



# Regulatory Procedures for Implementing National Legislation on the Regulation of Trade in Wild Species Listed in CITES Appendices

## First: Definitions

In the application of the provisions of these Regulatory Procedures, the words and expressions used herein shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife (issued by Royal Decree No. (45/2024)). The following words and expressions shall have the specific meanings assigned to each of them:

**The Convention:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), concluded in Washington on 3 March 1973 and amended in Bonn on June 22, 1979. The Sultanate of Oman acceded to it on 17 March 2008 by Royal Decree No. (117/2007).

**CITES Secretariat:** The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

**The Management Authority:** Environment Authority as the authority responsible for the implementation of the Convention, the Law, and the Executive Regulations.

**The Scientific Authority:** The committee responsible for undertaking the NDF and providing scientific advice to the Management Authority. It is formed by Environment Authority Decision No. (69/2026) and includes members from:

- Sultan Qaboos University
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion
- Research and Innovation Authority
- Environment Society of Oman
- Directorate General of Customs, Royal Oman Police



**The Law:** The Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife, issued by Royal Decree No. (45/2024)

**The Regulations:** The Executive Regulations of the Law Regulating Trade in Wildlife, issued by Decision No. (281/2025)

**Convention Appendices:** Appendices I, II, and III of the Convention as updated and published by the CITES Secretariat and any amendments thereto shall be applied from the date of their entry into force internationally.

**Appendix I:** Includes all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade. Trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger further their survival and must only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.

**Appendix II:** Includes: i) all species which although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of these species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival; and

ii) other species which must be subject to regulation in order that trade in specimens of certain species referred to in subparagraph i) above may be brought under effective control, e.g. species that are similar in appearance to those included in Appendix II.

**Appendix III:** Includes all species which any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade.

**Specimen:**

(i) Any animal or plant, whether alive or dead of a species included in Appendices I, II and III of CITES. (ii) Any part or derivative of wildlife or endangered wildlife that can be identified by its appearance, accompanying documents, packaging, mark, labels, or any other circumstances as being part of or derived from such wildlife.

**Endangered wildlife:** All animals and plants species, their derivatives, products, or waste listed in the convention appendices or national lists



**Non-Detriment Finding (NDF):** A science-based assessment by the Scientific Authority determining that the proposed international trade in a specimen will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

**Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF):** A confirmation issued by the Management Authority that the specimen has been obtained legally in accordance with national legislation and the provisions of the Convention.

**International trade:** Any export, re-export, import, or introduction from the sea of wildlife.

**Bred in captivity:** offspring, including eggs, born or otherwise produced in a controlled environment of parents that mated or otherwise transmitted their gametes in a controlled environment, as defined in Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

**Artificially propagated:** plants grown under controlled conditions e.g. in nurseries, from seeds, cuttings, divisions, callus tissues or other plant tissues, spores or other propagules that either are exempt from the control of the Convention or have been derived from cultivated parental stock.

**Shipment:** A group of specimens transported under a single license.

**Personal or household effects:** Non-living specimens, or their parts or derivatives, owned by individuals and forming part of their personal belongings, and not intended for commercial purposes.

**Commercial purpose:** Any activity intended to obtain direct or indirect economic benefit or profit.

**Import:** The landing, attempted landing, or introduction of any specimen of wildlife into the Sultanate of Oman.

**Export:** the removal of any specimen of wildlife of Omani origin from the country.

**Re-export:** The export of any wildlife specimen that has previously been imported.

**Introduction from the sea:** Transportation into the Sultanate of Oman, by a vessel registered in Oman, of specimens of any species taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State (the high seas).



**License:** The official document used to authorize import, export, re-export, introduction from the sea, artificial propagation, or captive-breeding of specimens of species listed in any of the Appendices of CITES. It shall conform to the requirements of CITES and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties or otherwise shall be considered invalid.

**Transit (transshipment):** The passage of a specimen through the territory of a State or its temporary storage without being introduced into local trade, while remaining under the control of the Directorate General of Customs of the Royal Oman Police moving to the consignee outside the Sultanate of Oman.

