

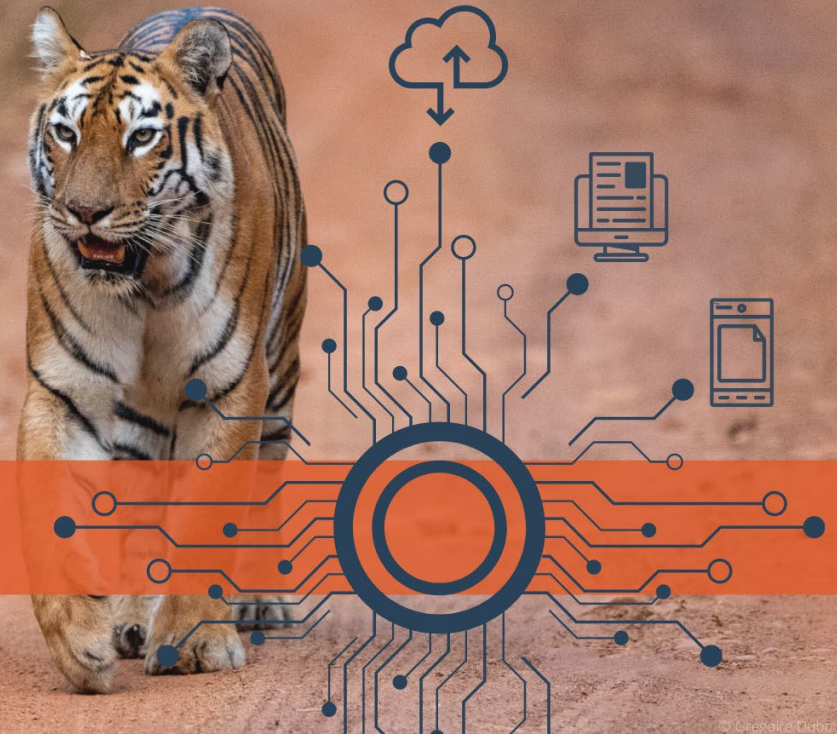


**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific

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

**17 - 18  
July 2023**

**United Nations Building  
Bangkok, Thailand**



## **Introduction to the Electronic CITES Permitting Systems (eCITES)**

**Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat**

**17 July 2023**

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

# CITES: at the cross-section of trade and environment

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)

- Binding trade/environment agreement for **184 Parties** to control trade in 40,000+ species of animals and plants (live, dead, parts & derivatives)
- wildlife and trade
- Conservation & sustainable use





# Illegal wildlife trade

Highly lucrative, transnational, and poses serious risk to the conservation of wild species

- Revenues lost
- Value of the ecosystem services lost

Exploits gaps in control systems

- Manual procedures
- Weak monitoring & collaboration capacity,
- Weak information exchange between agencies
- Uses corruption, mixing illegal goods into legal trade, and fraud (fake permits, false declarations)

➔ **Electronic permit systems can strengthen permit issuance, control and information exchange to fight illegal trade**



