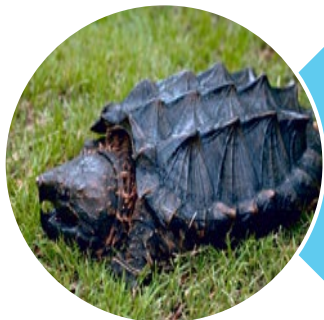
Appendix II (about 30,000 spp.):

- 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



CITES Implementation

- ▶ All CITES Parties must:
 - ▶ Designate at least one Management Authority to issue permits and to communicate with the Secretariat and with other Parties
 - ▶ Designate at least one Scientific Authority to (among other things) advise the Management Authority regarding whether or not trade will be detrimental to the survival of the species
 - ▶ Prohibit trade in violation of the Convention



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)



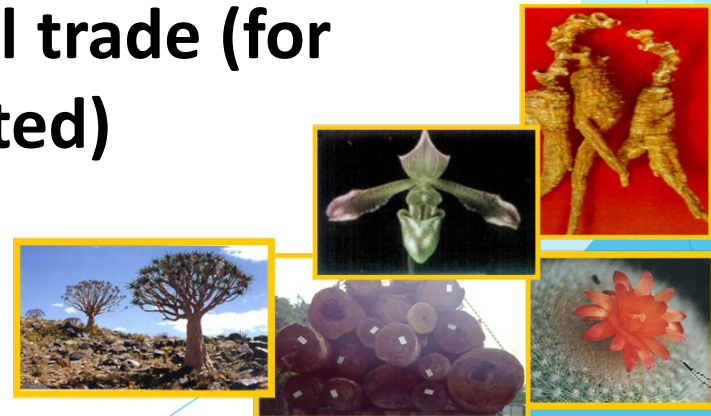
CITES Implementation

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



Misconceptions about CITES

- *CITES deals with all aspects of wildlife conservation*
 - **CITES deals only with international trade in certain species included in its Appendices**
- *CITES aims to ban wildlife trade*
 - **CITES aims to regulate international trade (for some species trade is highly restricted)**



Misconceptions about CITES

- *CITES regulates domestic trade*
 - **CITES addresses only international trade**
- *The CITES Appendices are a listing of the world's endangered species*
 - **The CITES Appendices list only those species that are or may be affected by international trade**



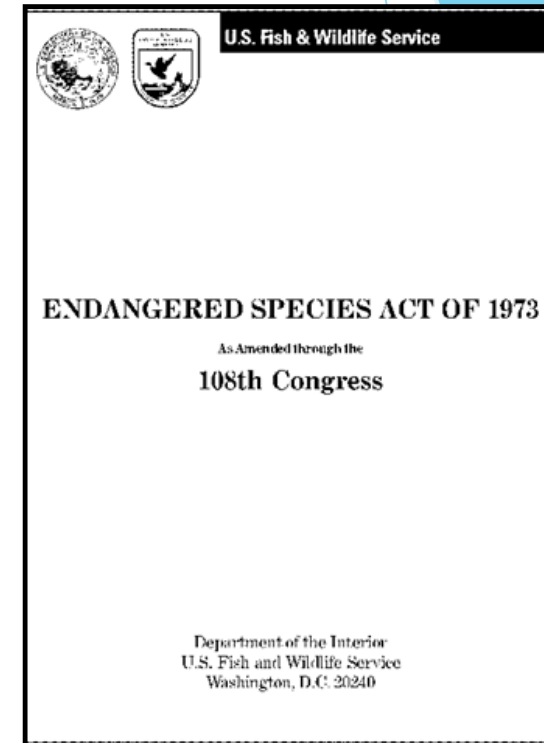
CITES Implementation in the United States: Legislation and Regulations

❖ 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
- 50 CFR Part 23



U.S. CITES Authorities

- ▶ One Management Authority
 - ▶ A single office for CITES policy and coordination
 - ▶ No taxonomic, geographic, or other division
 - ▶ Most permits issued by one office
 - ▶ Provides legal acquisition findings.
- ▶ One Scientific Authority
 - ▶ A single office for CITES science policy
 - ▶ Responsibilities for both plants and animals
 - ▶ Provides all non-detriment findings for permits and findings on whether recipients are “appropriate and acceptable”, and “suitably equipped to house and care for” live Appendix-I specimens.

