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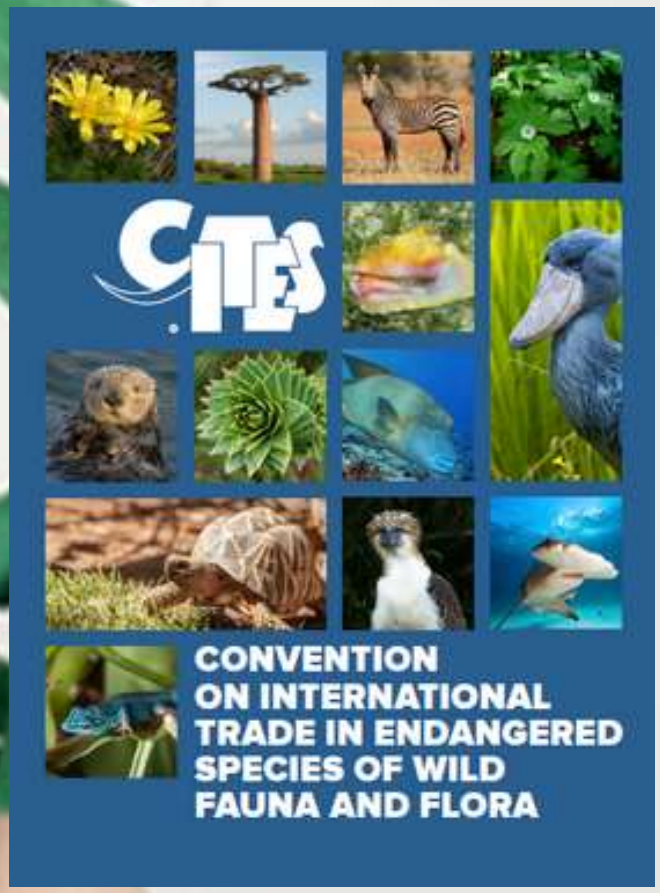
RED SANDERS (Red Sandalwood) REMOVED from CITES-RST (Review of Significant Trade)



- 77th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora was conducted in Geneva, Switzerland,

- It has brought promising developments for India's wildlife conservation efforts.

CITES
(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

- it is for preservation of the plants and animals by ensuring that the international trade does not threaten their survival.
- It came into force in 1975
- consists of 184 member-countries till date
- It is legally-binding
- Located in Geneva, Switzerland,
- CITES is administered by the United Nations under its UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Wing.

CITES Appendix

- **three appendix , based on how threatened species are**
- **Roughly 5,600 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants are protected by CITES**

Appendix	Description	Examples of Species
CITES Appendix-I	• Species that are in **danger of extinction** • Commercial trade is prohibited. • Permits are required for import and export. • Trade permitted just for research only if the origin country ensures the trade won't harm the species' chance of survival.	• Asiatic lions and tigers (tiger skin trade). • Sea turtles, gorillas, lady slippers orchids (most species), etc. • Total 931 species on the list.
CITES Appendix-II	• Species that aren't facing imminent extinction but **need monitoring so that any trade doesn't become a threat**. • Trade permits obtained legally and only if the origin country ensures that its harvesting and trade won't harm the species' chance of survival.	• American Alligators (Alligator skin trade) • Paddlefish, Mahagony, corals, etc. • Total 34,419 species on the list.

CITES Appendix-III	• Species that are protected in at least one country. • Regulations for these species vary, but typically the country that requested the listing can issue export permits, and export from other countries requires a certificate of origin.	• Honeybadger (Mammal) (medicinal or bushmeat purpose) • Walruses, Map turtles, certain beetles, etc. • Total 147 species on the list.

Range countries for deer

- **Species may be added to or removed from Appendix I and II, or moved between them, only by the Conference of the Parties, either at its regular meetings or by postal procedures**

- **But species may be added to or removed from Appendix III at any time and by any Party unilaterally (although the Conference of the Parties has recommended that changes be timed to coincide with amendments to Appendices I and II).**

Major Outcomes of 77th meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES from India's Point of View

- **Red Sanders Removal from Review of Significant Trade (RST) :**

- **Review of Significant Trade is a process through which the CITES Standing Committee places increased scrutiny on the exports of a species from a country to determine if the Convention is being properly implemented.**

- **India had been under the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process for Red Sanders since 2004.**

- **Red sander is placed under CITES: Appendix II**

- **Owing to compliance and robust reporting, India has been removed from this process, marking a significant achievement for the country's Red Sanders growers.**

About Red Sanders

- Red Sanders(*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is an Indian endemic tree species with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- Habitat: Red Sanders is found in thorny scrub/dry deciduous forests.
- It is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- Some contiguous patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also see some wild growth.

- **Uses: Red Sanders is known for its therapeutic properties and is in high demand for its cosmetic and medicinal properties.**

- **It is also used to make furniture and demand a high value in the international market.**

- **one tonne of Red Sanders costs anything between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore in the international market.**

Conservation Status:

IUCN Status: Endangered

CITES: Appendix II

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule II

- **India's Category in CITES National Legislation Program:**
- **The recent meeting decided to place India in Category 1 as it had fully complied with the requirements of CITES National Legislation programme.**
- **Previously, India was listed in Category 2 for CITES National Legislation programme.**
- **The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was, therefore, amended in the year 2022, wherein the provisions of CITES were incorporated in the Act.**

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