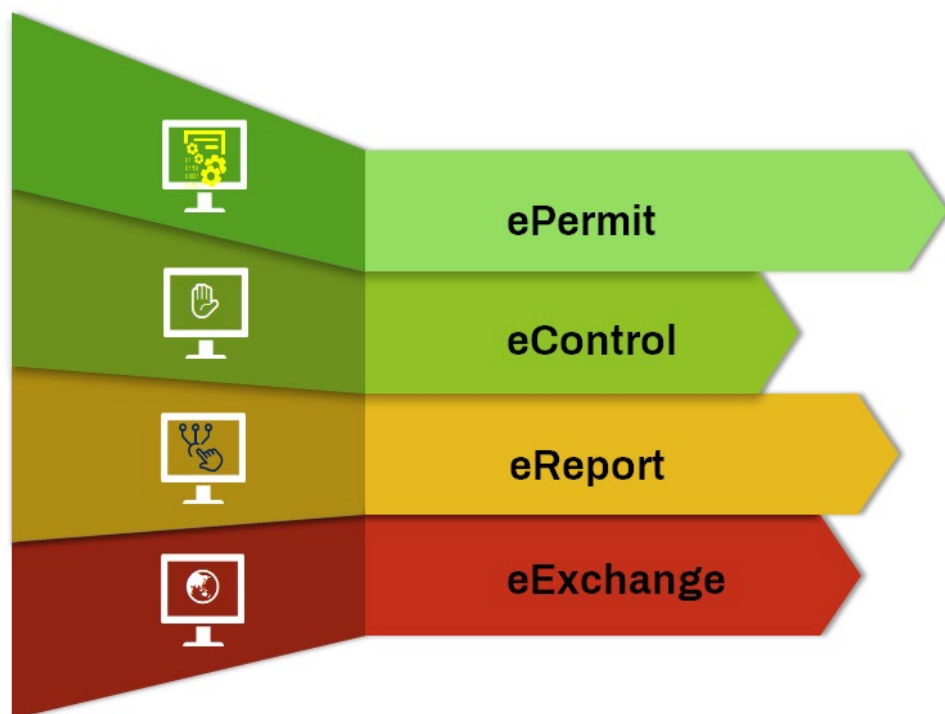
# eCITES permitting system

- ***What is eCITES permitting system?***

The scope of eCITES includes electronic application and issuance of CITES permits, control and authentication of CITES permits, reporting as well as exchange of permits between the Parties.

- ***Objective***

To improve the implementation of the Convention by using modern Information and Communication Technologies to simplify compliant trade and to combat illegal trade.



# Governance and mandate

- Conference of Parties
- Standing Committee
  - Working Group on electronic systems and information technologies



- [Dec. 19.150-19.152](#) on *Electronic Systems and Information Technology*
  - Standards for EPIX, alternatives of endorsement, traceability systems, use of HS codes, capacity development of MAs.
- [Dec. 19.153-19.155](#) on *Risk assessment and analysis for border control*
  - *Risk bases analysis and inspection*

# The Workshop

## Objective

To build the capacity of the representatives of CITES Management Authorities, border enforcement authorities and other agencies that are planning or interested in developing electronic CITES permitting systems or exchange electronic permit information in Asia.

## Topics

- eCITES project implementation
- Implementation status of eCITES
- Technical Standards for eCITES permits/certificates
- Use of 2D barcodes
- Electronic Permit Information Exchange (EPIX)
- Risk management and border control
- Species+ API
- UNCTAD-ASYCUDA eCITES solution



**CITES-ESCAP REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ELECTRONIC CITES PERMITTING SYSTEMS IN ASIA (Hybrid)**

Room G, First Floor, United Nations Conference Centre, United Nations Building, Bangkok

**Programme**

**Monday, 17 July 2023**

09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat (Recorded) Mathias Lörtscher, Chair, CITES Intersessional Working Group on Electronic Systems and Information Technologies (Recorded) Rupa Chandra, Director, Trade Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
09:30 – 10:15	Introduction to the Electronic CITES Permitting (eCITES) Systems – Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat
10:15 – 10:45	UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023 and Cross-border Paperless Trade – Yann Duval, ESCAP
10:45 – 11:15	Tea/Coffee
11:15 – 11:45	Implementation of the eCITES Systems – Salehin Khan, CITES Secretariat
11:45 – 12:15	Presentations and Q&A – Thailand Armenia
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 14:45	Presentations and Q&A – Bangladesh Cambodia Fiji Hong Kong SAR, China
14:45 – 15:15	Tea/Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:15	Electronic CITES Toolkit Version 3.0 – Sue Probert, Expert (online)
16:15 – 16:45	Risk management and border control – Igor Jakupic, WCO (online)
16:45 – 17:15	CITES Species+ API – Aude Caron, UNEP-WCMC (online)

**Tuesday, 18 July 2023**

09:00 – 10:00	Use of two-dimensional barcodes (2D) in CITES permits – Henri Barthel, Expert
10:00 – 10:30	Presentations and Q&A – Indonesia Malaysia
10:30 – 10:45	Tea/Coffee
10:45 – 12:15	Presentations and Q&A – Maldives Oman Philippines



# CITES Permits and Certificates

- CITES regulates international trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora listed in its Appendices on the basis of a **system of permits and certificates** which are issued only when certain conditions are met, and which must be presented when leaving and entering a country
  - For **Appendix-II** and **–III** listed species, international trade is permitted but regulated
  - For **Appendix-I** listed species, international trade is generally prohibited



# CITES: A Convention built on permits

- The CITES permit is a key instrument of the Convention that balances **conservation and sustainable use objectives**
- Permit ensures **legality, sustainability and traceability** of trade

CONVENTION ON  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF  
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No.

