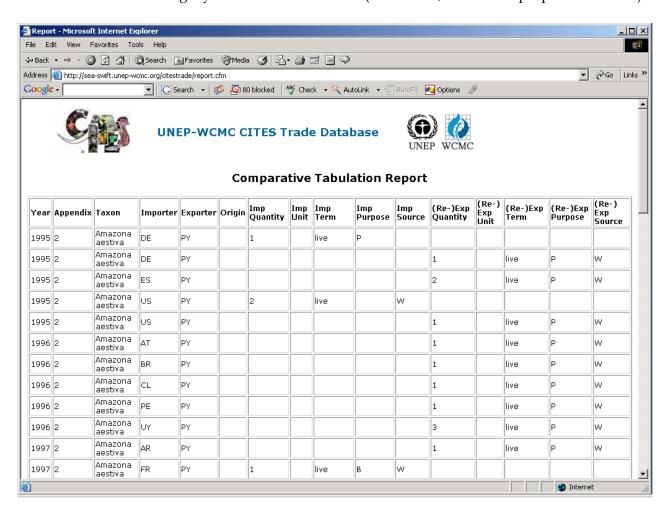# Comparative tabulations reports

This type of output is most commonly used to determine the accuracy of reporting. Reported exports or re-exports from one country can be compared with the imports reported by another. They are extremely useful for assessing compliance with national and international trade controls, e.g. trade bans and quotas. Comparative tabulations also show the reported sources (e.g. wild, captive-bred, artificially propagated, etc.) and the purpose of the trade (e.g. commercial, scientific, personal, etc.). It is useful to examine the reported purpose and source of the specimens in trade (where this is available), especially with regard to trade in specimens of Appendix-I species and exports from non-range States. In contrast, gross/net trade reports do not contain information on source and purpose.

The image below shows part of a sample Web report for a comparative tabulation of exports of *Amazona aestiva* from Paraguay between 1995 and 2003 (with terms, source and purpose set to 'All').

UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database

Comparative Tabulation Report

Year	Appendix	Taxon	Importer	Exporter	Origin	Imp Quantity	Imp Unit	Imp Term	Imp Purpose	Imp Source	(Re-)Exp Quantity	(Re-)Exp Unit	(Re-)Exp Term	(Re-)Exp Purpose	(Re-)Exp Source
1995	2	Amazona aestiva	DE	PY		1		live	P						
1995	2	Amazona aestiva	DE	PY							1		live	P	W
1995	2	Amazona aestiva	ES	PY							2		live	P	W
1995	2	Amazona aestiva	US	PY		2		live		W					
1995	2	Amazona aestiva	US	PY							1		live	P	W
1996	2	Amazona aestiva	AT	PY							1		live	P	W
1996	2	Amazona aestiva	BR	PY							1		live	P	W
1996	2	Amazona aestiva	CL	PY							1		live	P	W
1996	2	Amazona aestiva	PE	PY							1		live	P	W
1996	2	Amazona aestiva	UY	PY							3		live	P	W
1997	2	Amazona aestiva	AR	PY							1		live	P	W
1997	2	Amazona aestiva	FR	PY		1		live	B	W					

Interpretations of Comparative tabulations reports

Comparative tabulations can contain up to 16 columns as follows:

Year	year in which trade occurred
Appendix	CITES Appendix of taxon
Taxon	scientific name of animal or plant involved
Importer	country of import (where exports are reported, this is the declared country of destination)
Exporter	country of export (where imports are reported, this is the declared country from which the specimens were consigned)
Origin	country of origin (this column is blank if the country of export is the country of origin, or if the country of origin is not reported)
Imp Quantity	quantity of specimens reported as imports by the importing country
Imp Unit	e.g. kg. If no unit is shown, the figure represents the total number of specimens
Imp Term	description of specimens traded, as reported by the importing country
Imp Purpose	purpose of the transaction (see Annex 2), as reported by the importing country
Imp Source	source of the specimen (see Annex 2), as reported by the importing country
(Re-)Exp Quantity	quantity of specimens reported as (re-)exports by the exporting country
(Re-)Exp Unit	e.g. kg. If no unit is shown, the figure represents the total number of specimens
(Re-Exp) Term	description of specimens traded, as reported by the exporting country
(Re-Exp) Purpose	purpose of the transaction (see Annex 2), as reported by the exporting country
(Re-Exp) Source	source of the specimen (see Annex 2), as reported by the exporting country

