



**eCITES: Implementing electronic
CITES permits to improve control of
trade in wildlife**

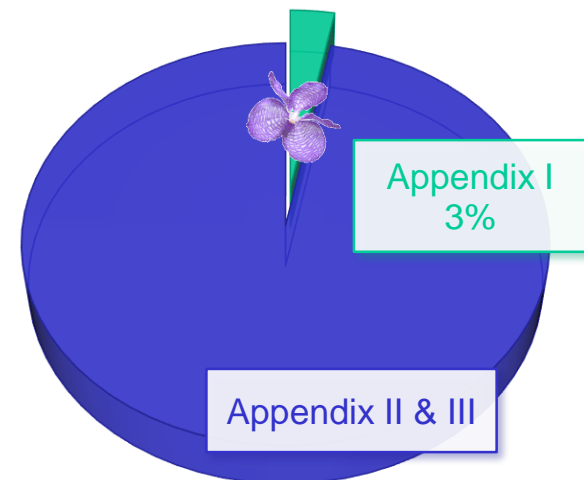
Who we are

- ❑ **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**
- ❑ Multilateral agreement which addresses important aspects of sustainable management of wildlife and trade
- ❑ ..through a system of permits ...
- ❑ Legally binding instrument for 183 Parties (countries)



CITES enables 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 950,000 CITES permits issued per year
- ❑ ..controlling multi billion dollar trade



Excuse: Controls in international trade

Global Trade:

Goods: 18 trillion USD
Containers: 670+ mio p.a. (ocean only)

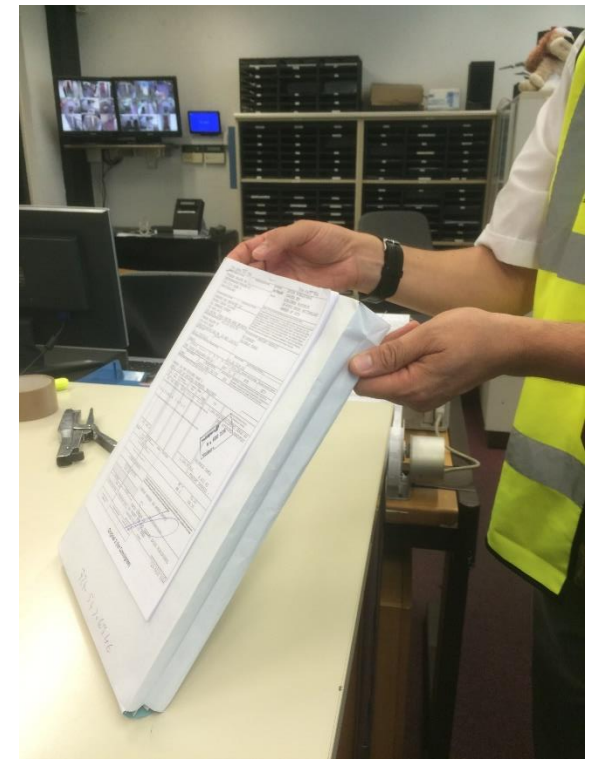
Trade documents:

30 parties, 40 documents, 400 copies
8+ billion documents p.a.

State-of-the-art controls

- ❑ 1980's Customs automation and documentary controls
- ❑ 1990's eCustoms platforms & Automated Risk Management Systems
- ❑ 2000+ : Single Window and eBusiness - technology for collaboration and facilitation
- ❑ ..establishing in general an efficient control system

How good is trade in wildlife controlled by this system?



