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**UK wildlife trade report:
an analysis of trade in CITES specimens (2012-16)**

Executive Summary

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UK wildlife trade report: an analysis of trade in CITES specimens (2012-16)¹

Executive summary

This summary provides the conclusions from an analysis of the United Kingdom's (UK) trade in CITES specimens undertaken to inform the UK's preparations for leaving the European Union (EU). It includes an analysis of imports into, and exports from, the UK and includes an estimate of the value of this trade. To provide an indication of the domestic trade between the UK and the rest of the EU, it also analysed numbers of certificates issued by the UK for the commercial use of Annex A taxa within the EU.

Analysis of international trade (2012-2016)

- The UK was the **11th highest global importer** (2% of global transactions) and the **14th highest global (re-)exporter** (1% of global transactions) of CITES-listed taxa; this position may well change following the UK's exit from the EU.

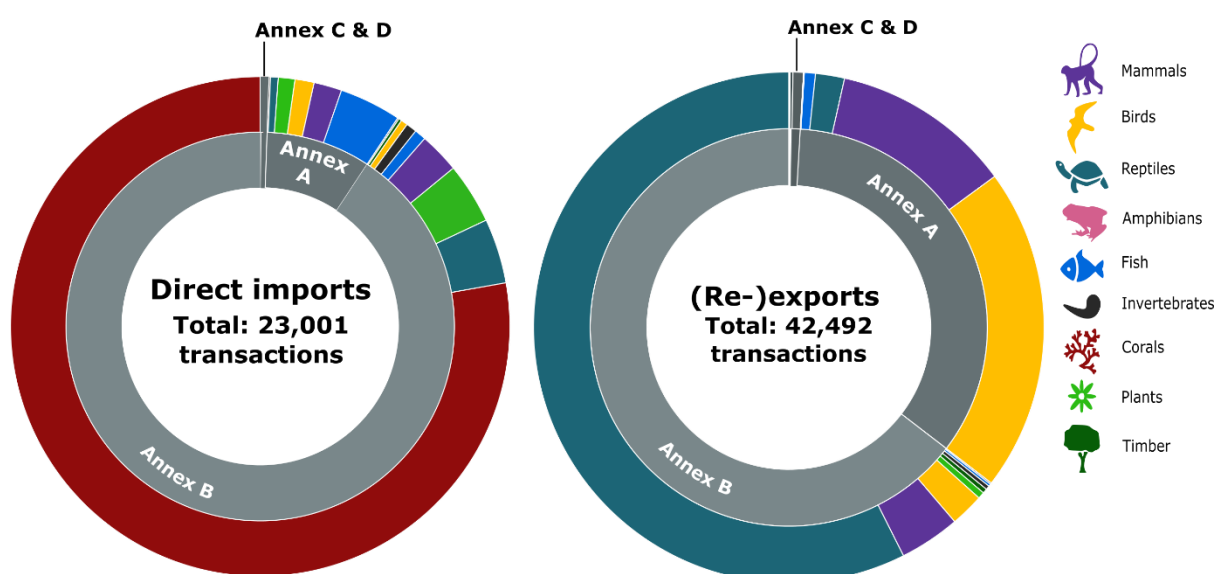


Figure 1. Proportion of all (a) direct imports and (b) (re-)exports, when assessed by numbers of transactions, reported by the UK during 2012-2016 and grouped by EU Annex and, within that, by taxonomic group. Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC.

- The UK reported approximately **34,800 import transactions** (23,000 direct imports, 11,800 indirect imports) and approximately **42,500 (re-)export transactions** (9,700 direct exports, 33,000 re-exports) for CITES-listed taxa (for both live specimens and parts & derivatives) during 2012-2016.
- The minimum value of UK imports (direct and indirect combined) was estimated at **£127 million for animals, and £1.18 million for plants**. The minimum estimated value of UK (re-)exports was higher at **£272 million for animals and £390,000 for plants**. The value for plants is likely to be a **significant under-estimate** due to the absence of price data for some high-value taxa such as timber species.

¹ This report was originally published in January 2019 and then re-published in June 2019 following revisions to correct the estimated value of coral imports into the UK which were, originally, over-estimated. Details of, and an explanation for, the changes made are available from JNCC.

- Both import and (re-)export transactions were dominated by commercial trade, however the taxonomic groups and key trade routes involved differed greatly (Figures 1 & 2). **Wild-sourced corals comprised approximately three quarters of UK direct import transactions** and accounted for the dominance of the Indo-Pacific region as key exporters to the UK².

