



CITES and Invasive Species

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CITES

Convention on **I**nternational **T**rade
in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of Wild
Flora and Fauna

("The Washington Convention")

Why CITES is not a very useful tool for preventing invasive species

- CITES deals mainly with the conservation of wild populations in their native habitats
- CITES requires only an export permit for most of its species



Where CITES can be useful for preventing invasive species

- CITES has an established permit system used already by all countries
- CITES has an extensive online database on international wildlife trade
- CITES has enforcement and compliance through trade bans



CITES Resolution

Res. Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14)

"Trade in Alien Invasive Species"

Directed to the Parties. That they should:

- a) consider the problems of invasive species when developing national legislation and regulations that deal with the trade in live animals or plants;
- b) consult with the Management Authority of a proposed country of import, when possible and when applicable, when considering exports of potentially invasive species, to determine whether there are domestic measures regulating such imports; and
- c) consider the opportunities for synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and explore appropriate cooperation and collaboration between the two Conventions on the issue of introductions of alien species that are potentially invasive.

Case study:

CITES and *Macaca fascicularis*

- Wild capture in SE Asia was deemed not sustainable
- Trade shifted to wild capture in Mauritius where they are invasive and cause damage to agriculture and nature
- **Concl.:** Main goal was conservation in SE Asia; not dealing with an invasive species problem.