**Certificate of origin:** A document issued by the competent authority of the State concerned to certify that the specimen was not taken from a State that listed the species in Appendix III, or to determine its origin in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

**Trade:** The sale, purchase, offer, manufacture, supply, production, promotion, transport, storage, or distribution of wildlife. Possession of wildlife with the intent to sell is considered as trade.

**Quotas:** The specified quantities licensed for export of a particular species during a defined period, based on scientific assessments ensuring that such trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

## Second: Scope of Application

- The provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties adopted thereunder shall apply unless otherwise specifically stated in these Procedures. These Procedures shall be interpreted in line with the Convention.

-All procedures regulating international trade in endangered wildlife shall apply to all endangered animal and plant species listed in the Appendices of the Convention, whether live or dead, including any parts, specimens, or derivatives thereof.

-The Management Authority may, based on the opinion of the Scientific Authority for CITES, exempt the following cases from these procedures, provided that the conditions specified for each are met:

### **1) Personal and household effects**

Non-living specimens, or their parts or derivatives, of species listed in the three Appendices to the Convention, which are personal or household effects, where such specimens are imported into, exported from, or re-exported from the State in accordance with the rules established by the Management Authority.

This exemption shall not apply in the following cases:

**Appendix I:** they were acquired by the owner outside his State of usual residence and are being imported into that State.

**Appendix II:** (i) they were acquired by the owner outside his State of usual residence and in a State where removal from the wild occurred; (ii) they are being imported into the owner's State of usual residence; and (iii) the State where removal from the wild occurred requires the prior grant of an export license before any export of such specimens; unless a Management Authority is satisfied that the specimens were acquired before the provisions of the present Convention applied to such specimens.

### **2) Pre-Convention specimens (Specimens acquired before the Convention Applied)**

Such specimens were acquired before the inclusion of the species in the Appendices of the Convention, subject to confirmation in the form of a license issued by the Management Authority responsible for issuing CITES Licenses.

### **3) Scientific institutions**

Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange between scientists or scientific institutions registered by the Management Authority of their hosting State in the register maintained by the CITES Secretariat, of herbarium specimens, other preserved, dried or embedded museum specimens, and live plant material which carry a label issued or approved by a Management Authority.

### **4) Artificially propagated plants and captive-bred animals**

i) Specimens of an animal species included in Appendix I bred in captivity for commercial purposes, or of a plant species included in Appendix I artificially propagated for commercial purposes, shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II.



ii) If the Management Authority is satisfied that a specimen of an animal species was bred in captivity or a specimen of a plant species was artificially propagated, or is a part of such an animal or plant or was derived therefrom, the Management Authority may issue a license to that effect. Such license shall be accepted in lieu of any CITES documents required under the provisions of Article III, IV or V of the Convention and corresponding Sixth Section of these Regulatory Procedures.

#### **5) Circus, zoo, and travelling exhibition specimens**

Includes animals and plants temporarily introduced into the country for use in circuses, zoos, or travelling exhibitions, provided that:

- All specimen details are registered with the Management Authority; who has issued a license for movement of the specimens;
- The specimens are pre-Convention or captive-bred/artificially propagated; and
- They will be so transported and cared for as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

#### **6) Transit (transshipment) shipments**

Applies to all transit shipments, whether by air, land, or sea, including those unloaded and subsequently re-exported, provided that all applicable transport conditions are met and that a valid export license from the Management Authority in the exporting country is available (or re-export license where applicable).

The Management Authority reserves the right to inspect any specimen, particularly in cases where shipments are unloaded and reloaded, and may detain such shipments if they are found to be non-compliant with the provisions of the Convention.