A list of the term and unit codes used is provided in Annex 1, purpose and source codes are listed in Annex 2, and a list of two-letter country and territory codes is attached as Annex 3. However, if the data were requested directly from UNEP-WCMC, then the term and unit codes will normally have been translated prior to delivery of the output to the user, and several of the columns (term, unit, purpose and source) may have been merged to make data interpretation easier.

Normally, all the data presented in comparative tabulations are summed. This means that all quantities traded are added together for all records where the following details are the same: taxon, term (e.g. description of items traded), importer, exporter, country of origin, purpose of transaction, source of specimen and the year in which the trade occurred. If all the details of transactions (except quantity) are reported identically by both importer and exporter/re-exporter, they will appear on the same line of the tabulation. It should be noted that trade between two countries, involving the same shipments, frequently fails to show perfect correlation. Below are some examples to illustrate the various reasons for lack of correlation (these are fabricated examples of trade in *Crocodylus niloticus*).

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source

1. In this first example the records have not been matched because the <u>purpose codes</u> reported by the importer and exporter are not the same (although, in this case, they are both equally correct).

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	1	*Crocodylus niloticus*	US	TZ	SKI	1					<u>P</u>	W
1998	1	*Crocodylus niloticus*	US	TZ				SKI	1		<u>H</u>	W

2. Here the exporter has <u>not reported a purpose</u> for the transaction and the records do not therefore correlate.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	ES	ZW	SKI	100					<u>T</u>	W
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	ES	ZW				SKI	100			W

3. In this case the exporter has reported exporting belly skins and the importer simply skins (<u>no units</u>). Again, both have reported the trade accurately but the records will not correlate.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	JP	BW	SKI	500					T	R
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	JP	BW				SKI	500	<u>BSK</u>	T	R

4. The transaction may have been reported using <u>different terms</u> by the two trading partners.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	GB	KE	MEA	<u>200</u>	<u>KIL</u>				T	R
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	GB	KE				<u>1</u>	<u>BOD</u>		T	R

5. One of the trading partners may <u>not have submitted a report</u> for the year in question or may <u>not be a CITES Party</u> (AO in this example). Alternatively the export permit may have been issued at the end of one year, but the skins not imported until the start of the following year.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	FR	ZA	SKI	250					T	
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	<u>AO</u>	ZW				SKI	1		P	W

6. The records may correlate, but be for <u>different quantities</u>.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	US	ZW	SKI	<u>200</u>		SKI	<u>250</u>		T	R

7. The records may match exactly.

Year	App.	Species	Imp.	Exp.	Imports Term	Quantity	Unit	Exports Term	Quantity	Unit	Purpose	Source
1998	2	*Crocodylus niloticus*	IT	ZW	SKI	50	HRN	SKI	50	HRN	T	R

To summarize, reporting of a transaction for summed shipments between countries might not match in all respects, and therefore will not appear on the same line of the comparative tabulation. This is usually because of one or more of the following reasons:

- Differences in the units used, e.g. skins may be reported by number, area or weight;

- The source of the items and purpose of the transaction are often poorly reported, if at all;

- Specimens may be exported at the end of one year but not received by the importer until the following year;

- Trade may be reported at species level by one country, whereas another country reports it

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at a higher taxonomic level. This is particularly common in the reporting of artificially propagated plants; or

- Some countries report on the basis of the permits they have issued, rather than on the actual number of specimens traded. This may lead to an overestimation of trade volume (see Section 1.4, paragraph 2).