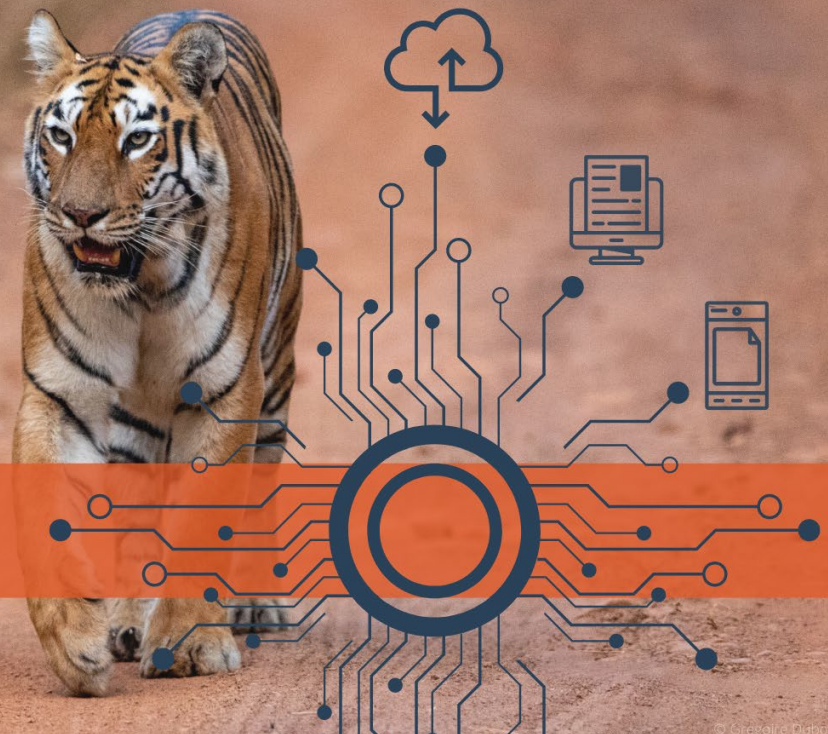


CITES-ESCAP Regional Workshop on Electronic CITES Permitting Systems in Asia

**17 - 18
July 2023**

**United Nations Building
Bangkok, Thailand**



Implementation of the Electronic CITES Permitting (eCITES) Systems

Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat

17 July 2023

Assessment of the Current (as-is) and future contexts (to-be)

Process analysis

- What is the application procedure, centralized or decentralized?
- Who does what?
- What documents are required?
- How are NDF and LAF checked?
- How much time is required to issue permit?
- How is the payment done?
- How is permit data exchanged with customs/border authorities/importing country/exporting country?

Legislation review

- Is there a provision for eCITES? Does it need a revision? Can eCITES be implemented without the revision?



Assessment of the Current (as-is) and future contexts (to-be)

Technical assessment

- What is the technical capacity in the MA?
- What kind of infrastructure is available?
- If there is a legacy system – what can be done with it?
- Locally-sourced solution
- Externally-sourced solution
- Data storage
- Data security and technologies involved

