



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

Who we are

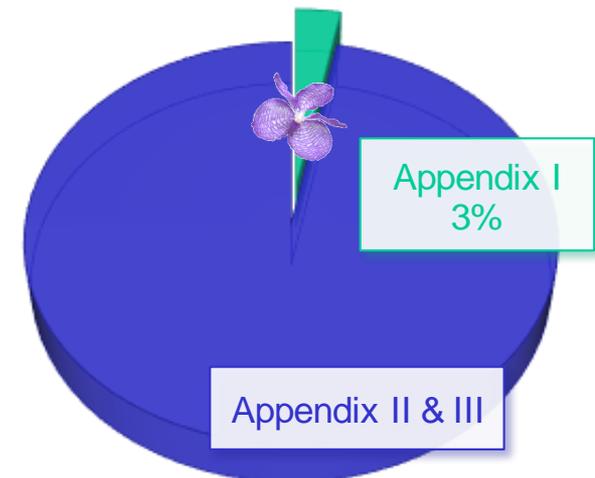
- ❑ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ❑ Multilateral environment agreement with 193 Parties
- ❑ Sustainable trade to ensure the survival of the species in the wild
- ❑ Implemented through cross border exchange of CITES permits

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

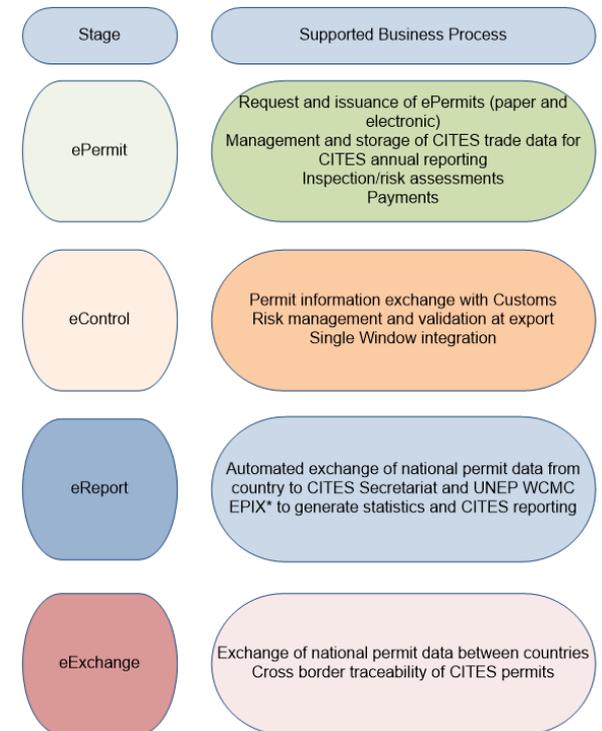


A strategy for CITES Management Authorities to automate processes, exchange information and collaborate with other Government agencies

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

A screenshot of the ASYCUDA World software interface. The window title is "ASYCUDA World". The main content area displays a CITES application form. The form is divided into several sections: APPLICANT, EXPORTER, REPORTER, and SPECIAL CONDITIONS. The APPLICANT section includes fields for Code (602304007), Name (TENNIS LINE SOL TESTEST), Address (BRUKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1), Phone (7263), and Country (CH Switzerland). The EXPORTER section includes fields for Code (602304007), Name (TENNIS LINE SOL TESTEST), Address (BRUKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1), Phone (7263), and Country (CH Switzerland). The REPORTER section includes fields for Code (602307001), Name (STARK GO BOO), Address (BRUKO DISTRIKT BIR NLEODOTIYA 14), Phone (2), and Country (UZ Uzbekistan). The SPECIAL CONDITIONS section includes a table with columns for Condition Code and Condition Description. The table contains one row with Condition Code "BPI" and Condition Description "If for live animals, the period of certificate is valid...". The form also includes a section for CITES Management Authority (CH Switzerland) and a section for Document heading place (CHATT PRATTELM). The bottom of the window shows a status bar with the text "General: CITES application number: Administrations International, S.A." and a menu bar with "Document type...", "Live Animals...", and "Live Animals or...".

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!

Markus.Pikart@UN.org