### **Third: Mandates and Responsibilities of Environment Authority**

1. Propose policies, strategic plans, and requirements related to environmental protection and sustainability, pollution control, and nature conservation; submit them to the Ministers Council for approval; and follow up on their implementation, evaluation, and development.
2. Ensure environmental safety, combat pollution, and preserve various ecosystems within the framework of the fundamental sustainable development goals



3. Protect wildlife, conserve nature, and safeguard renewable resources, and promote their sustainable use.
4. Contribute to the advancement of scientific research in environmental fields, exchange expertise, and collect and utilize scientific data
5. Promote environmental awareness and instill environmental values and practices across all segments of society and reinforce principles of environmental conservation and natural resource protection.
6. Prepare draft laws and Royal Decrees related to the Authority's mandate, issue relevant regulations and decisions, and ensure their implementation.
7. Strengthen and develop cooperation in the Authority's mandate with relevant entities in other countries and with regional and international organizations and specialized institutions.
8. Implement decisions arising from international convention relevant to the Authority to which the Sultanate of Oman is a Party, in coordination with the concerned authorities
9. Represent the Sultanate in regional and international conferences, events, and meetings related to the Authority's mandate.
10. Monitor and assess climate change in order to protect environmental, social, and economic systems.
11. Contribute to the development of scientific research in climate-related fields, exchange expertise, and collect and utilize data.
12. Promote awareness and concepts on dealing with extreme climate conditions among all segments of society.
13. Any other responsibilities assigned to the Authority by laws and Royal Decrees.

#### **Fourth: Responsibilities of the Management Authority**

- Issue, reject, suspend, and revoke CITES licenses, and attach the necessary terms and conditions thereto in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
- Communicate and coordinate with the CITES Secretariat and Parties regarding the implementation of the Convention.
- Keep accurate records of all international trade transactions involving listed specimens and prepare annual reports and illegal trade reports in accordance with the forms and timelines adopted by the CITES Secretariat.
- Prepare reports on illegal trade and submit them to the Secretariat of the Convention.
- Prepare reports on legislative, regulatory, and administrative measures taken to implement the Convention, and submit them prior to meetings of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with the approved requirements.

- Ensure national coordination for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention in cooperation with the competent authorities.
- Coordinate with the competent authorities responsible for agriculture, fisheries, and water resources regarding listed aquatic species.
- Consult with the Scientific Committee regarding the issuance of documents, quota management, levels of trade, and the registration of relevant facilities.
- Approve and monitor captive-breeding facilities and nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of plant species listed in Appendix I for export and trade purposes, in consultation with the Scientific Committee, and provide the CITES Secretariat with the necessary information for their registration in accordance with the approved procedures.
- Register scientific institutions with the CITES Secretariat, assign identification codes, and update their records periodically, every five years.
- Manage and dispose of confiscated or seized specimens in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and designate rescue centers for the care of live specimens where necessary.
- Represent the Sultanate of Oman in regional and international meetings related to the Convention.
- Implement awareness and training programs related to the application of the Convention.
- Provide advice to the President on the procedures and measures required to implement and enforce the provisions of CITES.
- Establish rules and procedures for the implementation of the Convention, as well as national legislation regulating international trade in endangered wildlife, in coordination with relevant authorities.
- Make interventions and provide expert opinion before the competent judicial authorities on matters related to the application of the Convention in accordance with national procedures.

### **Fifth: Responsibilities of the Scientific Authority**

- Conduct studies and research, and assess the impact of trade in species listed in the Appendices of the Convention on their conservation and survival in the wild
- Advise the Management Authority on whether or not a proposed export or introduction from the sea of a specimen of species listed in Appendix I or II will be detrimental to the survival of the species involved (NDF);



- in the case of a proposed import of a specimen of a species in Appendix I, advise the Management Authority on whether or not the purposes of the import are detrimental to the survival of the species involved;
- Monitor export licenses granted and actual exports of specimens of species listed in Appendix II, analyze trade levels, and assess their impact on the survival of such species in the wild
- Inform the Management Authority of appropriate measures, as necessary, including recommending the identification, amendment, or suspension of export quotas where trade levels may adversely affect the survival of the species or render it eligible for inclusion in Appendix I
- Assess whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it in accordance with the provisions of the Convention
- Establish scientific standards and criteria for the transport/shipment of live specimens, ensuring the minimization of risks of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment
- Provide scientific advice regarding the registration of captive breeding facilities and plant nurseries
- Provide scientific advice to the Management Authority on all license decisions and Convention-related documents
- Develop the scientific basis for proposals to include, or amend species in the Appendices of the Convention
- Cooperate with national and international scientific institutions and contribute to the preparation of national reports related to the implementation of the Convention
- The Non-Detriment Finding issued by the Scientific Authority shall be a fundamental condition for the issuance of a license required under the provisions of the Convention.



