



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

CITES Introduction

HTA Webinar 20th May 2024

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Defra

UK CITES Management Authority

Introduction to CITES

- CITES = **C**onvention on **I**nternational **T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- 184 signatory Parties.

Objective

- To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

CITES Requirements

- 3 appendices of CITES regulated species, translated into four Annexes in EU and UK (A-D).
- International trade controlled through a permitting system:
 - **Annex A & Annex B:** (re-)export + import permits
 - **Annex C:** (re-)export permit/cert. of origin + import notification
 - **Annex D:** import notification
- **Main assessments of the source of CITES material:** Legal Acquisition Finding (**LAF**) and Non-Detriment Finding (**NDF**)

CITES Species and Appendices/Annexes

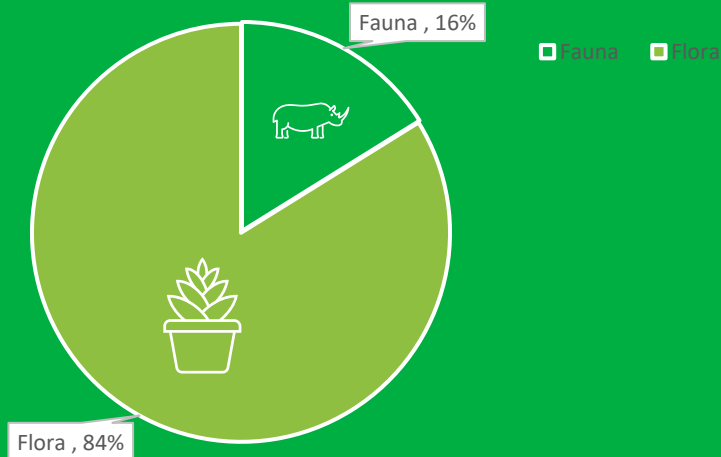
Total

Annex A

Annex B

Annex C

Ca. 40,000 species



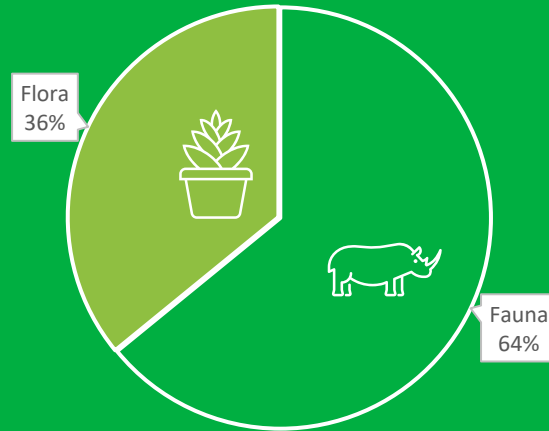
CITES Species and Appendices/Annexes

Total

Annex A

Annex B

Annex C



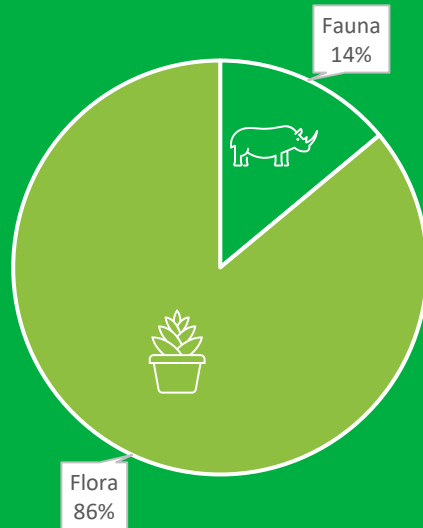
CITES Species and Appendices/Annexes

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Annex A

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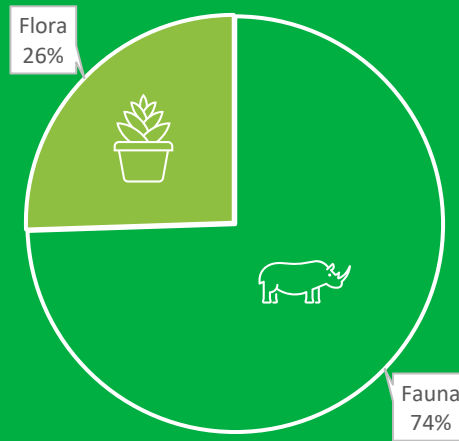
CITES Species and Appendices/Annexes

Total

Annex A







Annex B

Annex C





CITES Plants

>34,000 species.

