Monday, June 26, 2017

**Response to CITES 2017/041**

**Description of Israel's system used for electronic CITES permit processing**

In response to CITES 2017/041, Israel is pleased to submit the following information regarding our e‑permitting system.

All permits for import, export, re-export and keeping, and for domestic trading are issued by the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) which is the CITES MA for Israel. The current system for issuing CITES and non-CITES permits used in Israel for domestic and international wildlife trade is named "Tzofit" (the Hebrew name for our domestic Sunbird). This is a custom system developed for the INPA by a local software developer based on Microsoft CRM.

The system is in advanced stages of development. Currently, domestic permits are being issued for trade and keeping wildlife, but import and export permits are still being issued by the old system (an MS Access-based program developed in 1999). The new program, Tzofit, has not yet achieved all stages of the development and remains to be completed; at the latest early next year (2018).

All types of import and export permits have not yet been characterized by the system, but the completion of the development of the permits will enable issuance and processing of CITES permits as required.

Our system will include the appropriate restrictions for import and export of CITES-listed and non-listed species (including parts and derivatives), including also data that we use to make risk assessments to prevent invasion of alien species, such as the species distribution and data on cases of it having invaded into other countries. We also require the system to conform to our stricter domestic measures in our domestic wildlife trade policy[[1]](#footnote-1) which, for example includes provisions generally banning import of endangered species, banning wild-caught specimens and banning import from countries in the species' natural distribution. For all these, our system accesses via API (Application Programming Interface) the IUCN Red List category and other sources of data.

We see great importance in updating the WCMC's CITES e-permit system to enable communication with local systems such as our "Tzofit" program.

Sincerely yours,

Yatir Shamir,

Head of Wildlife Protection Department,

Law Enforcement Division,

Israeli Nature and Parks Authority

1. Notification No. 2004/025 of 30 April 2004 "Israel; Stricter domestic measures concerning import and export of wild fauna and flora" [↑](#footnote-ref-1)