

Please provide a brief description of the current state of the electronic system(s) or programs used for CITES permit processing.

This information should include the name of the system, functionality provided, the management and government authorities that use the system. State whether the system meets the needs of the Management Authority and any plans for further development of the system.

You may also include observations on the importance of an electronic CITES system for the Management Authority (MA) and any lessons learned.

The information should be provided in a MS Word or PDF document and uploaded to this survey.

We use an externally managed electronic data base (based on a system called Oracle) to allow on-line applications for CITES permits and certificates linked to the CITES homepage of our Ministry. It provides access to both Management and Scientific Authorities. The system also has the ability to generate data in excel format for the annual reports and has interrogative capacities (e.g. already issued microchip or ring numbers).

The system goes back to 2003 and is continually modified when needed. It is well received by consumers and represents a huge reduction in work-load to the Management Authority, but there are also some draw-backs. It is complex, fairly old with considerable maintenance costs, the use of photo documentation as a form of making individuals identifiable (mostly reptiles) still needs to be processed by hand, and there is uncertainty about its compatibility with other on-line systems should the need for data exchange become an issue.