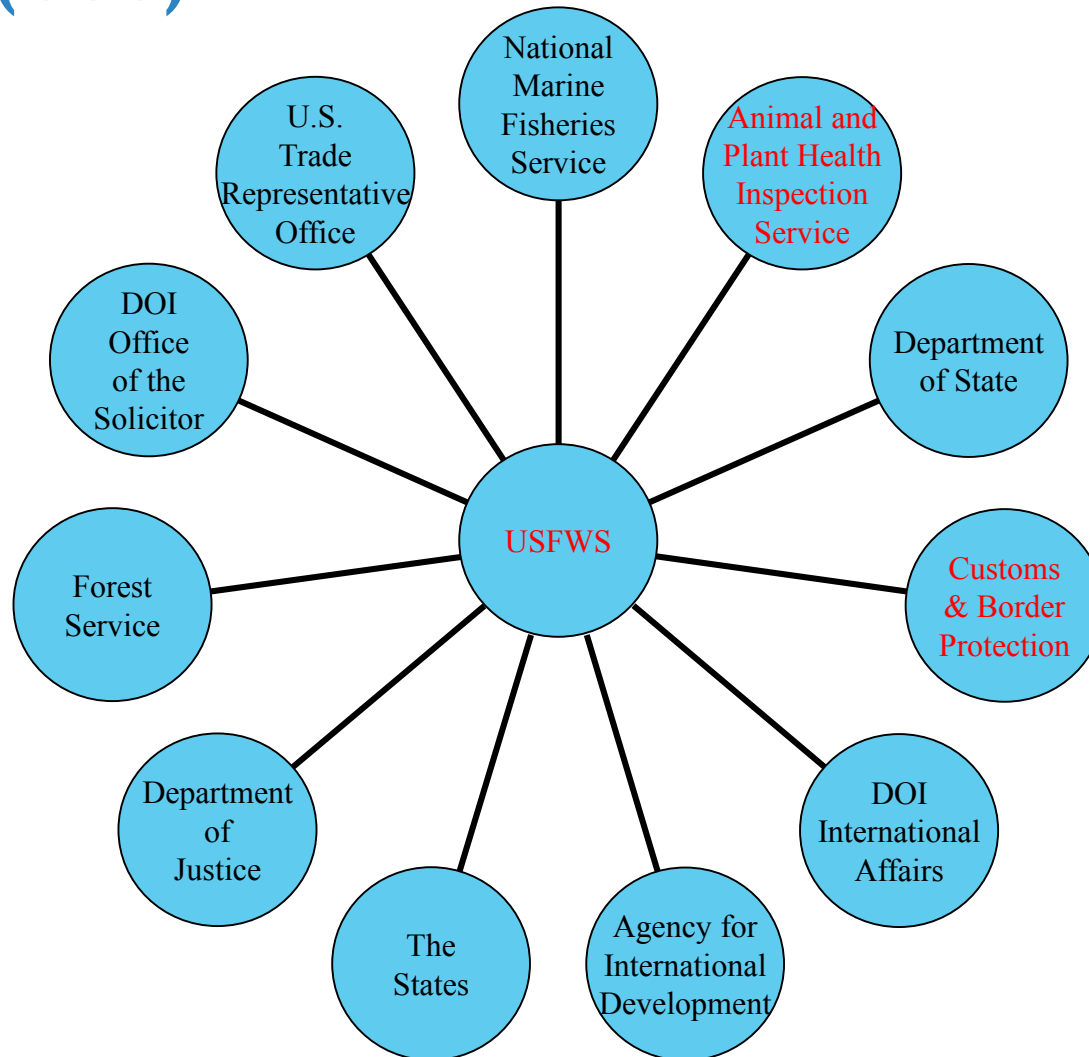


U.S. CITES Authorities (2)

- ▶ The Chiefs of the Management Authority and Scientific Authority are of equal rank.
- ▶ While the two offices may consult with each other and work closely together, required findings and decisions are made independently, and roles are distinct.
- ▶ Findings of the Scientific Authority may not be disregarded by the Management Authority; permits must be denied if the Scientific Authority findings are negative.



U.S. Inter-Agency CITES Coordination Committee (CCC)



Role of the CCC

- ▶ Connect the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with other agencies that may have a nexus to CITES through their work.
- ▶ Ensure those other agencies consider CITES in their activities and decisions *and* that FWS considers their work relative to CITES.
- ▶ Provide other agencies opportunity for input into CITES decision-making.
- ▶ Include State governments in CITES decision-making.
- ▶ Provide all involved agencies with a forum for information sharing on wildlife trade issues.
- ▶ Provides a framework for development of U.S. negotiating positions for CITES meetings.



How CITES Works: Official Meetings

COP

- Reviews how the treaty is working
- Resolves policy issues
- Amends the lists 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
 - Fill gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge
 - Undertake periodic reviews of listed species
 - Advise when trade in a particular species may be unsustainable



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

May 23 – June 3, 2019

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



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 legal and sustainable
- ▶ Encourages assessment/analysis of population status of species in trade and effects of international trade on wild populations



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Thank you!

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



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