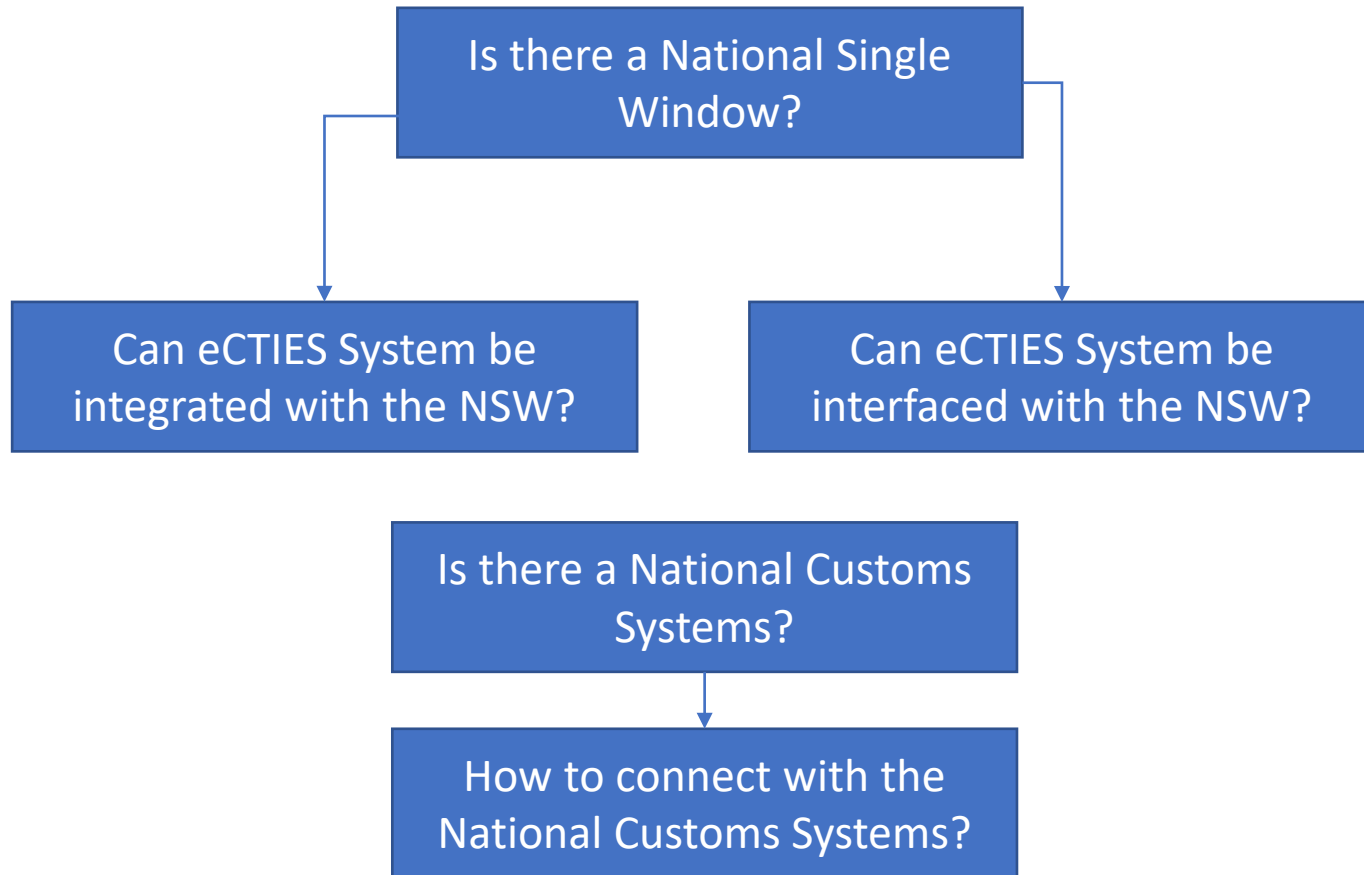
Cost-benefit analysis

- Cost of the solutions and business model (fee based, donor-supported etc.)
- Potential benefits of the solution (legal trade, transparency, efficiency, impact on biodiversity, conservation etc.)

Implementation plan/recommendations



Assessment of the Current (as-is) and future contexts (to-be)



