



UNCTAD / July 2023

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

eCITES@asycuda.org



1. Context

- 2. Actors and Workflow**
- 3. Implementation**
- 4. Demo**
- 5. eCITES status in Sri Lanka**
- 6. eCITES upscaling & Lessons learned**
- 7. Capacity building**



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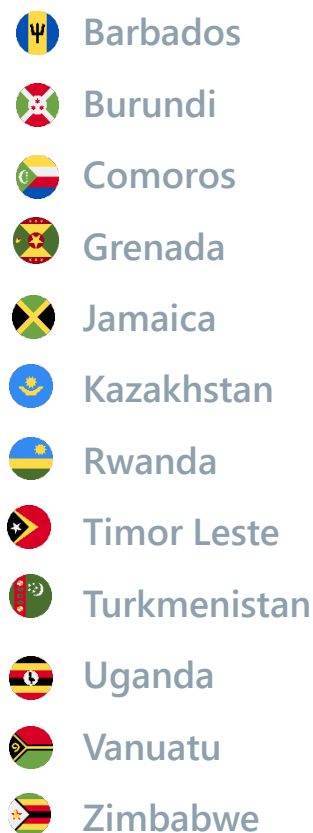
38 LDCs

41 SIDS

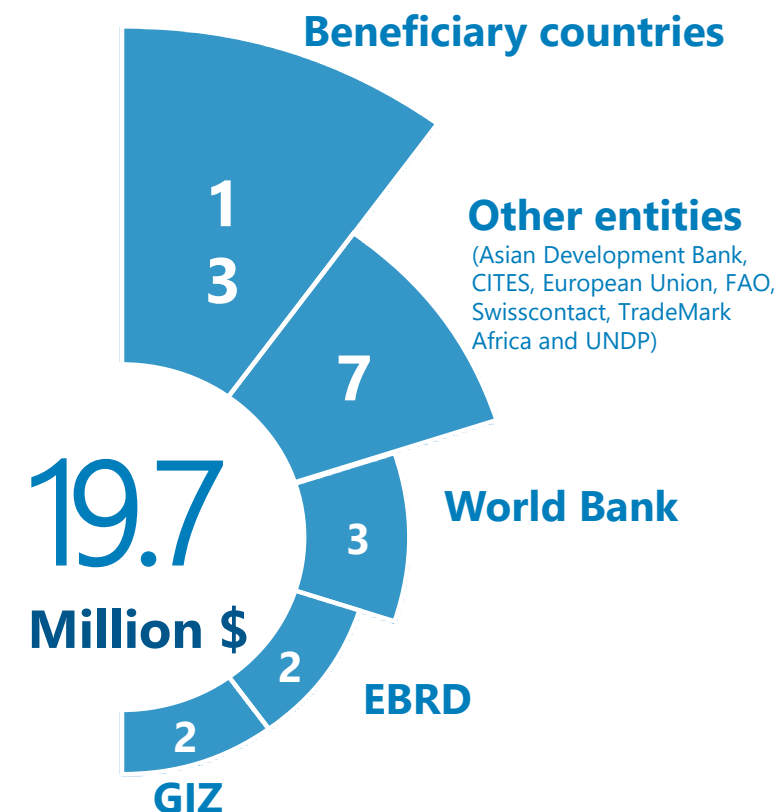
23 LLDCs



12
Single Windows



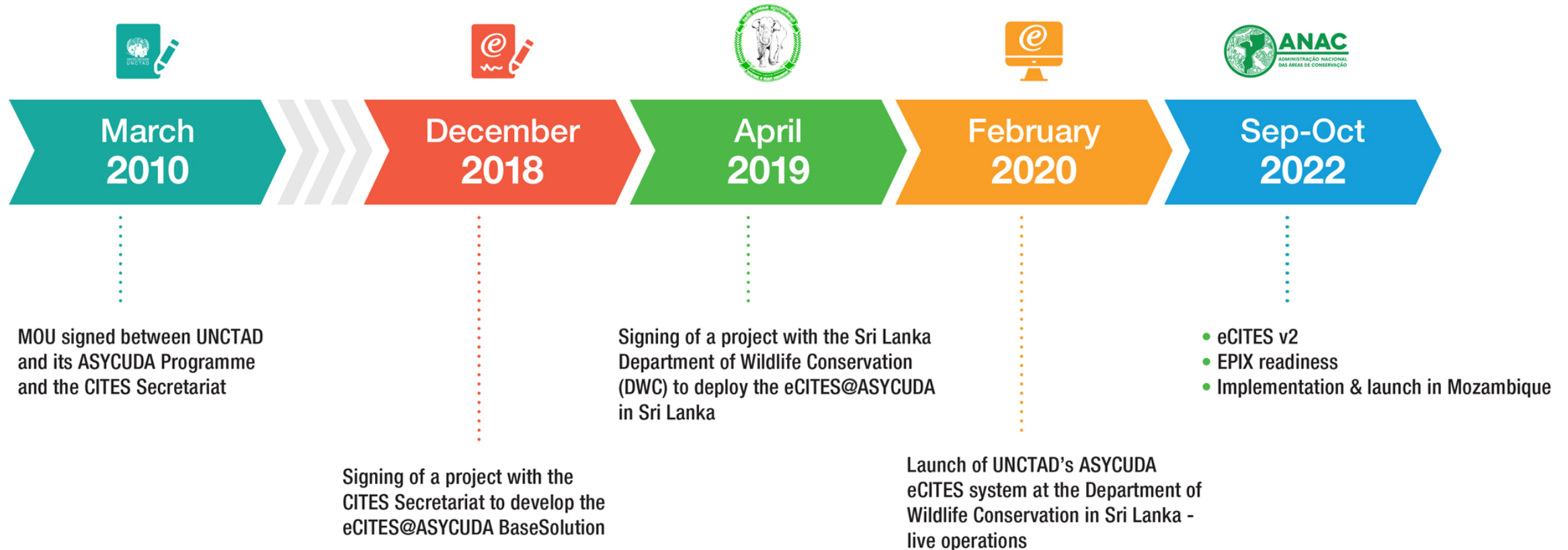
Project **Funding** (2022)



27 New projects
Signed
(2022)

eCITES@ASYCUDA

Using state of the art information technology and information management approaches to combat illegal trade in wildlife