Illegal trade in wildlife: a fast growing business

- ❑ Is 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)
- ❑ **Changing nature** – an organized, transnational crime with criminal networks involved
- ❑ Illegal trade exploits the **opportunities of the global trade system** (transport hubs, logistics, eBanking system) ..
- ❑ **Exploits the gaps in the control systems** (manual procedures, lack of electronic information exchange & collaboration mechanisms)

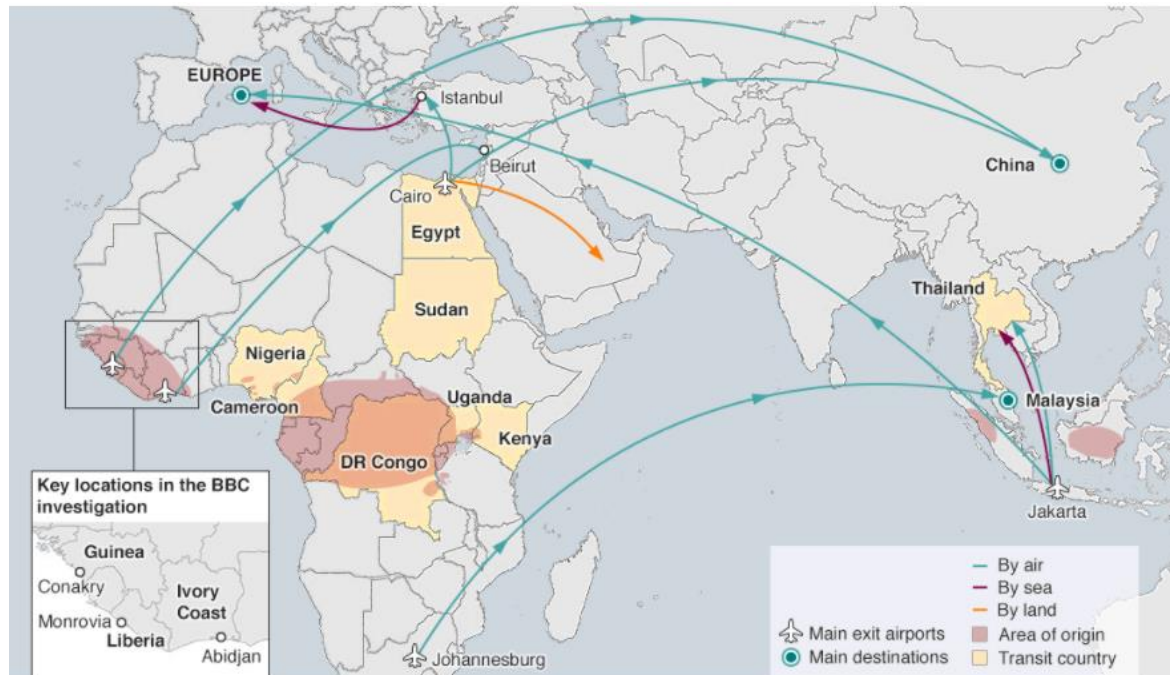
Number of pangolins legally traded and seized as contraband globally, aggregated 2007-2013



Today CITES lacks integration in the global trade control system

The Secret Trade in Baby Chimp

- ❑ BBC [News](#) Report 30 January 2017
- ❑ 3 year investigation in over 12 countries documenting illegal trade in great apes
- ❑ All great apes are listed in CITES Appendix I



How to make a 4100% mark-up? So easy..

- ❑ A crime made too easy
 - ❑ Use main transport routes and carriers, modern logistics, Customs clearance at export and import, ..
 - ❑ Using (crudely) faked paper permits
 - ❑ Risks? What risks?!!
 - ❑ Verification can take weeks
 - ❑ MAs: only manual verification using their paper archives
 - ❑ No automated systems, no electronic records, no traces
- ❑ eCITES
 - ❑ Automation of permits processes
 - ❑ Electronic information exchange for collaboration
 - ❑ Integrate CITES into the global system of trade controls and electronic risk management

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

PERMIT / CERTIFICATE No. 1207

EXPORT
 RE-EXPORT
 IMPORT
 OTHER

2. Valid until: 10 June 2012

3. Importer (name and address): Europe Croco

4. Exporter / Re-exporter (name and address, country): Democratic Republic of the Congo

5. Special conditions

6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority: Democratic Republic of the Congo

7.i. Scientific Name (genus and species) AND COMMON NAME OF ANIMAL OR PLANT: Crocodylus cataphractus raw skins

