


TRAFFIC

February 2024

**GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

**DATA
COLLECTION,
ANALYSIS AND
SHARING IN
CENTRAL ASIA**

A photograph of two mountain goats with large, curved, brown horns standing in a grassy field. The goats are facing right, and the background is a soft-focus green landscape.

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TRAFFIC REPORT

ABOUT US

TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally to ensure that trade in wild species is legal and sustainable, for the benefit of the planet and people.

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INTRODUCTION

WILDLIFE TRADE—THE SALE OR EXCHANGE OF WILD ANIMAL AND PLANT RESOURCES BY PEOPLE—LIES AT THE HEART OF THE TENSION BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Whether for medicine, construction, food or culture, a large proportion of national trade, and economies are reliant upon wildlife products (TRAFFIC, 2021).



The legal trade in wildlife products involves thousands of different fauna and flora species and provides a source of income for millions of local collectors and producers, raw materials for businesses, and an array of goods for millions of consumers worldwide. It is undeniably fundamental in regional, national, and international economies (TRAFFIC, 2023a). The benefits of legal, sustainable wildlife trade are often overshadowed by the negative impacts of the illegal wildlife trade. The World Bank estimates that the impact on ecosystems of illegal logging, fishing, and wildlife trade equate to USD1 trillion to USD2 trillion per year (The World Bank, 2019). The same report shows that governments in source countries are losing between USD7–USD12 billion each year in potential tax revenues that aren't collected due to illegal logging, fishing, and wildlife trade (The World Bank, 2019).

Illegal trade is impacting wildlife species globally as poachers, traffickers, and highly organised criminal syndicates pursue profit to meet consumer demand. The trafficking and unsustainable trade in wildlife commodities, such as elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, tiger bone, bear bile, and rosewood are causing unprecedented declines in some of the world's most charismatic, as well as some lesser-known, wildlife species (Global Environment Facility, 2023). Central Asia is home to a diverse array of animals and plants and the region has seen intense illegal wildlife trade over the years. This has impacted iconic species and resulted in steep population declines of several species. For example, between the late 1990s to early 2000s, there was a 90% decline in the number of Saiga Saiga sp. (Milner-Gulland et al., 2021); there

has been significant over-exploitation of various medicinal plants (Gemedzhieva et al., 2021) and significant declines in Steppe Tortoise Testudo horsfieldii and Snow Leopard Panthera uncia populations in the region (Smith and Porsche, 2015; Nowell et al., 2016).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments that entered into force on 1 July 1975 and aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the species' survival. The Convention currently has 184 Parties and regulates the international trade of over 38,700 species, including approximately 5,950 species of animals and 32,800 species of plants (CITES, 2022).

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are all Parties to CITES, with accession ranging from 1997 to 2015 (Table 1). According to CITES Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18)¹, all Parties need to report on the annual illegal trade of CITES-listed species. The CITES Parties must submit a CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report on all seizures for violations involving CITES-listed species, irrespective of whether the seizure was made at an international border or internally, for example during inspections at domestic markets. The Annual Illegal Trade Report is mandatory but not subject to compliance procedures. The deadline for submission of the annual report is 31 October of the year following the year for which the report was due so, for example, the submission deadline for the 2022 report is 31 October 2023.

CITES PARTY	DATE OF ACCESSION	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
Kazakhstan	20 January 2000	19 April 2000
Kyrgyzstan	4 June 2007	2 September 2007
Tajikistan	31 December 2015	30 March 2016
Uzbekistan	10 July 1997	8 October 1997

TABLE 1

Dates of accession of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to CITES and when CITES regulations entered into force at the national level

TACKLING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

National law enforcement agencies, ranging from local and regional police departments, Customs officers at external borders, other national inspection services, public prosecutors, and national environmental ministries play a crucial role in the efficient enforcement of national and international wildlife trade regulations and tackling illegal wildlife trade.

Law enforcement agencies must be able to understand the criminality and modus operandi of the illegal wildlife trade and its actors and respond quickly to information received to effectively tackle it. The collection, analysis, and sharing of data by law enforcement agencies are integral to understanding illegal wildlife traders, networks, and trade routes involved. These data then facilitate law enforcement agencies to bring illegal wildlife traders to justice under national wildlife laws, other national laws that have been broken or international agreements through the judicial system.

Regular, and systematic illegal wildlife trade data collection and sharing between agencies helps form the basis for law enforcement risk profiling and assessments and guides law enforcement efforts and priorities on a national level. Wider sharing of these data with neighbouring countries also supports interagency and international collaboration to ensure that species are not threatened by trade. There are various databases and networks available to support these processes. These include the Global Customs and Enforcement Network (CEN), a global network for gathering customs-related, data and information, and ENVIRONET, which serves as a global real-time communication tool for the exchange of information on environmental issues for customs officials, other law enforcement authorities and international organisations, as well as their regional network. Furthermore, to enable the rapid sharing of actionable enforcement information, TRAFFIC has helped establish and run regional Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX)

systems linking enforcement agencies in the European Union (EU-TWIX) and three regions in Africa (TRAFFIC, 2023b). This has led to some notable enforcement successes.

For example, Belgian Customs were alerted to the illegal trade of pangolin scales thanks to photos of relevant seizures exchanged via the EU-TWIX mailing list. As a result, over 30 seizures involving pangolin scales have taken place at Brussels airport subsequently, equivalent to close to one tonne of products. The TWIX platforms also contain resources such as identification guides, training materials, legal texts, and listings for animal rescue centres for seized specimens.

(TRAFFIC, 2023b). Lastly, the analysis of illegal wildlife trade data can alert others to emerging trade-related threats to wildlife and ensure that specialised knowledge and data are seen by those who can effectively act upon it.

More specifically, the collection and analysis of illegal wildlife trade data:

- Helps make the work of law enforcement agencies more efficient and effective while the analysis of wildlife trade data results in reliable and objective information for governmental agencies and other stakeholders to inform management decisions and policy responses.
- Supports law enforcement agencies to understand illegal wildlife trade patterns in-country/region.
- Supports the research and analysis for national/regional risk assessments and priority setting for tackling the illegal wildlife trade, for example, it informs law enforcement targeting and profiling.
- Allows law enforcement to quickly access information that will enable them to start investigations, arrest and/or hinder perpetrators of illegal wildlife trade.
- Supports a countries' compliance with CITES and the submission of the CITES Annual Illegal Trade Reports (Res. Conf. 11.17 Rev. CoP18).

The sharing of illegal wildlife trade data:

- Ensures that specialised knowledge and data are seen by those agencies that are mandated to act upon it.
- Allows agencies to share feedback on the data and information that can help improve the quality/accuracy of data (and encourage mutual/two-way data sharing).
- Enables law enforcement to start investigations, arrest and/or hinder perpetrators of illegal wildlife trade relevant to their national mandate.
- Facilitates inter-agency and cross-border collaboration in tackling illegal wildlife trade.

Given that the success of national and international efforts to detect and deter wildlife

trafficking largely depends on the efficiency of the law enforcement agencies and ministries, strengthening mechanisms by which these agencies can collect and analyse data and exchange information is an invaluable means of combating illegal wildlife trade. This guidance documents aims to map out the main best practices regarding illegal wildlife trade data collection, analysis, and sharing practices to support and improve existing procedures for law enforcement agencies in four countries in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The report also outlines some of the existing resources, including reports, trainings, and online tools available to law enforcement agencies that can support efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

METHODS

To develop this guidance document, information in the form of survey was gathered from governmental authorities and organisations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to understand the current illegal wildlife trade data collection, analysis, and sharing practices. This information helped inform the level of detail required in this guidance document. Information was also gathered from European Union Member State enforcement authorities

to understand established processes and systems in place for illegal wildlife trade data collection, analysis and sharing. In addition, information from existing resources, such as the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit were referenced and several available resources/tools, from existing initiatives such as CITES, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) websites were collated.



