

MEDIA BRIEF

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What is CITES? The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.? (Wrong title?)

- Signed in 1983; came in to force in 1985
- 182 Parties
- Objective: to avoid that trade in specimen of wild species become a cause of extinction of wild species of Fauna and Flora
- Operates mainly with two appendices: *Appendix I (no commercial trade)* and *Appendix II (control trade)*: How many species?
- Meets every 2 to 3 years as Conference of the Parties: next CoP18 in Geneva (17 to 28.08, 2019)

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Thirty years ago, CITES was going through its first African elephant crisis (hysteria) which led to,,

- ...the listing of all African elephant populations on Appendix I of CITES, with dramatic consequences for people and for the conservation of the African elephant.
- Several casualties
- Financial Times: “ *If there was in Africa, an elephant wounded by...*”

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What has happened between then and now?

- As long as there was potential supply of "legal ivory" (stocks, authorized sales), poaching was kept at acceptable levels. Then came the ill fated decision of CoP14 (2007) for all purposes, eliminating sources of legal ivory supply
- 20 years ago: the appearance of a new Charismatic species: Sharks
- Attacking a culture and /or a Tradition

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- Purely a financial and political decision: the case of WWF
- Link between: Politician- NGOs fundraisers – media Financial Times

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- The (in)effectiveness of prohibitions.

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Switching the "Burden of the poof".

- Paragraph 29 of their resolution CoP18 Doc. 69-5: Nine countries (Bukina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, and Syria) state that:
- *...all domestic Ivory markets, legal or illegal, contribute to poaching.*

The weakness of the arguments against legal and domestic trade

- and demand that:
- *The burden should be placed on those parties that claim the contrary to demonstrate it.*

Domestic fish market (Tsukiji) should be closed as they contribute to IUUs

- Threat on Olympic Games

- Politicians and Celebrities