

What is happening in Australia?

Under the Australia's EPBC Act, it is generally an offence to trade internationally in CITES listed specimens and native wildlife unless CITES documentation has been issued.

Wildlife seizure records issued by Australian authorities under the EPBC Act, 2015 - 2016.

Wildlife category	Number of seizure records
Complimentary medicine	248
Reptile/amphibian	87
Mammal	64
Fish/clam/coral/invertebrate	53
Elephant products	24
Live plant	16
Bird	15
Live animal	15
Plant parts/products	10
Total seizures	532



There is a lot of wildlife trade in Australia!

Regulate wildlife trade (imports and exports) in accordance with the requirements of Part 13A of the EPBC Act.

The Department issued 2,039 permits for the import/export of regulated specimens:

- 1,786 for the import, export or re-export of CITES specimens;
 - 231 for the export of regulated native specimens; and
 - 22 for the import of live specimens.
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- But who is trading?
 - And what are they trading?



Australia - legally imported species

Top 10 species covered by EPBC Act wildlife import permits in 2015-16

Species	Number of import permits issued
American alligator (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>)	529
Reticulated python (<i>Python reticulatus</i>)	193
Burmese python (<i>Python bivittatus</i>)	156
Common water monitor (<i>Varanus salvator</i>)	145
Nile crocodile (<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>)	126
Saltwater crocodile (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>)	96
Red blood python (<i>Python brongersmai</i>)	65
Nile monitor (<i>Varanus niloticus</i>)	46
Common caiman (<i>Caiman crocodilus crocodilus</i>)	32
Panama caiman (<i>Caiman yacare</i>)	31



Australia - legally exported species

Top 10 species most often issued EPBC Act wildlife export permits in 2015-16

Species	Number of export permits issued
Saltwater crocodile (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>)	112
American alligator (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>)	88
Stony corals (order Scleractinia)	52
Corals (class Anthozoa)	52
Red kangaroo (<i>Macropus rufus</i>)	41
Fire corals (class Hydrozoa)	40
Eastern grey kangaroo (<i>Macropus giganteus</i>)	36
Reticulated python (<i>Python reticulatus</i>)	23
African elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)	22
Blackbuck (<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>)	20



Wildlife trade in Australia

Regulate wildlife trade (imports and exports) in accordance with the requirements of Part 13A of the EPBC Act

Two wildlife trade management plans and nine wildlife trade operations were assessed and approved during 2014–15.

Who are they?

Australian Reptiles & Birds

are targeted for illegal trade

The illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar industry and although Australia doesn't have the scale of poaching found in Africa or Asia, some species of birds and reptiles are highly sought after.

**The trade in Australia is concentrated on a pet collector market
parrots, cockatoos, snakes and lizards.**

Animals are mostly trafficked through the post, strapped to couriers' body or hidden in luggage.

How much for a black cockatoo?

Up to \$30,000 on the illegal market



Australian Customs Detected

illegal exports of fauna & flora, 2004-08

Species	Method	Nationality of courier	Penalty
160 endangered fungi and fungal spore samples	In luggage	German	\$3,000 fine & \$260 costs
Two Rottnett Island bobtails	n/a intercepted before reached departure port	Japanese	No details
1,200 tiger beetles, 160 water beetles and 50 other beetles	In luggage (to United States)	American	n/a
15 Australian leaf geckos	Post (to Czech Republic)	Unknown	n/a
Two rose breasted galah and two gang-gang cockatoo eggs	On person (to Thailand)	Australian	\$25,000 fine
Eight sulfur-crested cockatoo, nine Major Mitchell and seven galah eggs	On person (to South Africa)	Australia	18 months Imprisonment, 12 month \$1,000 good behavior bond
Six Shingleback lizards	In baggage	Japanese	\$24,000 fine plus \$7,000 fine under Western Australia state legislation
23 native bird eggs (Major Mitchell, gang-gang cockatoo and red collared lorikeet)	On person (to Switzerland)	Australian	Two years imprisonment
24 oblong turtles and one shingleback lizard	Post (to Japan)	Japanese	\$24,600 fine
50 shingleback lizards, one inland bearded dragon and one eastern long-necked turtle	Post (to Japan)	n/a	n/a
16 native birds (species not disclosed)	In luggage (to South Korea)	South Korean	\$5,000 fine and three year good behavior bond

