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

Who we are

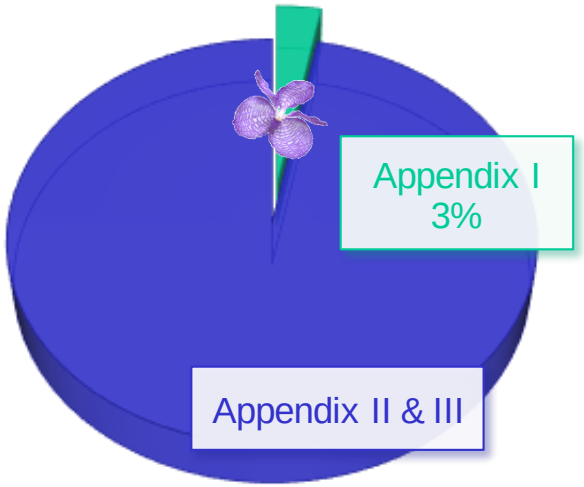
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Multilateral environment agreement with 193 Parties
- Sustainable trade to ensure the survival of the species in the wild
- Implemented through cross border exchange of CITES permits

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

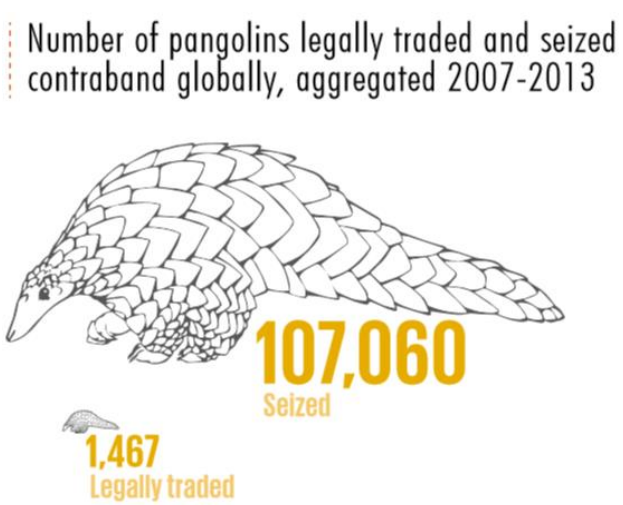


Illegal trade in wildlife: a fast growing business

- 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

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:

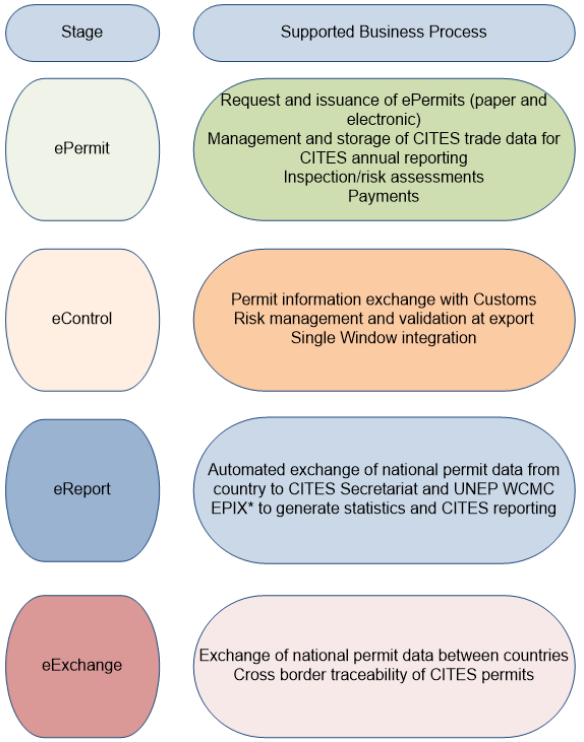
Customs system needs electronic CITES Permit information and must know about CITES trade risks, otherwise the system is blind for CITES sustainability concerns

eCITES Implementation Framework

A strategy for CITES Managment Authorities to automate processes, exchange infomration and collaborare with other Government agencies

4 implementation steps

- Automatated, 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 accross 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

Information technology, border controls and trade in wildlife

Summary:

- Regulatory control at borders is highly automated and execution relays 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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