28th UN/CEFACT Plenary

Agenda Item 7. Activities of other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and international organizations of interest to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

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CITES: A Convention built on permits

- Binding trade and environment agreement for 183 Parties to control trade in 38,000+ species of animals and plants (live, dead, parts & derivatives)
- 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
eCITES permitting system

- What is eCITES permitting system?
  The scope of eCITES includes electronic application and issuance of CITES permits, control and authentication of CITES permits, reporting as well as exchange of permits between the Parties.

- Objective
  Regulation as well as facilitation
How does it help the Parties?

**Legality:**
Origin & sourcing, (inter-) national legislation

**Sustainability**
Non-detriment findings

**Traceability**
Trade data & transaction details
Current status of eCITES implementation

• A total of 14 Parties have some form of eCITES
• More than 40 countries are planning to implement eCITES

Source: CITES website
Current activities – CITES Electronic Permitting Toolkit
Version No. 3
Publication - November 2022
Current activities - Task Force on eCITES EPIX Pilots

• **Objective**
  - Support interested CITES Management Authorities (MAs) and other relevant national stakeholders of CITES Parties in initiating and carrying out pilot-based and/or live electronic exchanges of CITES permits among them.

• **Re-started from July 2022.**

• **Next meeting on 26 October.**

• **Open to any Management Authority of the Convention**
Current activities - UN/CEFACT Project - White paper Digitizing Transit Accompanying Documents

- CITES use case.
- Trade in CITES-listed species are subject to various conditions.
- Transit and transshipment are allowed.
Current activities (capacity-building) - National Stakeholder Consultation on eCITES Implementation in Vanuatu

Co-organized with UNCTAD and SPREP

29-30 September 2022, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Current activities (capacity-building) - Workshop on eCITES Implementation in the Pacific Island States
Co-organized with UNCTAD and SPREP

3 October 2022, Apia, Samoa
Side Event - Implementation of e-permits: lessons learned and advancing towards an integrated digital solution for eCITES

21 November 2022
Priorities for CoP19 for digitalization of the permitting system (to be confirmed)

- More focus on authentication and control (QR codes, Verifiable Credentials)
- Cooperation and improve exchange of information on permits, seizures etc.
- Risk assessment and analysis for CITES trade.
- Greater uptake of e-permitting systems and thus more support towards the implementation of the eCITES permit management systems in the developing countries.
Thank you

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More information:
cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES