



Side Event

Implementation of e-permits: lessons learned and advancing towards an integrated digital solution for eCITES

12:15* – 14:00, 21 November 2022

**Canal 3 (Plenary/Committee 1 Hall)
Panama Convention Center, Panama City**

Background

The electronic CITES (eCITES) permitting systems can be understood in many ways depending on the type of solutions applied or planned in a particular context. The permitting systems could come in various forms ranging between only application and issuance of permits to a more advanced solution encompassing exchange of permit information between national authorities and CITES Parties. Various approaches for the implementation of these systems have been undertaken from which other Parties that are planning to implement eCITES, may learn important lessons.

At the same time, the technological development brings about new concepts that are evolving on a continuous basis globally. These new developments call for greater discussion and scrutiny for secure and efficient permitting systems. These emerging technologies could be utilized to develop legal, sustainable and traceable trade in CITES-listed species.

In this context, this side event aims to discuss the challenges of current practices for implementing the eCITES permitting systems as well as potential new technological advancements that can be useful in the ever-changing world of digitalization.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Opening (15 mins)**
 - Matthias Loertscher, Chair, Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technology
 - Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat
 - Salehin Khan, Programme Management Officer, CITES Secretariat
- 2. Brief updates on lessons learned from the implementation of eCITES permits (7 mins each)**
 - Denmark Foreign Affairs/CBrain
 - Renhui Xie, Singapore MA
 - Mpho Joel Tjiane, South Africa MA
 - Matthias Loertscher Switzerland MA
 - UAE MA
 - Renaud Massenet, UNCTAD-ASYCUDA
- 3. Digital authentication and control for eCITES permits (15 mins)**
 - Verifiable Credentials and QR Codes (online)–
Steve Capell, Australia and Rudy Hemeleeres, Luxembourg
- 4. Question and answer (10 mins)**

** Please arrive in the room early to start the session on time. Lunch will be available from 1200.*