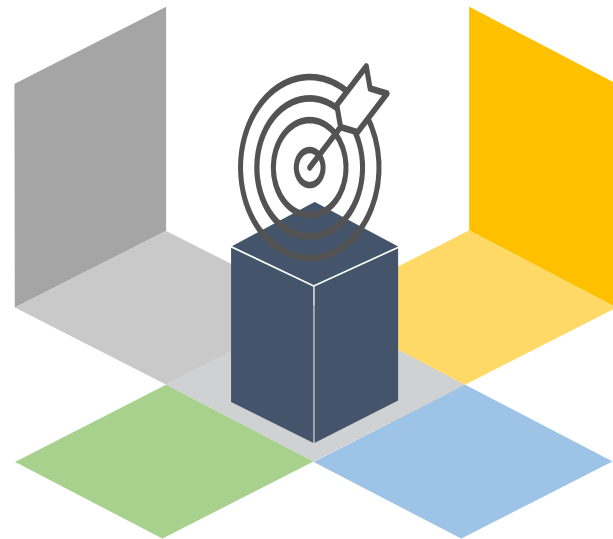
eCITES Project

Scope and objective

Simplify and automate business processes and establish collaboration of stakeholders through exchange of electronic information for an improved implementation of the CITES Convention.

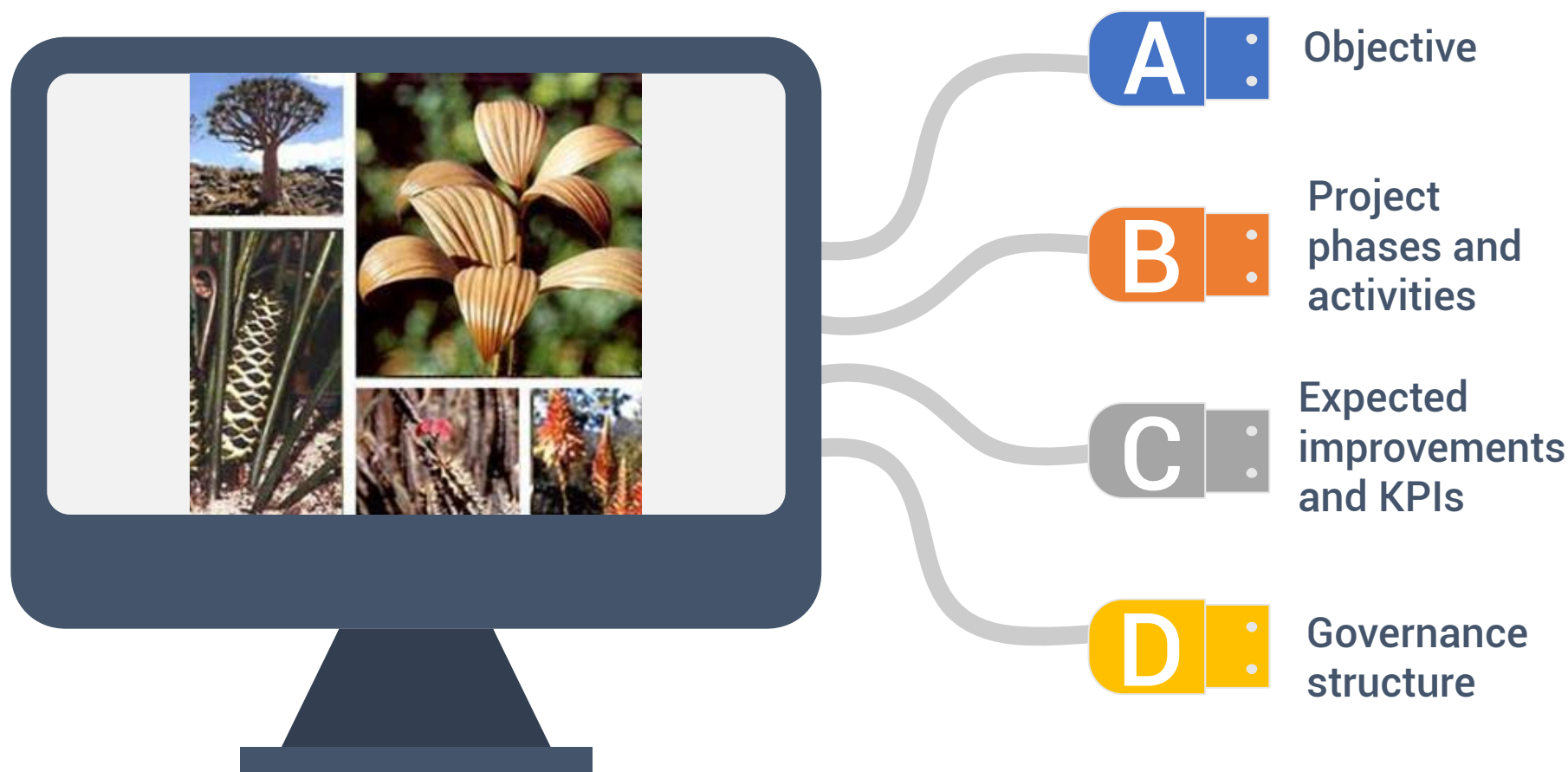
Beneficiaries

CITES Management Authorities, Border Control Agencies (Customs) and Traders (Exporters and Importers), other government agencies.

