



International trade threatens animal and plant species

Did you know

that by buying certain products and tourist souvenirs you contribute to the extinction of endangered species



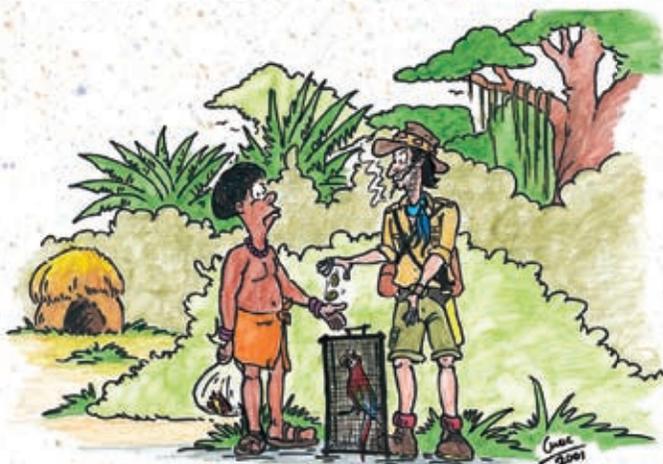
that animals and plants taken from the wild frequently die or wither because of inadequate transport and care



that illegally imported animals are often infected by dangerous diseases and parasites

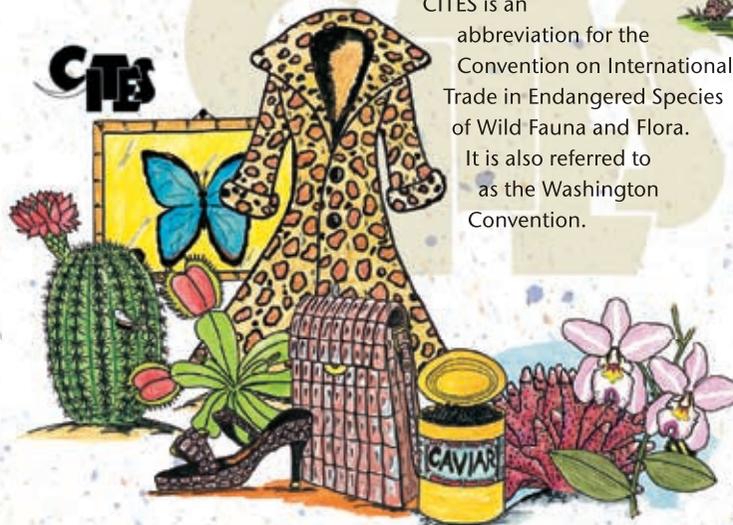
International trade in plants and animals, their parts and products made from them has brought many species to the brink of extinction. Exotic animals and plants attract buyers by their curious and unique shape or simply because they are rare.

Every year over **40,000 primates, 15 million other mammals, 4 million birds, 10 million reptiles, 10 million orchids,** and uncountable numbers of other animals and plants are taken from the wild.



What is CITES?

CITES is an abbreviation for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is also referred to as the Washington Convention.



The aim of CITES is to protect animal and plant species threatened by international trade. Its provisions apply to live or dead animals and plants, as well as their parts and products made from them.

CITES prohibits trade in almost 900 species threatened with extinction. Trade in the remaining 30,000 species covered by CITES is permitted but strictly controlled.

Did you know

- that each country Party to CITES has to control international trade in and possession of specimens of species included in CITES
- that 167 countries have already joined the Convention
- that CITES has been in force in Slovenia since 2000
- that measures applied in the European Union are even more stringent than those imposed by CITES

Before purchasing a live animal or plant ask yourself

- Do I really need to have it?
- Does it belong to an endangered species?
- Do I know how to care for it, and do I have the necessary means?
- Can I provide the transport and adequate living conditions in accordance with regulations?
- Do I know enough about its diet, behaviour and biology?
- Is it poisonous, and is the relevant antidote registered in my country?
- Is it aggressive or is it likely to carry an infectious disease or dangerous parasites?
- What permits do I need for keeping it and importing or exporting it?