1. Context

2. Actors and Workflow

3. Implementation

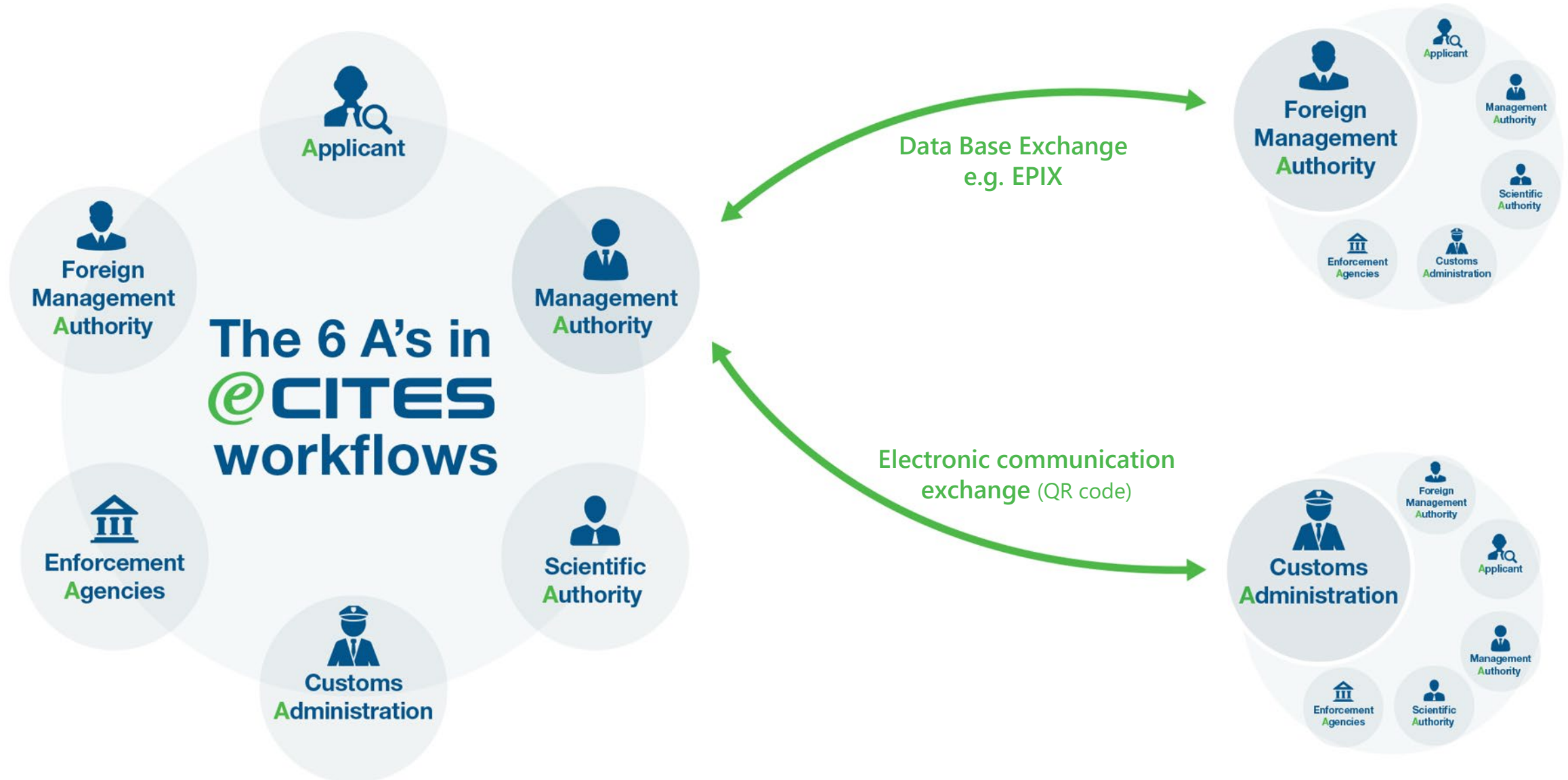
4. Demo

5. eCITES status in Sri Lanka

6. eCITES upscaling & Lessons learned

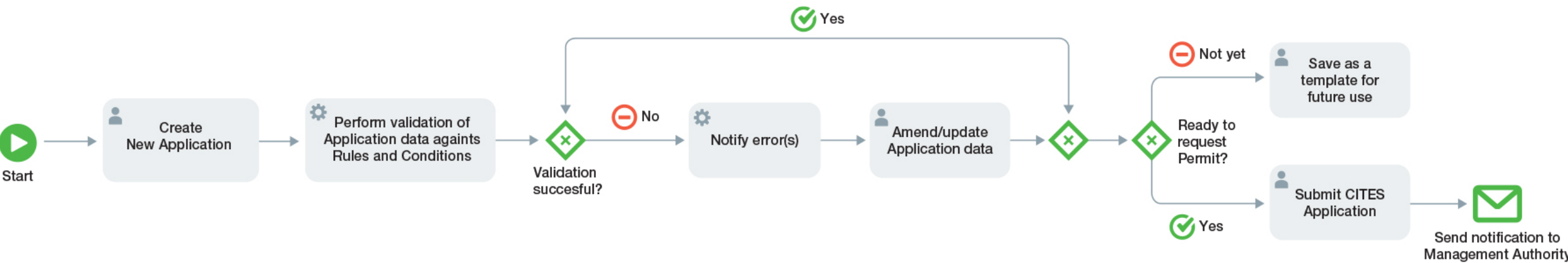
7. Capacity building



