



Understanding CITES

CITES Appendix III

What is CITES Appendix III?



Florida Softshell Turtle, Appendix III
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The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a treaty aimed at protecting species at risk from international trade. Appendix III is a list of wildlife and plant species identified by particular CITES member countries (Parties) as being in need of international trade controls.

What does Appendix III do?

It helps a Party gain international cooperation in controlling trade in certain native wildlife and plant species that are subject to the laws and regulations of that country; allows international trade in species listed in Appendix III with CITES documents; and provides a means of gathering trade data and other relevant information to assist the CITES Management Authority in a country or region in determining the impact, if any, of international trade on native populations.

How does Appendix III differ from Appendix II?

A species is unilaterally listed in Appendix III by a country in the native range of that species, at the request of that country. In contrast, a species is listed in Appendix I or II by a vote of the Parties.

For the export of specimens of an

Appendix-III species, the Management Authority in the country of export need only determine that the specimens were not obtained in contravention of that country's laws for the protection of animals and plants. In contrast, the export of specimens of an Appendix-II species requires that the CITES authorities in the country of export determine that the specimens were acquired legally and that their export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.

What do the country annotations mean for Appendix-III species?

In the CITES list, each Appendix-III species listing includes an annotation showing the name of a country (in some cases more than one country). The annotation indicates the specific country that listed the species in Appendix III.

The annotation signifies that a CITES export permit must accompany a specimen exported directly from the country that listed that species. A CITES certificate of origin is required from all other exporting countries unless the listing is restricted to specific populations.

Can Appendix-III species be imported to the United States?

Yes. To import Appendix-III species into



Alligator Snapping Turtle, Appendix III
Gary M. Stolz, USFWS

the United States, you must present valid CITES documentation to the appropriate U.S. authorities when your shipment enters the United States.



Smooth Softshell Turtle, Appendix III
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If your specimens came directly from a country that has listed the species in Appendix III, you must present a CITES export permit issued by the Management Authority of that country.

If your specimens came directly from a country that has not listed the species in Appendix III, you must present a CITES certificate of origin issued by the Management Authority of that country.

If your specimens came from a country of re-export, you must present a CITES re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of that country.

Can Appendix-III species be exported or re-exported from the United States?

Yes. To export or re-export Appendix-III species from the United States, you must obtain documentation from us to give to authorities of the importing country.

If the United States has listed the species in Appendix III, you must obtain a CITES export permit from us.

If another country has listed the species in Appendix III, you must obtain a CITES certificate of origin from us.

If you are re-exporting your specimens, you must obtain a CITES re-export certificate from us.

How do I obtain appropriate documentation for CITES-listed species?

To apply for a U.S. CITES document, you must complete a standard application form and submit it with a processing fee. Visit the Service's permits website, <http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/>, for more information.

To apply for a CITES document from another country, you must contact their Management Authority. You can obtain names and addresses of other countries' Management Authority offices from us or access the national contacts page on the CITES Secretariat's website (www.cites.org).

What kinds of wildlife and plants are covered by Appendix III?

Over 140 animal species and approximately 120 plant species are currently listed in Appendix III.

Currently, the United States has listed the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), alligator snapping turtle (*Macrolemys [=Macrochelys] temmincki*) and all species of map turtle (*Graptemys* spp.) in Appendix III.

Effective November 21, 2016, an additional four native freshwater turtle species will be listed in Appendix III, including the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*), smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*) and spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*).

The walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), listed by Canada, is another Appendix-III species native to the United States.

Key non-native Appendix III species commonly traded to and from the United States include the bongo antelope (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*) listed by Ghana, and Russell's viper (*Daboia russellii*) listed by India.

How will I know if my wildlife or plant is listed in any of the CITES Appendices?

You may access the CITES Appendices on the Secretariat's website (www.cites.org).

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