- advise the Management Authority on whether scientists and scientific institutions seeking registration for scientific non-commercial exchange, meet the standards for registration, as set out in the resolution of the Conference of the Parties;
- advise the Management Authority on the disposal of confiscated or forfeited specimens;
- advise the Management Authority on any matter the Scientific Authority considers relevant in the sphere of species protection;

## **Sixth: Regulation of Trade in Specimens of Species included in the Convention Appendices**

An international trade license is issued in accordance with the provisions of the CITES Convention and in compliance with the conditions and procedures established for each of the Convention's Appendices (I, II, and III), as follows:

### **First: Trade in Specimens of Species Listed in Appendix (I)**

#### **1- Export**

The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export license. An export license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

First: The Scientific Authority has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species by conducting the NDF

Second: The Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that:

A-The specimen was legally obtained and was not obtained in contravention of the laws for the protection of fauna and flora

B-Any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment; and



C-An import license has been granted for the specimen by the Management Authority of the State of import

## **2. Import**

The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of an import license and either an export license or a re-export license, as appropriate. An import license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

First: The Scientific Authority has advised that the import will be for purposes which are not detrimental to the survival of the species involved

Second: The Scientific Authority or the Management Authority is satisfied that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and

Third: The Management Authority is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes.

## **3. Re-export**

The re-export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I shall require the prior grant and presentation of a re-export license. The re-export license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

First: The Management Authority is satisfied that:

(a) The specimen was imported in accordance with the provisions of the national law, regulations, these procedures and the Convention;

(b) Any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment; and

(c) An import license has been granted for any living specimen as required by the Convention

## **4. Introduction from the Sea**



The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix I by a ship registered in the Sultanate of Oman shall require the prior grant of a license from the Management Authority. The license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- The Scientific Authority advises that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species involved by conducting NDF

- The Management Authority is satisfied that:

A- The proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and

B- The specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes

## **Second: Regulation of Trade in Specimens of Species Included in Appendix II**

### **1- Export**

The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export license. The export license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

- The Scientific Authority has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species by conducting NDF

- The Management Authority is satisfied that:

A- The specimen was legally obtained and was not obtained in contravention of the laws for the protection of fauna and flora; and

B- Any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment

### **2- Import**

The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior presentation of either an export license or a re-export license, as appropriate.



### **3- Re-export**

The re-export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II shall require the prior grant and presentation of a re-export license. The re-export license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

First: The Management Authority is satisfied that:

A-The specimen was imported in accordance with the provisions of the Law, the Regulations, these Procedures, and the Convention; and

B-Any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

### **4. Introduction from the Sea**

The introduction from the sea of any specimen of a species included in Appendix II by a ship registered in the Sultanate of Oman shall require the prior grant of a license from the Management Authority. The license shall only be granted when the following conditions have been met:

(a) The Scientific Authority advises that the introduction will not be detrimental to the survival of the species involved; and

(b) The Management Authority is satisfied that any living specimen will be so handled as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

### **Third: Regulation of Trade in Specimens of Species Included in Appendix III**

#### **1- Export**

The export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III from any State other than the State that has included that species shall require grant of Certificate of Origin but if the Sultanate of Oman is the State that has included the species in Appendix III, the export shall require the prior grant and presentation of an export license. The export license shall only be granted when the Management Authority is satisfied that:



(a)The specimen was legally obtained and was not obtained in contravention of the laws for the protection of fauna and flora; and

(b)Any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment

## **2. Import**

The import of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III shall require the prior presentation of a certificate of origin. In case the import is from a State which has included that species in Appendix III, an export license issued by that State shall be presented

## **3. Re-export**

The re-export of any specimen of a species included in Appendix III shall require the prior grant and presentation of a re-export license. The re-export license shall only be granted when the Management Authority is satisfied that the specimen was imported in accordance with the provisions of the Law and the Convention.

