



Ten years of
implementation:
challenges and lessons
learnt from the listing of
European eel on CITES
Appendix II

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Update on European eel – The EU Evaluation and International
Developments

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What is CITES?

A **multilateral agreement** that operates through an **intergovernmental process**,

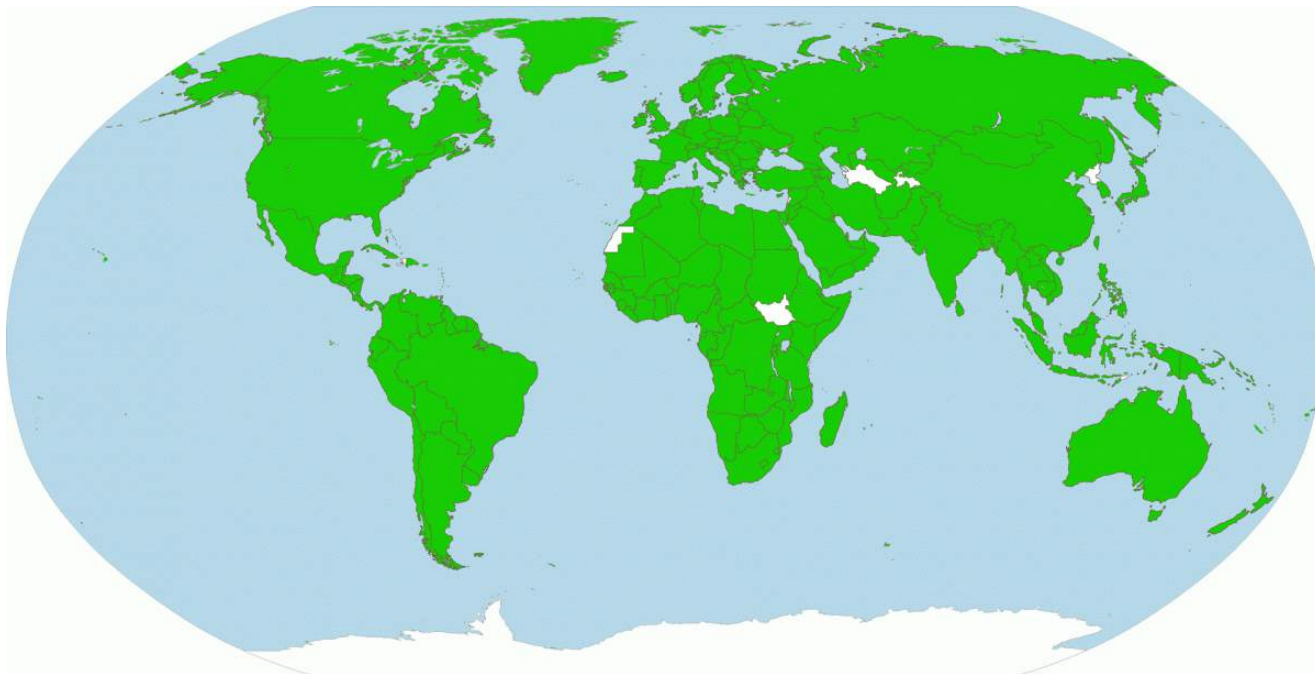
Combines **wildlife** and **trade** rights and obligations in a legally binding instrument,

achieving **conservation and sustainable use** objectives



What is CITES?

- Agreed in 1973, in force since 1975
- >36,000 listed species, parts and derivatives
- 183 Parties (members) to date



Misconceptions about CITES

- CITES deals with all aspects of wildlife conservation
 - CITES deals only with international trade in certain species included in its Appendices
- CITES aims to ban all wildlife trade
 - CITES aims to regulate international trade (for some species trade is highly restricted)
- CITES regulates domestic trade
 - CITES can only address international trade

Misconceptions about CITES (2)

- The CITES Appendices are a listing of the world's endangered species
 - The Appendices only list those species that are or may be affected by international trade
- CITES imposes trade restrictions on developing countries and transition economies
 - Both producer and consumer countries have responsibility for conserving and managing resources
 - CITES creates the means for international co-operation

