



# Rules to Protect Species of the Caribbean Netherlands

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Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES is an international agreement between governments (currently 183 Parties) to ensure that international trade of wild fauna and flora is not threatening their survival. At the moment more than 37,000 species of animals and plants are protected under CITES. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden sculptures, jewelry, trinkets and instruments and even types of local medicines.

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CITES-listed Species found in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius)

**Appendix I:** Most endangered, only given a CITES permit for non-commercial purposes (e.g. research, museums). Requires both CITES import and export permits.

*Appendix I Overview for Caribbean Netherlands species:*

1 species of Fish | 6 species of Marine Mammals |  
5 species of Reptiles | 2 species of Birds

**Appendix II:** At risk of endangerment, trade is controlled and a CITES export permit required.

*Appendix II Overview for Caribbean Netherlands species:*

96 species of Corals | 2 species of Fish | 1 species of Gastropod |  
17 species of Marine Mammals | 21 species of Birds |  
46 species of Plants | 2 species of Reptiles

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## Think before you act!

### Is it protected?

Just because it's for sale or you found it on land or in the sea does not mean it is legal to possess or travel with.



What species (alive or dead) do you want to take?



What is the scientific name?

Is this species on the CITES-list? ([www.speciesplus.net](http://www.speciesplus.net))



Are there other local rules and measures that apply?

Am I legally allowed to possess this species or species-derived item and bring it off the island?



Do I need a permit to carry this species or species-derived item off the island?

### Better safe than sorry:

In addition to CITES regulations, local or national rules and measures may apply. Violation may lead to a fine or prosecution. If you are not absolutely sure which species or species-derived items/products can be taken or if a permit is needed, please check with the local CITES Authority - the National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands (RCN), Public Entity and/or nature park management organization.

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## How does it work?

In order to regulate international trade, CITES uses three lists of species that are found as appendices to the treaty. The first two appendices are the most important to the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius):

**Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction to which a trade ban applies. This includes all marine turtle species and some whale and bird species, such as the Bonairian Yellow-shouldered Amazon (Lora).

**Appendix II:** includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. Trade is only allowed with valid CITES permits.

**Appendix III:** contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. A (re)export permit is required from the country in question or a certificate of origin from other states.

Traveling with CITES listed species (including parts and products) without a CITES permit is a violation of the law and may lead to a fine or prosecution. The plant, animal or item/product in question will be confiscated.

**In addition to the CITES regulations, local rules and measures may apply!**

## Did you know?

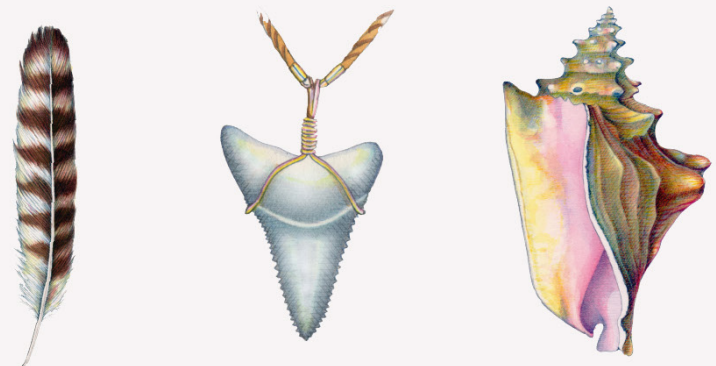
It is illegal to export or take live or dead CITES-listed species\* like orchids, cacti, corals, seahorses, sea turtles, sharks, rays, dolphins, whales, iguanas, birds, or items derived from these species, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden sculptures, jewelry, trinkets, musical instruments and even local medicines, without a CITES permit. Some examples:

**Bird feathers\***- Restrictions and CITES rules for exporting birds of prey or other listed bird species such as parrots or flamingos **includes feathers**.

**Corals\***- All live and dead corals are protected. It is prohibited to remove or take any dead or live coral species without a CITES permit. However, no CITES permit is required for fossils, coral sand and coral fragments (including rubble and gravel) not identifiable to the level of genus or species. Be aware: on Bonaire also unidentifiable corals are protected by local legislation and are prohibited to remove or take.

