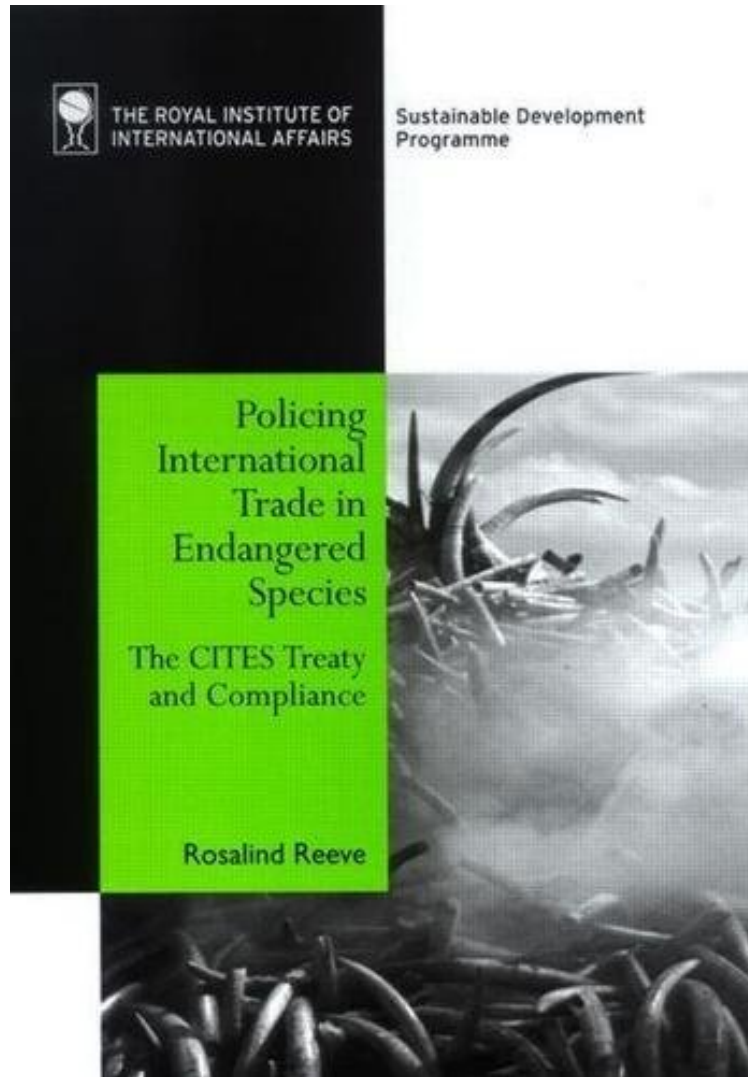


# Policing International Trade in Endangered Species: The CITES Treaty and Compliance

Rosalind Reeve

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The convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is one of the oldest

multilateral environmental agreements. Since it was established to prevent international trade in wild animals and plants from threatening their survival, a complex system has evolved to induce countries to comply with and enforce the treaty's trade controls. This book presents the first definitive study of the CITES compliance system—a self-policing system which relies heavily on recommended trade suspensions to deal with non-compliance. It concludes that trade suspensions are effective, but identifies several weaknesses in the system. A strategy is advanced to address these weaknesses, drawing on lessons from other international compliance systems, and the potential for conflict between CITES trade restrictions and the WTO is analysed.

"This book is a must for environmental lawyers, law enforcers and policy-makers, but its clear style makes it accessible to all with an interest in conserving wildlife. It also has the potential to transform CITES. Based as it is on thorough research, its findings cannot be ignored." David Shepherd, OBE FRSA "Not least among the merits of Dr. Reeve's analysis is the fact that rather than expounding 'law on the books,' its focus is the accumulated lessons of 30 years of regime praxis—'rules in use,' as it were. That is why I am confident that this study will make a lasting contribution to our understanding of what works—and what doesn't work—in global environmental governance." Peter H. Sand, From the Foreword  
About the Author Rosalind Reeve is an environmental lawyer specializing in wildlife trade issues, and an Associate Fellow of the Sustainable Development Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.