



Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora



CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Wild Fauna and Flora,
Washington Convention



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 665100.



The goal: The participants in the programme are informed about agreements on the protection of endangered species in international trade, the Washington Convention (1973), CITES.

The activities: Students will go through a "customs officer's fast track" in various areas of CITES (pet trade, game trophies, food, medicine, beauty and luxury products, etc.). As a practical task, the content of "customs" bags that have passed the high-speed course is assessed on the basis of CITES criteria. In use, there are real things from the trips.



Stage I of the CITES module:

I. Motivation of students (discussion about the students' experiences of travelling and trade of souvenirs);



Stage II of the CITES module:

The short overview of the Washington Convention (1973). The 25-minutes PPT presentation about the criteria and endangered species of CITES.



CITES

is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.

The convention was opened for signature in 1973 and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than **35,000 species** of animals and plants.

The CITES species

Roughly 5,800 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade. They are listed in the three CITES Appendices. The species are grouped in the Appendices according to how threatened they are by international trade.



Activity I

Learning of endangered species in international trade (the fauna and flora) with the help of illustrated materials of species – so-called "customs officer's fast track". The 5-member teams of students got the different focuses of investigation: pet trade, game trophies, food, medicine, beauty and luxury products (cosmetics, furs, mastards, etc).





Appendix I



about **1200 species**, are species that are threatened with extinction and are or may be affected by trade. Commercial trade in wild-caught specimens of these species is illegal (permitted only in exceptional licensed circumstances).

Notable animal species listed in Appendix I include the red panda, western gorilla, the chimpanzee species, tigers, Asiatic lion, leopards, jaguar, cheetah, Asian elephant, African bush elephant, the dugong and manatees, and all rhinoceros species.

Appendix II

about **21,000 species**, are species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the survival of the species in the wild.

Examples of species listed on Appendix II are the **great white shark**, the **American black bear**, **Hartmann's mountain zebra**, **green iguana**, **queen conch**, **Emperor scorpion**, **Mertens' water monitor**, **bigleaf mahogany** and **lignum vitae "ironwood"**.

Appendix II

about **170 species** that are listed after one member country has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling trade in a species. The species are not necessarily threatened with extinction globally.

Examples of species listed on Appendix III and the countries that listed them are the **two-toed sloth** by Costa Rica, **sitatunga** by Ghana, **African civet** by Botswana, and **alligator snapping turtle** by the USA.

	Appendix I	Appendix II	Appendix III
FAUNA			
Mammals	318 spp. (incl. 13 popns) + 20 sspp. (incl. 4 popns)	513 spp. (incl. 17 popns) + 7 sspp. (incl. 2 popns)	52 spp. + 11 sspp
Birds	155 spp. (incl. 2 popns) + 8 sspp.	1278 spp. (incl. 1 popn) + 4 sspp.	27 spp.
Reptiles	87 spp. (incl. 7 popns) + 5 sspp	749 spp. (incl. 6 popns)	61 spp.
Amphibians	24 spp.	134 spp.	4 spp.
Fish	16 spp.	107 spp.	24 spp. (incl. 15 popns)
Invertebrates	69 spp. + 5 sspp.	2171 spp. + 1 sspp.	22 spp. + 3 sspp.
FAUNA TOTAL	669 spp. + 38 sspp.	4952 spp. + 12 sspp.	190 spp. + 14 sspp.
FLORA	334 spp. + 4 sspp.	29644 spp. (incl. 93 popns)	12 spp. (incl. 1 popns) + 1 var.
GRAND TOTAL	1003 spp. + 42 sspp.	34596 spp. + 12 sspp.	202 spp. + 14 sspp. + 1 var.



Activity II

A practical task of investigating the content of "customs" bags that have passed the high-speed course is assessed on the basis of CITES criteria dividing the objects into three groups:

- Allowed to pass the customs,
- Denied to pass the customs or confiscated;
- The unrecognised objects that are sent to expertise.

Activity III

- Fulfilling the customs declarations about the decisions about the objects found in travelling bags.
- All students' teams introduce their sorted objects in traveling bags with the detailed justification of their decisions.



SPECIES

The IUCN Global Species Programme, in conjunction with the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and partners, are driving the fight to save species for people and nature.



<https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/iucn-red-list-threatened-species>

Activity IV

Every team of students gave a prepared detailed introduction of two endangered species of birds, two rodents and one amphibian species in the classroom of live animals from the aspects of their CITES status.



Activity V

- The conclusive discussion about the CITES programme and the fulfilling worksheet about the knowledge and skills of customs officers.
- Summarising the career possibilities of customs and environmental service, the positive attitude of protection of the endangered species and the nature in general.

CAREERS connected to CITES

- ❖ customs officer;
- ❖ environmentalist;
- ❖ natural scientist;
- ❖ biologist:
 - ❖ zoologist;
 - ❖ botanist;
 - ❖ ecologist etc;
- ❖ recreationist;
- ❖ specialists of tourism, finances etc.;



Species shown here are all covered by CITES

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