**Queen Conch shells\*** - A maximum of 3 shells per person can be taken without a CITES permit. However, on Bonaire taking conch is not allowed by local legislation.

\* In addition to CITES regulation, certain (other) species are protected by local legislation. For more information you can contact the local Public Entity or nature park management organization.



## General CITES Information



[www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

CITES status soorten:

[www.speciesplus.net](http://www.speciesplus.net)

## CITES Rules, Regulations and Permits Caribbean Netherlands



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Nature and Food Quality

**Ministry of Agriculture,  
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## Local Nature Conservation Rules, Regulations and Permits



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## Examples of CITES-listed species found in the Caribbean Netherlands

For a complete overview of the CITES-listed species found in the Caribbean Netherlands, check with the local CITES Management Authority, nature park management organization or check [www.speciesplus.net](http://www.speciesplus.net)

Examples of CITES-listed species and derived items that are prohibited to trade or take with you or require a CITES permit:

- All birds of prey, hummingbirds, owls, parrots and parakeets (including feathers)
- All orchids and cacti
- All whalebone products
- All shark products (example: shark tooth jewelry)
- All sea turtle products (examples: eggs, turtle shell jewelry)
- All fire, lace, black and hard corals\*
- Queen conch shells, Queen conch meat\*\*

\*All live and dead corals are protected. It is prohibited to remove or take any dead or live coral species without a CITES permit. However, no CITES permit is required for fossils, coral sand and coral fragments (including rubble and gravel) not identifiable to the level of genus or species. Be aware: on Bonaire also unidentifiable corals are protected by local legislation and are prohibited to remove or take.

\*\* A maximum of 3 Queen shells per person can be taken without a CITES permit. However, on Bonaire taking conch is not allowed by local legislation.

\*\*\* Limit of 3 Rain sticks.

In addition to CITES regulation, certain (other) species are protected by local legislation. For more information you can contact the local Public Entity or nature park management organization.

**I Appendix I:** Most endangered, only given a CITES permit for non-commercial purpose (e.g. research). Requires both CITES import and export permits.

**II Appendix II:** At risk of endangerment, trade is controlled and a CITES export permit required.

Where can this species be found?

- B** Bonaire
- E** St. Eustatius
- S** Saba

Species illustrations are not to scale

**ES** Antillean crested hummingbird  
*Orthorhynchus cristatus*

**B** Ruby-topaz hummingbird  
*II Chrysolampis mosquitus*

**BES** Osprey  
*II Pandion haliaetus*

**B** Northern caracara  
*II Caracara cheriway*

**BS** Brown-throated Parakeet  
*II Aratinga pertinax*

Feather of Osprey

**B** Green iguana  
*II Iguana iguana*

**S** Painted black Iguana  
*II Iguana melanoderma*

**E** Lesser antillean iguana  
*II Iguana delicatissima*

▲ Yellow-shouldered  
**B I** Amazon  
*Amazona barbadensis*

**BES II** Bottlenose dolphin  
*Tursiops truncatus*

Humpback whale  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*  
**BES I**

**B** Bryde's whale  
*I Balaenoptera edeni*

Jewelry made of Hawksbill carapace

Wooden bowl of lignum vitae

**BES** Common lignum vitae  
*II Guaiacum officinale*

**BES** Hawksbill turtle  
*I Eretmochelys imbricata*

**BES** Green turtle  
*I Chelonia mydas*

**ES** Fringed star orchid  
*II Epidendrum ciliare*

◀ **BE** Candle cactus  
*II Cereus repandus*

**BES** Great hammerhead shark  
*II Sphyrna mokarran*

Shark tooth necklace

**BES** Slender seahorse  
*II Hippocampus reidi*

**BES** Manta ray  
*II Manta birostris*

**BES** Queen conch\*\*  
*II Strombus gigas*

Cactus rainstick\*\*\*

Coral skelet as found on beach\*

Coral fragments\*

Black coral jewelry\*

**BES** Melocactus  
*II Melocactus spec.*

**BES** Great star coral\*  
*II Montastrea cavernosa*

**BES** Maze coral\*  
*II Meandrina meandrites*

**BES** Yellow pencil coral\*  
*II Madracis auretenra*

**BES** Black coral  
*II Antipatharia spp.\**

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**Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance**  
Safeguarding nature in the Dutch Caribbean

