

GET A PERMIT

PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES

To protect endangered species, there are controls on the movement and sale of animals and plants, their parts and products. If you buy or travel with such items, contact the Department of Environment (Ph: 331 1699) as you may need a permit.



Giant Clam Shell (*Tridacnidae* spp.) Vasua

Permits are required for most clam products taken out of Fiji.



Tabua (*Physeter catodon*)

Tabua (Sperm whale teeth) may only be taken out of Fiji with special government approval.



Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Taku, Vonu, Ika Bula

The sale and export of Turtle products is prohibited.



Hard Coral (*Scleractinia*) Lase

Permits are required for most hard coral products taken out of Fiji.



Crested Iguana (*Bradhylophus vitiensis*) Yokat

Iguanas may only be taken out of Fiji with special government approval.



Kadavu Shining Parrot (*Ptilospeia splendens*) Koki Kula

Parrots may only be taken out of Fiji with special government approval.



Tree Fern (*Cyathaceae*) Balabala

Tree ferns may only be taken out of Fiji with special government approval.



Orchid spp. Orchid Atlantic Rainforest Espir

Permits are required for most orchids taken out of Fiji.



Triton Shell Davui

Some shells such as this Triton shell may not be taken out of Fiji.

If you travel without a wildlife permit for your item it will be taken away from you and you may have to pay a large fine.



TRAFFIC



CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES) AND FIJIAN LAW

The trade and movement between countries of many animals, plants as well as products that are made from them is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Trade in such species requires a permit. Some wildlife products are prohibited in trade under international and Fijian law. Other permits, such as Quarantine, also are required.

Fiji joined CITES in 1997 and implements CITES through the Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002) (EPS Act) and the Endangered and Protected Species Regulations (2003) (EPS Regulations).

How CITES and the EPS Act protects species
The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and not for commercial purposes. An example of a species which occurs in Fiji and which is listed in Appendix I is the Crested iguana (*Brachyophaps vitiensis*). CITES requirement for approved trade: international trade requires a CITES import and a CITES export permit.

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. An example in Fiji is hard corals - all of which are listed in Appendix II. CITES requirement for approved trade: international trade requires a CITES export permit. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Fiji does not have any species listed in Appendix III of the Convention.

CITES permits / certificates must be presented and cleared by border controls at the port of entry / exit.

Some Fijian species not listed in the CITES Appendices are listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of the EPS Act. As with species listed in the CITES Appendices, all trade in species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of the EPS Act must be authorized through permits issued by the relevant authority. A species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 can only be traded into or out of Fiji if the Department of Environment has approved the trade and issued a permit for such trade. This permit must then be presented to Border Control officers.

Permitting requirements

At the Fijian border import and export (and re-export) of wildlife and wildlife specimens are regulated for:

1. **Species listed in the CITES Appendices that occur in Fiji:**
Trade in species that occur within Fiji (eg hard coral exports) and which are listed in the CITES Appendices must be accompanied by a CITES document (eg: a CITES import or export permit or re-export certificate)
The EPS Act and the EPS Regulations are the relevant legal instruments regulating trade in CITES Appendix-listed species.

2. **Species listed in the CITES Appendices that do not occur in Fiji:**
Trade in species that do not occur in Fiji but which are listed in the CITES Appendices (eg: parrots originating from the Solomon Islands imported into Fiji) still require CITES documents (eg: a CITES import or export permit or re-export certificate)
The EPS Act and the EPS Regulations are the relevant legal instruments regulating trade in CITES Appendix-listed species.

3. **Species native to Fiji that are not listed in the CITES Appendices but which are listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of the EPS Act:**
Certain species occurring in Fiji are not listed in the CITES Appendices but are protected under EPS Act.
Trade in species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 is regulated under the EPS Act and Regulations.
A Permit to Trade in Species listed in Schedule 1 or 2 (see Form 2 and 4 from the EPS Regulations) must accompany trade in such specimens.

4. **Other Fijian law regarding wildlife specimens:**
Other permits may also be required for trade in animal and plant specimens such as Quarantine permits, Fisheries export license or Forestry permits, etc.

Permitting requirements for the most commonly traded species to and from Fiji

The Department of Environment is authorized to issue permits and certificates for all CITES species and Fijian species listed on schedule 1 or 2 of the EPS Act. The Department of Fisheries is authorized to issue CITES permits and certificates for any trade in aquatic species which are listed in Appendix II of CITES.

The table outlines the permitting requirements for exports of selected species from Fiji under the EPS Act and under the Fisheries Act. All imports of wildlife specimens into Fiji and which are covered by the EPS Act must be accompanied by an import permit issued by appropriate authority.

Attention also needs to be given to permits and certificates required under the Fiji Law, such as Quarantine requirements. The conditions for imports from other countries also can vary so those people taking wildlife specimens from Fiji should verify the requirements of the importing countries prior to export.

