

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) — 35 Years of Global Efforts to Ensure That International Trade in Wild Animals and Plants Is Legal and Sustainable

REFERENCE: Wijnstekers W: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) — 35 years of global efforts to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants is legal and sustainable; *Forensic Sci Rev* 23:1; 2011.

ABSTRACT: CITES is a 35-year-old convention with a current total of 175 signatories, or parties. It regulates international trade in live specimens and products of more than 30,000 animal and plant species under three different trade regimes. CITES has clearly proved its importance for nature conservation, but its regulations often are difficult to implement and enforce, leading to unacceptably high levels of unsustainable and illegal trade in many wildlife species. There are ways, however, to improve the situation and to make compliance with CITES regulations both easier and more attractive.

KEY WORDS: Certification, CITES, legal wildlife trade, nondetrimental wildlife trade, permit system, sustainable wildlife trade.
