WOAH-CITES Regional Webinars: *Middle East* to encourage liaison and engagement between CITES National Authorities and WOAH National Veterinary Services

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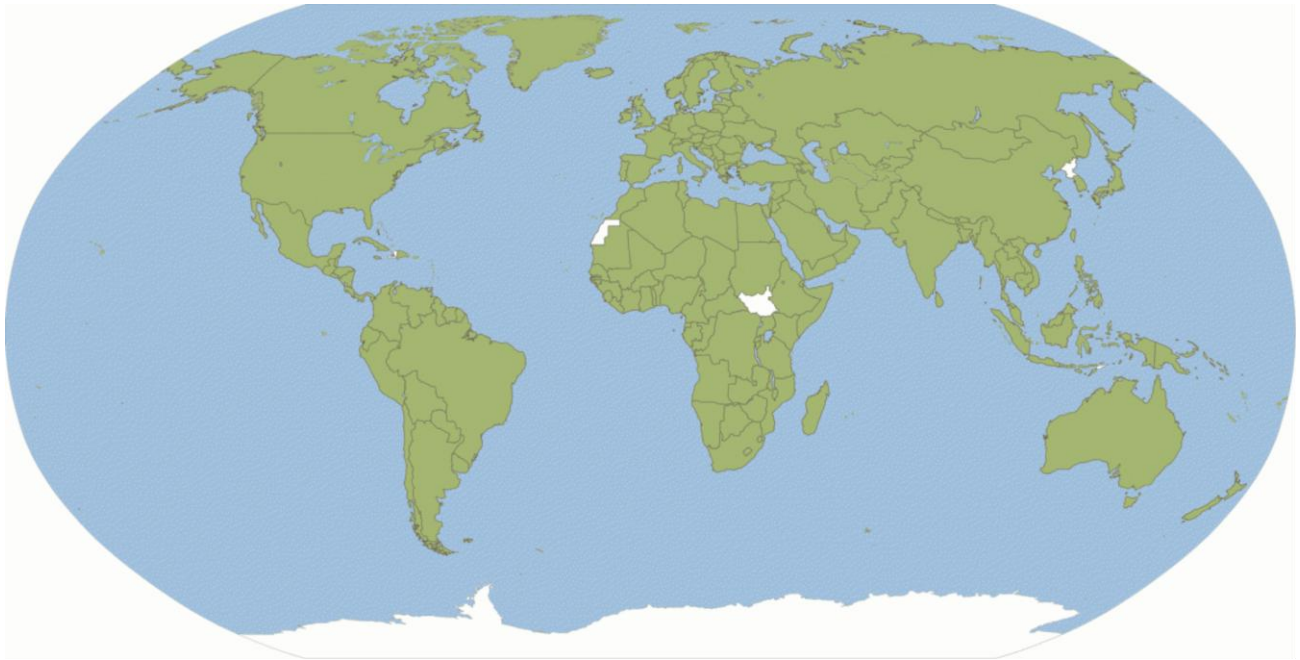
23 September 2026

Photo: disq/AdobeStock

An introduction to CITES

CITES

- entered into force in 1975.
- has three Appendices listing over 41,000 wild animal and plant species.
- has 185 Parties (184 countries + European Union).















An introduction to CITES

CITES

- aims to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.
- regulates international trade in specimens of species of wild animals and plants based on a system of permits and certificates issued under certain conditions.
- covers export, re-export, import and landing from the high seas of live and dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives, including any processed products.