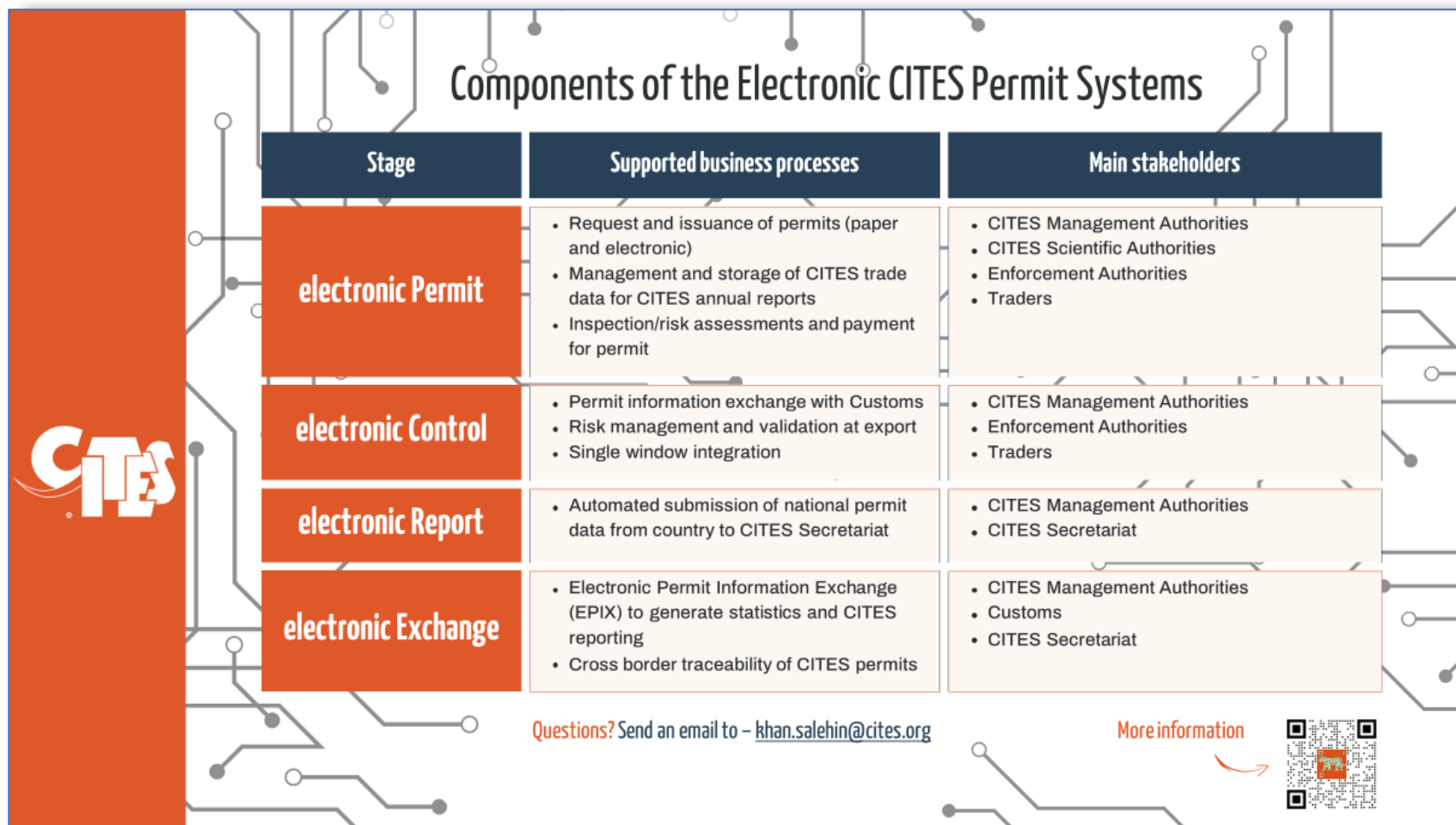


Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

High-level Project Plan



Four stages – phased implementation



Key aspects to keep in mind

- **Interoperability** – Can the eCITES system exchange data with customs and NSW?
- **International standards** – Use the CITES Toolkit for the international semantic standards. What if the permit information needs to be exchanged with other Parties?
- **Project governance and cooperation** – Keep the relevant agencies in the project preparation and execution. Cooperation with border agencies (customs, law enforcement authorities etc.)