GENERAL GUIDANCE ON TACKLING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Responding to the illegal wildlife trade usually involves a variety of government sectors. In most jurisdictions, there is more than one entity with the responsibility for enforcing the relevant wildlife, Customs, and criminal laws. There are often several national agencies, organisations, or institutions, as well as regional or local agencies, working to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. Even in jurisdictions with a single national police force, there are likely to be additional law enforcement organisations with specialised skills or with specific functions, such as wildlife and forest enforcement units, Customs, and border police (ICCW, 2022).

As a result, it is imperative that national governmental ministries clearly identify the national agencies mandated with the enforcement of the relevant wildlife, forest, Customs, and other criminal laws. For example, the State Committee for National Security, General Prosecutors Office, Customs Services, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Border Services are the main agencies of Central Asian Countries to tackle any kind of crime, including wildlife illegal trade. Close cooperation between these relevant authorities is vital for investigations. The creation of specialised law

enforcement teams also allows for the pooling of expertise and resources into dedicated units, rather than attempting to achieve a broad and general level of enforcement across the country (ICCW, 2022). Once the structures for the law enforcement agencies have been identified, it is imperative that national governmental ministries clearly identify which agencies are mandated to collect and collate information on the illegal wildlife trade taking place within their national jurisdiction. This helps set a clear direction for each agency tackling the illegal wildlife trade and avoids any duplication of efforts which wastes time and resources.

A general point for consideration when tackling the illegal wildlife trade through data collection, analysis and sharing is that it should not be separated from tackling other crimes. Instead, these procedures and initiatives should be embedded as part of tackling other related crimes, such as drug, weapon, and human trafficking, in the enforcement and judicial procedures at local, regional, and national levels and perpetrators should be accountable for prosecution and administrative penalty, as with any other crime.

systematic data collection and sharing helps form the basis for law enforcement risk profiling



GUIDANCE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA COLLECTION

Given the covert nature of the illegal wildlife trade, law enforcement agencies cannot rely on receiving data and information from one sole data source. It is important to establish a variety of sources for the collection of information based on clearly defined mandates for each law enforcement agency.

The main sources of data include information gathered by border patrol officers and police during seizures and inspections, or park rangers who are in contact with local communities. Other sources of data can also include individuals from the communities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in areas where illegal wildlife activities are prevalent. As traders expand their use of online technology, national enforcement authorities may also want to consider examining these platforms, including the analysis of mobile telephones, computers, and data storage devices. These can reveal valuable links among individuals, financial transactions, locations, and web-browsing history (ICCWC, 2022). For the purposes of this report, the guidance will focus on the collection of illegal wildlife trade during seizures and inspections.

GATHERING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA DURING SEIZURES/INSPECTIONS

- **As a first step, dedicated staff should be appointed in each agency to carry out these duties.** These staff need to be trained at the beginning of their appointment relating to illegal wildlife trade matters and, for example, CITES issues. Refresher training should be conducted on a regular basis, ideally, annually. For example, the mandated authority of national agencies for CITES in four countries in Central Asia are the following: the Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources of Republic of Kazakhstan, Department of Biodiversity in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic is the, State Committee of Ecology in the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Republic of Uzbekistan and Environmental Protection Committee in Republic of Tajikistan. The organisational charts outlined in Figure 1 to 4 show the hierarchy of these organisations.
- Each law enforcement agency mandated to

collect and collate information on the illegal wildlife trade should **develop a standardised template with pre-set questions for law enforcement officials** to ask when recording information on the crime during an inspection or seizure.

- The standardised template for collecting information on illegal wildlife trade, should record information on the (see Figure 1 for an example of a template):
 - date of the seizure/inspection
 - species involved
 - quantities involved
 - commodity type/description of the goods
 - the location of the incident
 - the method of transport used
 - the trade routes (including country of origin, transit countries, country of export and the country of destination)
 - the method of detection
 - the methods of concealment
 - information on the infringement of the specific laws and whether the crime was an administrative or criminal case.
- When gathering information during an inspection or seizure of wildlife, **authorities should make use of species identification guides**. There are several online resources available, including:
 - [CITES species identification manuals](#).
 - [Avibase is an extensive database information system about all birds of the world](#).
 - [Plants of the World](#) which provides global plant names, detailed descriptions, and images of global plant species.

STORING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA

- The collection of data from a variety of sources means that the information will vary in reliability and quality. As a result, law enforcement agencies are strongly advised to conduct some **initial evaluation of the data received to ensure its credibility, validity, and accuracy**. The law enforcement agencies should evaluate the data by checking the date, place, parties

involved and what kind of actions/decisions were made towards the seizure.

- Information on the illegal wildlife trade should be **stored in a standardised electronic format and stored in a centralised electronic database for each national law enforcement agency**. For maximum efficiency, the data gathering, and storage databases should use standardised operating systems across all four countries so actionable information can be rapidly shared between agencies. As an example, all four countries can use the CITES template in Microsoft Excel for reporting illegal wildlife trade. By using the same system, it allows for the simple transmission and sharing of data between the different agency databases.

SUBMITTING THE CITES ANNUAL ILLEGAL TRADE REPORTS (IN COMPLIANCE WITH RES. CONF. 11.17 REV. COP18)

- **The mandated national agency per country should ensure they comply with their reporting obligations as Parties to CITES**. This agency should collate all the data from the different law enforcement agencies and submit one report to the CITES Secretariat by 31 October deadline. The mandated agency should make sure to submit both legal and illegal wildlife annual reports to CITES.
- When submitting the national CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report it should include information on all seizures for violations involving CITES-listed species, irrespective of whether the seizure was made at an international border, or at the domestic level for example during the search of a private or business property or during inspections at domestic markets.
- When submitting the national CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report, it should use the template developed by the CITES Secretariat for CITES Parties. See Figures 5 and 6. Guidelines for submitting the CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report can be found in Annex One.

Select option:
Police; Customs; Wildlife
Agency; Other (please specify)

Select option: Scanning images;
Risk assessment; Random check;
Sniffer dog; Third-Party
information; Physical inspection;
Other (specify):

Select option: No CITES
Permit; Mis-declared;
Illegal crossing; Other
(please specify):

Select option: Maritime
(1); Rail (2); Road (3); Air
(4); Mail (5)

Select option:
Returned to country of export; Public zoos or botanical gardens;
Designated rescue centres; Approved, private facilities;
Euthanasia/destruction; storage/safekeeping; sale/transformation;
educational purposes; Other (please specify):

Reporting Party:

FORMAT FOR THE CITES ANNUAL ILLEGAL TRADE REPORT

National reference number*	Date of seizure	Species	Description of specimen	Quantity	Unit	Location of incident	Detecting agency ¹	Method of detection ^{2,4}	Reason for seizure ³	Mode of transport ⁴	Method of concealment	Alleged country of origin	Country(ies) of transit	Alleged final destination	Estimated value in country* (amount and currency)	Nationality of offenders*	Law under which charges were brought (desirable)	Sanction (desirable)	Disposal of confiscated specimens ⁵ (desirable)	Additional information*

¹ Select option: Police; Customs; Wildlife Agency; Other (please specify)

² Select option: Scanning images; Risk assessment; Random check; Sniffer dog; Third-Party information; Physical inspection; Other (specify):

³ Select option: No CITES Permit; Mis-declared; Illegal crossing; Other (please specify)

⁴ Select option: Maritime (1); Rail (2); Road (3); Air (4); Mail (5)

⁵ Select option: Returned to country of export; Public zoos or botanical gardens; Designated rescue centres; Approved, private facilities; Euthanasia/destruction; Storage; Safekeeping; Educational purposes; Other (please specify):