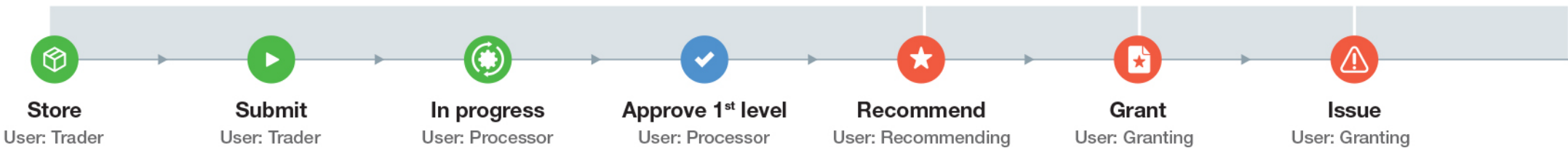


Actors and Workflow

Applicant

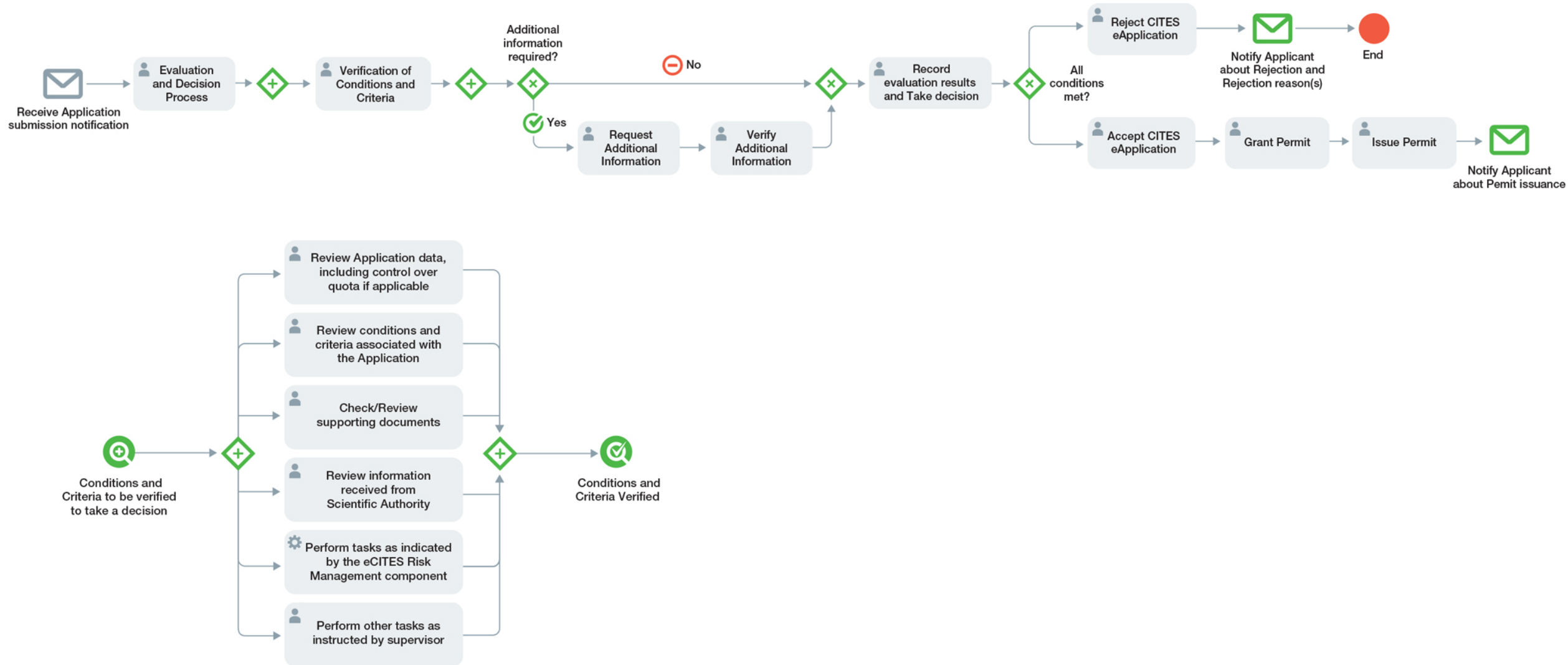


Real time process timeline



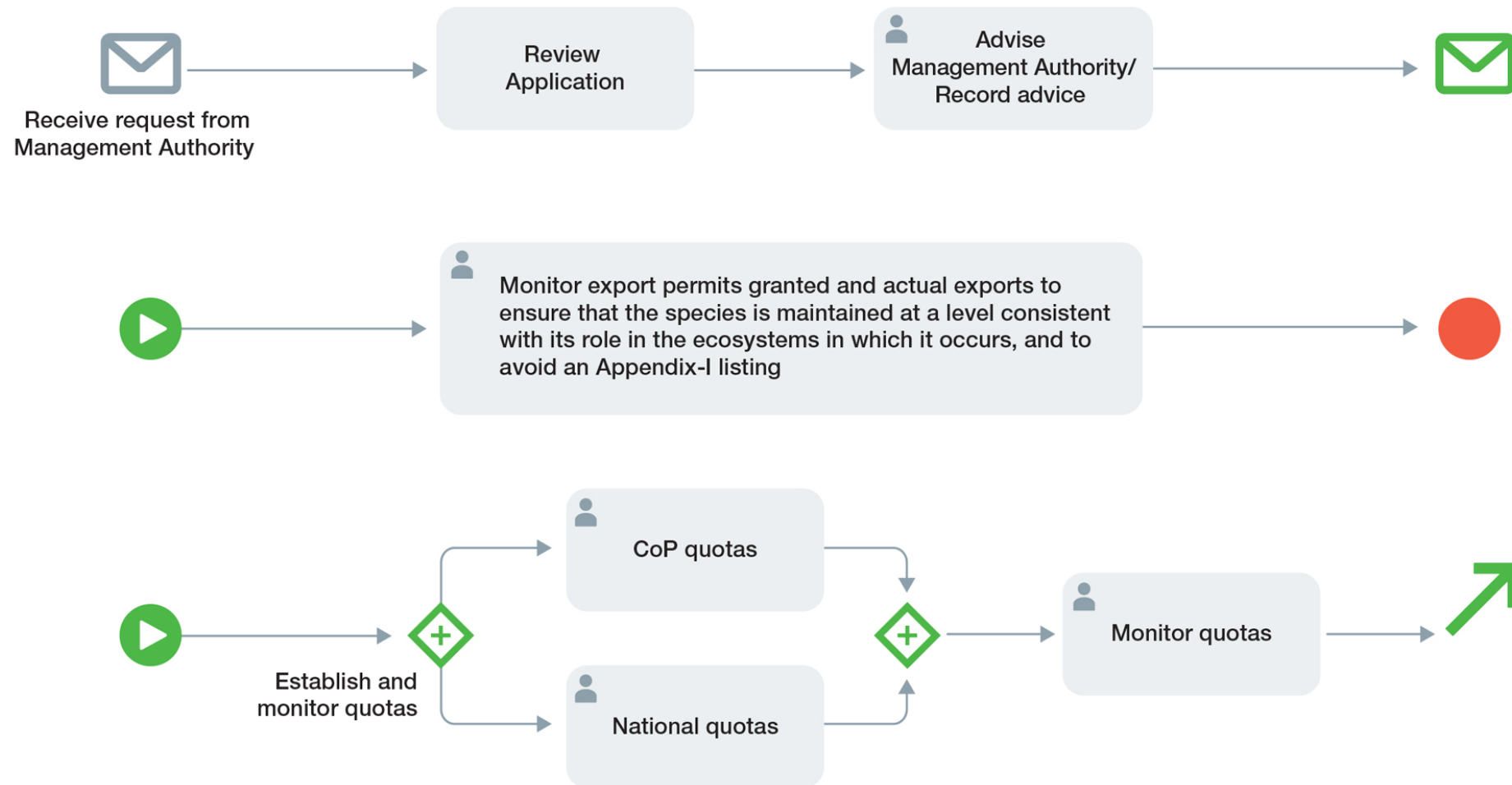
Actors and Workflow

Management Authority



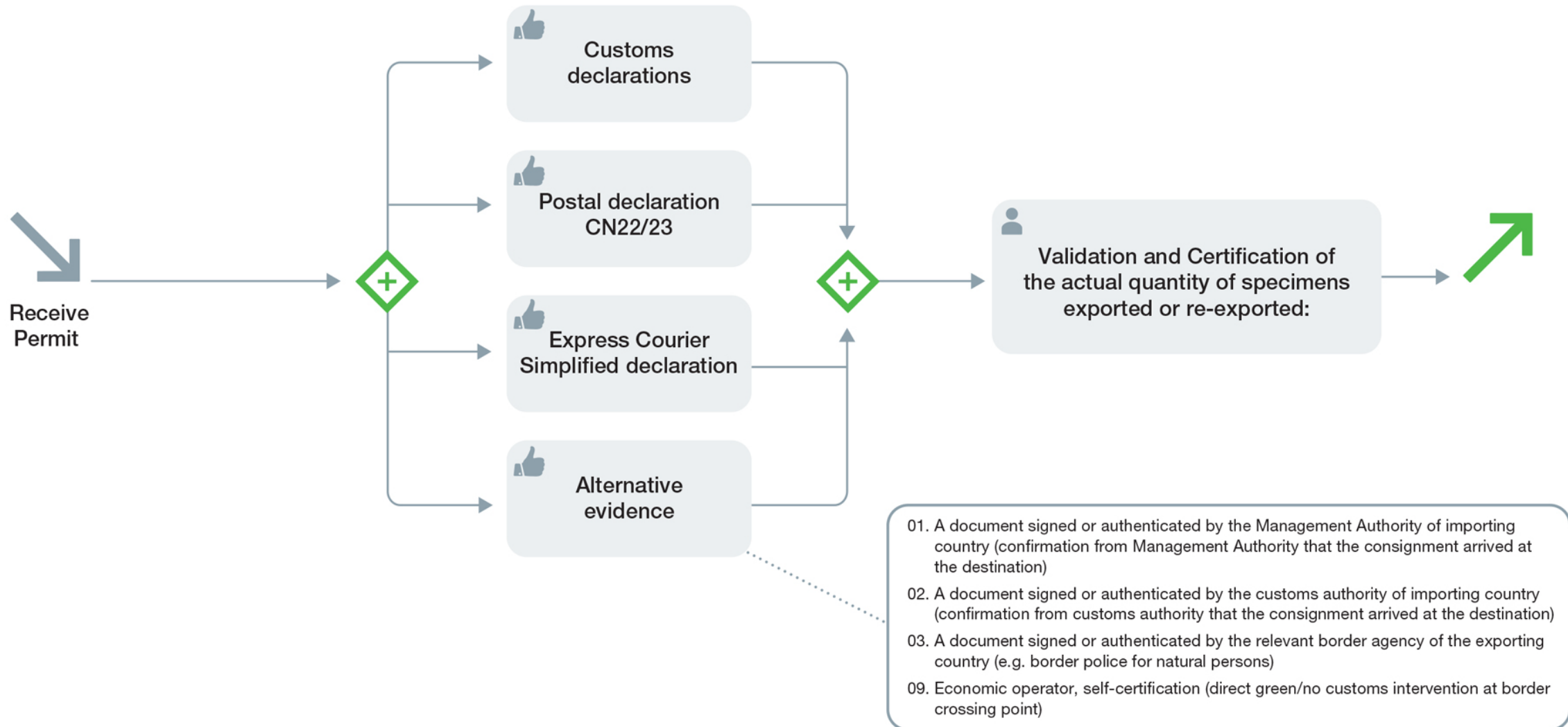
