

The purpose of the thesis is to describe international, EU and Czech wildlife trade laws by identifying the regulatory measures established at these levels of law and examining them from the perspective of each. It further seeks to analyze how CITES obligations governing these measures are incorporated into the EU and Czech legislation and investigate whether they are likely implemented inadequately or, conversely, more strictly. Additionally, it points out some of the potential problems of the current legal framework as well.

The thesis is composed of six chapters. Chapter one explains the goals of environmental policy in the area of nature conservation and biodiversity protection related to wildlife trade and reasons for the very existence of its regulation. Chapter two is concerned with general aspects of wildlife trade law such as its objective, purpose, principles and role within environmental law. Chapter three outlines the main and also some other relevant sources of law. Chapter four determines the principal regulatory measures which are contained within the legal regime in order to enable it to achieve its objectives. The fifth chapter then focuses on two groups of legal means designed to ensure the compliance of CITES parties and to enforce the provisions of EU and Czech wildlife trade legislation respectively. The final chapter provides a description of the different authorities at CITES, EU and Czech national level and their functions and tasks.

In the conclusion, it is firstly criticised that the provisions of CITES and EU legislation are often wrongly or imprecisely translated into Czech, which has a notable impact on meaning and interpretation thereof. Secondly, it is argued that the high number of derogations from wildlife trade rules is problematic because it creates a complex and administratively stringent system of various types of documentation. It is, however, admitted that this issue is not easily resolvable and suggested that, for instance, directly taking of specimens from wild could be regulated instead of wildlife trade. Thirdly, several positives and also negatives of the current legal regime are highlighted. At the international level, contribution of the CITES conference of parties to the development and interpretation of CITES provisions is commended, however, some deficiencies of these provisions are found to be still persisting since the adoption of CITES. At the EU level, it is *inter alia* appreciated that the EU wildlife trade legislation often provides for a higher standard of protection than is required by CITES, adequately includes most of recommendations of the CITES conference of parties and contains only minor imperfections. The positives of the Czech wildlife trade laws are, among other things, seen in the introduction of compulsory registration of certain CITES specimens and detailed provisions governing the duty to prove the origin of a specimen. The negatives lay, for example, in insufficient legal criteria for deciding when the relevant authorities should refrain from confiscation of a specimen.