## **SMART CHOICES** SAVE NATURE

As you soak up the Caribbean experience, you'll find many wildlife and plant products for sale. Please consider the enormous impact of your purchasing power.

Think twice and ask at least a few questions before buying that charming tortoiseshell souvenir, beautiful coral jewelry or snakeskin belt.

Think about where that article comes from, how much was taken and whether nature can replace it. Ask if it is legal to transport the article back to your home country and if the piece complies with international wildlife trade agreements like CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Respecting these restrictions will go a long way to ensuring that future generations will share your experience in the Caribbean

MAKE A GOOD BUY

#### **Ask 3 questions**

- 1) What is this made of?
- 2) Where did this come from?
- 3) Do I need permits or other documents to bring this home?

The **Caribbean** is one of the top travel destinations in the world.

## You can help keep

this paradise as nature intended by buying sustainable, legal and eco-friendly products.

A good buy — whether gift or souvenir — will save wildlife and boost the local economy.



the wildlife trade monitoring network

**TRAFFIC North America** c/o World Wildlife Fund 1250 24th St NW Washington DC 20037 Email: tna@wwfus.org www.traffic.org

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## SAVE NATURE WITH **SMART CHOICES**

### THE MESOAMERICAN REEF IS THE JEWEL OF THE CARIBBEAN



A rich tapestry of reefs and atolls, sea grass pastures and mangrove forests stretches across nearly 115 million acres from the northern end of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico to the Caribbean coasts of Belize and Guatemala, to the Bay Islands in northern Honduras.

This is the most important barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest in the world. It provides shelter for fascinating species, such as the mammoth whale shark and the endangered salt water crocodile. It is home to one of the world's largest populations of manatees.

This underwater paradise has no less than 65 different kinds of stony coral and more than 500 types of fish,

some of which like grouper and snapper feature on restaurant menus. On land, the reef's watershed extends its web of life to include jaguars, howler monkeys and birds like the quetzal.



# **GUIDE TO A** GOOD BUY



- Leather from caiman, crocodiles, lizards and
- Insects like mounted butterflies
- Sea turtle products
- Live monkeys and Mexican
- ♦ Ocelot, jaguar fur





**CAUTION** – with coral, orchids, cacti, shells, leather goods, insects.

**GO** – with fabric, music, paper, art.