Actors and Workflow

Scientific Authority



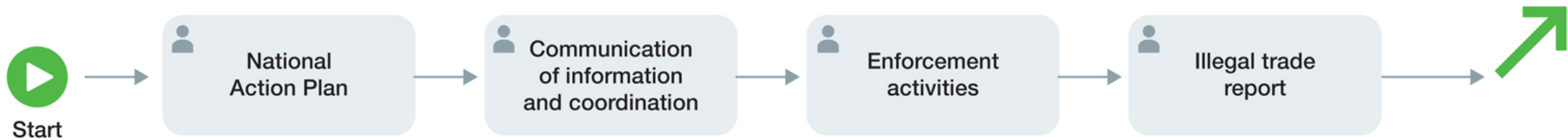
Actors and Workflow

Designated Customs Office for Exit/Entry



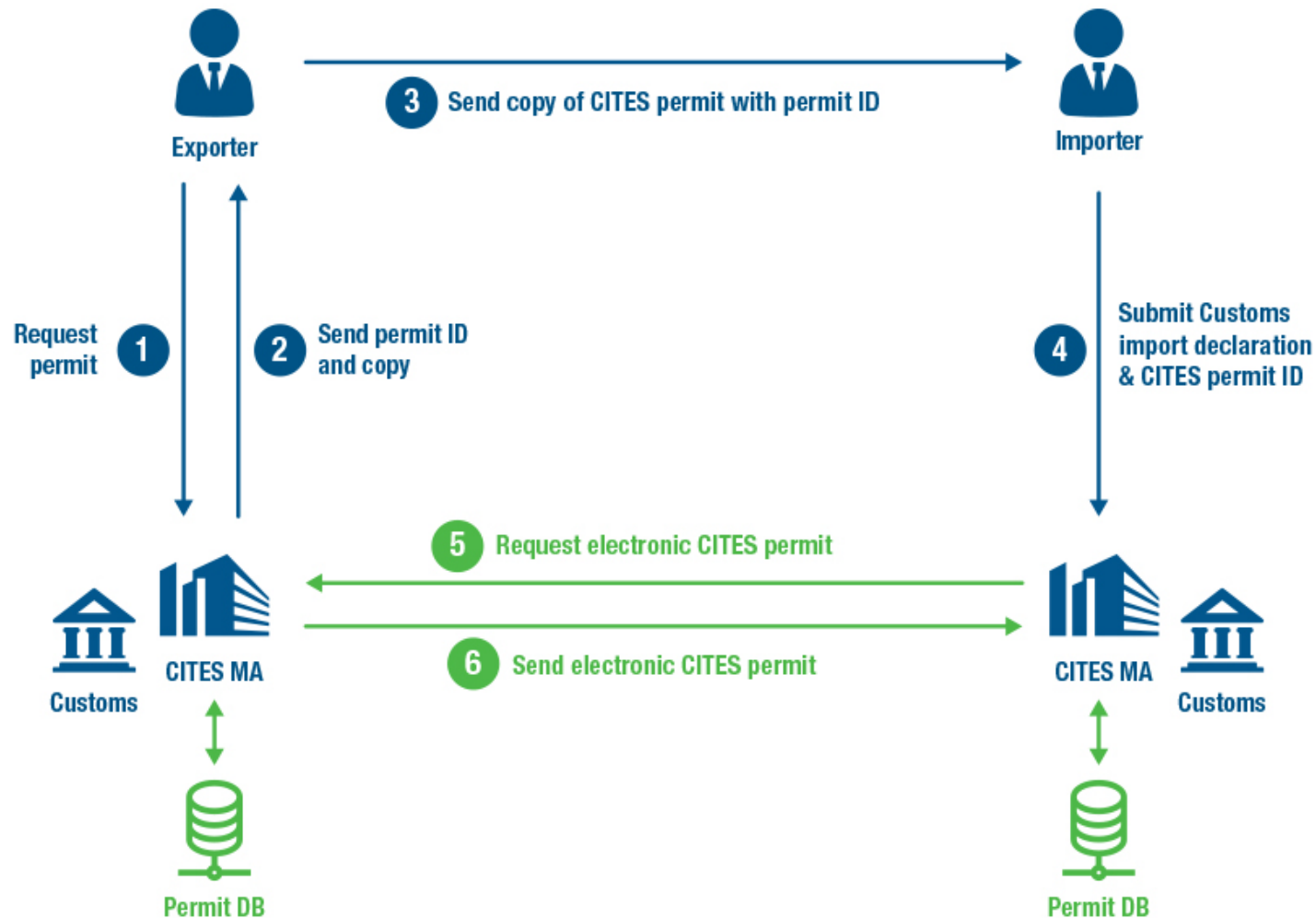
Actors and Workflow

Enforcement Agencies (including Customs)



