

Scientific research

Biological research involving wildlife in the Cayman Islands requires a permit from Department of Environment. Samples collected for research purposes should be accompanied by relevant export and import permits e.g. CITES permits and by copies of research permits.



This brochure was produced as part of a Darwin Initiative Project on "Socioeconomic Aspects of Turtle Conservation in the Cayman Islands" which was granted to the Cayman Islands Department of Environment.

Penalties

To protect against the threat of uncontrolled wildlife trade, the Cayman Islands and 160 other countries are signatories to CITES.

Anyone caught taking wildlife products out of the Cayman Islands without the proper permits faces confiscation of the products, fines or imprisonment.

The United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries also prohibit the importation of wildlife products without export and import permits.

If you plan to buy or travel with a wildlife product, contact the appropriate government agencies before you depart or enter a country to find out if you need a permit.

By making informed choices, you can avoid having your souvenir or samples confiscated or being subject to penalties.

Does your baggage break wildlife laws?



CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT





Know before you go!

If you are travelling with wildlife products or souvenirs make sure you do it legally. Find out if you need government approval or permits for any animal or plant, living or dead—including samples and parts.

For information or to apply for export permits contact:

Department of Environment
Box 10202, Grand Cayman
KY1-1002
Tel: 949-8469
Email: doe@gov.ky

Some wildlife products may be illegal to export or import. Others may require permits from the country they are being taken from and the country they are going to.

Exporting wildlife products

Many of the world's animals and plants are threatened by international trade. The Cayman Islands is a signatory to the **Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** which aims to reduce the impact of commercial activities on threatened flora and fauna. CITES does not prohibit trade in all listed species/products – some may still be bought and sold. In these cases, CITES permits must be obtained to accompany the products.



Sea turtles: Sea turtles are endangered throughout the world so commercial trade in turtle products is prohibited under CITES. This prohibition also applies to meat, shells, and other products derived from captive turtles at the Cayman Turtle Farm. Samples for scientific research require a CITES permit.



Corals: The Cayman Government does not allow export of raw coral. If you want to take home coral jewelry you may need a CITES permit. Coral jewellery that is worn or in personal baggage does not normally need a CITES Permit but some countries may require it. Coral jewellery you have a store ship home will need a CITES permit which the store can arrange.



Conch shells, a popular souvenir, are taken from Cayman waters as a by-product of local fishing. Because acquisition of the shell is incidental, and because there are laws in place to limit the amount of conch fished in Cayman waters, the export of a small number of shells (no more than three shells) by individuals as souvenirs does not require a CITES export permit.



Photo: C. Rose-Smyth

Export of other native species, including parrots, iguanas, lizards, and orchids is also prohibited. Animals and plants such as these are sometimes sought out by unscrupulous collectors, making CITES restrictions an important component of the international conservation of these species.

If you are at the airport/port and have any questions about wildlife products already in your luggage, immediately declare the items to Customs. Before travelling, contact Department of Environment for information and to apply for export permits. Import permits must be obtained from the destination country before travel.