CITES regulates trade in live and dead specimens, their parts and products made from wildlife (derivatives). The table below notes the type of trade most likely to be seen. However, other parts/derivatives of specimens listed in the CITES Appendices or in Schedule 1 or 2 of the EPS Act that are imported, exported or re-exported may also require documents for trade.

Border control
Border control officers play a key role in the management of wildlife trade by checking trade documents and detecting illegal trade and wildlife smuggling.

Border control officers should check:
1) Are the correct permits / certificates present?
2) Are the permits / certificates valid, correctly filled in and authorized by the designated officer and accompanying stamp?

If the permit / certificate is not present or is invalid, Fiji's national CITES- implementing legislation allows for the seizure of the specimens.

Inspectors' powers
Under Part 7 of the EPS Act all Customs Officers are authorized to:

- Seize specimens and /or detain a person if suspected on reasonable grounds to be involved in an offence under the Act
- Enter any premises or vehicle and detain and seize any specimen which the officer reasonably suspects is kept in contravention of the EPS Act or CITES
- Examine any specimen which the officer reasonably suspects to be transported, acquired or traded in contravention of the EPS Act or CITES
- Examine any records relating to the holding of any wildlife specimens or their products.

Legal Instrument	Species	Most Common forms of Trade	CITES permitting requirements for exports from Fiji (listed in the order that permits should be arranged and approved)
CITES Appendix I	Marine Turtles Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) Loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	• Turtle Shells (carapace) • Products made from turtle shell such as Jewellery	Exports are not permitted except in exceptional circumstances as for scientific or educational purposes (Fisheries (Protection of Turtles (Amendment) Regulations 2004): Permit requirements for exceptional trade: 1) A letter of exemption from the Minister of Fisheries & Forests; 2) A Fisheries export license; 3) A CITES Import permit issued by the country of final destination; and 4) A CITES export permit.
	Whales and Dolphins	• Tabua: Teeth of Sperm Whale <i>Physeter catodon</i> / <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>)	1) Export approval letter from Fijian Affairs; and 2) CITES Pre-Convention certificate. If it cannot be demonstrated that the Tabua is 'Pre-Convention', a CITES Import and a CITES export permit are required. For exports to Australia: • declaration on Tabua being a pre-CITES specimens • evidence of purchasing (if applicable) • photograph of tabua
	Flying Foxes (type of bat) Samoan Flying Fox (<i>Pteropus samoensis</i>) Tongan Flying Fox (<i>Pteropus tonganus</i>)	• Live animals • Blood or tissue samples for Research	1) CITES import permit; and 2) CITES export permit
	Iguanas (type of lizard) Banded Iguana (<i>Brachyophaps fasciatus</i>) Fiji Crested Iguana (<i>Brachyophaps vitiensis</i>)	• Live animals • Blood or tissue samples for Research	1) CITES import permit; and 2) CITES export permit
CITES Appendix II	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) (bird of prey)	• Live Birds • Eggs • Research samples	1) CITES import permit; and 2) CITES export permit
	Orchids (see also Appendix II listing below) <i>Aerangis elisii</i> <i>Dendrobium cruentum</i> <i>Laelia jongheana</i> <i>Laelia lobata</i> <i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp. <i>Peristeria elata</i> <i>Phragmipedium</i> spp. <i>Renanthera imschottiana</i>	• Whole plants • Cut flowers • Seedlings (see note in next column)	1) CITES import permit; and 2) CITES export permit Note: Seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media transported in sterile containers do not require a CITES permit. Artificially propagated hybrids from one or more Appendix I listed species or taxa require a certificate or artificial propagation. Artificially propagated specimens of hybrids of <i>Dendrobium</i> spp; <i>Cymbidium</i> spp; <i>Vanda</i> spp; and <i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp. may under certain conditions qualify for an exemption from the provision of CITES. Contact the Management Authority for advice.
	Hard corals	• Live coral • Dead pieces (see Note in next column regarding beach-washed coral)	1) Fisheries export license; and 2) CITES export permit Note: Two pieces of beach-washed coral taken by visitors leaving Fiji do not require a CITES permit.
	Giant Clam (<i>Tridacnidae</i>)	• Live animals • Clam meat (see Note. 1 in next column) • Clam Shells (see Note. 2 in next column)	1) Fisheries export license; and 2) CITES export permit Note 1: Export of Clam meat of the species <i>Tridacna derasa</i> , <i>T. squamosa</i> and <i>T. maxima</i> are prohibited under Section 25. B of the Fisheries regulations. Note 2: Exports person of three giant clam shells (or 6 matching halves) weighing 3kg or less are exempt from CITES permit requirements.
Other Fijian law	Humphead Wrasse (<i>cheilinus undulatus</i>)	• Live animals • Whole Dead specimens • Frozen or chilled filets	All exports are prohibited under the Fisheries (Protection of Humphead Wrasse-Cheilinus undulatus) regulations 2004. Export may only be authorized with the following documents: 1) A letter of exemption from the Minister of Fisheries & Forests; 2) A Fisheries export license; and 3) A CITES export permit.
	Eagles, Hawks, falcons All raptors (birds of prey) are listed in Appendix II if Fiji Goshawk (<i>Accipiter rufitorques</i>)	• Live animals • samples for research	1) Approval under the Bird and Game Protection Act 1985 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture; and 2) CITES export permit
	Parrots All Fiji's parrots and lorises are listed in Appendix II. These are: Phyllosittacus (Collared lory) Prosopela splendens (Kadavu shining parrot) Prosopela tabuensis (Red shining parrot) Charmosyna amabilis (Red throated lorikeet) Vini australis (Blue crowned lorikeet) Nearly all parrots in the world are listed in Appendix II if not listed in Appendix I or III.	• Live animals • Feathers	1) Approval under the Bird and Game Protection Act 1985 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture; and 2) CITES export permit
	Orchids (All orchids are listed in Appendix II except those species listed in Appendix I - see above)	• Whole plants • Cut flowers (see note in next column) • Seedlings (see note in next column)	For whole plants: 1) CITES export permit or 2) CITES of the certificate of artificial propagation Note: The following orchid specimens do not require a CITES permit: a) Seeds and pollen (including pollinia) b) Seedling or tissue cultures obtain in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers; c) Cut flowers of artificial propagated plants; and d) Fruits and parts derivatives thereof of artificial propagated plants of the genus Vanilla
Other Fijian law	Tree Ferns (<i>Cyathea</i>) <i>Cyathea microphylla</i> <i>Cyathea piaglotegia</i>	• Balabala (carved/worked specimens)	1) CITES export permit
	Cycad (<i>Cycas seemannii</i>)	• Whole plant	1) CITES export permit
	Big-leaf Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) Fiji's populations are not listed in the CITES Appendices and do not require CITES permit.	• Timber and timber products	1) Forestry permits required from the Department of Forests
	<i>Gonyysius</i> spp. (<i>Ramin/Mavota</i>)	• Timber and timber products	1) Forestry permits required from the Department of Forests 2) CITES export permit from the department of Environment

