



Heels made of reptile skin (*Pythonidae* sp.).  
Photo: Department of Conservation

## New Zealand CITES Management Authority

Department of Conservation

Email: [cites@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cites@doc.govt.nz)

[www.doc.govt.nz/cites](http://www.doc.govt.nz/cites)



Above: Lion skull (*Panthera leo*). Photo: Meg Jerrard via Unsplash

Cover: African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*).  
Photo: Bisakha Datta via Unsplash



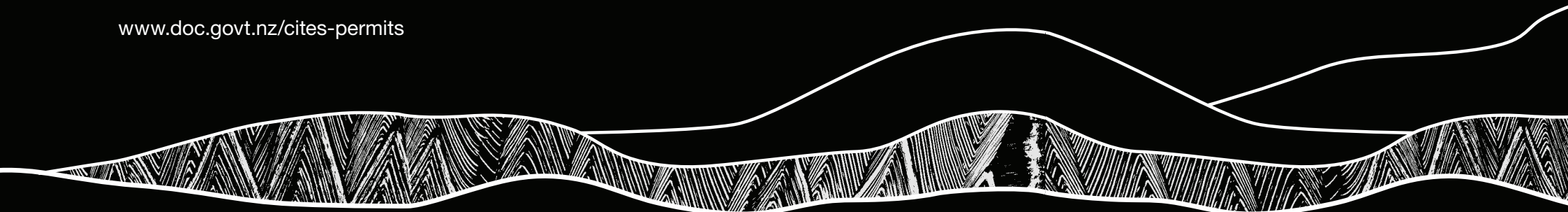
Where to go for more information:

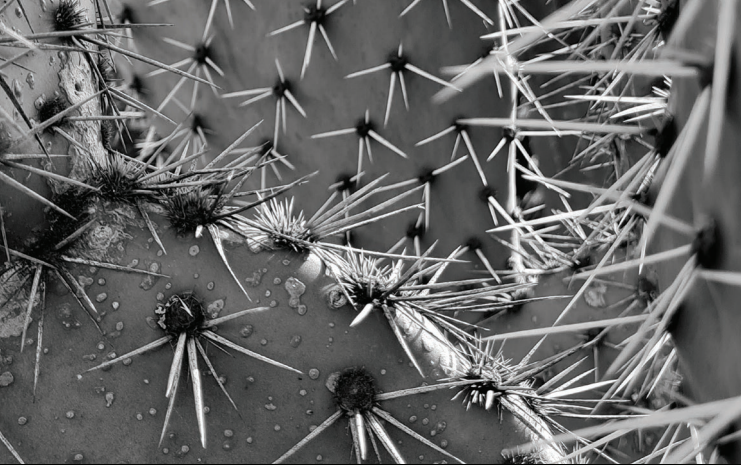


[www.doc.govt.nz/cites-permits](http://www.doc.govt.nz/cites-permits)

# Importing Wildlife?

## What you need to know about CITES





Cactus (*Opuntia phaeacantha*). Photo: Department of Conservation

## CITES – Protecting wildlife from uncontrolled trade

Many of the world's animals and plants are threatened by uncontrolled importing and exporting between countries. This is managed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES is an international agreement that aims to ensure that the imports and exports of these species do not threaten their survival. Over 38,000 plants and animals are protected by CITES.



Butterfly (*Ornithoptera goliath*) taxidermy. Photo: Department of Conservation

## What type of items are covered under CITES?

These can include everything from live plants and animals to the products/derivatives made from them. Common items include:



- **MARINE SHELLS AND CORAL**  
Giant clams, coral (even if beach found), Queen conch, turtle shell jewellery



- **TRADITIONAL MEDICINES AND HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS**  
American ginseng, costus root, Po Chai pills, musk deer products



- **BONE AND IVORY**  
Carvings, piano keys, bagpipe parts, Tabua



- **SNAKE, CROCODILE AND ALLIGATOR ITEMS**  
Leather belts, handbags, footwear, tourist souvenirs



- **PLANTS AND TIMBERS**  
Rosewood furniture, tree ferns, orchids, cacti, some timbers



- **ANIMAL TAXIDERMY**  
Hunting trophies, skins, rugs, skulls, mounts, dried insects

Items made from farmed products, those purchased from retailers overseas (including online) and inherited antiques are still covered by CITES. In New Zealand, stricter rules apply for importing personal and household items than in many other countries.



Traditional medicines and health supplements. Photo: Department of Conservation

## Know before you import

Importers are responsible for knowing what plants or animals their items contain, and if CITES rules may apply. To bring a CITES item into New Zealand, you'll likely need to get a CITES permit before importing.

To find out if items you want to import may need CITES permits, visit the Department of Conservation (DOC) website ([www.doc.govt.nz/cites](http://www.doc.govt.nz/cites)) or scan the QR code on the back of this brochure.

## What happens if I don't follow CITES rules?

Items containing CITES protected plants or animals that are imported without CITES permits will be seized.

The Department of Conservation can issue infringement fines or prosecute people who commit serious or repeated CITES offences.

