

# TRADE IN WILDLIFE



The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is a body corporate set up to manage an effective and efficient revenue raising system. One of the strategic goals of the MRA is to facilitate trade and reinforce border protection.

Among the various functions of the Customs department of the MRA is the screening of items which may be harmful to Mauritius' interests. Importation of some goods is prohibited. Others may be admitted only after they have been subjected to treatment, or if they are accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

Commercial trade in wildlife is the major cause of species endangerment and a main threat to animal welfare, both legal and illegal trade in wildlife has caused great destruction to ecosystems and pushed many species to the brink of extinction.



To control trade, various countries have ratified an International agreement known as the **CITES Convention (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**.

Nowadays more and more trades involve wildlife like live animals and plants, and their derivatives. Trade in wildlife and their derivatives are mainly:

- For scientific, educational, research, circuses and travelling exhibitions purposes,
- For display in zoos and aquariums,
- For Law enforcement and reintroduction purposes,
- For commercial purposes,
- For Biomedical purposes
- As personal item (Pets, leather products etc.),
- As hunting trophies and decorative products.

## What is CITES Convention?

It is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It has a set of rules designed to regulate export, re-export and import of animals and plants of wildlife and their derivatives.

It operates with an import/export permit system whereby trade in CITES-Listed species are allowed only if certain conditions are satisfied.

Animals and plants are classified into three Appendices as shown in the table (overleaf), according to how threatened they are by international trade.

## Which species are under control?

All species prescribed under the convention in the appendix listing are found in the **CITES Species Database (<https://www.speciesplus.net>)**

Illegal wildlife trade is also often unsustainable, harming wild populations of animals and plants and pushing endangered species toward extinction. Endangered animals and plants are often the target of wildlife crime because of their rarity and increased economic value.

## What can we do to stop illegal wildlife trade?

1. Buy only legally acquired wildlife or derivatives
2. Stick to certified products
3. Choose sustainable, eco-friendly pets
4. Eat only sustainable seafood
5. Seek information about a particular wildlife before trading the same
6. Report any illegal wildlife trade

## Who is responsible for CITES in Mauritius?

Mauritius joined the CITES Convention in July 1975. The National Parks & Conservation Service (NPCS) of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is the official Management Authority of CITES. A Scientific Authority has also been established as a statutory committee under The Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015.

It is an offence if CITES-listed wildlife species are imported into or exported from Mauritius without the necessary permits/clearances. These goods are subject to seizure, forfeiture and the importers/exporters are liable to prosecution as per provisions of The Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015.

### **How to apply for a CITES Permit?**

According to the provisions of the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015, any request for export, re-export or import permit should be made in writing to the Director, National Parks & Conservation Service, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security.

Applicants are requested to provide the following information in their application letter:

- Name and address of importer & exporter;
- Country of import/export;
- Scientific and common name of species;
- Country of origin of species;
- Quantity to be imported/exported per species;
- Purpose of transaction; and
- Source of specimen (e.g wild, captive bred etc)

### **Who decides for approval of the trade?**

Species which appear in the CITES listing require a CITES permit for import/export and those **not listed** are given an **Import Permit for Exotic Wildlife (IPEW)** subject to authorisation according to the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015 for importation (as applicable). Necessary clearances for exportation (as applicable) are also issued.

A fee of Rs. 300 applies for CITES permit and Rs. 50 for IPEW.

The application will be examined by delegated officers of the National Parks & Conservation Service, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security who will ensure that it contains all required information specified above before approval/authorisation for trade is given.



## Online materials on CITES

1. The Trade chart of the CITES and a list of CITES Listed species are available on the website: <http://www.cites.org>
2. The Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act 2015 and CITES Regulation available on website: [npcs.govmu.org](http://npcs.govmu.org)

### Contacts:

☎ **CITES Unit**, National Parks and Conservation Service, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Reduit  
**T:** +230 466 4053; +230 464 4471 | **F:** +230 466 0453  
**E:** [npcs@govmu.org](mailto:npcs@govmu.org)

☎ **Customs Brigades des Marchandises (BDM)**  
**T:** +230 202 0500 (ext: 7512, 7517)  
**E:** [brigades.customs@mra.mu](mailto:brigades.customs@mra.mu)

☎ **Customs Anti-Narcotics Section (CANS)** | **H:** 8958

	APPENDIX	CLASSIFICATION	PERMIT
<i>Appendix I</i>			
African Grey Parrot ( <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> )		Species threatened with extinction.	CITES Export Permit from the country of export and a CITES Import Permit from Mauritius
<i>Appendix II</i>			
Aldabra Giant Tortoise ( <i>Aldabrachelys gigantea</i> )		Species not considered threatened with extinction but may become so, if their trade is not regulated.	CITES Export Permit or CITES Certificate from country of export certifying trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species. (Import permit may be needed depending on reservations made by certain countries)
Sago Plant ( <i>Cycas Circinalis</i> )			
<i>Appendix III</i>			
Pink Pigeon ( <i>Nesoenas Mayeri</i> )		Species not considered threatened with extinction but in need of special protection in certain countries.	CITES Export Permit from listing countries or a CITES Certificate of Origin for non-listing countries.



**Mauritius Revenue Authority**

Customs Dept., Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port Louis,

**T:** +230 202 0500 | **F:** +230 216 5946

**E:** customs@mra.mu | **W:** www.mra.mu