CITES Core Principles

Legality

Sustainability

Traceability







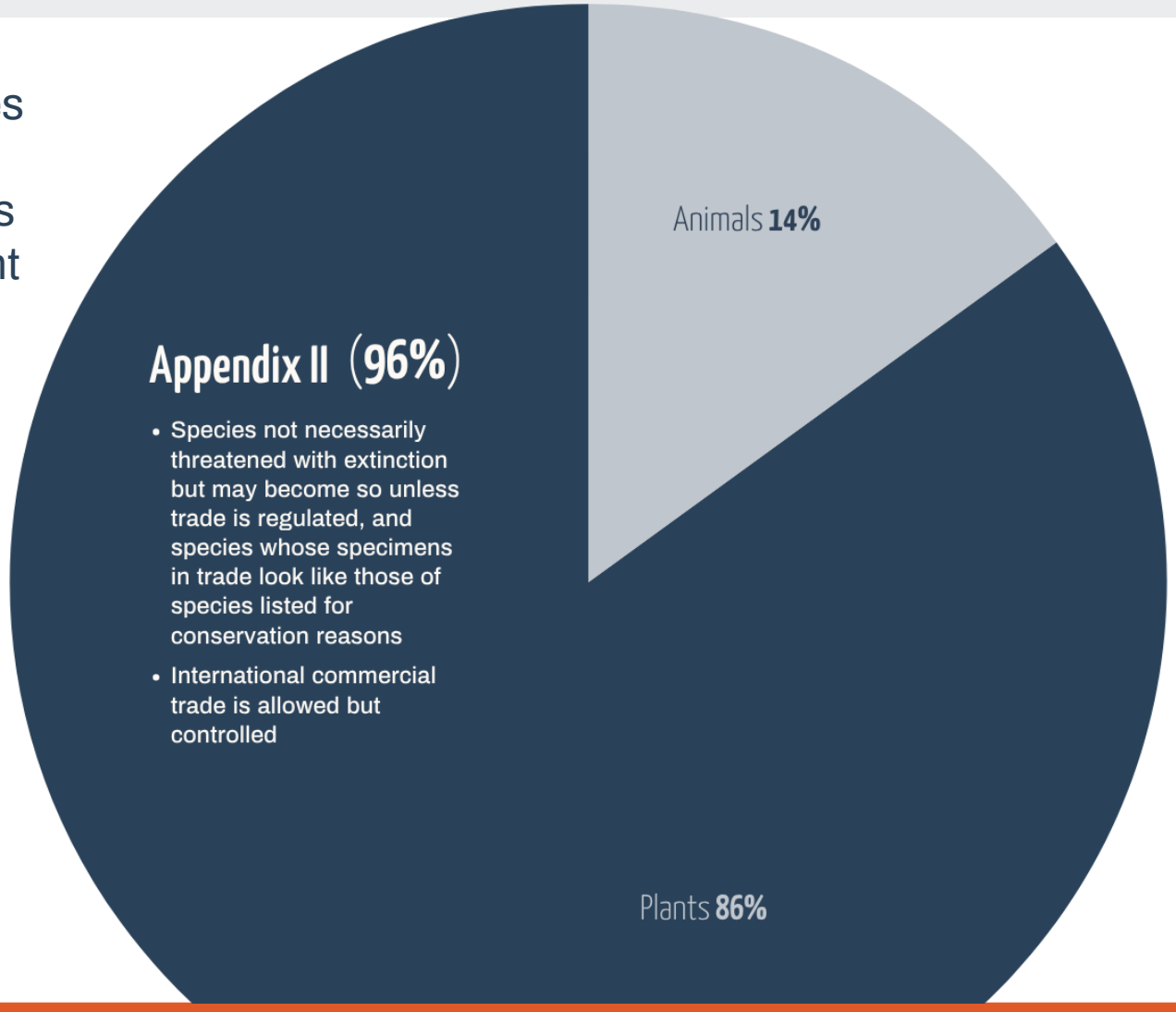

The CITES Appendices

CITES accords varying degrees of protection to **more than 41,000 species** of wild animals and plants by applying different provisions to species included in three Appendices.



Appendix I (3%)

- Species threatened with extinction
- International commercial trade is generally prohibited



Appendix II (96%)

- Species not necessarily threatened with extinction but may become so unless trade is regulated, and species whose specimens in trade look like those of species listed for conservation reasons
- International commercial trade is allowed but controlled



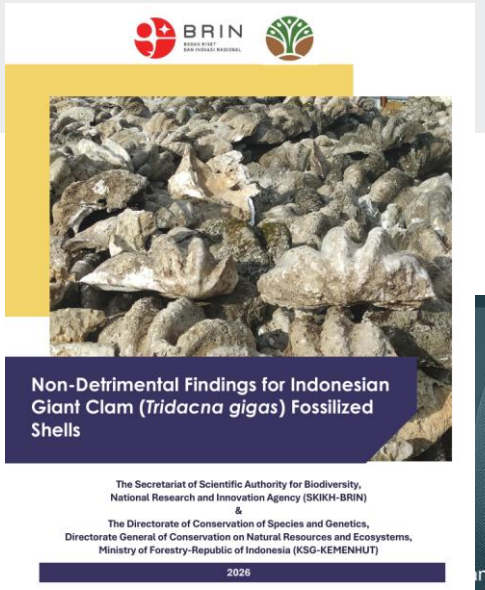
Appendix III (1%)