8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers: II W

9. Appendix No. and source (see reverse): 10

10. Quantity (including units): 2700

11a. Total expected Quota: 11a

12. Country of origin • Permit No. Date: 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date: 12b. No. of the operation ••• or Date of acquisition ••••

7.ii. Scientific Name (genus and species) AND COMMON NAME OF ANIMAL OR PLANT: Crocodylus niloticus skins

8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers: II W

9. Appendix No. and source (see reverse): 10

10. Quantity (including units): 60

11a. Total expected Quota: 11a

12. Country of origin • Permit No. Date: 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date: 12b. No. of the operation ••• or Date of acquisition ••••

7.iii. Scientific Name (genus and species) AND COMMON NAME OF ANIMAL OR PLANT: (blank)

8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers: (blank)

9. Appendix No. and source (see reverse): (blank)

10. Quantity (including units): (blank)

11a. Total expected Quota: 11a

12. Country of origin • Permit No. Date: 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date: 12b. No. of the operation ••• or Date of acquisition ••••

7.iiii. Scientific Name (genus and species) AND COMMON NAME OF ANIMAL OR PLANT: (blank)

8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers: (blank)

9. Appendix No. and source (see reverse): (blank)

10. Quantity (including units): (blank)

11a. Total expected Quota: 11a

12. Country of origin • Permit No. Date: 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date: 12b. No. of the operation ••• or Date of acquisition ••••

13. THIS PERMIT IS ISSUED BY: L.J. Thompson

Place: Date: 10.5.2012

Security stamp, signature and official seal: SECURITY STAMP

14. EXPORT ENDORSEMENT: 15. Bill of Lading/Air Way-bill Number:

Block	Quantity
A	
B	
C	
D	

Part of Export: Date: Signature: Official stamp and title:

CITES PERMIT / CERTIFICATE No. 1209

How eCITES protects Wildlife

- ❑ Automation leads to formalised procedures & increased transparency
 - ❑ Electronic payments reduce cash transactions
 - ❑ Reduce opportunities for corruption
 - ❑ Electronic data exchange with Customs
 - ❑ Enable automated risk assessment and targeted inspections
 - ❑ Reliable, electronic data for better reporting and statistics
 - ❑ Electronic data for traceability systems
- ➔ Long term vision is an end-to-end control and visibility in the CITES supply chain



How can Parties implement eCITES?

Challenging situation for Parties:

- ❑ eBusiness is multi disciplinary and technology-laden
- ❑ CITES permit process is complex
- ❑ Software solution requires advanced functionality
- ❑ Low permit volumes limits options for cost recovery

eCITES Strategy: Reduce development costs & project complexity

Design once, use many:

Standard project management and standard software package

- ➔ **eCITES Implementation Framework:** Standard project implementation approach for Parties
- ➔ **ASYCUDA eCITES:** Off-the-shelf software solution for eCITES



eCITES Implementation Framework

What is it?

- ❑ A Guide for Management Authorities to **automate the CITES permit processes**
- ❑ Helps the project manager to **plan and supervise** the project
- ❑ Addresses **automation, change management and collaboration with Customs**
- ❑ **Builds on experience** from Single Window, eCITES and eSPS implementations in countries around the world

