Side Event

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

12:15 – 14:00, 21 November 2022
Salon – 3 / Canal 3
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 a more 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.

Programme

1. Welcome (10 mins)
   - Chair, Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technology
   - Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat

2. Brief updates on lessons learned from the implementation of eCITES permits (60 mins) –
   - Denmark MA/CBrain
   - Singapore MA
   - Switzerland MA
   - UNCTAD- ASYCUDA

3. Digital authentication and control for eCITES permits (20 mins)
   - Verifiable Credentials and QR Codes –
     Steve Capell, Australia and Rudy Hemeleeres, Luxembourg

4. Open discussion and closing
   - How to move towards an integrated digital solution (10 mins)