

You may be tempted to bring back an ivory necklace, a turtle shell, wild orchids, corals, or even a live parrot from your travels around the world. But are you aware of the consequences?

Did you know that more than 3,000 animal species and 40,000 plant species are in danger of disappearing from our planet?

Did you know that if you bring one of these species into France you could be committing an offence?

Of course people rarely bring home a live animal<sup>1</sup> from their holidays; most often, souvenirs include items made from animal or plant species.

Therefore, tourists and collectors are taking part in the impoverishment of nature and also taking the risk of transmitting dangerous diseases for human beings and domestic animals.

To prevent certain wild fauna and flora species from disappearing from the planet, the international community has mobilised and adopted provisions to regulate and control international trade in species and any derivative thereof when it comes to import, export and re-export. These provisions make up the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Convention), also known as the Washington Convention.

In France, the Directorate General for Planning, Housing and Nature (DGALN) of the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE), which is the CITES management authority, and the services of the Regional Directorates for the Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) are responsible for processing and issuing import, export and re-export authorisations. The DGALN and the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGDDI) of the Ministry for Finance and Public Accounts are responsible for monitoring the implementation of this text and the various implementing provisions by carrying out controls of freight and items transported by travellers.

<sup>1</sup> Certain pets (parrots, parakeets, reptiles, primates, etc.), wrongly considered by their owners to be domestic animals, are wild fauna species within the meaning of the Washington Convention subject, where applicable, to the provisions of CITES or Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996.

For example, all psittaciformes (parrots and parakeets) are included in the Washington Convention appendices except for the following four species: *agapornis roseicollis*, *melopsittacus undulatus*, *nymphicus hollandicus* and *Psittacula krameri*.

- The import of specimens of species listed in Annex D of amended Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 is subject to the presentation, in the first customs office at the time of introduction into the EU, of an **import notification**.
- The export of specimens listed in Annexes B and C requires the presentation to customs of an **export permit** or a **CITES re-export certificate** issued by prefectures (DREAL). The export of specimens listed in Annex D does not require a CITES document.

Certain exemptions and streamline procedures are provided for personal or household effects, which are part of the personal baggage of a traveller coming from a third country or that are imported in the context of a move or that constitute a hunting trophy. These procedures vary according to the annex in which the specimen is listed. (To find out more, you should contact your nearest DREAL or visit [www.douane.gouv.fr](http://www.douane.gouv.fr)).

**It is important to note:** with regard to the provisions of the Washington Convention, you are allowed to bring back the following goods:

- caviar of sturgeon (*Acipenseriformes* spp. except for *Acipenser brevirostrum* and *Acipenser sturio*), up to a maximum of 125 grams per person;
- rainsticks (*Cactaceae* spp. except for specimens listed in Appendix A), up to three per person;
- dead worked specimens of *Crocodylia* spp. (except for specimens listed in Appendix A), excluding meat and hunting trophies, up to four per person;
- shells of queen conchs (*Strombus gigas*), up to three per person;
- seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.), up to four dead specimens per person;
- shells of giant clams (*Tridacnidae* spp.) up to three specimens per person, where a specimen may be one intact shell or two matching halves, not exceeding 3 kg in total.

<sup>2</sup> European Member States are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

<sup>3</sup> The import of specimens of species listed in Annex A may be authorised, particularly with a scientific purpose. Exemptions take the form of an import and export permit to be presented to customs.

<sup>4</sup> The contact information for DREAL can be found on the websites: <http://annuaire.service-public.fr> and <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

## THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION

The Washington Convention prohibits and imposes restrictions on international trade in animal and plant species. Ratified in 1978 by France, it is in force in more than 150 countries.

These animal and plant species are classified in three appendices according to the gravity of the threats of extinction to them.

### EU provisions

Since 1 June 1997, the Member States of the European Union [EU]<sup>2</sup> have directly implemented Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 or texts adopted for its implementation, which lists in its Annexes A, B, C and D the species protected by the Washington Convention, and other wild animal and plant species.

The provisions apply to species of live or dead fauna and flora and to any part or derivative thereof. Ex.: feathers, shells, wood, furs, skins, ivory, stuffed animals, cuttings, etc.

