



Information on stony corals

All stony corals – both live animals and beach finds – are subject to international species conservation measures.

- Stony corals (*Scleractinia*) are the animals primarily responsible for the formation of coral reefs.
- They are listed in Appendix II of **CITES** (the **C**onvention on **I**nternational **T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies of Wild Fauna and Flora). This means that they have the same strict conservation status as polar bears, wolves and golden eagles, for example.
- CITES has over 180 member States which are responsible for its national enforcement. Enforcement in Switzerland is governed by CITES, the Federal Act on the Trade in Protected Animal and Plant Species (FA-CITES) and further related ordinances.
- According to the Convention, the import of stony corals into Switzerland requires an export permit from the country of origin, a Swiss import permit and a CITES inspection.
- Stony corals imported into Switzerland without the required permits and statutory inspections will be seized on the basis of FA-CITES.
- By choosing not to take such specimens away with you, you support international efforts to safeguard the populations of these animals. Making this choice helps to preserve coral reefs.

For further information, visit www.cites.ch.