Actors and Workflow

Electronic Permit Information Exchange - EPIX



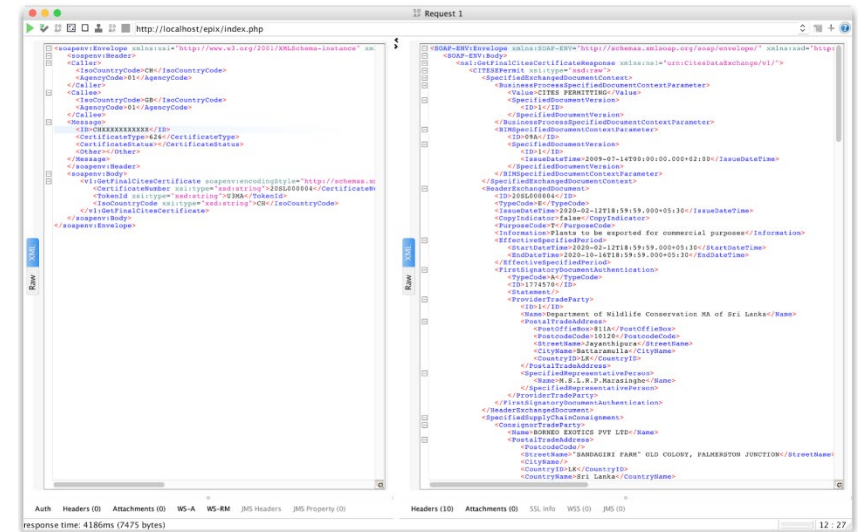
View the WSDL for the service. Click on an operation name to view it's details.

[Get Non Final Cites Certificate](#)

[GetFinal Certificate](#)

[Confirm Quantities](#)

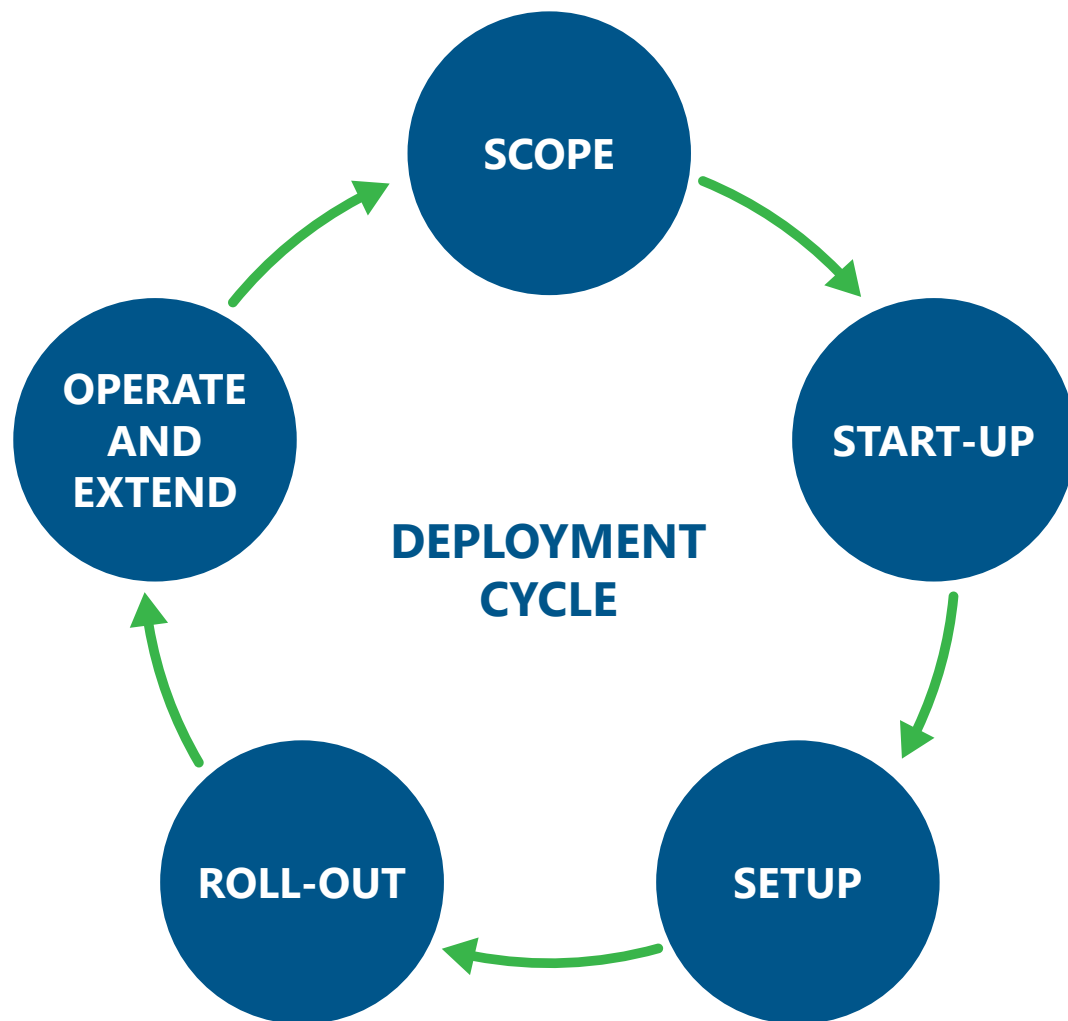
[Service State](#)





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AUTOMATION CYCLE

Electronic support for all the steps of the permitting business process

Phase 1 - ePermit

- ▶ Request and issuance of ePermits (paper and electronic)
- ▶ Management and storage of CITES trade data for CITES annual reporting and quota management
- ▶ Inspection / risk assessments
- ▶ Payments

Phase 2 - eControl

- ▶ Permit information exchange with Customs
- ▶ Risk management and validation of quantities exported
- ▶ Single Window integration

Phase 3 - eReport

- ▶ CITES annual reports required under the provisions of Article VIII, par. 7 (b)
- ▶ Customised reports

Phase 4 - eExchange

- ▶ Exchange of national permit data between countries
- ▶ Cross-border traceability of CITES permits

Implementation

There are three options for the implementation of eCITES in a beneficiary country



National implementation - eCITES MA

- ▶ The national eCITES system is installed in the beneficiary country (e.g. in the premises of the national CITES MA), in the framework of a technical assistance agreement for provision of technical/functional support during the customisation, testing, piloting and rollout of the system, and training on the operation, functional/technical administration and maintenance of the system.
- ▶ The operation and the functional/technical administration and maintenance of the national eCITES system are the responsibility of the national authorities (CITES MA/SA etc.)