## **Seventh: Ports of Entry and Exit**

According to Article (10) of the Law, the President of the Environment Authority is authorized to determine the entry and exit points. Therefore, endangered wildlife listed in the Appendices of the Convention may only be imported, exported, re-exported or introduced from the sea through the following points:

1- Land Ports: Dibba, Al-Dara, Al-Khatm, Al-Wajajah, Al-Mazyunah, and Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter).

2- Sea Ports: Khasab Port, Sohar Port, and Salalah Port.

3- Air Ports: Muscat International Airport and Salalah International Airport.

## **Eighth: General Provisions**

-The Management Authority shall review and decide on a license application within thirty (30) working days from the date of receipt, provided that all required conditions,



documents, and approvals are met. This period may be extended for a similar duration as the nature of the application may require.

-The validity of a license shall be as follows:

- Six (6) months for an export license and re-export license.
- Twelve (12) months for an import license and introduction from the sea license
- Any holder of a specimen of wildlife listed in the Appendices of the Convention shall provide proof of legal possession; otherwise, such possession shall be deemed in violation of applicable laws and regulations
- All licenses shall be valid for single use only, non-transferable, and shall become void after use
- Where international trade is conducted in quantities less than those specified in the license, the same license may not be used to trade in the remaining quantities
- A license is personal in nature and may not be shared or transferred
- The Management Authority shall issue a license for import, export, re-export, introduction from the sea, artificial propagation, and breeding of any specimen of endangered wildlife, in a manner that ensures its protection and sustainability. The Management Authority may reduce the quantities or weights specified in the license if the public interest so requires
- A license from the Management Authority shall be required for the import, export, re-export, introduction from the sea, artificial propagation, breeding, sale, display, trade, and possession of any specimen of species listed in the Appendices, whether live or dead, including any parts thereof
- Specimens that are imported, exported, stored for export, or in transit through the territory of the Sultanate of Oman shall be subject to health procedures, veterinary and agricultural quarantine requirements, and customs regulations
- Compliance shall be ensured with guidelines issued under the Convention, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and relevant animal welfare



legislation during the transport of endangered wildlife, in order to minimize risks of injury, adverse health effects, or cruel treatment

- Authorized Law enforcement officers of the Management Authority shall have the right to inspect, monitor, and enter all premises of license holder related to the license, and to review licenses, documents, records, and operational activities therein.

### **Ninth: Obligations and Prohibitions**

The license holder shall:

- Adhere to the species, numbers, and quantities specified in the issued license.
- Use the license solely for its intended purpose and shall not transfer or use it for other activities
- Comply with all instructions issued by the Management Authority
- Establish a dedicated register/record including the species and quantities of endangered wildlife specified in the license
- Not release the endangered wildlife except in designated areas, take all necessary precautions to prevent escape, and notify the Management Authority in case of loss
- Keep endangered wildlife in a safe environment appropriate to their nature and threat level
- Avoid wildlife species harm, mistreatment, exposure to unsuitable environmental conditions
- Keep all license and present them upon request by authorized officers of the Management Authority
- License holder to import endangered wildlife species shall register these species with the Management Authority within seven (7) days from the date of entry into the Sultanate of Oman
- License holder to import endangered wildlife species shall avoid hybridization without prior approval from the Management Authority



- License holder to artificial propagation or captive breeding shall:

- Conduct activities only at the licensed location
- Establish a system for tracking each specimen
- Display the license prominently at the licensed site
- Not make any genetic modifications (DNA) to specimens without prior approval from the Management Authority

-The license holder and his staff shall facilitate the work of Law Enforcement officers of the Management Authority allowing them to perform their inspection and monitoring duties, and provide all requested information and data.

### **Tenth: Penalties**

In the event of a violation of any provisions of these Procedures, the penalties stipulated under the Law on the Regulation of Trade in Wildlife (Royal Decree No. 45/2024) and its Executive Regulations (Decision No. 281/2025) shall apply.