*means that it is optional to provide the information, even if it is available

Please select one of the following options:

Yes, the information provided in this report may be used in the ICCWC- supported global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

No, the information provided in this report may not be used in the ICCWC- supported global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

FIGURE 5
The CITES Annual Illegal Trade Reporting Template

Select option: Police; Customs; Wildlife Agency; Other (please specify);

Select option: Scanning images; Risk assessment; Random check; Sniffer dog; Third Party information; Physical inspection; Other (specify);

Select option: No CITES Permit; Mis-declared; Illegal crossing; Other (please specify);

Select option: Maritime (1); Rail (2); Road (3); Air (4); Mail (5)

Select option: Returned to country of export; Public zoos or botanical gardens; Designated rescue centres; Approved, private facilities; Euthanasia/destruction; storage/safekeeping; sale/transformation; educational purposes; Other (please specify);

Reporting Party: XX (In this example where XX is used it indicates the reporting Party)

SAMPLE ILLEGAL TRADE REPORT (hypothetical examples)

National reference number*	Date of seizure	Species	Description of specimen	Quantity	Unit	Location of incident	Detecting agency ¹	Method of detection ²	Reason for seizure ³	Mode of transport ⁴	Method of concealment	Alleged country of origin	Country(ies) of transit	Alleged illegal destination	Estimated value in country* (amount and currency)	Nationality of offenders ⁵	Law under which charges were brought (desirable)	Sanction (desirable)	Disposal of confiscated specimens ⁵ (desirable)	Additional information ⁶	
CAS 01/01/18	01/01/2018	Pan troglodytes	LIV	1	no.	Airport name	Customs	Risk assessment	Mis-declared	Air	Not concealed	CD	JO, TR, IQ	XX	USD	2000	AF, AL	Name of Law, No.	N/A	Designated rescue centre	Air cargo, incorrect permit (wrong species)
CAS 01/01/18	01/01/2018	Ptilinopus acrobatus	LIV	90	no.	Airport name	Customs	Risk assessment	Mis-declared	Air	Not concealed	CD	JO, TR, IQ	XX	USD	18000	AF, AL	Name of Law, No.	N/A	Public zoo	Same shipments: Ref no. CAS 01/01/18
CAS 05/01/18	02/01/2018	Manis spp.	SCA	1500	kg	Border crossing name	Customs	Physical inspection	Mis-declared	Air	Not concealed	IN	NP	XX	USD	700000	OZ	Name of Law, No.	X year imprisonment	Destruction	Fraudulent permit. Known smuggling route
CAS 05/01/18	02/01/2018															AD	Name of Law, No.	X year imprisonment		Offender number 2; Same case: Ref. no. CAS 05/01/18	
CAS 05/01/18	02/01/2018															AS	Name of Law, No.	X month imprisonment		Offender number 3; Same case: Ref. no. CAS 05/01/17	
CAS 03/02/18	05/02/2018	Manis javanica	SCA	40	kg	City/town name	Police	Sniffer dog	No CITES permit	Mail	Postal parcel	NL		XX	USD	18-20000	N/A	Name of Law, No.	N/A	Educational purposes	Insufficient evidence
CAS 07/03/18	04/03/2018	Loxodonta africana	IW	5	no.	Town name	Wildlife Agency	Third Party information	No CITES permit	Road	Under traveller's clothing		TH	XX	USD	100	AI	Name of Law, No.	Fine: USD XXX	Safekeeping	Ivory wrapped in foil. Confiscation without court case.
CAS 44/05/18	14/05/2018	Dalbergia podocephala	LOG	1000	m3	Seaport name	Customs	Random check	No CITES permit	Maritime	Hidden in fuel tanker truck			XX	USD	40-50000	AG	Name of Law, No.	Appeal is pending	Sale	X year imprisonment in first instance.
CAS 29/07/18	11/07/2018	Diceros bicornis	HOR	20	no.	Airport name	Customs	Scanning images	No CITES permit	Air	Under cashew nuts			XX	USD	500000	AR	Name of Law, No.	N/A	Destruction	Final destination; insert name of province/town.
CAS 11/09/18	XX/09/2018	Hylobates agilis	LIV	2	no.	Border crossing name	Customs	Physical inspection	Illegal crossing	Road	Hidden in a shipment of dogs	TH	LA, DE	XX	USD	2000	AM	Name of Law, No.	Withdrawn	Euthanasia	Insufficient evidence
CAS 19/09/18	XX/09/2018	Ursus arctos	SKI	1	no.	Airport name	Customs	Random check	No CITES permit	Air	Hidden in check-in luggage	RU		XX		AU	Name of Law, No.	Pending			
CAS 33/10/18	XX/10/2018	Falco cherrug	LIV	1	no.	Town name	Police	Third Party information	No CITES permit		Not concealed	XX		CN		AZ	Name of Law, No.	X year imprisonment	Returned to country of export	The seizure was made at a hotel.	
CAS 55/12/18	07/12/2018	Callithrix pygmaea	LIV	1	no.	Airport name	Wildlife Agency	Third Party information	No CITES permit	Air	Smuggling vest	CZ		XX		BS	Name of Law, No.	Fine: USD XXX	Approved private facility		A fine has been imposed without a court case.
CAS 79/12/18	08/12/2018	Panthera tigris	MED	0.2	kg	Airport name	Customs	Random check	No CITES permit	Air	Hidden in hand luggage	AR		XX		BH	Name of Law, No.	Pending			Repeated offender

¹ Select option: Police; Customs; Wildlife Agency; Other (please specify)

² Select option: Scanning images; Risk assessment; Random check; Sniffer dog; Third-Party information; Physical inspection; Other (specify);

³ Select option: No CITES Permit; Mis-declared; Illegal crossing; Other (please specify)

⁴ Select option: Maritime (1); Rail (2); Road (3); Air (4); Mail (5)

⁵ Select option: Returned to country of export; Public zoos or botanical gardens; Designated rescue centres; Approved, private facilities; Euthanasia/destruction; Storage; Safekeeping; Educational purposes; Other (please specify);

*means that it is optional to provide the information, even if it is available

Please select one of the following options:

Yes, the information provided in this report may be used in the ICCWC-supported global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

No, the information provided in this report may not be used in the ICCWC-supported global research and analysis on wildlife and forest crime.

FIGURE 6

Sample CITES ANNUAL ILLEGAL TRADE REPORT

GUIDANCE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of illegal wildlife trade data is vital and forms the basis of many of the actions undertaken by law enforcement agencies in the short-term but also the national long-term strategic priority setting. Analysis of the data also identifies information gaps, determines whether additional work needs to be undertaken and highlights missing or contradictory information. For this reason, it is essential that all information be subjected to some form of analysis and processing before it is disseminated or used as intelligence (ICCWC, 2022).

GENERAL POINTS ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA ANALYSIS

- At regular intervals, law enforcement agencies are advised to **analyse the illegal wildlife trade data that has been collected over the past months**. This analysis allows law enforcement agencies to identify trade networks more easily and recognise patterns and characteristics of the illegal wildlife trade dynamics and criminal behaviour before taking action.
- The national law enforcement agencies mandated to tackle the illegal wildlife trade are **advised to meet several times a year to discuss the findings from any analyses and illegal wildlife trade issues in the region more generally**. A national agency, who is an authorised agency for CITES (in Central Asian context, Ministries of Natural Resources (or Ministry of Ecology) can be responsible for organising such meetings.
- When analysing illegal wildlife trade data, law enforcement agencies are advised to focus on the following variables as a first step:
 - General overview of the illegal wildlife trade dynamics: analyse the main types of species and commodities in trade (both import and export), and the main trading partners for specimens imported into the country and exported from the country. Authorities should also analyse any temporal changes, where relevant, and the environmental laws that have been infringed.
 - Focus on specific species reported in trade: analyse the different species reported in trade and the associated description codes, quantities, and trade routes (country of origin, transit, and destination). Further analyses can also be done on the location of the incident, mode of transport and the method of concealment for the different species reported in trade.
- During the analysis stage, authorities should make use of:
 - Species+ website which collates authoritative information on taxonomy, legislation, distribution, and trade in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) listed species. Accessible link: <https://speciesplus.net/>
 - TRAFFIC's Wildlife Trade Portal is an interactive tool that displays TRAFFIC's open-source wildlife seizure and incident data. Accessible link: <https://www.wildlifetradeportal.org/about>.



