

# Overview of current EU wildlife trade legislation

Import & keeping of exotic animals in Europe  
*Existing concerns and risks – Current challenges to meet*

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# EU: Key market for wildlife trade

- EU one of the largest and most diverse markets for CITES species
- EU is estimated to represent one third of the world market
- Approximate EU imports from 2000–2005 (TRAFFIC):
  - ◆ ***3.4 million lizards***
  - ◆ ***2.9 million crocodiles***
  - ◆ ***3.4 million snake skins***
  - ◆ ***300,000 live snakes***
  - ◆ ***424 tons sturgeon caviar***

# The EU Wildlife trade legislation

- **EU WTR: main perspective: biodiversity (species) conservation**
- **Legislation transposing CITES in the EU**
- **Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97**
  - protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein
  - provisions for import, export and re-export as well as internal EU trade
  - 4 Annexes: A, B, C and D (Commission Regulation (EC) No. 101/2012)
  - procedures and documents required for such trade (import and export permits, re-export certificates, import notifications and internal trade certificates)
  - regulates the movement of live specimens
  - stricter measures than CITES



# The EU Wildlife trade legislation



- **Commission Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006** (amended by CR (EC) No 100/2008 and CR (EU) No 791/2012 )
  - sets out the detailed rules and practical aspects for implementing the Council Regulation and specifies the exemptions and derogations
  - standard model forms: permits, certificates, notifications and applications for these documents, as well as labels for scientific specimens
- **Suspension Regulations** (normally revised every year) (Commission Implementing Regulation) (EU) No 757/2012) (348 genus or species/country combination)

# The EU Wildlife trade legislation

- How do the EU Wildlife Trade Regulation achieve this?
  - Directly applicable in all 27 Member States - ONE law for all MS
  - Legally binding on the Member States authorities & citizens
  - Member States responsible for actual implementation and enforcement
- The Regulations are comprehensive and ensure:
  - common implementation
  - coordinated enforcement
  - scientific coordination
- They are flexible and can be quickly adapted to conservation needs

# Annex A



- ~CITES Appendix I species
- Other species (ex: European species protected under EU Habitats and Birds directives)
- Import conditions:
  - Not for primarily commercial purposes
  - Valid (re-)export document
  - No negative opinion Scientific Review Group / No import suspension
  - No harmful effect on conservation status of the species
  - Non-detrimental purpose
  - Live specimens to be properly housed
  - No other conservation factors

# Annex B



- ~CITES Appendix II species
- CITES Appendix I species not included in Annex A
- Additional species (ex: lookalike, invasive alien species)
- Import conditions:
  - Valid (re-)export document
  - No negative opinion Scientific Review Group / no import suspension
  - No harmful effect on conservation status of the species
  - Live specimens to be properly housed

# Import procedures derogations

- Captive bred/artificially propagated Annex A specimens are treated as Annex B
- Non-commercial exchange between registered scientific institutions allowed with label
- Personal effects exemptions (stricter measures)



# Animal welfare (live specimens)

- Art.4(1)c: intended accommodation at the place of destination: adequately equipped to conserve and care for it properly
- Art.4(6)c: possible restrictions on import of Annex B species (high mortality rate during shipment or species unlikely to survive in captivity for a considerable proportion of their potential life span)
- Art.9(1): movement within the EU (Annex A): prior authorization from MA (origin)
- Art.9(3): no such authorization if movement for the purpose of urgent veterinary treatment and specimen returned directly to its authorized location (Annex A)

# Animal welfare (live specimens)

- Art.9(4): movement within the EU (Annex B): holder of specimen to inform recipient of requirements for proper care
- Art.9(5): transport into, from or within the EU or transit or transshipment: specimens prepared, moved and cared for in a manner such as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment and, in the case of animals, in conformity with EU legislation on the protection of animals during transport: compliance with the IATA Live Animals Regulations for air transport and the CITES Guidelines on the transport of live animals for other modes of transport

# Invasive Alien Species



- EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
- Dedicated legislative instrument on IAS:
  - prevent the entry of selected IAS
  - system of early warning and rapid response
  - manage established IAS



# More information?



[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home_en.htm)