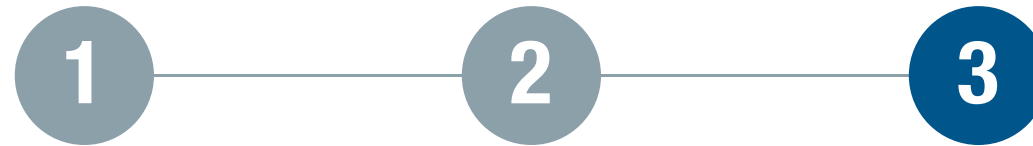
There are three basic options for the implementation of eCITES in a beneficiary country



Regional implementation – Data Centre in the Region

- ▶ The national eCITES system will be installed in one of the countries in the region, CITES regional organisation or ASYCUDA Regional support centre, in the framework of a technical assistance agreement for provision of technical/functional support during the customisation, testing, piloting and rollout of the system, and training on the operation, functional/technical administration and maintenance of the system.
- ▶ The operation and the functional/technical administration and maintenance of the national eCITES system are the responsibility of the CITES regional organization or ASYCUDA Regional support centre, as applicable.

There are three basic options for the implementation of eCITES in a beneficiary country



Hosted solution – UNCTAD Data Centre

- ▶ The national eCITES system will be hosted by UNCTAD in the framework of a technical assistance agreement for provision of functional support during the customisation, testing, piloting and rollout of the system, and training on the operation and the functional administration of the system.
- ▶ The operation and the functional administration of the national eCITES are the responsibility of the national CITES MA/SA etc. UNCTAD will cover the full ICT and functional maintenance and support activities. CITES data is owned by the beneficiary country.

Standard Base Solution

Electronic Permit Management – Base vs Augmented Solution	@CITES	
	Base solution	Augmented solution
<i>eCITES – Business Requirements, Information Flows, System Capabilities/Functionalities</i>		
• Automation of the elementary CITES permit procedures: electronic permit requests, electronic notification of traders, management of supporting documents, prepayment of fees, control of the internal permit approval process, management of quotas and trade suspensions, issuance of permits, automated generation of CITES annual trade reports;	✓	✓
• Transparency and accountability in the permit process: who, what, when, where;	✓	✓
• Instant access to all pending and issued permits;	✓	✓
• Interaction between traders and government officials is on-line, formalized and recorded;	✓	✓
• Faster and better controlled permit processes, traceability of all decisions and reduced opportunities for informal procedures;	✓	✓
• Ensures conformity with the provisions of the CITES Convention, improve the monitoring of legal international trade while reducing the incidences of illegal wildlife trade;	✓	✓
• Reliable electronic data for better annual trade reporting;	✓	✓
• Facility to adopt stricter domestic measures and to include some non-CITES species;	✓	✓
• Access from any device with an internet browser;	✓	✓
• Safe, secure and reliable cross border electronic exchange and verification of CITES permit data among CITES Management Authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point-to-point; • Through a regional Hub. 	-	✓

Standard Base Solution

Electronic Permit Management – Base vs Augmented Solution	@CITES	
	Base solution	Augmented solution
<i>eCITES – Business Requirements, Information Flows, System Capabilities/Functionalities</i>		
• Electronic permit exchange with national Customs and border control agencies including Single Window integration;	-	✓
• Electronic Customs Risk Management for CITES listed species and targeted controls;	-	✓
• Strengthened Legal Acquisition and Non-Detriment Finding (NDF): advanced quota control, traceability, workflow with Scientific Authority, assignment of tasks, electronic Risk Management when evaluating permit requests;	-	✓
• Reuse eCITES data for traceability, end-to-end control and visibility of the supply chain;	-	✓
• Integration of specimens of signatures and stamps of Management Authorities;	-	✓
• Integration and maintenance of a database of registered facilities;	-	✓
• Extension of national eCITES reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on actual quantities exported; • Customized reports and statistical analysis to strengthen NDFs. 	-	✓
• Automation of exemptions and special procedures;	-	✓
• Use of simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates to facilitate and expedite trade that will have a negligible impact, or none, on the conservation of the species concerned;	-	✓
• Enabling Customs Authority and other Enforcement Authorities to fulfill their tasks using mobile devices;	-	✓
• Automation of other processes to support various business models and national legislations.	-	✓

Live demo





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-
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Sri Lanka – Deployment eCITES solution



Sri Lanka

The country's Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) in Sri Lanka made history on the 14th of February 2020 as the first ever country to use the "eCITES BaseSolution", to better control legal trade in CITES-listed species and help prevent illegal trade

KEY DATES

- ▶ April 2019 – Project document signed
- ▶ Mid-April / Mid-August 2019 - Business analysis, Customization of eCITES@asycuda BaseSolution for Sri Lanka environment
- ▶ 17 – 28 August 2019 - SL DWC CITES permitting system presented at COP 18, Geneva
- ▶ 11 October 2019 - Official launching of CITES permitting system in and for Sri Lanka
- ▶ Mid-October 2019 – December 2019 – Prototype testing
- ▶ 6-14 January 2020 - Train-the-Trainer training
- ▶ 14 February 2020 – First electronic eCITES permit issued



Sri Lanka – Deployment eCITES solution



eCITES BaseSolution is a cost-effective, easy-to-deploy & use system for interested national management authorities to manage and regulate legal trade in CITES-listed species. It can be implemented in any other countries through a technical assistance agreement between UNCTAD and the beneficiary country.