Approach taken

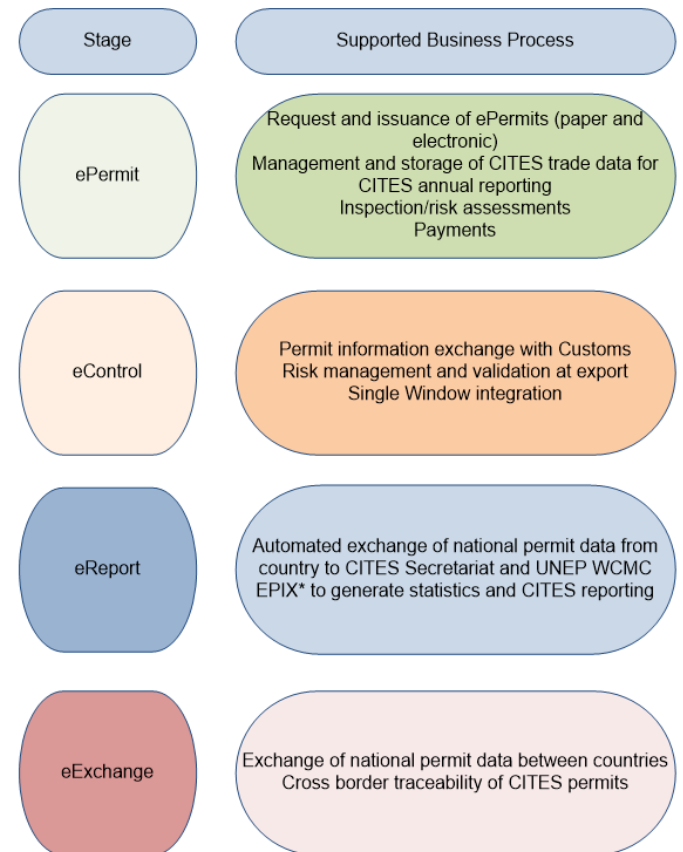
- ❑ **Stepwise implementation** through sub-projects
- ❑ Each step has an **identifiable** outcome and **benefit**
- ❑ All steps together provide a **complete automation of the CITES processes**
- ❑ Countries can **adapt** implementation **speed** to their **readiness**



Four steps to implement electronic CITES permits



- ❑ **ePermit:** Automate CITES permit request, issuance and payment
- ❑ **eControl:** electronic information exchange with Customs & automated risk management
- ❑ **eReport:** electronic information for automated reporting
- ❑ **eExchange:** electronic permit exchange between Authorities of different countries



Project component - ePermit

- ❑ **What:** Automation of all processes for request of permits, scheduling of inspection, issuance of permits, payment of fees
- ❑ **Required:** Traders can connect to MA to provide permit information, access status of permit requests and inspection schedule
- ❑ **Benefits:** Simplified and transparent process, compliance history of traders, electronic payment, less fraud



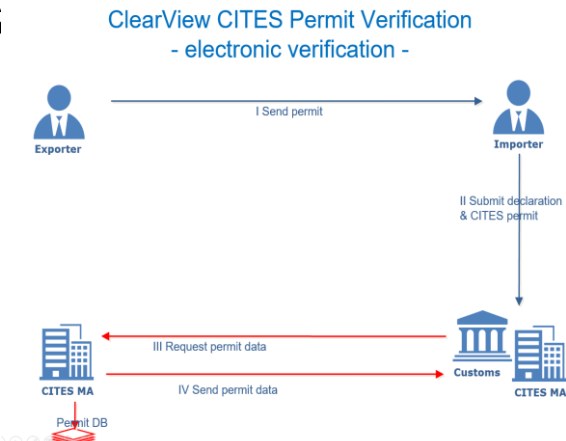
Project Component - eControl

- ❑ **What:** Integration with Customs; electronic CITES information for cross check with electronic customs declaration & automated risk management
- ❑ **Required:** electronic data exchange between CITES authorities and Customs, collaboration to identify and control risks
- ❑ **Benefits:** Improved control at the border; faster clearance time; better trade statistics; less fraud



Project Component - eExchange

- ❑ **What:** Exchange of electronic permits between authorities in different countries
- ❑ **Required:** fully automated national CITES systems in both countries, common technical standards; framework of trust (agreements), ..
- ❑ **Benefits:** integrated cross border processes; reduction of fraud; pre-arrival information and scheduling of inspections; better statistics



ASYCUDA eCITES System



Off-the-shelf solution:

- ePermit, eControl, eReport*, eXchange**
- Powerful functions: Web access, user profiles, controls & checks, risk management, electronic payment, work flow support ..
- Solution can be configured to national requirement and workflow and extended by the country
- Uses international trade and eBusiness standards : WTO, WCO, UNECE ..
- Easy integration with any Customs and Single Window system: electronic permit exchange and validation, integrated Customs Risk Management, eSPS,..