GUIDANCE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA SHARING

One of the most important factors of tackling the illegal wildlife trade is the effective dissemination of illegal wildlife trade data and information to relevant national agencies or investigators who can interpret the information, use it and act upon the intelligence accordingly.

As it was advised above to have a meeting of law enforcement agencies several times a year, an authorised ministry for CITES can make presentation of illegal wildlife trade data at the meeting as well as send the data via their official channels. While dissemination will lead to some loss of control on how the intelligence is used, certain safeguards can be added to ensure data protection. Law enforcement agencies and units need to have trust in one another and build collaborative relationships through networking and regular meetings. This is where having clear mandates helps to avoid any misunderstanding of roles and duplication of efforts. Aside from sharing intelligence with relevant law enforcement agencies, outcomes of intelligence analysis can be disseminated to wider audiences,

such as NGOs or the public, using analytical reports (ICWC, 2022).

GENERAL POINTS ON SHARING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE DATA

Sharing data nationally:

- Countries should establish national formalised data-sharing agreements for illegal wildlife trade data between the relevant law enforcement agencies to improve efforts as a matter of urgency to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. These agreements should outline the mandate of each agency, and how and when data can be shared. For example, a national Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Customs and the CITES Management Authority gives Customs an appropriate framework for obtaining information. It will also give opportunity for the Management Authority to target high-risk consignments and traders. This enables Customs to support the Management Authorities by indicating the existence of

suspicious circumstances or consignments. The Guidelines on Co-operation between Customs Administrations and CITES Management Authorities Managing the Trade in Animals and Plants were developed specifically for that purpose and are available to WCO members (WCO reference number Annex IV to Doc. 41.827) (ICCWC, 2022).

- The national law enforcement agencies tackling illegal wildlife trade are encouraged to set up bi-annual meetings to discuss relevant issues relating to the illegal wildlife trade, the findings of the illegal wildlife trade data analyses, and to set national priority risk assessments and explore opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Sharing data internationally:

- National law enforcement agencies should ensure that Customs authorities have access to the Global Customs and Enforcement Network (CEN) database, a global network for gathering customs-related data and information. It is available for Customs authorities around the world and enables them to exchange information

on customs-related offences and to share intelligence in a timely, reliable, and secure manner. It contains non-nominal seizure information, such as date, location, species, quantity, departure, destination, conveyance, concealment methods and CITES documentation. All information is reported on a voluntary basis.

- Countries should also consider the merits of establishing and maintaining a data information system based on the existing Wildlife Trade Information eXchange (TWIX) already in place in the European Union and parts of Africa.
- Where relevant, national law enforcement agencies should consider sharing illegal wildlife trade data with external countries on a regular basis. For example, if the illegal wildlife trade data analyses indicate specific trading partners that are prominent in the illicit trade flows, then law enforcement agencies may want to reach out to understand the potential reasons for this, and to discuss future cooperation and how best to address these issues.





TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TACKLING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

There are several resources available to law enforcement agencies that can support efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. Some of the available resources are outlined below.

The **CITES Virtual College** is an essential resource to strengthen the understanding of the Convention by those on the frontline of its implementation in each of the Parties. It provides training and reference materials and contributes to increasing awareness. The

available languages are: English, Spanish and French.

Some specific law enforcement training include:

- **The Training Course for Enforcement Officers and Information Module** for Prosecutors and the Judiciary aims to introduce the Convention and enforcement-related issues to officers and Custom officials involved in dealing with CITES

specimens, as well as other government and police officials involved in enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations. Due to the subject matter of the course and accompanying reading materials, enrolment is restricted to CITES Authorities, enforcement and Customs officials, and other officials involved in the enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations. (Unfortunately, the site is not available in Russian language).

- The **Introduction to CITES for Customs** trains Customs officials to be able to examine and process CITES protected specimens in accordance with provisions and guidelines of the Convention.
- There are several training materials available to assist with the **implementation of workshops and training courses by CITES** Management and Scientific Authorities.

The UNODC Global e-learning site produces and delivers online training through innovative hi-tech methodologies, to enhance criminal justice practitioners' responses to global human security challenges. Through the UNODC eLearning Platform, the Programme delivers online courses, frequently in combination with other training methodologies, which are in line with United Nations standards and norms and other relevant international instruments. (Russian is available). Some specific law enforcement training related to illegal wildlife trade include:

- **Training 17.1 on Wildlife Crime:** This self-paced module covers why smugglers conceal wildlife and what type of concealment methods they use. It provides advice on how to increase the possibility of detecting concealed wildlife and thereafter explores the possibilities and standard operating procedures associated with controlled delivery operations.
- **Training 17.2 on Illegal Logging:** This self-paced module covers illegal logging and the specific investigative techniques required to counter this crime. It explores the strong linkages between illegal logging and corrupt practices.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) **Learning Platform CLiKC!** offers all Customs

officers from WCO Member administrations access to learning opportunities, and the ability to participate in scheduled global and regional training workshops.

The Green Customs Initiative (GCI) enhances the capacity of Customs and border control officers to enforce and foster compliance to trade-related conventions, Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA), and corresponding national legislation. GCI focuses on commodities such as ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species, and living-modified organisms. The initiative is a forum for coordinated and cost-effective development of tools, delivery of training, and awareness-raising of customs officers and border control officers, through leveraging its partners' resources and expertise. It complements and enhances existing customs training efforts under the respective agreements. (Russian is not available).

- The site contains **E-learning courses which aim to increase the capacity of Customs officers.** (Russian is not available)
- The site also contains resources, including **publications, workshop reports, and guidance to support law enforcement agencies.** (Russian is not available).

The International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime's (ICCWC) mission is to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional, and international levels to combat wildlife and forest crime. ICCWC is the collaborative effort of five inter-governmental organisations working to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that act in defence of natural resources. The partner agencies to ICCWC are the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank, and WCO. ICCWC works directly with wildlife law enforcement authorities and prosecuting authorities who bring criminals engaged in wildlife crime to justice to support them, by building long-term capacity and providing them with the tools, services, and technical support they need to effectively combat wildlife and forest

crime. (Russian is not available). ICCWC has several resources and reports available to law enforcement agencies including:

- **ICCWC Menu of Services** provides an indicative list of the training courses, tools and services available through ICCWC partner agencies.
- **ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit (Second Edition 2022)** provides government officials, Customs, police, and other relevant enforcement agencies with a framework to conduct a comprehensive analysis of their response to wildlife and forest crime and identify their technical

assistance needs.

- **ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs)** - In most cases WENs can play an important role in facilitating increased collaboration and coordination to combat wildlife crime in a region. The tool outlines the key considerations in the development of a new WEN and provides a self-assessment tool for use by existing WENs to assist them in evaluating their level of maturity and/or operational performance and identify areas that could be further strengthened.



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IMAGE CREDITS

Cover	Bastien Chait
8, 9, 15, 16	Bastien Chaix
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ANNEX ONE: CITES ANNUAL ILLEGAL TRADE REPORTING GUIDELINES

The following information is directly extracted from the CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report guidelines.

