



WHY IS CITES IMPORTANT?

Around 180 countries have agreed to abide by the laws outlined in CITES. The laws that prevent the export and import of turtle products here in Samoa, are the same ones that protect the mountain gorilla in parts of Africa and the rhinoceros across Africa and Asia.

Over the past 40 years, CITES has been able to help some species recover from over-exploitation and be managed in a sustainable way. To achieve further success we need to treat these laws with the seriousness that they deserve.

Together, we can help our threatened species survive.

CONTACT US

If you need to get a CITES permit, or if you have a question about whether you need one, please get in touch.

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Thank you for being a responsible traveller.



**BEFORE YOU LEAVE SAMOA,
STOP AND THINK...
COULD YOU BE BREAKING
WILDLIFE LAWS?**

Samoa is home to many threatened species including corals, marine turtles, whales, dolphins and more. The survival of these species is further endangered by the global trade in plants, animals and products that may be made from them.



HELP US TO PRESERVE SAMOA'S WILDLIFE

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international law that protects over 35,000 species of animals and plants worldwide. Countries that have signed the Convention, like Samoa, work hard to ensure that the international trade of wildlife and wildlife products doesn't threaten their population and survival.

WHEN YOU'RE SHOPPING AND PACKING, KEEP CITES IN YOUR SIGHTS

Souvenirs and handicrafts can sometimes include plant and animal products that are protected under CITES. You may be unaware that you are breaking the law by buying them or taking them from one country to another. That's why it's always best to check first to avoid fines or the confiscation of your personal belongings.



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PROHIBITED

TURTLES AND TURTLE PRODUCTS

- All marine turtle species are listed as threatened under CITES.
- Watch out for handicrafts and souvenirs that may include turtle shell.

You cannot take these items out of the country.



WHALE AND DOLPHIN PRODUCTS

- Whales, dolphins and porpoises are listed as threatened under CITES.
- Watch out for items, such as jewellery, that may include bones or teeth from these species.

You cannot take these items out of the country.



ALLOWED ONLY WITH A PERMIT

GIANT CLAMS AND THEIR SHELLS OR MEAT

- Giant clams are protected under CITES.

If you're planning to travel with giant clams or their shells or meat, you need to arrange a permit.



ORCHIDS

- All orchid species are listed in CITES.

If you're planning to travel with orchids, you need to arrange a permit.



ASK FIRST

CORALS AND SHELLS

- You need a permit to export or import some types of coral and shells – including jewellery made from these items.
- The number or weight of shells that you have will also determine whether you need a permit.

If you're travelling with coral and/or shells, contact us for more information.