Species listed in Annex A cannot, except in the case of an exemption, be traded internationally (import, export, re-export).

#### Some species listed in Annex A:

- apes (*gorilla*, *chimpanzee*, etc.) and certain primates from South America
- lemurs – pandas
- elephants (*save exceptions*)
- rhinoceroses (*save exceptions*)
- big cats (*cheetahs*, *leopards*, *tigers*, etc.)
- sea turtles
- certain crocodiles and lizards
- giant salamanders
- cetaceans (*dolphins*, *whales*, etc.)
- most diurnal birds of prey, cranes, pheasants and parrots
- certain shellfish
- certain cacti and orchids, etc.

Species listed in Annex B. Their trade is subject to specific permits.

#### Some species listed in Annex B:

- primates\* – cats\*
- elephants from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana\*\*

### Additional measures

In addition, in 1976 France adopted more rigorous protection measures than those provided for at international and Community level.

These measures take into account the specific features of fauna and flora of overseas departments, particularly Guyana and stipulate that:

- Destruction, capture, stuffing, transport, use, sale and purchase of specimens of a number of animal or plant species are prohibited, in metropolitan France and in overseas departments;
- Trade, holding and circulation of wild fauna and flora species are subject to very strict control.

**NB:** There is a restriction with regard to the transport of live wild fauna species, listed in Annex A of amended Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97. Their transport (for example from an overseas department to metropolitan France) requires a CITES document issued by the DREAL of this overseas department. However, an exemption from the previously mentioned conditions may be granted for transport for urgent veterinary treatment.

The purpose of these measures is not to prohibit all trade in this area, but to make sure that it never contributes to the extinction of a protected species of fauna or flora.

This goal can only be met with your cooperation!  
Help us protect our natural heritage!

Don't break the law!

#### Find out more before you go

- by contacting French customs information centre: Infos Douane Service

From France

**0 811 20 44 44**  
Coût d'un appel local depuis un poste fixe

Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 18:00  
(cost of a local call)

From outside metropolitan France or abroad  
+33 (0)1 72 40 78 50

- by visiting the following websites:

[www.douane.gouv.fr](http://www.douane.gouv.fr)  
Smartphone : [douane.fr](http://douane.fr)  
<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>  
<http://cites.application.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/listertaxoninit.do>

Directorate General of Customs and Excise  
Information and Communication Department  
Bureau Information et Communication  
11, rue des deux Communes  
93558 Montreuil Cedex  
Twitter : @douane\_france

JUNE 2014

- otters\* – peccaries, certain antelopes
- crocodiles\* – monitor lizards\*
- tortoises and river turtles
- boas and pythons\*
- parrots\*
- diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey\*
- hummingbirds\*
- flamingos,
- medicinal leaches
- black corals
- orchids\*, except certain hybrids
- cacti\*, etc.

\* Except for the species already listed in Annex A.