- **Phased implementation** – Pilot eCITES with a parallel paper system, then fully into a fully paperless application, issuance and control system. Finally, eExchange.
- **Implementation model** - National systems vs regional systems.
- **Financial model** - Cost of implementation vs trade volume vs trade value vs biodiversity/conservation impact.



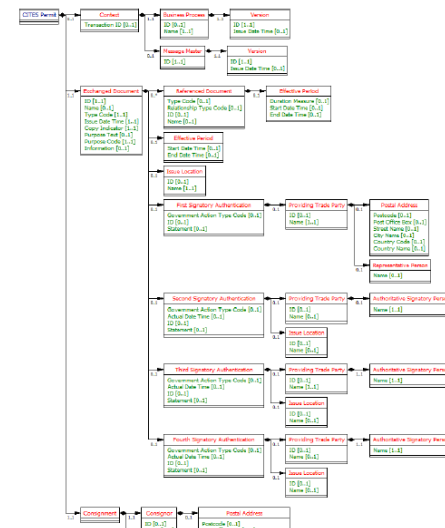
Resources – CITES Electronic Permitting Toolkit

Version No. 3

Published February 2023



5.2.1.1 Class Diagram



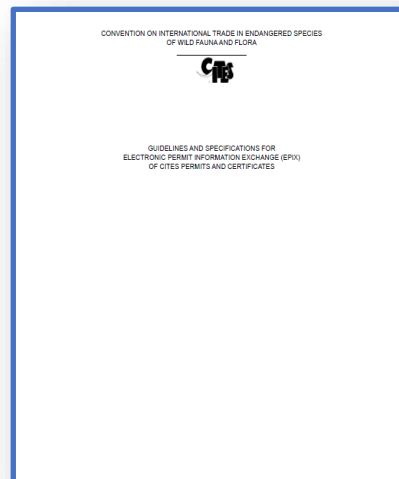
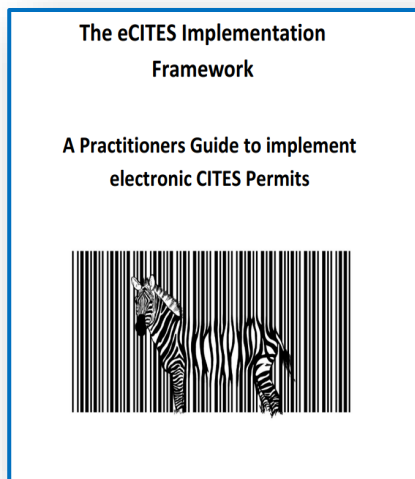
5.2.1.2 Message Structure

