



# **eCITES: Information technology and state of the art controls for biodiversity**

# Who we are

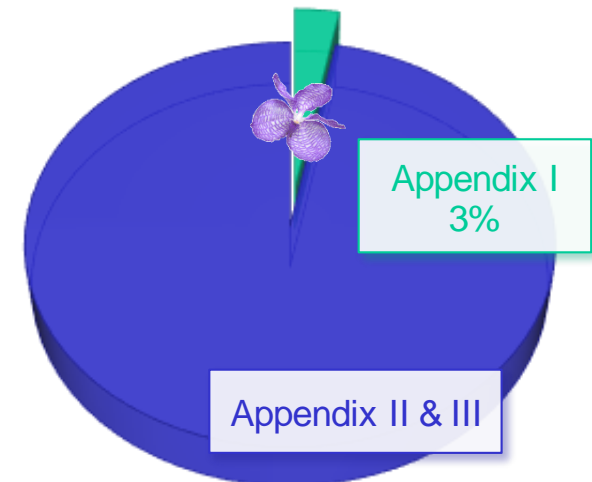
- ❑ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ❑ Multilateral environment agreement with 193 Parties
- ❑ Sustainable trade to ensure the survival of the species in the wild
- ❑ Implemented through cross border exchange of CITES permits

## CITES and CBD

- ❑ CITES 2020 Strategic Vision and Action Plan contributes to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and relevant Aichi Biodiversity targets
- ❑ Reports of Parties on the state of the implementation of the Convention are mapped to Aichi targets
- ❑ Reports are made available to the public at each CoP

# CITES enables sustainable trade

- ❑ Over 36,000 species regulated by CITES
- ❑ Vast majority (97%) of CITES species can be commercially traded
- ❑ Timber, fish, ornamental & medicinal plants, leather, luxury products, cosmetics,...
- ❑ Collected from the wild, farmed, nurseries, fisheries,...
- ❑ Over 1 mio CITES permits issued every year
- ❑ ..controlling multi billion dollar trade



# Illegal trade in wildlife: a fast growing business

- ❑ Estimated at **USD 50 to 100 billion** per year
- ❑ Illegal trade in wildlife is now ranked **4th in transnational crime** (after drugs, human trafficking, counterfeit products)

Organised crime

- ❑ uses fraudulent paperwork
- ❑ launders illegal trade with legal trade

eCITES for automated permit processing and exchange of electronic permits

Objective: end-to-end regulatory control of international trade in CITES listed species

Number of pangolins legally traded and seized contraband globally, aggregated 2007-2013



# How is international trade controlled?

## Global Trade:

Goods: 18 trillion USD  
Containers: 120 mio TEU p.a. (ocean)

## State-of-the-art controls

- Declarant submits electronic declaration
- An electronic risk management system combines this data with everything else it knows ..
- ..assesses the risk according to predefined risk criteria and ..
- .. clears the cargo or orders a control

Regulatory control of international trade is based on intelligent systems, risk management concepts and electronic information exchange

## Lesson to take away:

Customs system needs electronic CITES Permit information and must know about CITES trade risks, otherwise the system is blind for CITES sustainability concerns



# eCITES Implementation Framework

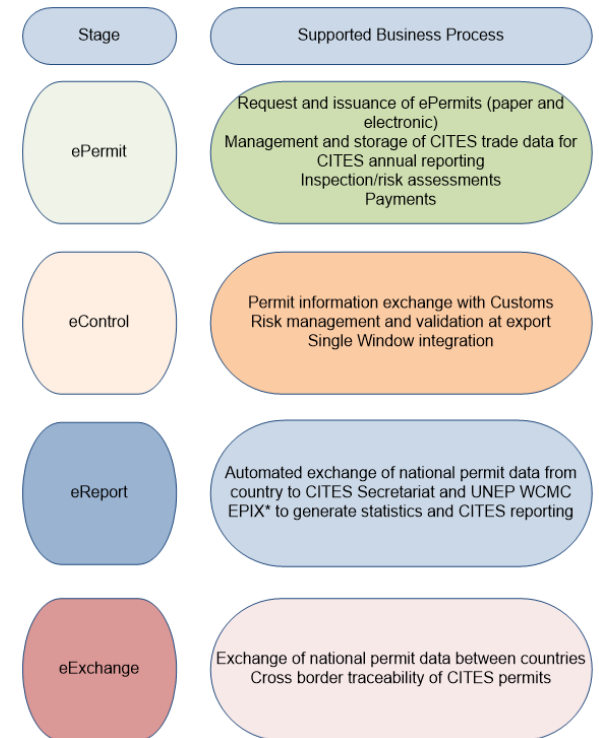


A strategy for CITES Management Authorities to automate processes, exchange information and collaborate with other Government agencies

## 4 implementation steps

- ❑ Automated, simplified and transparent permit processes in the CITES Management Authorities
- ❑ Electronic exchange and collaboration with Customs to effective control of CITES trade
- ❑ Electronic CITES information exchange across borders for end-to-end control of trade in CITES listed species
- ❑ Automated and up-to-date electronic reports and statistics for sustainability assessment

Information technology is a tool for change, not an objective in itself



# Automated system: UNCTAD aCITES



aCITES develop once, use many: provide Parties with a high quality, off-the-shelf software system to implement eCITES

- ❑ aCITES supports all four steps of an eCITES implementation
- ❑ Can be configured to national requirements and extended by the country
- ❑ Based on open source; solution fully owned by the country
- ❑ Easy integration with Customs and Single Window system: electronic permit exchange and validation, integrated Customs Risk Management, eSPS,...
- ❑ Supports international eBusiness standards and agreements: WTO TFA, WCO, UNECE, ISO, ..
- ❑ Three options for operation: national, regional or cyber

The screenshot displays the ASYCUDA World software interface for a CITES application. The form is titled 'Live Animals or Animal Parts or Products - View [CIC]' and includes the following fields:

- APPLICANT:** Code: 60220340007, Name: TERNIS LINE SOL TESTTEST, Address: BRUKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1, Phone: 72893, Country: CH (Switzerland).
- PERMIT/CERTIFICATE:** No: CHCEC2016080891, Reference number: APL1001.
- CERTIFICATION:** CEC: CITES Export Permit (Organika/line), Application date: 12/01/2016, Issuing date: 12/01/2016, Valid to: 2021/02/16.
- EXPORTER:** Code: 60220340007, Name: TERNIS LINE SOL TESTTEST, Address: BRUKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1, Phone: 72893, Country: CH (Switzerland).
- REPORTER:** Code: 60220370001, Name: STARK GO BOOO, Address: BRUKO DISTRIKT BIRI BLEDOTIYA 14, Phone: 2, Country: UZ (Uzbekistan).
- EXPORTER EXPORT COUNTRY:** CH (Switzerland).
- ISSUING AUTHORITY:** UZ (Uzbekistan), UZBIRK (BIRIYARA), CITES Management Authority: CH (Switzerland).
- Special conditions:** A table with columns for Condition Code and Condition Description. One entry is visible: Condition Code 'BPI' with the description 'If for live animals, the period of certificate is valid...'. The document issuing place is 'CHATT PRATTELM'.

# Information technology, border controls and trade in wildlife

## Summary:

- ❑ Regulatory control at borders is highly automated and execution relies on machine intelligence
- ❑ Electronic information exchange is crucial for control of trade related biodiversity objectives
- ❑ Collaboration between environmental agencies and Customs for integration of environmental issues in automated border controls
- ❑ Off-the-shelf software solutions are now available for CITES (and other MEA's)
- ❑ Implementation requires automation, inter-agency collaboration and policy support



**Thank you!**

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