Smuggling of Wildlife in Australia

is a huge business

- The illicit trade is fourth in cost only to the smuggling of drugs, guns and people.
- Run by global networks of the Russian mafia, Chinese Triads and even al-Queda.
- In one year, well over 500 cases of wildlife smuggling were detected at Australian airports.
- Smuggling species internationally – is where the big money is to be made.
- The value of some of the birds and reptiles that are smuggled is quite phenomenal – \$50,000, \$100,000.



Wildlife enforcement in Australia

As at 1 August 2015, Australian enforcement authorities had issued 858 seizure and caution notices in 2014–15 for suspected breaches of Part 13A of the EPBC Act for the import and/or possession of regulated specimens, including specimens listed under CITES.

Of these 858 seizure and caution notices, 369 seizures resulted in a total of 9,566 specimens being seized.

- What species were they?
- How much of this is the zoo industry?

In the previous financial year 1640 seizure and caution notices were issued on behalf of the Department.

50% less than in the previous year.

On 29 July 2015, Mr Darryl Tan was convicted and fined \$19,000 in Sydney for offences against sections of the EPBC Act. Mr Tan had entered a plea of guilty to charges of importing and possessing CITES-listed species.

Only 1 wildlife conviction reported in 2015-16.



Largest seizure of illegal wildlife products

In 2014, the largest seizure of illegal wildlife products in Australia's history was made.

Seventy eight illegal wildlife products were found in an Australian resident's possession including 11 orang-utan skulls, 25 skulls of other monkey species, lynx, bears, a tiger, teeth and skins from orang-utans, lynx, and otters, and a feather headdress made from a bird of paradise.



The owner of the seized items was convicted on 24 charges of possessing illegal wildlife products and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

Australian legislation good *but poorly enforced*

NT taxidermist at centre of illegal wildlife haul handed suspended sentence.
K. Eswaran's 10-month sentence is wholly suspended for two years.



- Authorities found 1,300 animal parts in raid at his house
- Authorities estimated that the haul would have been worth more than \$500,000 on the black market
- Including pelican, camel and donkey heads, bowerbirds, blue-winged kookaburras, falcons, monitors, flying foxes and brolgas.



What can Australian Zoos and Aquaria do?

- Participate in international captive breeding programs for CITES listed wildlife
- Manage stud books to achieve the above.
- Ensure all zoo acquisitions are from captive breeding programs
- Share scientific expertise to assist enforcement eg. Forensic tools, Wildlife Witness, genetic work etc.



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums - WAZA

The goal of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums is to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums and like-minded organisations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation.



World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums
WAZA | *United for
Conservation®*

- WAZA is the unifying organisation for the world zoo & aquarium community
- The world zoo & aquarium community welcomes over 700 million visitors annually.
- WAZA members are leading zoos, aquariums, associations, affiliate organisations and corporate partners from around the world;
- Together, we are 'United for Conservation'.



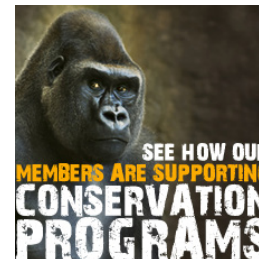
Zoos and Aquarium Association Australia

The Zoo and Aquarium Association is the peak body representing the zoo and aquarium community throughout Australasia. The Association has 99 member organisations; 94 zoos, aquariums and museums with the remainder consisting of universities, TAFEs and government departments.

The Association manages the coordination of breeding programs and sets the level of professional standards and practice for its members. It provides general support and advice where required to its members and governments on a range of issues such as biosecurity, wildlife disease and species knowledge.

Zoos and aquariums are part of our community fabric providing activities for families, friends and tourists alike.

60% of international tourists visit our zoos and aquariums to experience the region's unique wildlife.