Element/Attribute	UN ID	Annotations
UN/CEFACT Permit		
Context	UN01003540	0..1
Transaction ID	UN01003541	0..1
Business Process	UN01003542	1..1
ID	UN01004853	0..1
Name	UN01004854	1..1
CITES Form Reference(s) Business Process Context Value This element shall be used with the indicated value "CITES PERMITTING". It is recommended to use this value as a trigger for the further processing of received data as required by the business or administrative process if neither the communication information nor the root element information nor the combination of both is considered to be sufficient. This value should not be used to trigger the technical processing of received CITES permit data.		
Version	UN01004855	1..1
ID	UN01003591	1..1
CITES Form Reference(s) Business Process Context Value This element shall be used with the indicated value (Currently 1). It is recommended to use this value together with parameter value text as a trigger for the further processing of received data as required by the business or administrative process if neither the communication information nor the root element information nor the combination of both is considered to be sufficient. This value will be changed whenever the eCITES data will incorporate more or other process capabilities. This value should not be used to trigger the technical processing of received CITES permit data.		



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Resources - Other Guidelines



International Standards and Best Practices



The eCITES
Implementation
Framework (General
guidance for project
implementation)

Guidelines and
Specifications for
Electronic Permit
Information Exchange
(EPIX) of CITES Permits and
Certificates

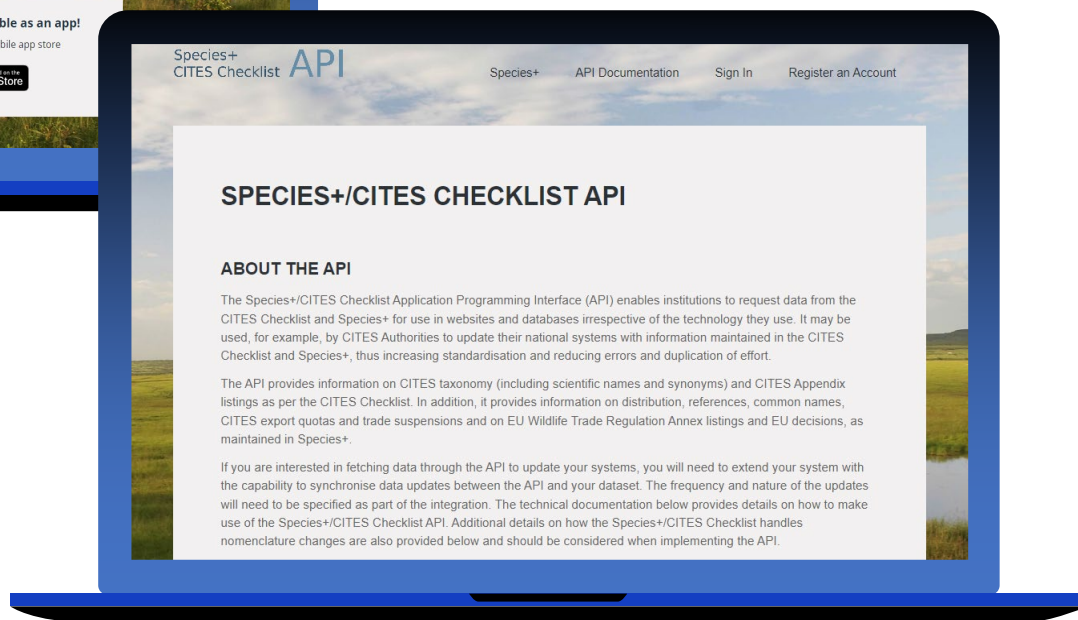
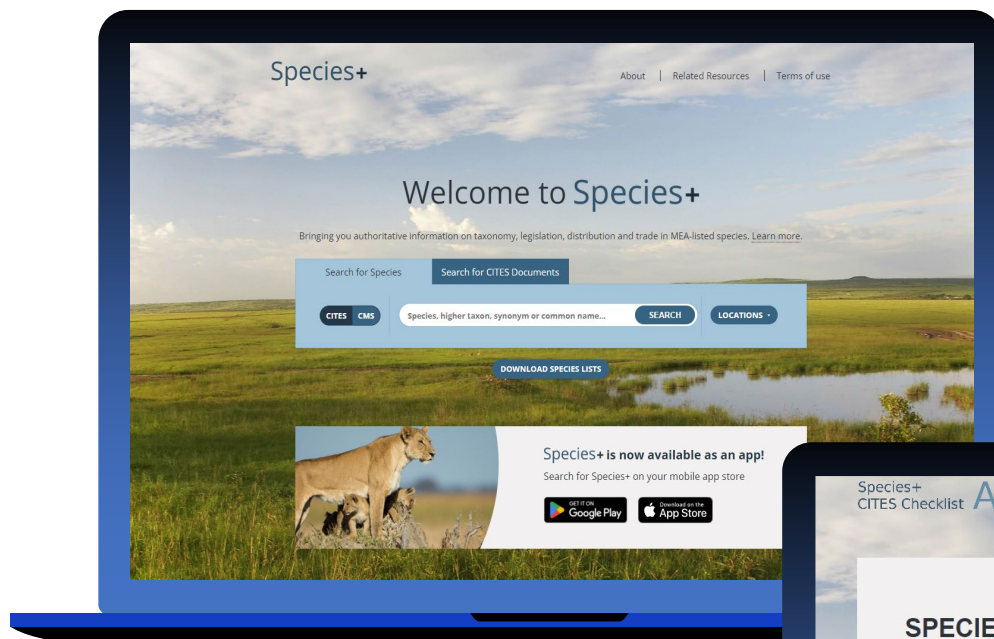


