



CONVENTION ON  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF  
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

# Import requirements for coral



Over 1,500 species of coral (including black, red, blue and stony corals) are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This applies to corals collected living or not (including beach-washed), or purchased.

Corals play an essential part in the functioning of marine ecosystems. Their skeletons contribute to reef formation, and erode to create new atolls and coral sands.

Corals are threatened by increased sediment from development, pollution, mining for building materials, destructive fishing methods, collection for the aquarium trade, and tourist damage from snorkelers and their boats. Broader threats include rising sea levels and temperatures from climate change.



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Under the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, you need a CITES export or re-export permit to import all coral specimens or products, originating from both farmed and wild populations. Permits must be issued by the country of export in advance, and presented to New Zealand border officials on arrival. Please note you cannot obtain a permit once specimens/products are in New Zealand.

For more information on CITES and permitting requirements, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/cites](http://www.doc.govt.nz/cites).



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# Import requirements for shells



Many marine shell species, including all giant clams (*Tridacna* spp. and *Hippopus* spp.), queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and nautilus (Family Nautilidae), are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This applies to shell species collected living or not (as whole pieces or fragments from the beach), or purchased. Meat extracted from these species is also protected.

These species are threatened by unsustainable harvest for food, and by the sale of shells for souvenirs and for the aquarium trade. Over-exploitation has led to a collapse of shell fishery stocks in some regions.

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Under the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, you need a CITES export or re-export permit to import protected shell specimens or products, originating from both farmed and wild populations. Permits must be issued by the country of export in advance, and presented to New Zealand border officials on arrival. Please note you cannot obtain a permit once specimens/products are in New Zealand.



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