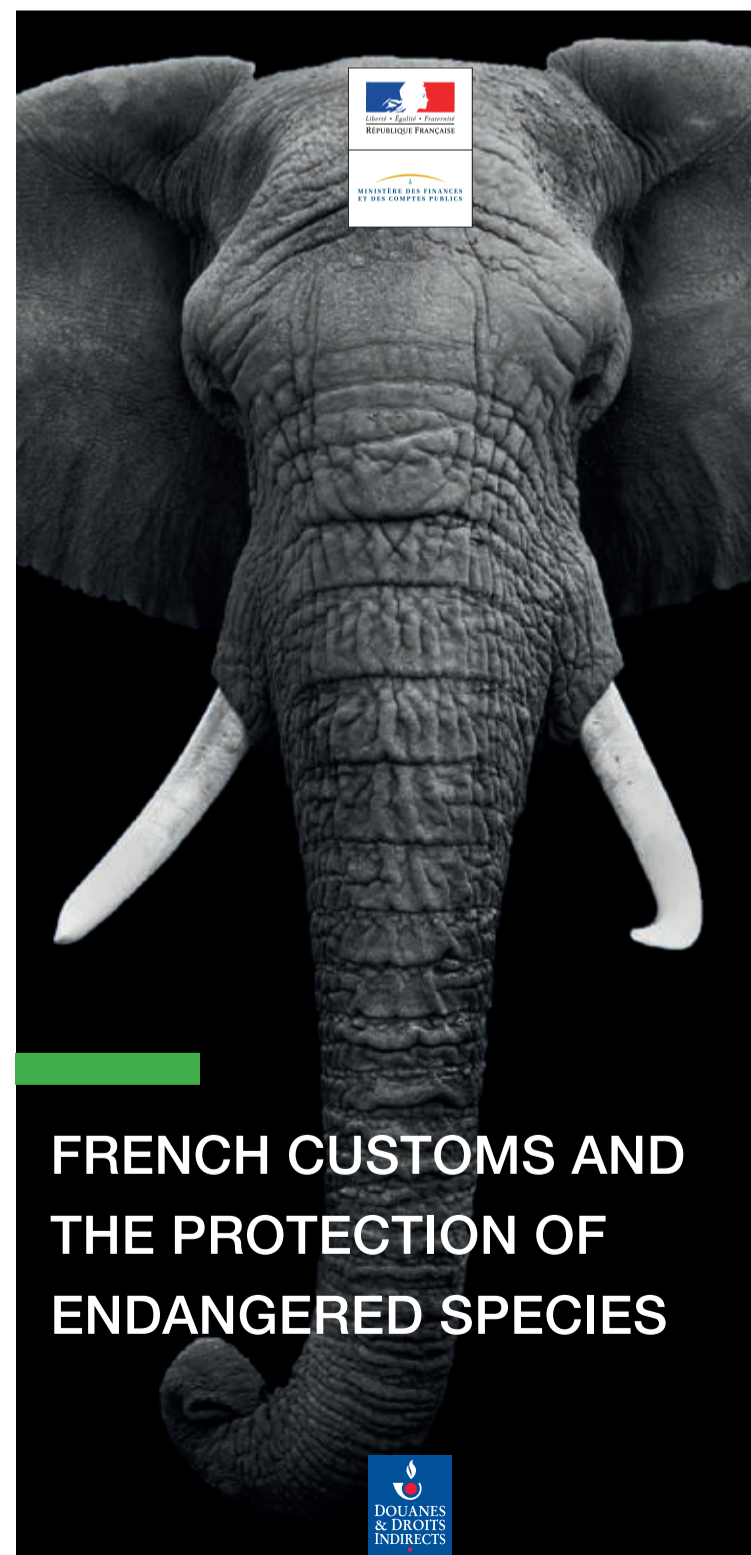
\*\* Elephant ivory cannot be traded in the European Union unless an intra-Community certificate issued by prefectures is presented. Exemptions apply in the case of a «worked» specimen made before 1947 or if the ivory comes from elephants listed in Annex B.

Species listed in Annex C or in Annex D (wild fauna and flora within the European Union) are species for which specific safeguard measures, with the purpose of preventing or restricting their exploitation, are imposed.

### Main measures

In France, people who hold or transport specimens of species that are protected by the Washington Convention, or by Community regulations, must be able to justify at any time this lawful holding. Provisions complement those applying to health (veterinary or plant health).

- The import and export of specimens of wild fauna and flora species and any part or derivative thereof, listed in Annex A of Council Regulation No 338/97, is prohibited, except in the case of an exemption.
- In order to import specimens of species listed in Annex B of amended Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, an export permit in the country of origin and an import permit in the country of destination must be obtained and presented to customs. In France permits are issued by prefectures (Regional Directorates of the Environment, Planning and Housing – DREAL<sup>4</sup>).
- The import of specimens of species listed in Annex C of amended Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 is subject to the presentation, in the customs office at the time of introduction into the EU, of an import notification using a form available in customs offices. An export permit, a certificate of origin or a CITES re-export certificate is also necessary depending on the country of origin.



FRENCH CUSTOMS AND  
THE PROTECTION OF  
ENDANGERED SPECIES





**FRENCH CUSTOMS, WORKING FOR THE PLANET**