



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



December 23, 2016

Subject: CITES Trade Suspensions and the U.S. Importer or Exporter

Background: When a country fails to comply with certain measures to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that country may be subject to a CITES recommendation to suspend trade. Depending on the nature of the compliance issue, the recommendation may be to suspend trade in a particular species from that country, to suspend all commercial trade in CITES-listed species, or to suspend all trade in CITES-listed species with that country. Information regarding current [trade suspensions](#) is available on the CITES website (www.cites.org).

The U.S. Endangered Species Act prohibits trade (import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea) in any specimens contrary to the provision of CITES. [Article VIII](#) of CITES requires that countries take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention and to prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention. As a party to CITES, the United States is committed to the implementation of the Convention, including enforcement of trade suspensions.

Basis for CITES Recommendations to Suspend Trade:

- *Recommendations to suspend trade in a particular species* – Recommendations to suspend trade made under the CITES Review of Significant Trade are species specific and only involve trade covered by [Article IV](#) of the Convention (i.e. the import, export, re-export, or introduction from the sea of specimens of species included in Appendix II), and not [Article VII](#) (e.g., trade in specimens that qualify for certain exemptions including, specimens of animal species bred in captivity or of plant species propagated artificially). Under a trade suspension as a result of the Review of Significant Trade, we will prohibit import of the specific Appendix II species from the identified country except for specimens that meet the exemptions under [Article VII](#) for personal or household effects ([50 CFR §23.15](#)), artificial propagation ([§23.40](#)), bred-in-captivity ([§23.41](#)), pre-Convention ([§23.45](#)), registered scientific institution ([§23.48](#)) or traveling exhibitions ([§23.49](#)).
- *Recommendations to suspend all trade in CITES species* – These country-specific suspensions may result from a variety of compliance issues, including failure to submit required annual reports ([50 CFR §23.26\(c\)\(2\)](#)) or failure to enact national legislation to implement the Convention. Under these suspensions, we will prohibit CITES trade with the identified country. Based on the details of the Notification to the Parties recommending the suspension, the scope of the suspension can include all trade, or narrowed down to all commercial trade.

Anyone wishing to trade in CITES specimens should regularly review the CITES website for current trade suspension information [<https://cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>]. This webpage also provides the link to the actual Notification to the Parties that outlines the scope of the trade restrictions (i.e. species specific, all trade, commercial trade only, etc.). Trade suspensions are withdrawn as soon as a country resolves the issues that resulted in the recommendation to suspend trade (e.g., submits overdue annual reports, implements recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade, adopts appropriate measures to implement the Convention, etc.).

Action: All shipments or specimens traded in contravention to CITES are subject to seizure and forfeiture.

Contact:

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