Source: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/reports/illegaltrade/E-AITR-Guidelines-SC75.pdf>

2. General guidance

- a) The annual illegal trade report should be sent to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, preferably by email. Only the following email address must be used for this purpose: reporting@cites.org
- b) Each annual illegal trade report should cover the period 1 January to 31 December.
- c) The standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report in Excel is available from the CITES website: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/reports/E-AITR-format.xlsx>
- d) The annual illegal trade report should, where possible, be submitted in electronic format (ideally in electronic tabular form, such as tables within Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word documents). Submission of PDF files should preferably be avoided as these cannot be easily converted.
- e) The annual illegal trade report should be submitted to the Secretariat by **31 October** of the year following the year to which it relate, i.e. the first annual illegal trade report was due on 31 October 2017, covering data from 2016.
- f) The annual illegal trade report should be prepared in one of the three working languages of the Convention: English, French or Spanish.
- g) The annual illegal trade report should include information on all seizures for violations involving CITES-listed species, irrespective of whether the seizure was made at an international border, or at domestic level for example during the search of a private or business property or during inspections at domestic markets.
- h) The illegal trade report should, to the extent possible, only include incidents that involve a violation of CITES. If the reason for the seizure is for example exclusively the violation of a national health regulation restricting import of certain live animals and not related to CITES, it should preferably not be included in the report. In cases of doubt, please include the incident.

3. Specific instructions

The headings below refer to the column headings in the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report provided at the end of this guidance.

National reference number (if available)

It is suggested to include a national reference number or case number and no particular format for such a number is suggested. A national reference number could facilitate communication with Parties should further information or clarification be needed concerning a specific seizure or incident.

Date of seizure

The date of the incident as recorded in the official report on the seizure should be stated. The date should be indicated in the following format: DD/MM/YEAR or DD-MM-YEAR. Example: 9 July 2016 should be indicated as follows: 09/07/2016 or 09-07-2016. If it is not possible to establish a precise date, enter the month and year in which the seizure occurred, as follows: XX/07/2016 or XX-07-2016.

For seizures made in a previous year, which were not included in the report for that year, it is suggested that such seizures are included and consolidated at the bottom of the illegal trade report, immediately after the last entry relevant to the actual year of reporting. Parties are encouraged to make every effort to limit such reporting to exceptional cases.

Species

Enter the scientific name of the species or subspecies. The scientific names used should correspond to those recorded in the CITES Appendices or, for species included in the Appendices as part of a higher-taxon listing, those included in the standard lists of names approved by the Conference of the Parties (approved names can also be found in the [Checklist of CITES species](#) and in [Species+](#), on the CITES website²). Abbreviations (e.g. “*F. cherrug*”) and common names should only be used if no other information is available.

If the specimens/species cannot be identified the name of the genus or a higher taxon should be indicated.

Only one species should be included per row of the illegal trade report. If more than one species and/or more than one type of specimen for a specific species were seized during the same incident, these should be recorded on separate rows, each with corresponding quantity and unit, method of concealment, etc.

Description of specimen

Seized specimens should be described as precisely as possible. For this purpose, reporting Parties are invited to use the trade term codes, listed in section 6 a) below. If it is not clear which is the correct term to use, or if the specimens are not apparently covered by any of the terms in section 6 a), Parties should describe the seized specimens directly in this column.

‘For European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), it is essential that live eels of <12cm length (and which may be referred to as glass eels or elvers) in trade are distinguished from other live specimens by reporting them as fingerlings (FIG); other live specimens should be reported as LIV. It is also desirable that the code for meat (MEA) should be used for trade in eels destined for human consumption. In all cases, Parties should report trade in live specimens (LIV), live fingerlings (FIG) and meat (MEA) of European eel by weight and not as number of specimens. The net weight of live specimens should be recorded and not the combined weight of eels and the water in which they are transported.’

Quantity

Enter the numerical value for the quantity of items seized. Quantity and unit should be indicated in separate columns. See the next section for details on reporting units.

The use of thousand separators (e.g. comma, point or space/period) in the quantity field should be avoided, and the use of either a point or a comma as a decimal separator should be consistent throughout the report.

Unit

Enter the appropriate unit of measurement for the description of the specimens that have been seized using the units provided in section 6 a).

As far as possible, units for weight, volume and length should be recorded in metric measures. Quantities should always be recorded in standard units of measure and never in non-standard units such as ‘boxes’, ‘cartons’, ‘containers’ or ‘bales’.

For sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.), weight (kg) should be used rather than number of items.

If no unit is specified, this will be assumed to mean “number” (e.g. number of live animals).

Location of incident

The location where the seizure took place should be indicated. If possible, this should be specified by the name of a port of entry, the name of an airport, a city/town or a specific border crossing. The address of the location is not necessary.

If no information on the location of the seizure is available, the ISO2-code of the country in which the seizure took place should be indicated. Do not use any other country codes or country names than the ones listed in section 6 b) of this guidance document.

Detecting agency

The agency that discovered the offence should be indicated. In the electronic format for reporting, the following options have been pre-selected: police, customs or wildlife agency. These three would include all agencies administratively linked to them. For instance, the customs authorities may have specific units in airports, in ports and harbours and at border crossings. However, as they are all part of the customs, that option should be selected. If none of the pre-selected authorities seized the specimen, please indicate the authority in question (this could for instance be the fisheries inspection or veterinary services).

Method of detection (if available)

It is suggested to provide information on the method of detection and Parties are encouraged to provide the information if available. Understanding which methods of detection are used successfully could contribute to addressing illegal trafficking of wildlife. If the information is not available, or if the Party is not in a position to share the information for other reasons, the column should be left empty.

The following methods of detection have been pre-selected:

Scanning images

Risk assessment

Random check

Sniffer dog

Third-Party information

Physical inspection

Other (specify):

Reason for seizure

As noted above, the data should only include violations involving CITES-listed species. Seizures made for other reasons, e.g. violation of national hunting legislation, should preferably not be included in the report.

The pre-selected options for the legal reason for the seizure are: No CITES permit, mis-declared, illegal crossing, other (please specify).

No CITES permit: This means that the specimen seized should have been accompanied by a CITES permit or a CITES certificate but that no documents were provided upon request. It would also cover situations where the specimen was found unaccompanied.

Mis-declared: This covers cases of invalid permits (e.g. expired), fraudulent permits (e.g. fraudulent signature), inexact permits (wrong species, quantity, listing), insufficient permits (e.g. no import permit for App. I listed species), or more species than indicated on the permit.

Illegal crossing: Most Parties have designated points and ports of entry in their national CITES legislation in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article VIII of the Convention. Illegal crossing refers to passage outside those designated points, even with valid CITES documents.

Other (please specify): This could for instance cover incidents of trade involving a Party that is currently under a recommendation to suspend trade.

Mode of transport

This refer to the mode of transport that was used at the time of the seizure. The five possible modes of transport that have been pre-selected are:

air,
mail,
maritime,
rail, and
road.

If several modes of transport were used in the transaction that led to the seizure, the latest mode should be selected. E.g. if a specimen had travelled from country A to country B by air but was seized as it crossed the border from country B to country C by road, “road” should be selected as the mode of transport.

If the seizure took place before any transport or after the transport of the illegal consignment and no information is available on the mode of transport, please leave the cell empty.

Method of concealment

Please describe in a concise manner the way the specimen was concealed. The method of concealment will often depend on the means of transport and on the type of specimens. There are unlimited ways of concealing illegally traded specimens and therefore no pre-selected options are proposed in the format. If useful and available, add information on the mode of transport. Please see sample report at the end of this guidance for examples.