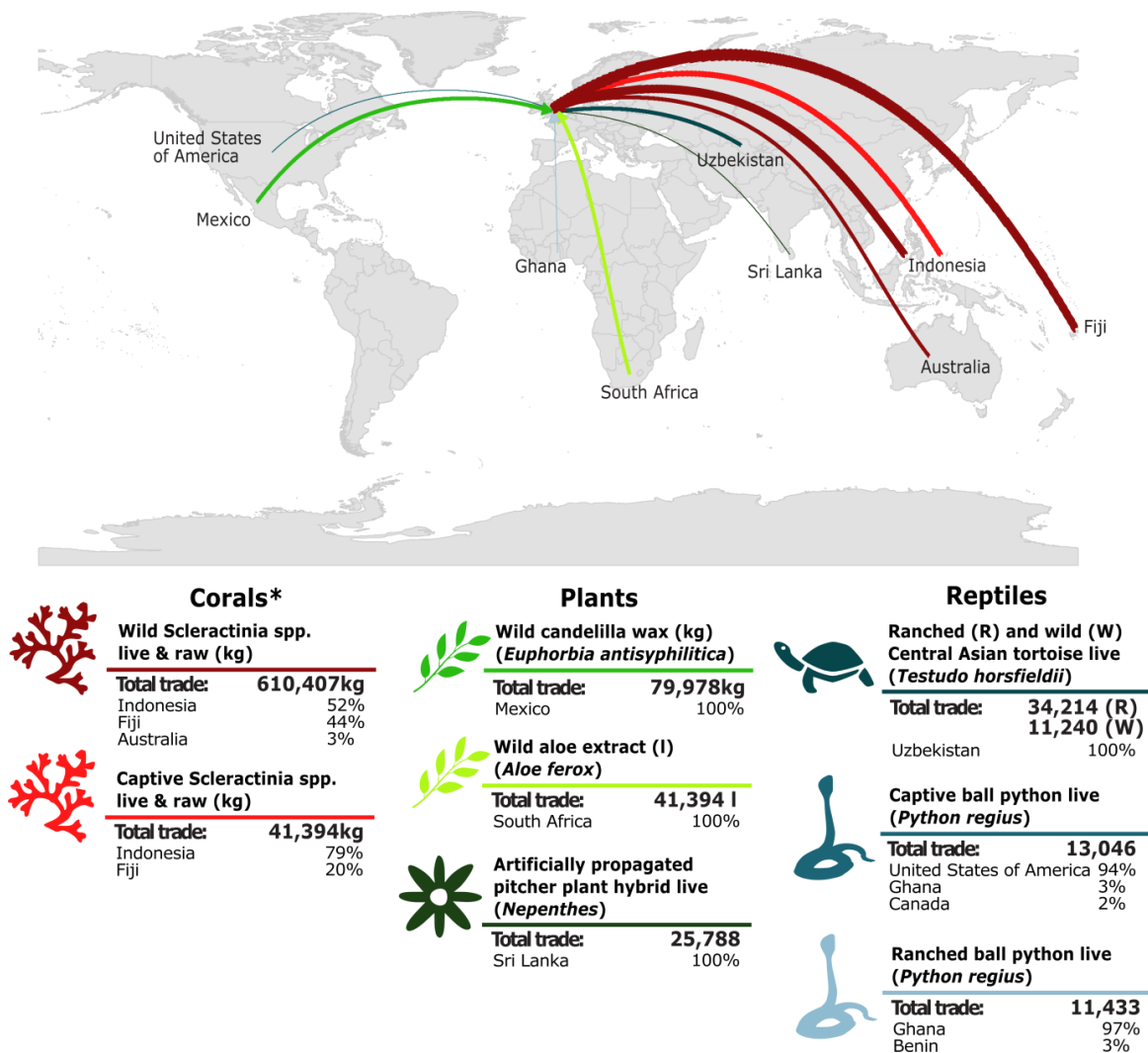


Figure 2. Main trade routes of key commodities (live and parts & derivatives) imported by the UK, 2012-2016 (all sources excluding source 'I'). All of these main direct trade routes were in Appendix II / Annex B taxa. Arrows weighted by volumes of trade. Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC.

- When assessed by numbers of transactions, **exports and re-exports from the UK were dominated by captive-sourced reptiles (59% of transactions) and birds (23% of transactions)**. The key trade routes for CITES-listed taxa (re-)exported from the UK include captive-bred grey junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) feathers (for use in fly fishing) to the United States and live captive-bred falcons to the Middle East.

² Note both Fiji and Indonesia have recently brought in moratoria on their export of wild corals.