Sri Lanka

BENEFITS OF eCITES

- 24/7 online service for a fully automated CITES permit application, processing, issuance
- Automatic alerts on actions to be performed by any actors along the processing workflow
- Direct access to the Species Identification and Classification
- In-built controls allowing accurate data
- Secured permits using QR code feature
- Faster and more robust reporting by authorities
- Facilitates the exchange of electronic permits and information across borders
- Improves collaboration between international and national agencies in implementing CITES provisions



Sri Lanka – Deployment of eCITES solution



Sri Lanka

WHO BENEFITS FROM eCITES

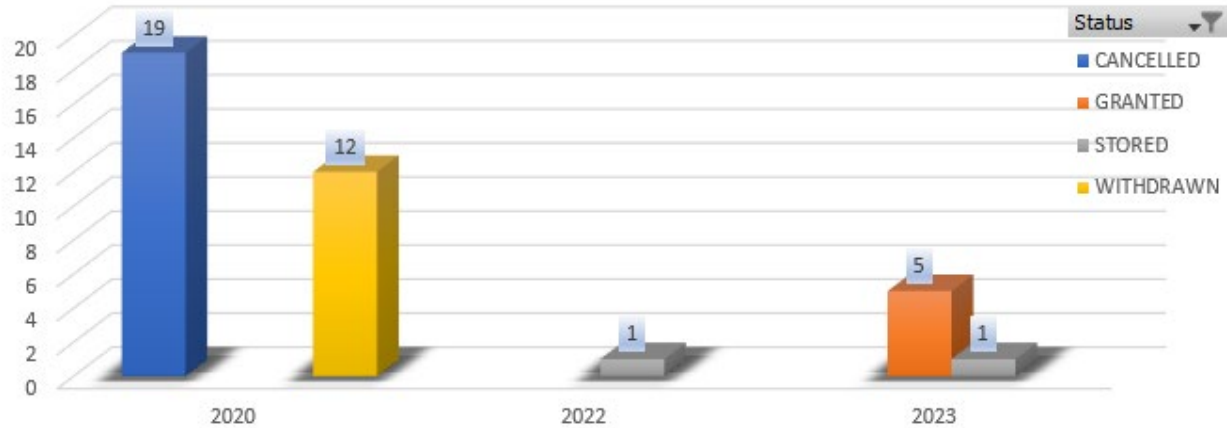
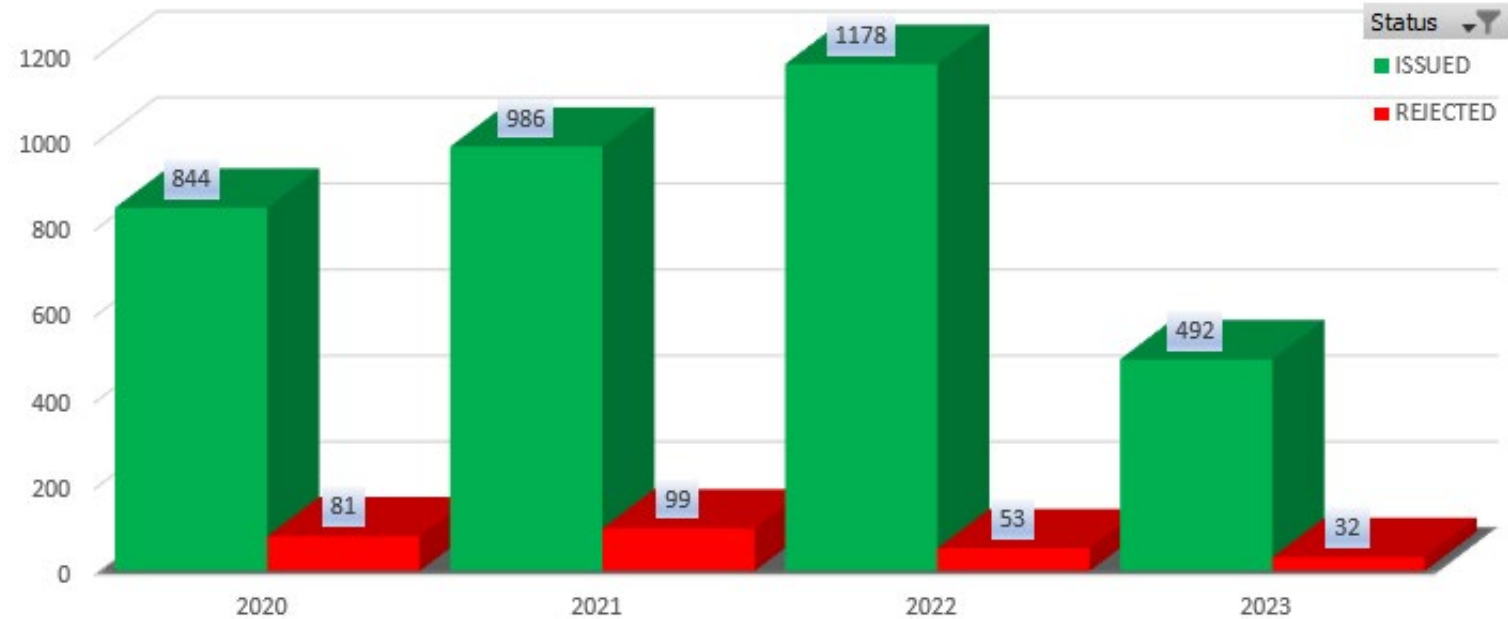
- ▶ Traders
- ▶ Local MA's / SA's Officers
- ▶ Other local Government Agencies (OGAs) (i.e. Customs, Quarantine,)
- ▶ External MAs, SAs, OGAs
- ▶ CITES