- Species subject to regulation within the jurisdiction of a Party and for which the cooperation of other Parties is needed to control international trade

NDFs (Non-Detriment Findings)

- Export permits for specimens of species included in Appendices I and II shall be granted only when a Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

- This determination is known as a ***non-detriment finding*** **(NDF).**



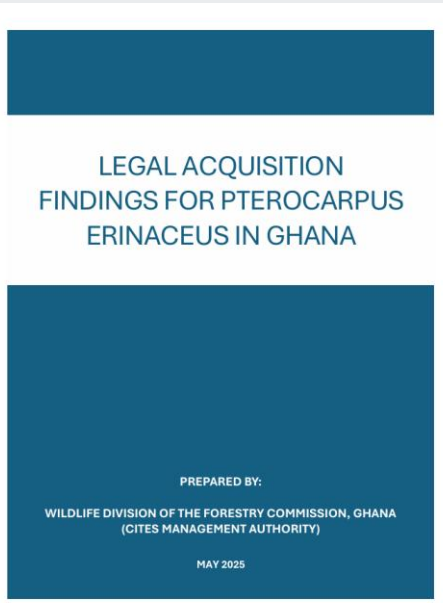




LAFs (Legal Acquisition Findings)

- An export permit shall only be granted when 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.

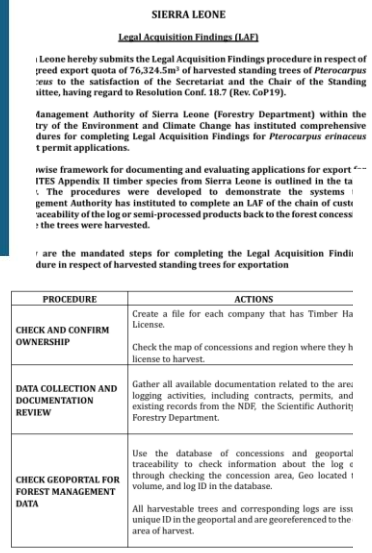
- The finding that a Management Authority shall make is referred to as a ***legal acquisition finding*** **(LAF)**.


LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDINGS FOR PTEROCARPUS ERINACEUS IN GHANA

PREPARED BY:

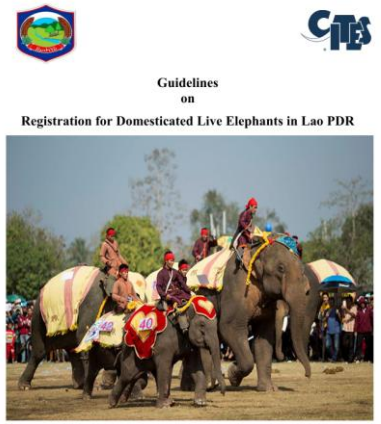
WILDLIFE DIVISION OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION, GHANA (CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY)

MAY 2025


SIERRA LEONE

Legal Acquisition Findings (LAF)

PROCEDURE	ACTIONS
CHECK AND CONFIRM OWNERSHIP	Create a file for each company that has Timber Ha License. Check the map of concessions and region where they h license to harvest.
DATA COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION REVIEW	Gather all available documentation related to the are logging activities, including contracts, permits, and existing records from the NDF, the Scientific Authorit Forestry Department.
CHECK GEOPORTAL FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT DATA	Use the database of concessions and geoportal traceability to check information about the log through checking the concession area, Geo located volume, and log ID in the database. All harvestable trees and corresponding logs are iss unique ID in the geoportal and are georeferenced to the area of harvest.