Alleged country of origin

If available, the name of the country of origin should be indicated by the use of two-letter ISO codes for the representation of names of countries, in accordance with the list in section 6 b) below. If the country of origin is unknown, the cell should be left empty. Any country codes or country names other than the ones listed in section 6 b) should not be used.

Country(ies) of transit

All known countries of transit should be indicated, and multiple transit countries should as far as possible be listed in the actual trade order separated by a comma (.). This is critically important information to better understand illegal trade routes. Please use the two-letter ISO codes for the representation of names of countries, in accordance with the list in section 6 b) below. If more detailed information is available concerning the trade route (e.g. name of port or airport, or border crossing), this may be provided in the column for additional information. If the countries of transit are unknown or not possible to credibly establish, leave the cell empty.

Alleged final destination

If available, the country of final destination should be indicated by the use of two-letter ISO codes for the representation of names of countries, in accordance with the list in section 6 b) below. If additional information about the final destination is available (e.g. region or city), this may be provided in the column for additional information. If the final destination is unknown or not possible to credibly establish, leave the cell empty.

Estimated value in country (if available)

The estimated value in the country of seizure should be indicated, if possible. If different from a declared value, it is estimated value that should be indicated. The value of the entire consignment should be indicated. E.g., if a shipment of 90 specimens each worth approximately USD 200 has been seized, the estimated value to indicate would be USD 18000. If several species were seized in one shipment (see above), they should be reported on separate lines and information about their value should be provided separately as well.

If an estimated value of the seized shipment is not available, provide where possible a small range, e.g. USD 500-600 (keep the range as small as possible). Even an estimated range will be helpful to assess the total value of global illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species. It is preferable to provide the value in a globally recognized currency, such as USD or EUR, but if not possible, indicate in the currency in which the value has been provided. Please indicate the currency in the column to the left and the amount in the column to the right.

The use of thousand separators (e.g. comma, point or space/period) in the value field should be avoided.

Nationality of offenders (if available)

Where possible and if available, provide the nationality of each offender against whom administrative measures, criminal prosecutions or other court actions associated with the seizure have been initiated or imposed. If an offender has more than one nationality, please indicate all of them. Please see sample report at the end of this guidance for examples.

If no offender was identified, please indicate "N/A".

Only one offender should be included per row of the illegal trade report. If more than one offender were convicted or fined, this information should be provided on separate rows, each with corresponding law and sanction.

Please do NOT include the names of any offenders in the report. Parties who wish to bring the names of offenders to the attention of the CITES Secretariat should do so through separate correspondence.

Information on the offence related to the seizure

The last three columns relate to a subsequent case under which the offenders are brought to trial and sentenced as well as the final disposal of the confiscated specimens. These are marked as desirable because the information requested may only become available much later in time than the actual seizure. If information is not available because the case has not yet been finalized in court, please indicate this. If the case has been withdrawn, please indicate this, including the reasons for the withdrawal if possible.

Please note that information that becomes available subsequently to the submission of the annual illegal trade report should be reported in the Implementation report. See Notification No. 2016/006, and in particular section 1.7.5 on *inter alia* criminal prosecutions and other court actions for CITES-related offenses. The same seizure should not be reported again in the year the court actions take place, in cases where proceedings span more than one calendar year.

If a sanction, e.g. a fine or confiscation, has been imposed without a court case, please indicate the sanction.

Law under which the charges were brought (desirable)

If no charges have been brought, please indicate this.

If charges have been brought but the case not yet heard or concluded, information on the law under which the charges were brought can be provided. If several laws have been invoked in the charges, please indicate all of them.

Sanction (desirable)

If the case has been heard and a sentence pronounced, please indicate the sanction(s) (imprisonment, fine, confiscation, etc.) If there are more elements in the sanction, please include all of them. If an appeal is pending, please note this as well, but indicate the sanction pronounced in the first instance. If a sanction, such as a fine or confiscation, has been imposed without a court case, please indicate the sanction.

If the case has not (yet) been heard, please indicate this, using the term 'pending'.

Disposal of confiscated specimens (desirable)

Information in this column should include disposal of seized specimens in the instances where the seizure is final. In cases where disposal of the seized specimens can only take place after a court decision on confiscation, the information should only be provided when the final court decision has occurred. In such cases please indicate "Pending court decision".

Reference is made to [Resolution Conf. 17.8](#) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species* and the provisions set out therein. The following pre-selected options are available to indicate the final disposal of the confiscated/seized specimens:

Returned to the country of export

Public zoos or botanical gardens

Designated rescue centres

Approved, private facilities

Euthanasia/destruction

Storage/Safekeeping

Sale/transformation

Educational purposes

Other (please specify):

Note that Resolution Conf. 17.8 contains guidance on disposal of confiscated specimens.

Additional information (if available)

If more information pertaining to the seizure is available and relevant in understanding and preventing illegal trade in wildlife, this could be included here. This could be further details regarding the methods of concealment or of detection or further details on the mode of transport, e.g. transported by air cargo. This section could also include further details on the exact location of the incident.

4. Terminology

a) Description of specimens and units of quantity

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
baleen	BAL	kg	no.	elastic sheets of keratin that hang from the upper jaw of baleen whales (Mysticeti) and allow them to feed
bark	BAR	kg		tree bark (raw, dried or powdered; unprocessed)
body	BOD	no.	kg	substantially whole dead animals, including whole fish, stuffed turtles, preserved butterflies, reptiles in alcohol, whole stuffed hunting trophies, etc. If referring to specimens of sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.), the preferred unit is kg.
bone	BON	kg	no.	bones, including jaws
calipee	CAL	kg		calipee or calipash (turtle cartilage for soup)
carapace	CAP	no.	kg	raw or unworked whole shells of Testudines species
carving	CAR	kg	no.	carved products other than ivory, bone or horn – for example coral and wood (including handicrafts). N.B: Ivory carvings should be specified as such (see below – “IVC”). Also, for species from which more than one type of product may be carved (e.g. horn and bone), the trade term code should indicate the type of product in trade (e.g. bone carving “BOC” or horn carving – “HOC”), where possible.
carving - bone	BOC	kg	no.	bone carving
carving - horn	HOC	kg	no.	horn carving
carving – ivory (worked ivory)	IVC	kg	no.	ivory carvings, including e.g. smaller worked pieces of ivory (knife handles, chess sets, marjoram sets etc). N.B. Whole carved tusk should be reported as carving – ivory (IVC) not as tusk (see “TUS” below). Jewellery made from carved ivory should be reported as ‘jewellery – ivory’ (see IJW below).
caviar	CAV	kg		unfertilized dead processed eggs from all species of Acipenseriformes; also known as roe

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
chips (woodchips)	CHP	kg		chips of timber, especially <i>Aquilaria</i> spp., <i>Gyrinops</i> spp. and <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>
claw	CLA	no.	kg	claws – e.g. of Felidae, Ursidae or Crocodylia (NB: 'turtle claws' are usually scales and not real claws)
cloth	CLO	m ²	kg	cloth – if the cloth is not made entirely from the hair of a CITES species, the weight of hair of the species concerned should instead, if possible, be recorded under 'HAI'
coral (raw)	COR	no.	kg	raw or unworked coral and coral rock (also live rock and substrate) [as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.10 (Rev. CoP15)]. Coral rock should be recorded as 'Scleractinia spp.' NB: the trade should be recorded by number of pieces only if the coral specimens are transported in water. Live rock (transported moist in boxes) should be reported in kg; coral substrate should be reported as number of pieces (since these are transported in water as the substrate to which non-CITES corals are attached).
cosmetics	COS	g	ml	<i>Any product or mixture of products which is applied to an external part of the body only (e.g. skin, hair, nails, genitals, lips or teeth or the mucous membranes of the oral cavity) with the intent to clean, odorise, change the appearance or protect. Cosmetics may include the following: make-up, perfume, skin cream, nail polish, hair colourants, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, sunscreens, toothpaste.</i> Cosmetics which include extracts of CITES-listed species. The quantity should reflect the amount of CITES-listed species present.
culture	CUL	no. of flasks, etc.		cultures of artificially propagated plants
derivatives	DER	kg	l	derivatives (other than those included elsewhere in this table)
dried plant	DPL	no.		dried plants – e.g. herbarium specimens
ear	EAR	no.		ears – usually elephant
egg	EGG	no.	kg	whole dead or blown eggs (see also 'caviar')
egg (live)	EGL	no.	kg	live fertilized eggs – usually birds and reptiles but includes fish and invertebrates
eggshell	ESH	g/kg		raw or unworked eggshell except whole eggs
extract	EXT	kg	l	extract – usually plant extracts
feather	FEA	kg/ no. of wings	no.	feathers – in the case of objects (e.g. pictures) made of feathers, record the number of objects
fibre	FIB	Kg	m	natural fibre: generic term for several types of material of natural (i.e. plant or animal) origin. Animal fibre can usually be spun and woven and is usually very fine and has good flexibility. – e.g. fibre coming from the shearing of live vicunas. It also includes fibres from animal intestines used to make strings for tennis rackets

