CITES Secretariat

UNEP

The international trade in wildlife

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Introduction

- Wildlife conservation and the trade in wildlife are closely linked.

- Trade can be a strong incentive for managing wildlife sustainably, but it can also be a threat to the conservation of wildlife if it is not sufficiently regulated.

- If legal, sustainable and traceable, trade can support wildlife conservation and contribute to sustainable development.

Wildlife trade – economic sectors

Pets

Birds, reptiles, fish…

Collections

Hunting safaris, falconry, trophies, souvenirs (shells, corals)

Food

Caviar, fish, wild meat, plants,…

Cosmetics
Wax, oils,…

Leather & fashion
Bags, watches, fur, fibers,…

How many CITES species?

- CITES regulates and monitors the international trade in over **35,000** species (live, dead, parts and derivatives)

CITES-regulated trade per year

- \> 317,000 live birds

- \> 2 million live reptiles

- \> 2.5 million crocodilian skins

- \> 1.5 million lizard skins

- \> 2.1 million snake skins

- \> 73 tons of caviar

- nearly 20,000 hunting trophies

Value of international wildlife trade

– Python skins $ 1 billion USD / year

– Bigleaf mahogany $ 33 million USD / year

– Overall $ 323 billion USD in 2009

– Imports into the EU alone EUR 100 billion in 2009

How CITES works
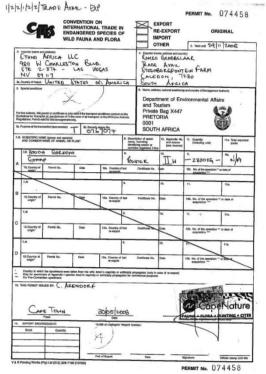
States need to:

- make a legal acquisition finding – i.e. a certification that the specimens to be traded were taken in accordance with national law;

- make a non-detriment finding – i.e. a science-based biological sustainability finding that takes account of the role of the species in its ecosystem;

- formally authorize the transaction through the issuance of a CITES permit or certificate, and report the trade to the CITES Secretariat for compilation and analysis.

Example for success – vicuñas

1970s less than 5,000 vicuñas

today vicuñas no longer endangered, fibre traded

Thank you!

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