CITES-regulated trade must be legal, sustainable, traceable

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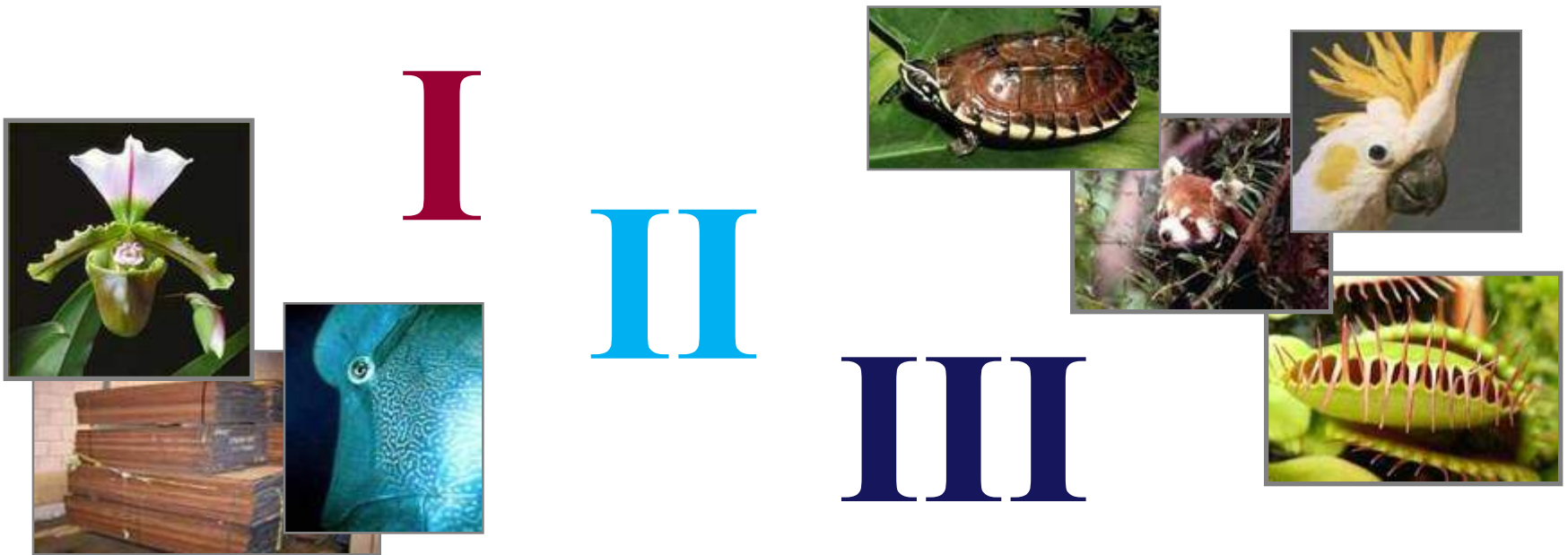
Legal and sustainable trade can be beneficial for conservation of wild species, livelihoods, economies...



...illegal and unsustainable trade can pose a serious risk to the species, people and business

CITES Appendices

Species subject to CITES regulation are divided amongst **3 Appendices**



"Species" means any species, subspecies, or geographically separate population thereof

CITES Appendices: Scope

Appendix I

Species threatened with extinction

Appendix II

Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade must be regulated to avoid their becoming threatened

Appendix III

Species for which a country is asking Parties to help with its protection

CITES Appendices:

international commercial trade is...

Appendix I

...generally prohibited



Appendix II

...permitted but controlled



Appendix III

...permitted but controlled



- European eel is one of 16 species of anguillid eels, but it is the only one that is covered by CITES



- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) was listed on Appendix II of CITES at CoP14 (June 2007) and the listing came into force 13 March 2009

- As an Appendix II species, commercial trade in European eel could continue subject to the following:

1. Legal
Acquisition
Finding (LAF)



‘A Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that the specimen was **not obtained in contravention of the laws of that State** for the protection of fauna and flora.’

and



2. Non-
Detriment
Finding (NDF)



‘A Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export will **not be detrimental to the survival of that species**’

An NDF is a science-based risk assessment

Main direct exporters of eel

	RST	Quota 2020	Details
Morocco	Yes	Yes	500t adult eel from aquaculture; 0t glass eels; 5.5t adult wild
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	90t (>30cm long); 0t glass eel
Turkey	-	Yes	100t live or dead; wild specimens
Algeria	Yes	Yes	8t (to be published)
Egypt	-	-	

Eel in the EU

- CITES implemented through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, which are stricter than CITES
- EU Member States unable to make an NDF for *Anguilla anguilla*, so in December 2010 a zero export quota was established and imports from non-EU range States into the EU were also suspended
- This “ban” remains in place today
- Council Regulation (EC) no 1100/2007 sets out measures for the recovery of European eels, including requirement for Member States (MS) to develop Eel Management Plans (EMPs) at the river basin level

Determining effectiveness of listing ¹⁴

- Difficult to assess
- What metrics should be used?
 - legality, sustainability and traceability?
- listing in place for a relatively short period (15 year eel generation time)
- Difficult also to distinguish the effect of the listing from the effects of the EU trade ban – latter probably greater impact (but one dependent on the other)

Impacts of the CITES listing - Pros

- Raised awareness and profile of the species
- Brought range of sectors together (including marine and f/w fisheries managers)
- Political will to conserve and sustainably manage the species was mobilised

Impacts of the CITES listing - Cons

- Pushing trade onto other less well understood species of eel
- Pushing trade underground – increase in illegal trade
- Has shifted the focus on to harvest and subsequent trade as a driver of decline, but there are other wider considerations that are receiving less attention

Lessons learnt

- Listing not an achievement in its own right – implementation is critical (plus trade is only one of a series of threats)
- Delayed listings (18 month preparation period) need to be used more constructively to drive change in support for management and (legal) trade practices
- Listing a species can shift the trade to another related species (needs to be monitored)
- The need for a coordinated approach between all stakeholders (including industry representatives)

CoP18 Decisions on eels aim to:

- encourage greater collaboration between European eel range States, transit and destination States in the conservation and management of the species and in tackling the illegal trade;
- encourage range States of non-CITES listed anguillid eels to improve the management of those species;
- investigate levels of trade and emerging trends in trade patterns concerning anguillid eels,
- look in more detail at a range of issues including NDFs, traceability, illegal trade, ranching and customs codes

CITES Secretariat Geneva

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