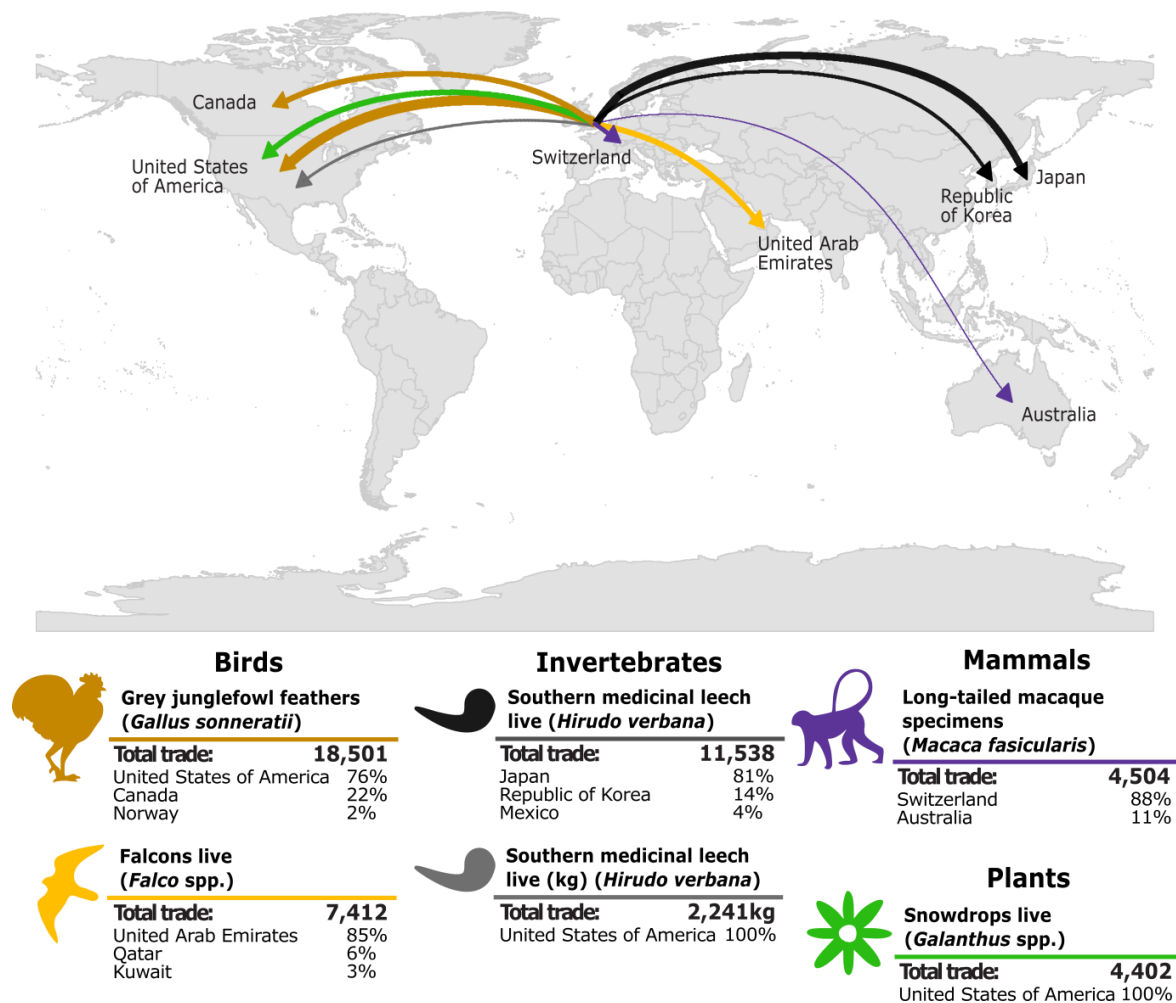


Figure 3. Main direct trade routes of key commodities (live and parts & derivatives) exported by the UK, 2012-2016. All of these main direct trade routes were from captive or artificially propagated sources (sources 'A', 'C', 'D' and 'F'). Arrows weighted by volumes of trade. Source: CITES Trade Database, UNEP-WCMC.

Analysis of intra-EU trade

Once the UK leaves the EU, the internal trade that currently takes place between the UK and the other 27 EU Member States (referred to as the 'EU27') will be subject to CITES controls. Import and export permits will be required for the movement of CITES specimens between the UK and the EU27, as with the rest of the world. As a result, the number of permits issued by the UK is likely to increase, perhaps significantly so.

To provide an indication of the domestic trade between the UK and the rest of the EU, this report also analyses the EU certificates issued for Annex A taxa for commercial use ('Article 10' certificates; see chapter 2).

- Nearly **83,000 Article 10 certificates** were issued by the UK during 2012-2017. Approximately 10% were for taxa originating from the EU27. Following the UK's exit from the EU, trade in these specimens originating in the EU27 would require accompanying CITES import/export permits.
- Approximately 92% of the Article 10 trade certificates issued for trade in specimens originating in the EU27 were issued for live, captive-bred tortoises.** Key amongst this was the Herman's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) from Slovenia and Croatia, which accounted for over 86% of all UK issued Article 10 certificates from the EU27.