- Developed by the UNCTAD Centre of Excellence**
- Build on a tested software platform (ASYCUDA technological platform)**
- Operational in around 100 Customs Services world wide**
- Central support and maintenance; continued development.**

ASYCUDA eCITES: How to implement

Technical cooperation project

- ❑ Technical cooperation project between the Party and UNCTAD
- ❑ Software is provided free and with source code
- ❑ Cost recovery to configure to national workflow, national extensions/reports, training, post implementation support

Three options to operate the eCITES system:

- ❑ Operated by the CITES Management Authority
- ❑ Operated by national Customs/Single Window or regional organization
- ❑ Hosted by UNCTAD Centre of Excellence, which operates the system and takes care of support and maintenance; data is owned by the country

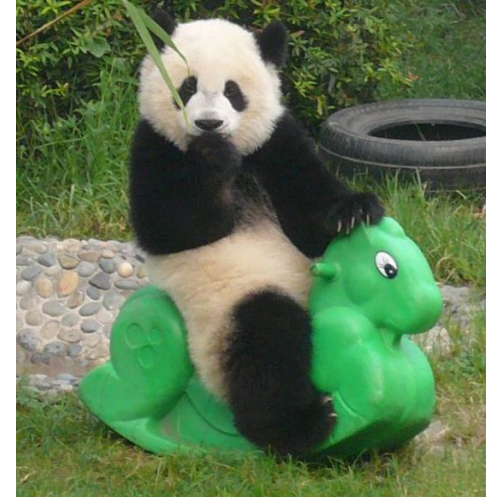
The screenshot displays the ASYCUDA World application window. The main content area shows a form for a CITES permit/certificate. The form is divided into several sections:

- APPLICANT:** Code 6002304007, Name TENNIS LINE SOL TESTEST, Address BRAKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1, Phone 72289, Country CH Switzerland.
- EXPORTER:** Code 6002304007, Name TENNIS LINE SOL TESTEST, Address BRAKO DISTRIKT TEST ADDRESS KLOSTERSKA 1, Phone 72289, Country CH Switzerland.
- IMPORTER:** Code 60023070001, Name START CO DOO, Address BRAKO DISTRIKT BH NJEGOO'EVA 14, Phone 3, Country UZ Uzbekistan.
- ISSUING MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:** MA CITES Management Authority, Geneva.
- Authorized location:** UZBHK BUKHARA.
- Special conditions:** A table with columns for Condition Code and Description. One entry is visible: 1 BPI If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid.
- PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No:** CHNCEC2018000001, Reference number APL1001.
- Certificate type:** CEC CITES Export Permit (Organizations).
- Application date:** 12/01/2016, Issuing date: 12/01/2016, Valid to: 20/01/2016.
- Document issuing place:** CHATT PRATTELN.
- Document type:** The (re)-export documentation from the country of (re)-exportation. Has been surrendered to the issuing authority. Has to be surrendered to border customs office of introduction.
- Details:** Bill of lading/Air waybill No, Document type.

The bottom of the window shows a navigation bar with tabs for 'General', 'CITES application items', 'Administrations Interventions, list', 'Document libra...', 'Live Animals or ...', and 'Live Animals or ...'.

eCITES Scoping mission and workshop

- Discuss national requirements and priorities
- Capture as-is situation
- Integration with Customs
- Integration to national Single Window Architecture
- Consensus on action to take
- Project plan



Outcome: better understanding, shared vision, consensus, high level implementation strategy

For discussion: eCITES for GWP?

We are ready now, so what stops us from rolling?

- Lack of awareness that low cost solutions are now available
- Lack of awareness of what eCITES can do for control of wildlife
- Unfamiliar with modern trade control and eBusiness concepts
- Lack of funding
- ???



For discussion

- How does eCITES support GWP objectives?
- How can it complement existing GWP programs/fill gaps?
- Can we achieve synergies in implementations?
- How can we increase competence and awareness of key decision makers?

Thank you!

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