- **All orchids** – c.29,000 *spp.* 
- **All cacti** – c.1,500 *spp.* 
- **All aloes** (except artificially propagated *Aloe vera/barbadensis*) – c.600 *spp.* 
- **All *Sarracenia* spp.** – c.29 *spp.* 
- ***Dionaea muscipula*** (Venus Flytrap) 
- **Mahoganies** (e.g. *Swietenia macrophylla*) and **rosewoods** (*Dalbergia/ Guibourita spp.*) 

CITES Authorities – Management Authorities

UK MA (policy)  Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs	UK MA (operations)  Animal & Plant Health Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of UK CITES policy.• UK CITES regime coordination.• Maintenance and review of UK CITES legislation. <p>CITES.UKMA@defra.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permitting and queries relating to cases/permits• Legal acquisition findings• Fees & charges <p>Wildlife.Licensing@apha.gov.uk</p>

CITES Authorities – Scientific Authorities

UK SA (flora)



UK SA (fauna)



- Conducting Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs).
- Scientific advice.
- Assessment of welfare aspects (appropriate housing etc. for fauna).

CITES Authorities – Enforcement Authorities

At the border



- CITES border controls
- Endorsing permits
- Management and disposal of seizures

BorderForceCITESTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk

Inland



- Inland enforcement & coordination of police
- Prosecutions

EU Exit

- CITES controls introduced between GB and EU (in effect as of 1st Jan 2021)
 - Trade of Annex A + B plants require **both** export and import permits.
 - NI considered part of the EU CITES zone
 - No CITES checks between NI and EU27.
 - CITES checks between NI and GB (co-located).
 - Increase in UK CITES permits c.30%
 - Increase in import permits, though some decrease in internal commercial-use certificates
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EU Exit

- Phytosanitary certificates are accepted in lieu of export permits for some registered countries (incl. Belgium, Netherlands and Italy) exporting artificially propagated Appendix-II species. UK import permits are also required.
 - [Exemptions and special procedures | CITES](#)
-

Labelling

- Annotation #4 exempts some genera and species of Orchids and Cacti that are artificially propagated and commonly traded.
 - NB exempt plants must be labelled to species level and clearly state that they are artificial propagated to avoid being subject to regulations. (CoP19 decision 2022)
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Recent Changes to EU-UK Trade in Plants

- ePhyto
- *Only applies to country using Phytosanitary Certificates in lieu of CITES export permits (e.g. Netherlands).*
- Exporting authority can issue **sealed PDF** copy of the Phytosanitary Certificate containing a **QR code** in place of a wet signature. This can be **sent to APHA** to apply for an import permit and **printed to be presented to UK Border Force**.
 - *This process is susceptible to change. Please check Imports into GB - UK Plant Health Information Portal (defra.gov.uk) for updates.*

Recent Changes to Plant Health Checks EU-UK Trade.

- BTOM
- Plants for planting (finished plants) are being inspected at Border Control Posts (BCPs) as of 30th April.
- Since EU Exit (31 January 2020) CITES regulated plants must enter through a CITES designated BCP. This applies in conjunction with the BTOM.

Amendments to CITES Appendices.

- Feb 2023- Appendix III addition of several succulent genera and species from South Africa

- *Conophytum* spp.
- *Mestoklema tuberosum*
- *Raphionacme zeyheri*
- *Crassothonna cacalioides*
- *Crassothonna clavifolia*
- *Othonna armiana*
- *Othonna euphorbioides*
- *Othonna retrorsa*
- *Tylecodon bodleyae*
- *Tylecodon nolteei*
- *Tylecodon reticulatus*
- *Monsonia herrei*

- *Monsonia multifida*
- *Monsonia patersonii*
- *Pelargonium crassicaule*
- *Pelargonium triste*
- *Adenia spinosa*
- *Portulacaria pygmaea*

- Future proposed updates to appendices are listed [Notifications to the Parties | CITES.](#)

Amendments to CITES Appendices.

- Timber species included with Annotation #17.
 - *Dipteryx* spp. (Cumaru/Tonka) - Does not include seeds. **25th November 2024.**
 - *Handroanthus* spp., *Roseodendron* spp. and *Tabebuia* spp. (Trumpet trees/Ipe). **25th November 2024.**
 - *Pterocarpus* spp. (Paduak) – African populations only. **(23rd Feb 2023)**
 - *Khaya* spp. (African mahogany) – African populations only. **(23rd Feb 2023)**
 - *Azizelia* spp. (Pod mahoganies) – African populations only. **(23rd Feb 2023)**
 - [Appendices | CITES](#)
- Included with Annotation #2
 - *Rhodiola* spp. (Golden root) – ‘finished products packaged and ready for retail trade.’
(**exempt from CITES regulations**)
 - [CITES regs still apply to plants and derivatives.](#)

Future Policy

- Working with APHA to modernise IT systems.
- Reviewing UK CITES legislation (including retained UK Law Bill)
- Reviewing internal processes (incl. fees and charges)
- Determining UK Priorities for Plants & Animals Committees (July 2024), Standing Committee (November 2024) and CoP (late 2025).

Useful links

- [Species+ \(speciesplus.net\)](https://speciesplus.net)
- [Import or export endangered species: check if you need a CITES permit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-export-endangered-species-check-if-you-need-a-cites-permit)
- [Appendices | CITES](#)