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
fin (dried)	DFN	kg		dried fins and parts of fins (including flippers)
fin (wet)	FFN	kg		Fresh, chilled or frozen fins and parts of fins (including flippers)
fingerlings	FIG	kg	no.	live juvenile fish for the aquarium trade, aquaculture, hatcheries, consumption or for release, including live European eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) up to 12cm length
flower	FLO	kg		Flowers
flower pot	FPT	no.		flower pots made from parts of a plant – e.g. tree fern fibres (NB: live plants traded in so-called 'community pots' should be recorded as 'live plants', not as flower pots)
frog legs	LEG	kg	no.	frog legs
fruit	FRU	kg		Fruit
foot	FOO	no.		feet – e.g. of elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, lion, crocodile, etc.
fur products (large)	FPL	no.		large manufactured products of fur – e.g. bear or lynx fur blankets or other fur products of a substantial size.
fur product (small)	FPS	no.		small manufactured products of fur– including handbags, key fobs, purses, pillows, trim, etc.
gall	GAL	kg	no.	Gall
gall bladder	GAB	no.	kg	gall bladder
garment	GAR	no.		garments – including gloves and hats but not shoes. Includes trimming or decoration on garments
genitalia	GEN	kg	no.	castrates and dried penes
gill plates	GIL	kg	no.	gill plates (e.g. for sharks)
graft rootstock	GRS	no.		graft rootstocks (without the grafts)
hair	HAI	kg	g	hair – includes all animal hair, e.g. of elephant, yak, guanaco
hair products	HAP	no.	g	products made of hair (e.g. elephant hair bracelets)
horn	HOR	no.	kg	horns – includes antlers
jewellery	JWL	no.	g	jewellery – including bracelets, necklaces, and other items of jewellery from products other than ivory (e.g. wood, coral, etc.)
jewellery – ivory (worked ivory)	IJW	no.	g	jewellery made of ivory – includes ekipas
kernel	KNL	kg		also known as 'endosperm', 'pulp' or 'copra'
leather product (large)	LPL	no.		large manufactured products of leather – e.g. briefcases, furniture, suitcases, travel trunks
leather product (small)	LPS	no.		small manufactured products of leather – e.g. belts, braces, bicycle saddles, cheque book or credit card holders, handbags, key fobs, notebooks, purses, shoes, tobacco pouches, wallets, watch-straps and trim

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
live	LIV	no.	kg	live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG
leaf	LVS	kg	no.	Leaves
logs	LOG	m ³		all wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, for processing notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets. NB: trade in logs of special purpose timbers traded by weight (e.g. <i>lignum vitae</i> , <i>Guaiaicum</i> spp.) should be recorded in kg
meat	MEA	kg		meat, including flesh of fish if not whole (see 'body'), fresh or unprocessed meat as well as processed meat (e.g. smoked, raw, dried, frozen or tinned) The code for meat (MEA) should be used in preference for trade in eels for human consumption.
medicine	MED	kg	l	Medicine
musk	MUS	g		Musk
oil	OIL	kg	l	oil – e.g. from turtles, seals, whales, fish, various plants
pearl	PRL	no.		pearl (e.g. for <i>Strombus gigas</i>)
piano keys (worked ivory)	KEY	no.		ivory piano keys (e.g. one standard piano would be 52 ivory piano keys)
piece – bone	BOP	kg		pieces of bone, not manufactured
piece – horn	HOP	kg		pieces of horn, not manufactured – includes scrap
piece – ivory (raw ivory)	IVP	kg		ivory pieces, not manufactured – includes scrap
plate	PLA	m ²		plates of fur skins – includes rugs if made of several skins
plywood	PLY	m ²	m ³	material consisting of three or more sheets of wood glued and pressed one on the other and generally disposed so that the grains of successive layers are at an angle
powder	POW	kg		A dry, solid substance in the form of fine or coarse particles
pupae	PUP	no.		butterfly pupae
root	ROO	no.	kg	roots, bulbs, corms or tubers NB: For the agarwood-producing taxa <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp., the preferred unit is 'kilograms'. The alternative unit is 'number'.
rug	RUG	no.		Rugs
sawfish rostrum	ROS	no.	kg	sawfish rostrum
sawn wood	SAW	m ³		wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process; normally exceeds 6mm in thickness. NB: trade in sawn wood of special purpose timbers traded by weight (e.g. <i>lignum vitae</i> , <i>Guaiaicum</i> spp.) should be recorded in kg

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
scale	SCA	kg		scales – e.g. of turtle, other reptiles, fish, pangolin
seed	SEE	kg	no.	Seeds
shell	SHE	no.	kg	raw or unworked shell of molluscs
side	SID	no.		sides or flanks of skins; does not include crocodilian Tinga frames (see under 'skin')
skeleton	SKE	no.		substantially whole skeletons
skin	SKI	no.		substantially whole skins, raw or tanned, including hides, crocodilian Tinga frames, external body lining, with or without scales
skin piece	SKP	kg		skin pieces – including scraps, raw or tanned
skull	SKU	no.		Skulls
soup	SOU	kg	l	soup – e.g. of turtle
specimen (scientific)	SPE	kg/l/ml/ no.		scientific specimens – includes blood, tissue (e.g. kidney, spleen, etc.), histological preparations, preserved museum specimens, etc.
stem	STE	no.	kg	plant stems NB: For the agarwood-producing taxa <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp., the preferred unit is 'kilograms'. The alternative unit is 'number'.
swim bladder	SWI	kg		hydrostatic organ, including isinglass / sturgeon glue
tail	TAI	no.	kg	tails – e.g. of caiman (for leather) or fox (for garment trimming, collars, boas, etc.), also includes flukes of cetaceans.
tooth	TEE	no.	kg	teeth – e.g. of whale, lion, hippopotamus, crocodile, etc.
timber	TIM	m ³	kg	raw timber except saw-logs, sawn wood and transformed wood
transformed wood	TRW	m ³	kg	defined by Harmonized System code 44.09: Wood (including strips, friezes for parquet flooring, not assembled), continuously shaped (tongued, grooved, v-jointed, beaded or the like) along any edges, ends or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed.
trophy	TRO	no.		trophy – all the trophy parts of one animal if they are exported together: e.g. horns (2), skull, cape, backskin, tail and feet (i.e. ten specimens) constitute one trophy. But if, for example, the skull and horns are the only specimens of an animal that are exported, then these items together should be recorded as one trophy. Otherwise the items should be recorded separately. A whole stuffed body is recorded under 'BOD'. A skin alone is recorded under 'SKI'. Trade in 'full mount', 'shoulder mount' and 'half mount', along with any corresponding parts of the same animal exported together on the same permit, should be reported as '1 TRO'

Description	Code	Preferred unit	Alternative unit	Explanation
trunk	TRU	no.	kg	elephant trunk. N.B.: An elephant trunk exported with other trophy items from the same animal on the same permit as part of a hunting trophy should be reported as 'TRO'.
Tusk (raw ivory)	TUS	no.	kg	substantially whole tusks, not worked. Includes tusks of elephant, hippopotamus, walrus, narwhal, but not other teeth - N.B. Whole carved tusks should be reported as carving – ivory (see "IVC" above).
veneer sheets – rotary veneer – sliced veneer	VEN VEN	m ³ m ²	kg kg	thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6mm or less in thickness, usually peeled (rotary veneer) or sliced (sliced veneer), for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc.
wax	WAX	kg		Wax
wood product	WPR	no.	kg	manufactured wood products, including finished wood products such as furniture and musical instruments.