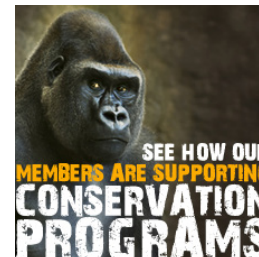
Conservation Breeding

The science of small population management aims to sustain populations.
Zoos and aquaria operate as part of a conservation breeding, cooperative network.

To maximise their conservation value, it is essential that zoo and aquaria populations are demographically stable, well-maintained and capable of self-sustaining reproduction.

Cooperative management serves many purposes including:

- providing animals for public education and/or exhibit opportunities;
- providing animals for release back into protected habitats;
- providing research collections from which to build knowledge of animal biology & husbandry; and on a larger scale providing demographic and genetic backup to wild populations.

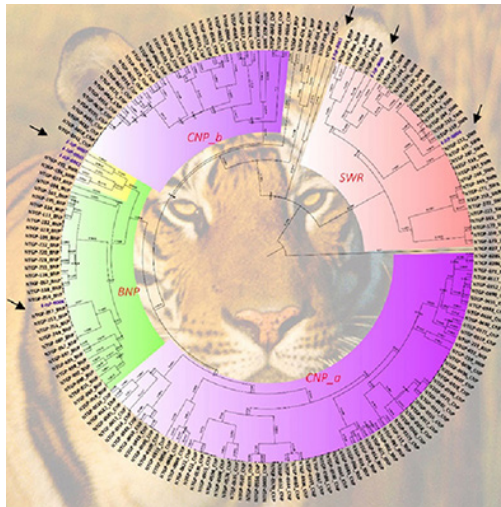


Animal forensics

keeping track of world's species

Wildlife forensics is an emerging tool:

- To profile and identify a species, DNA is extracted from the animal or suspected contraband material - such as bone, eggshell, feathers or other tissue and compared with the DNA of known species.
- This is often done using GenBank, an international online database of genetic codes from thousands of species.



Center for Molecular Dynamics Nepal.

Seized wildlife parts have been processed at CMDN's laboratory to identify species, sex and region of origin.



Australian Centre for Wildlife Genomics

Provide a full spectrum of forensic protocols, including chain of custody through to court statement preparation and expert witnesses.



A collection of seized items often tested by the Wildlife Forensics Unit for species identification.



Dr Rebecca Johnson & Dr Greta Frankham
Australian Centre for Wildlife Genomics
Photographer: Ian Bird/James Morgan © Australian Museum



Education through the eyes of the animals

Zoos and aquariums play a key role in conservation through environmental education and threatened species awareness.

Over 17 million visitors each year to zoos and aquariums across New Zealand and Australia.
DWF is the worlds largest contributor to tiger conservation.





**SAVING TIGERS
IS JUST AS EXCITING
AS SEEING THEM**

dwf.com.au

Biosecurity Risk Case Study

The REST red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) is listed as an Invasive Biosecurity Matter – Invasive Animals in the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

- Native to the USA, the red-eared slider is a freshwater turtle with a distinctive red strip behind each ear. Red-eared sliders are very aggressive and will out-compete native species for food and space.
- The red-eared slider is listed by the IUCN (World Conservation Union) as one of 100 of the world's worst invasive alien species, alongside the common myna, red fox & the cane toad.
- Red-eared sliders have been distributed through the illegal pet trade, and feral populations have now established on every continent except Antarctica. In the past, they have been found in the wild in South East Queensland, but are now believed to have been eradicated.
- Breeding populations have been found in NSW and QLD, and individual specimens have been detected in the wild in VIC, ACT and WA. The Queensland populations have probably been eradicated. We do not know the status of the NSW or ACT populations.



Biosecurity Risk

- REST are the most widely kept pet animal in the world. At least 10 million are exported annually from the USA, to supply the demand for pets, specimens for reptile collectors, food and traditional medicines.
- REST exported from the USA were originally taken from wild populations. However, most of the animals now exported from the USA are raised on a small number of very large turtle 'ranches'.
- Sliders can readily be purchased by mail order and over the internet, and are often shipped "bulk" as hatchlings.
- The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and Australian Customs Service report that travellers are regularly intercepted attempting to smuggle sliders into Australia.



