Use of signatures on CITES permits and certificates

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UNCEFACT Forum, April 2021
CITES: at the cross-section of trade, environment and development


- Multilateral agreement: 183 Parties
- wildlife and trade themes
- Conservation & sustainable use
CITES: A Convention built on permits

- Regulation of trade in 38,000+ species of animals and plants (live, dead, parts & derivatives)
- Import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea
- Trade includes all cross-border transactions, including for non-commercial purposes
- Permit ensures *legality, sustainability* and *traceability* of trade

⇒ The CITES permit is a key instrument of the Convention that balances *conservation* and *sustainable use objectives*
Conditions for authorizing trade

Legal acquisition: The specimen must legally acquired

Non-detrimental: The proposed trade must be sustainable and not negatively impact the survival of the species

Issuance of permit
CITES permits and certificates -

• Confirmation that the conditions for authorizing the trade are met in the country of export (and import in certain cases)
• Confirmation of the authenticity of the issuing authority (institution and person)
• Confirmation of the actual export (endorsement)
• Traceability and statistics
• Trade in violation of the Convention is illegal and subject to penalties
Original permit template at the time of the adoption of the Convention (1973)

1. Signature of the Applicant

2. Signature of the CITES Management Authority
Original permit template at the time of the adoption of the Convention (1973)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (scientific and common name)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Size (or volume)</th>
<th>Mark (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Stamp by inspecting authority on exportation

4. Stamp by the inspecting authority on importation

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Stamps of the authorities inspecting:
(a) on exportation
(b) on importation

* This stamp voids this permit for further trade purposes, and this permit shall be surrendered to the Management Authority.

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* * *
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>7./8.</th>
<th>9.</th>
<th>10.</th>
<th>11.</th>
<th>11a.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Country of origin *</td>
<td>Permit no.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Country of last re-export</td>
<td>Certificate no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Country of origin *</td>
<td>Permit no.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Country of last re-export</td>
<td>Certificate no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Country of origin *</td>
<td>Permit no.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Country of last re-export</td>
<td>Certificate no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Country of origin *</td>
<td>Permit no.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Country of last re-export</td>
<td>Certificate no.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, bred in captivity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export)
** Only for Appendix-I species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes
*** For pre-Convention specimens

1. Applicant Signature (not mandatory)

2. Stamp, signature and seal by the CITES MA

3. Stamp and signature by inspecting official on export
Electronic signature of the MA

• Res. 12.3 (CoP18): Handwritten signature or electronic equivalent

• Dec. 18.125: Parties are invited to consider UN/CEFACT Recommendation 14 on Authentication of trade documents as good practice when implementing the electronic equivalent of signatures and seals for electronic CITES permitting systems and exchanges, including authentication of each user, audit trails, info to the Secretariat on electronic signatures being used and the users authenticated etc.
Next steps

- Agreement of the following proposals with regard to signatures by the CITES Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties
  
  - Deletion of the space for the Applicant signature on the standard form
  
  - A reference to UN/CEFACT Recommendation 14 to be included in Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18)
  
  - Dec. 18.125 proposed to be new guidelines on electronic signatures in the context of CITES documents and a reference included in the same Resolution
  
- Further discussions of the endorsement of the permit at the time of export