

## Moving CITES goods



Goods subject to CITES (Convention International Trade in Endangered Species) are often viewed as extremely difficult to move around the world. Certainly the rules contained in the Convention are a type of export and import licensing and they are relatively complex. The complexity and confusion is increased by the varying attitude of different Governments to the protection of endangered species and to legislation.

A further issue tends to be the identification of items that are subject to the CITES Convention, many more items are covered than people generally believe to be the case.

Understanding is also hampered by the variety of methods employed by Government departments around the world - some are purely paper driven. Paperwork that must be originally signed, posted or presented personally to the Authorities in many copies. Others are entirely electronic with the whole process from application to customs presentation being handled on-line.

The popular press tend to emphasise the number of dramatic Customs raids to rescue live specimens or to confiscate and destroy illegal cargoes such as rhino horn or ivory. In reality thousands of perfectly legal shipments take place every year between almost every country in the world.

CITES shipments do not need to be scary. With a proper understanding of the Convention, the surrounding regulations and legislation and a supply chain designed to take this into account CITES shipments can become standardised, cost effective and problem free which is just as well as retail sales of luxury items and antiques are on the increase.

Legal trade ensures the species survive and the poachers lose out. A win - win situation for all concerned.