<https://cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES>



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Species+ API - <https://speciesplus.net/>



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eCITES webpage – www.cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES



What is eCITES?

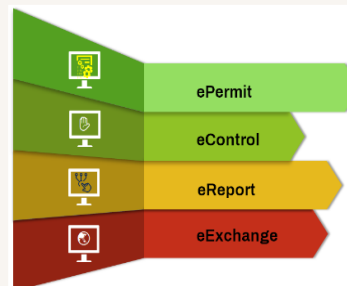
Electronic CITES includes electronic application and issuance of CITES permits, control and authentication of CITES permits, reporting as well as electronic exchange of permits (permit information) between the Parties.

Objective

The objective of electronic CITES or eCITES is to improve the implementation of the Convention by using modern Information and Communication Technologies to simplify compliant trade and to combat illegal trade. It is important to note that digitalization of procedures and electronic information exchange is not an objective in itself, but rather a tool to simplify and improve the work of Management Authorities and other agencies to implement the Convention.

Why is it needed?

The electronic permits together with simpler and automated trade procedures help government agencies to better target their inspections and identify those actors that break the law. Implementation of eCITES facilitates collaboration and electronic information exchange with Customs and other border control agencies for efficient control of CITES trade. Parties will benefit from increased transparency, prevention of fraudulent permits, faster and more robust reporting and better data to decide on non-detriment findings. Finally, simplified and automated procedures could create new business opportunities for compliant traders and rural communities.



Recent Notifications

[THAILAND: E-permitting for terrestrial animals](#)

[THAILAND: E-permitting for plants](#)

[BAHRAIN: E-permitting](#)

UNCTAD ASYCUDA eCITES Solution

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 requirements and extended by the country
- Supports international trade and eBusiness standards : WTO, WCO, UNECE, ISO, ..
- Easy integration with any Customs and Single Window system: electronic permit exchange and validation, integrated Customs Risk Management, eSPS,..



ASYCUDA eCITES, worldwide (leaflet)

Sri Lanka and Mozambique are the latest countries to implement ASYCUDA eCITES Solution

<https://ecites.asycuda.org>



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For questions, contact us.

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