☐ EXPORT  
☐ RE-EXPORT  
☐ IMPORT  
☐ OTHER:

Original

2. Valid until

1. Importer (name and address)

4. Exporter/Re-exporter (name, address and country)

3. Quantity of export

Signature of the applicant

5. Special conditions

6. Name, address, national identification and country of Management Authority

In this Permit, the permit is certificate of sale valid if the transport conditions set forth in the Guidelines for the Transport of Live Animals, or the Code of the Transport, to the CITES Live Animals Regulations

7. Purpose of the transaction  
(see annex)

8. Security stamp no.

10. Scientific name (genus and species)  
and common name of animal or plant

9. Description of specimens,  
including identifying marks  
or numbers (signature if any)

13. Appendix no. and source  
(see annex)

11. Quantity (including unit)

12. Total export/Import

10a.

9a.

13a.

11a.

12a.

A 12. Quantity of export Permit no. Date

13b. Quantity of live animals

Certificate no.

Date

12b. No. of the specimen in date of importation

10b.

9b.

13b.

11b.

12b.

B 12. Quantity of export Permit no. Date

13b. Quantity of live animals

Certificate no.

Date

12b. No. of the specimen in date of importation

10c.

9c.

13c.

11c.

12c.

C 12. Quantity of export Permit no. Date

13b. Quantity of live animals

Certificate no.

Date

12b. No. of the specimen in date of importation

10d.

9d.

13d.

11d.

12d.

D 12. Quantity of export Permit no. Date

13b. Quantity of live animals

Certificate no.

Date

12b. No. of the specimen in date of importation

10e.

9e.

13e.

11e.

12e.

Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, land or captivity or artificially propagated (specimens in date of re-export)