Guidelines on

Registration for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR

Prepared by:

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

September 2025

The CITES-WOAH MoU and PoW

3 primary areas:

(1) wildlife health and trade

(2) training, capacity-building, and networking

(3) coordination and communication



CITES and WOAH entered into a new 4-years MoU in March 2024

Mutual consultation and cooperation on:

- Safe, traceable and legal international trade of wildlife
- Identifying zoonotic disease risk assoc. with CITES activities & listed species
- Welfare of live wild animals during transport for international trade
- Safe & fast transport of biological samples from wild animals for diagnosis or identification
- Prevention and control of invasive (non-native) alien animal species
- The combating of illegal trade in wildlife



World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

AND

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

WHEREAS, the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as WOAH whose statutory name is *Office International des Epizooties*) is an intergovernmental organisation recognised by the World Trade Organization as a reference organisation for international standards concerning the sanitary safety of international trade of animals and products of animal origin and zoonoses, and is in charge of improving animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide, as well as transparency of the global animal disease situation;

WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as the CITES Secretariat) is an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the CITES Secretariat has a pivotal role, fundamental to the Convention, and that its functions, laid down in Article XII of the Convention, include, in particular, playing a coordinating, advisory and servicing role in the working of the Convention;

WHEREAS, both WOAH and the CITES Secretariat (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party") have accumulated a breadth of experience in policy development and implementation in various contexts, and have developed significant know-how and practices within their own areas of expertise;

WHEREAS, the Parties have extensive experience in animal trade and animal welfare, are able to combine intellectual and technical support, as well as engage in capacity building and technical assistance on those topics;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the specific methods and character of the activities of each of the Parties

CITES Decisions: Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade

Decisions 20.10 to 20.13. 19.17 (Rev. CoP20) & 19.18

Directed to	Main Actions
Parties	Share information and experiences on zoonotic disease risks linked to wildlife trade; participate in relevant CITES and One Health initiatives.
CITES Secretariat	Strengthen collaboration with WOAH, WHO, FAO, UNEP and other partners; support implementation of the decisions; facilitate information exchange and capacity building.
Animals Committee	Review available scientific evidence and guidance on wildlife trade and zoonotic disease emergence; identify gaps and opportunities for CITES to contribute within its mandate.
Standing Committee	Consider recommendations from the Animals Committee and provide advice and recommendations for consideration by CoP21.
Partner Organizations and Donors	Support Parties in implementing the decisions through technical assistance, capacity building, expertise and financial support

Movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes

- Normal rules as set out in Articles III, IV and V
- Possibility of facilitating and expediting the movement through
  - ✓ Scientific exchange **between CITES registered scientific institutions**; or
  - ✓ Simplified procedures (**expedited normal CITES procedures**)


Photo: Tristan Bradfield / City of London

Movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes

Scientific exchange, Article VII, paragraph 5 and Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP 18)

- A standard CITES label should accompany the sample
- Samples to be registered and catalogued and movement is for non-commercial purposes
- Samples cannot be part of an ongoing enforcement case
- Types of samples:
  - External tissues, including hair skin, feathers, teeth, ivory, horn (specific sizes)
  - Buccal/cloacal/urinary etc. swabs (small amounts)
  - Cell lines and tissue cultures
  - DNA/RNA (purified)
  - Secretions (salvia, venom, milk, plant secretions):1-5 ml in vials


Photo: Adobe Stock

Movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes

Scientific exchange (2)

Steps to register as a CITES registered scientific institution

- ✓ WOAH Reference Laboratory and Collaborating Centres are considered to meet the standards for registration as a CITES registered scientific institution
- ✓ The National CITES Management Authority just needs to send an email to CITES Secretariat requesting the registration of WOAH RL/CCRegistration
- ✓ To facilitate registration of relevant scientific institutions, particularly WOAH Reference labs and Collaborating Centres
- ✓ Enables faster transport of registered and catalogues CITES samples for collaborative scientific research, including forensic and diagnostic research

Movement of wildlife samples for diagnostic purposes

Simplified procedures, Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP20), section XIII

- Alternatively, the CITES MA can use simplified procedures to facilitate and expedite trade with no or negligible impact on the conservation of the species
- For diagnostic purposes – same type of specimens as for scientific exchange (all three Appendices)
- The national MA issues partially completed permits in advance to specific *bona fide* persons and bodies (including labs) - limited validity (normally 6 months)
- Such persons and bodies are authorized to complete the information on the permit as set out in box 5 of the permit
- Permits for trade biological specimens can be issued at genus or family level (when unknown species)
- NDF advice can be developped at generic level
- Parties are encouraged to waive stricter domestic measures
- Parties are encouraged to expedite the processing of application for trade in biological samples for diagnostic purposes


Photo: Adobe Stock



Thank You Merci Gracias 谢谢 спасибо شكراً

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@cites

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