Legal Instrument	Species	Common form of Trade	Export permit requirements
EPS Schedule 1	Pink-billed Parrot Finch (<i>Erythrura melischroli</i>)	Live Animals	1) Approval under the Bird and Games Protection Act 1985 from the Ministry of Agriculture; and 2) Export permit from the department of Environment.
EPS Schedule 2	Golden Dove Orange Dove (<i>Chrysoenas luteovirens</i>) Orange Dove (<i>Chrysoenas victor</i>)	Live Animals	1) Approval under the Bird and Games Protection Act 1985 from the Ministry of Agriculture; and 2) Export permit from the department of Environment.

Legal Instrument	Species	Protection measures	Export permit requirements
Fisheries Regulations* Cap. 158	Trochus shell (<i>Trochus nitidus</i>) (sic)	No person shall take, be in possession of, sell, offer or expose for sale or export any shell of the species <i>Trochus nitidus</i> (sic) (trochus shell) measuring less than 50mm across the Whorl.	Export of Trochus shell requires approval in writing from the Department of Fisheries under s27 of the Fisheries Regulations. No CITES permit is Required.
	Triton Shell (<i>Charonia tritonis</i>) (Davit) Giant Helmet Shell (<i>Cassiss cornuta</i>)	The export of Triton Shells and Giant Helmet shell is prohibited from Fiji.	No exemption allowed under the Fisheries Act or any other Fijian Law.
	Beche-de-mer	Export from Fiji of all species of Beche-de-mer (Holothurians) either in natural or processed form which are less than 7.6cm is prohibited.	1) Fisheries Export License Note: Export of Natural or processed specimens of beche-de-mer of less than 7.6cm is allowed only with a letter of exemption.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

For any enquiries relating to CITES, the EPS Act including Schedules 1 and 2 of the Act, contact the Department of Environment:

Director of Environment
Secretariat of the Fiji CITES Management Authority
PO Box 2109, Government Buildings Suva
Tel: 3311699
Hotline: 1520
Email: info6@govnet.fj.gov.fj

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

CITES Secretariat
www.cites.org

TRAFFIC
www.traffic.org

Fiji Revenue Customs Services
www.frcs.org.fj

World Customs Organization
www.wcoomf.org

Australian CITES Management Authority
www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/index.html

New Zealand CITES Management Authority
www.doc.govt.nz/Conservation/International/Convention-on-International-Trade-In-Endangered-Species/index.asp

New Zealand Wildlife Enforcement Group
Tel: +64 (4) 471 0726
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Email: cites@doc.govt.nz

Interpol Wildlife Working Group
www.interpol.int/Public/Environmental/Crimes/StrategicPlan.asp