1. Only for specimens of Appendix I species listed in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes

2. For specimens of Appendix I species

3. For specimens of Appendix II species

4. For specimens of Appendix III species

5. For specimens of Appendix IV species

6. For specimens of Appendix V species

7. For specimens of Appendix VI species

8. For specimens of Appendix VII species

9. For specimens of Appendix VIII species

10. For specimens of Appendix IX species

11. For specimens of Appendix X species

12. For specimens of Appendix XI species

13. For specimens of Appendix XII species

14. For specimens of Appendix XIII species

15. For specimens of Appendix XIV species

16. For specimens of Appendix XV species

17. For specimens of Appendix XVI species

18. For specimens of Appendix XVII species

19. For specimens of Appendix XVIII species

20. For specimens of Appendix XIX species

Place

Date

Security stamp, signature and official seal

4. Export endorsement

15. List of Listings for export number

Block	Quantity
A	
B	
C	



# How does it help the Parties?

## Legality:


Origin & sourcing, (inter-) national legislation

## Sustainability

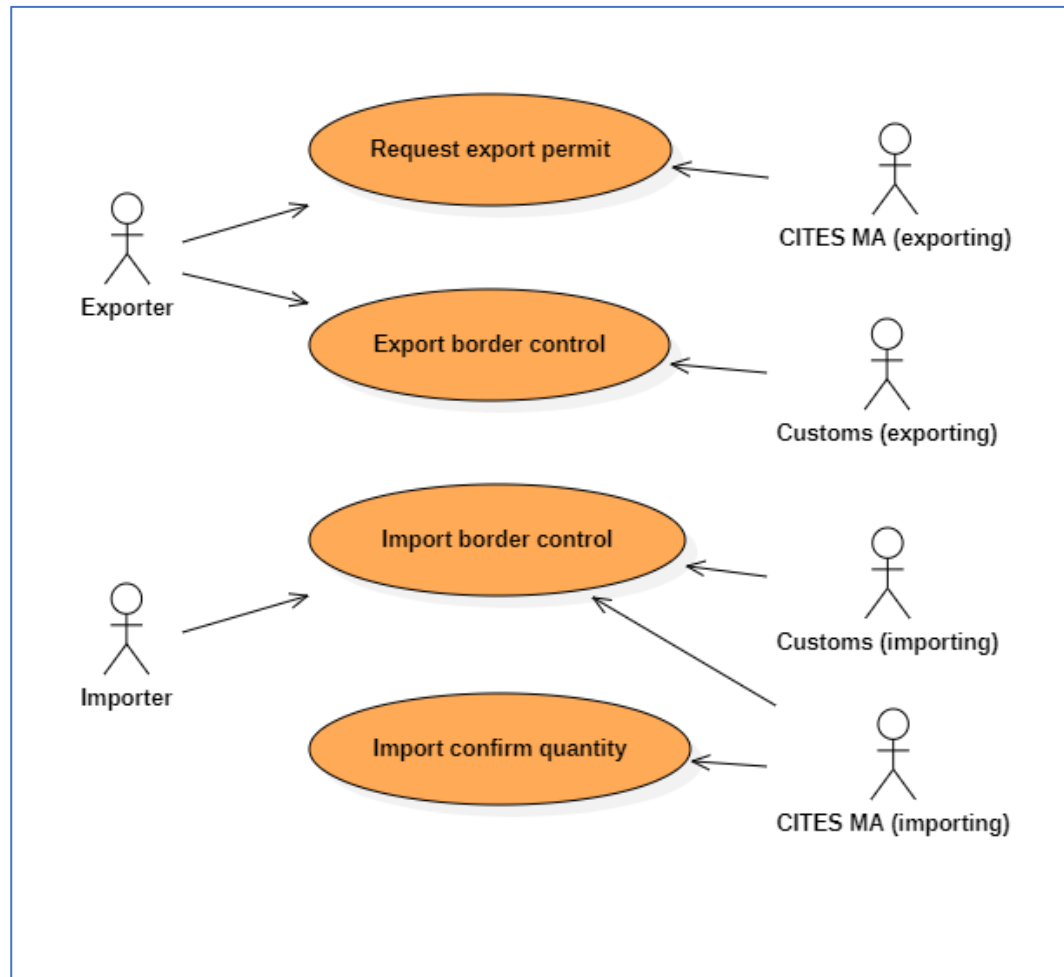
Non-detriment findings

## Traceability

Trade data & transaction details

 <b>CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA</b>		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____		Original 2. Valid until: _____										
		4. Exporter/Importer (name, address and country): _____ Signature of the applicant: _____												
3. Importer (name and address): _____ Country of origin: _____		6. Name, address, national authority and country of Management Authority: _____												
5. Special conditions: _____ <small>For live animals, this permit is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the Convention and the relevant laws of the country of origin.</small>		7. Purpose of the transaction (see annex): _____												
8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (specimen(s) name): _____		9. Appendix no. and source (see annex): _____		10. Quantity (including unit): _____										
11. Total export/Import: _____		12. Country of origin: _____ Permit no.: _____ Date: _____												
13. Country of last receipt: _____ Certificate no.: _____ Date: _____		14. No. of the operation: _____ or date of acquisition: _____												
15. Country of origin: _____ Permit no.: _____ Date: _____		16. Country of last receipt: _____ Certificate no.: _____ Date: _____												
17. No. of the operation: _____ or date of acquisition: _____		18. Country of origin: _____ Permit no.: _____ Date: _____												
19. Country of last receipt: _____ Certificate no.: _____ Date: _____		20. No. of the operation: _____ or date of acquisition: _____												
21. Country of origin: _____ Permit no.: _____ Date: _____		22. Country of last receipt: _____ Certificate no.: _____ Date: _____												
23. No. of the operation: _____ or date of acquisition: _____		24. Country of origin: _____ Permit no.: _____ Date: _____												
25. Country of last receipt: _____ Certificate no.: _____ Date: _____		26. No. of the operation: _____ or date of acquisition: _____												
27. Has permit/certificate been issued by: _____ Place: _____ Date: _____ Security stamp, signature and of host seal: _____														
28. Export endorsement: _____ 29. List of Listing for restricted number: _____														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Batch</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Batch	Quantity	A		B		C		D	
Batch	Quantity													
A														
B														
C														
D														
Date of export: _____		Signature: _____ Official stamp and title: _____												