Key to units of measure

Unit of Measure	Unit Code
Grams (g)	GRM
Kilograms (kg)	KGM
Litres	LTR
Millilitres (ml)	MLT
Metres (m)	MTR
Cubic centimetres (cm ³)	CMQ
Square metres (m ²)	MTK
Cubic metres (m ³)	MTQ
Number of specimens	NAR

NB. If no unit is specified, this will be assumed to mean "number" (e.g. number of live animals).

b) Names of countries and territories

The countries and entities listed below are designated in accordance with the *English country names and code elements* published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Out-of-date names of countries and territories are retained for purposes of recording re-exports of specimens originating in those places.

The ISO list is based on the list included in the *United Nations Standard Country or Area Code for Statistical Use* established by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. The names of countries, territories or other areas correspond to those given in the United Nations *Terminology Bulletin*, issued by the Department of Conference Services. Some additional entities are included in the [ISO International Standard³](#) with a view to providing more complete global coverage.

However, the designations do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES

Secretariat or the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

³ See <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search>

Code	Name
AF	Afghanistan
AX	Åland Islands
AL	Albania
DZ	Algeria
AS	American Samoa
AD	Andorra
AO	Angola
AI	Anguilla
AQ	Antarctica
AG	Antigua and Barbuda
AR	Argentina
AM	Armenia
AW	Aruba
AU	Australia
AT	Austria
AZ	Azerbaijan
BS	Bahamas
BH	Bahrain
BD	Bangladesh
BB	Barbados
BY	Belarus
BE	Belgium
BZ	Belize
BJ	Benin
BM	Bermuda
BT	Bhutan
BO	Bolivia, Plurinational State of
BQ	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BW	Botswana
BV	Bouvet Island
BR	Brazil
BN	Brunei Darussalam
BG	Bulgaria
BF	Burkina Faso
BI	Burundi
CV	Cabo Verde
KH	Cambodia
CM	Cameroon
CA	Canada

Code	Name
KY	Cayman Islands
CF	Central African Republic
TD	Chad
CL	Chile
CN	China
CX	Christmas Island
CC	Cocos (Keeling) Islands
CO	Colombia
KM	Comoros
CG	Congo
CK	Cook Islands
CR	Costa Rica
CI	Côte d'Ivoire
HR	Croatia
CU	Cuba
CW	Curaçao
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
CD	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DK	Denmark
DJ	Djibouti
DM	Dominica
DO	Dominican Republic
EC	Ecuador
EG	Egypt
SV	El Salvador
GQ	Equatorial Guinea
ER	Eritrea
EE	Estonia
SZ	<u>Eswatini</u>
ET	Ethiopia
FK	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*
FO	Faroe Islands
FJ	Fiji
FI	Finland
FR	France
GF	French Guiana
PF	French Polynesia
TF	French Southern Territories

* A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

Code	Name
GA	Gabon
GM	Gambia
GE	Georgia
DE	Germany
GH	Ghana
GI	Gibraltar
GR	Greece
GL	Greenland
GD	Grenada
GP	Guadeloupe
GU	Guam
GT	Guatemala
GG	Guernsey
GN	Guinea
GW	Guinea-Bissau
GY	Guyana
HT	Haiti
HM	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
VA	Holy See
HN	Honduras
HK	Hong Kong SAR
HU	Hungary
IS	Iceland
IN	India
ID	Indonesia
IR	Iran, Islamic Republic of
IQ	Iraq
IE	Ireland
IM	Isle of Man
IL	Israel
IT	Italy
JM	Jamaica
JP	Japan
JE	Jersey
JO	Jordan
KZ	Kazakhstan
KE	Kenya
KI	Kiribati
KW	Kuwait
KG	Kyrgyzstan
LA	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LV	Latvia
LB	Lebanon

Code	Name
LS	Lesotho
LR	Liberia
LY	Libya
LI	Liechtenstein
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
MO	Macao
MG	Madagascar
MW	Malawi
MY	Malaysia
MV	Maldives
ML	Mali
MT	Malta
MH	Marshall Islands
MQ	Martinique
MR	Mauritania
MU	Mauritius
YT	Mayotte
MX	Mexico
FM	Micronesia, Federated States of
MC	Monaco
MN	Mongolia
ME	Montenegro
MS	Montserrat
MA	Morocco
MZ	Mozambique
MM	Myanmar
NA	Namibia
NR	Nauru
NP	Nepal
NL	Netherlands
NC	New Caledonia
NZ	New Zealand
NI	Nicaragua
NE	Niger
NG	Nigeria
NU	Niue
NF	Norfolk Island
MK	North Macedonia
MP	Northern Mariana Islands
NO	Norway
OM	Oman
PK	Pakistan

Code	Name
PW	Palau
PA	Panama
PG	Papua New Guinea
PY	Paraguay
PE	Peru
PH	Philippines
PN	Pitcairn
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
PR	Puerto Rico
QA	Qatar
KR	Republic of Korea
MD	Republic of Moldova
RE	Réunion
RO	Romania
RU	Russian Federation
RW	Rwanda
BL	Saint Barthelemy
SH	Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
KN	Saint Kitts and Nevis
LC	Saint Lucia
MF	Saint Martin
PM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
VC	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
WS	Samoa
SM	San Marino
ST	Sao Tome and Principe
SA	Saudi Arabia
SN	Senegal
RS	Serbia
SC	Seychelles
SL	Sierra Leone
SG	Singapore
SX	Sint Maarten
SK	Slovakia
SI	Slovenia
SB	Solomon Islands
SO	Somalia
ZA	South Africa
GS	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands*

* A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Code	Name
SS	South Sudan
ES	Spain
LK	Sri Lanka
SD	Sudan
SR	Suriname
SJ	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland
SY	Syrian Arab Republic
TW	Taiwan, Province of China
TJ	Tajikistan
TH	Thailand
TL	Timor-Leste
TG	Togo
TK	Tokelau
TO	Tonga
TT	Trinidad and Tobago
TN	Tunisia
TR	Türkiye
TM	Turkmenistan
TC	Turks and Caicos Islands
TV	Tuvalu
UG	Uganda
UA	Ukraine
AE	United Arab Emirates
GB	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
TZ	United Republic of Tanzania
UM	United States Minor Outlying Islands
US	United States of America
UY	Uruguay
UZ	Uzbekistan
VU	Vanuatu
VE	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
VN	Viet Nam
VG	Virgin Islands, British
VI	Virgin Islands, United States
WF	Wallis and Futuna Islands
EH	Western Sahara
YE	Yemen
ZM	Zambia
Code	Name
ZW	Zimbabwe

concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

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WORKING TO ENSURE THAT TRADE
IN WILD SPECIES IS LEGAL AND
SUSTAINABLE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE PLANET AND PEOPLE

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