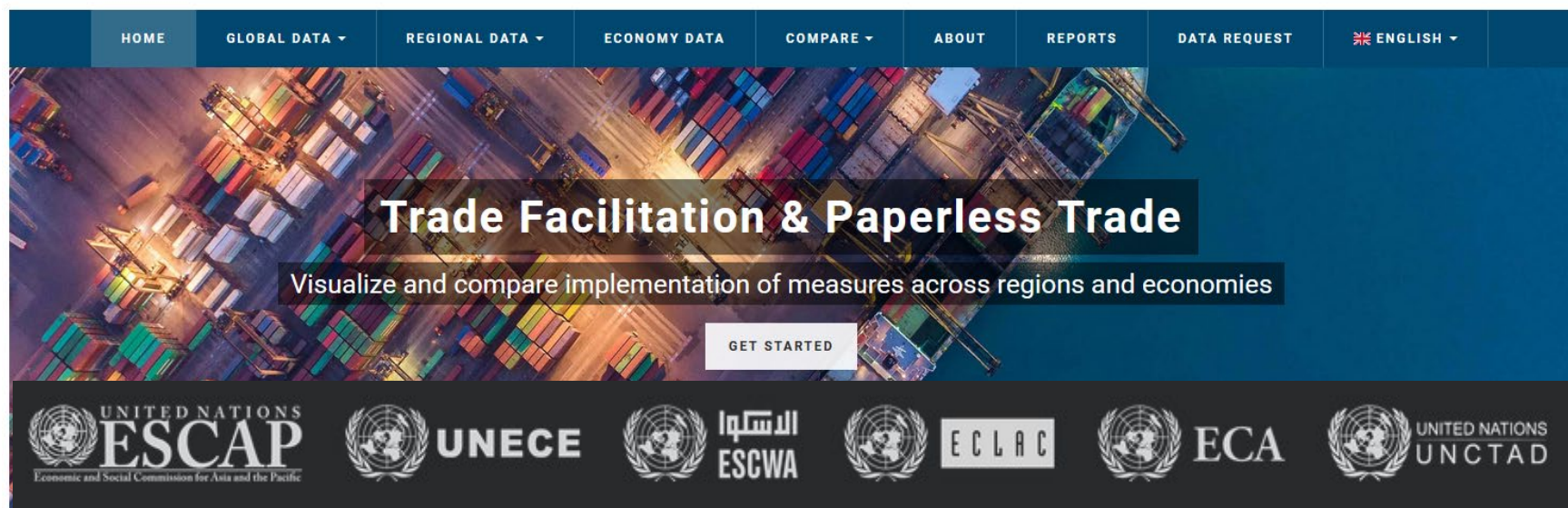
# Use Case Diagram – CITES e-permit exchange for Appendix II species



# Current status of eCITES implementation - New Survey Tool

- The United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023 (biennial)
- New Question on Wildlife Trade Facilitation –
  - Electronic Application, Issuance and Exchange of CITES Permits/Certificates

## UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation



# Current status of eCITES implementation – 2023 Survey Results

- Only less than 30 percent of respondent Parties have implemented this measure – [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org)

## Electronic application, issuance and exchange of eCITES

Afghanistan	Not implemented	Albania	Do not know
Andorra	Do not know	Antigua and Barbuda	Not implemented
Argentina	Partially implemented	Armenia	Fully implemented
Australia	Planning stage	Austria	Do not know
Azerbaijan	Partially implemented	Bahrain	Do not know
Bangladesh	Not implemented	Belarus	Do not know
Belgium	Partially implemented	Belize	Not implemented
Benin	Not implemented	Bhutan	Do not know
Bolivia, E.P.	Planning stage	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Do not know
Botswana	Not implemented	Brazil	Planning stage
Brunei Darussalam	Do not know	Bulgaria	Not implemented
Burkina Faso	Not implemented	Burundi	Do not know
Cabo Verde	Not implemented	Cambodia	Do not know
Cameroon	Partially implemented	Canada	Do not know
Chile	Partially implemented	China	Do not know
Colombia	Not implemented	Comoros	Do not know
Congo	Do not know	Costa Rica	Partially implemented
Cote d'Ivoire	Do not know	Croatia	Planning stage



# Key challenges

- Exchange of permit information between national agencies and Parties and interoperability.
- Possible alternatives to physical endorsements of permits (digital signatures, barcodes).
- Risk management of CITES specimens and use of HS codes for controls.
- Resources and capacity of Management Authorities
- Cooperation with border agencies (customs, law enforcement authorities etc.)
- Cost of implementation vs trade volume vs trade value.
- Lack of financial resources for implementing eCITES across the regions.



# Partners



**UNCTAD**



**UNECE**



**ESCAP**

Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific

**UN/CEFACT**



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

**UN WCMC**  
environment  
programme



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

**Thank you**

**Salehin Khan**

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