Type of CITES Permits per Status per Year



Sri Lanka

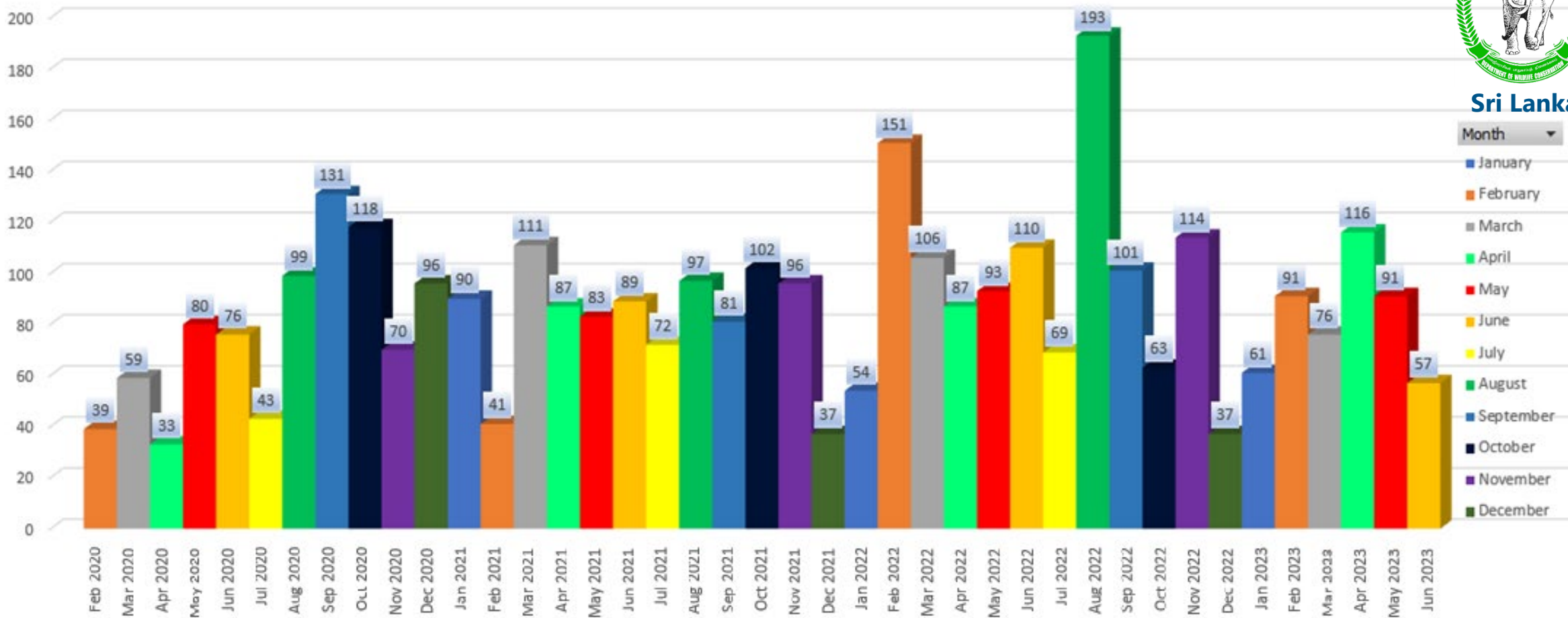




Issued CITES Permit per Month & Year



Sri Lanka

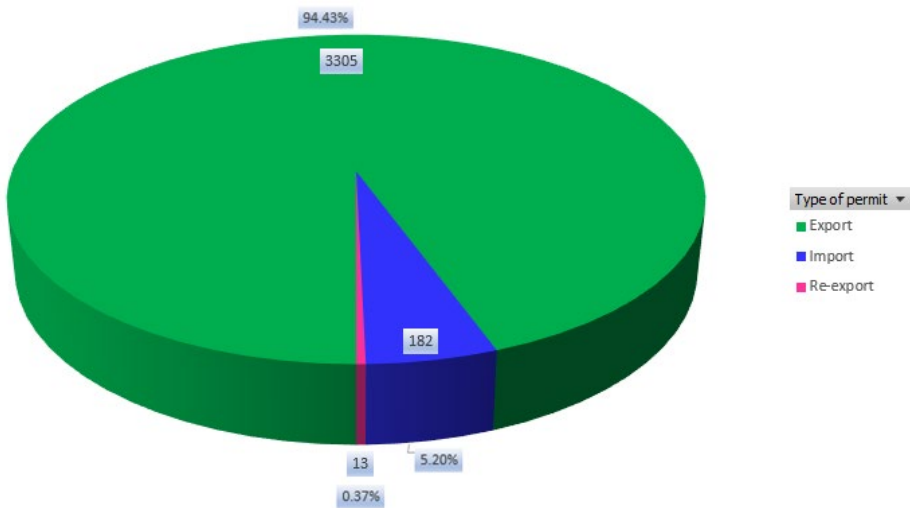
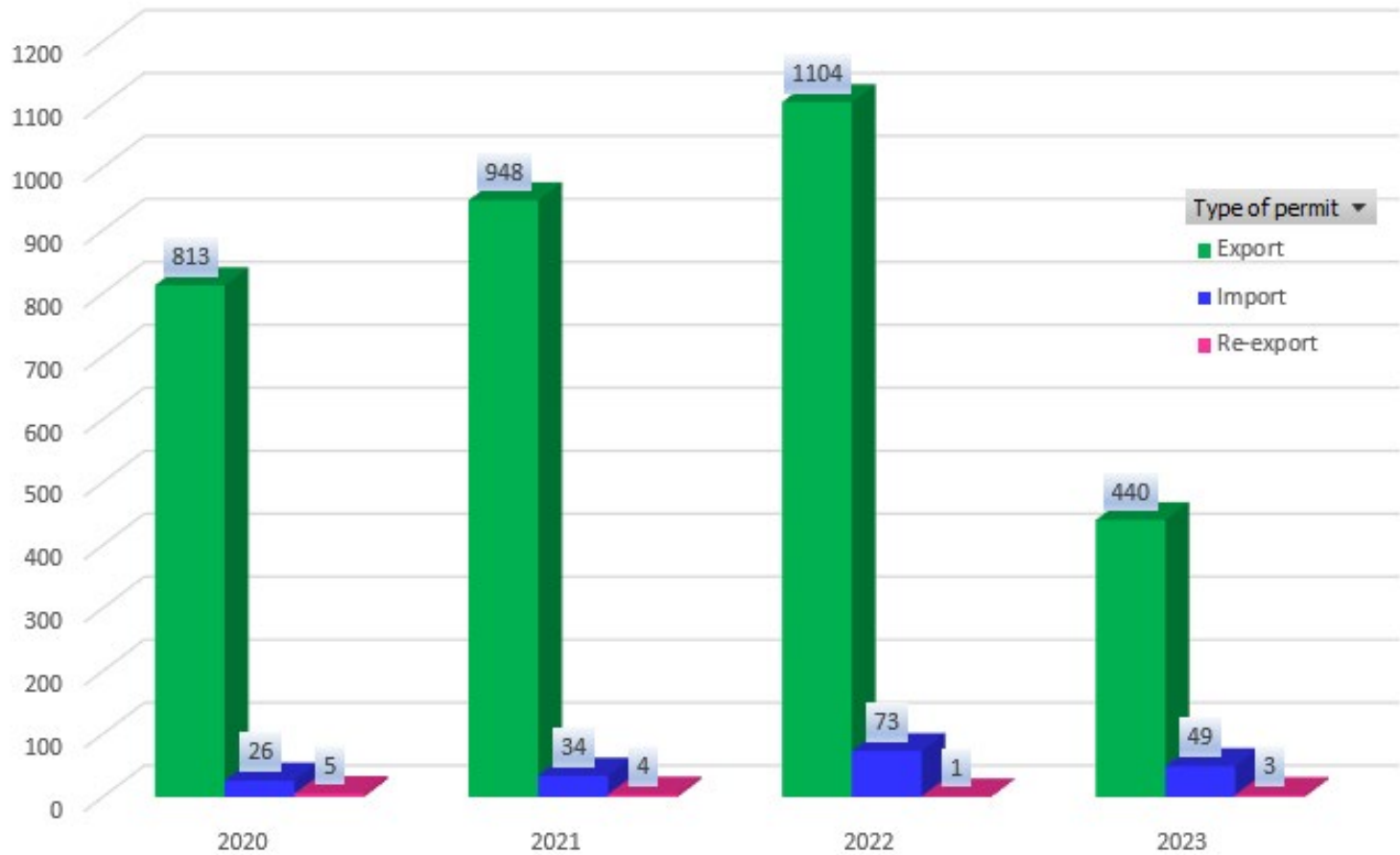




Type of permit per Year; Since Deployment



Sri Lanka

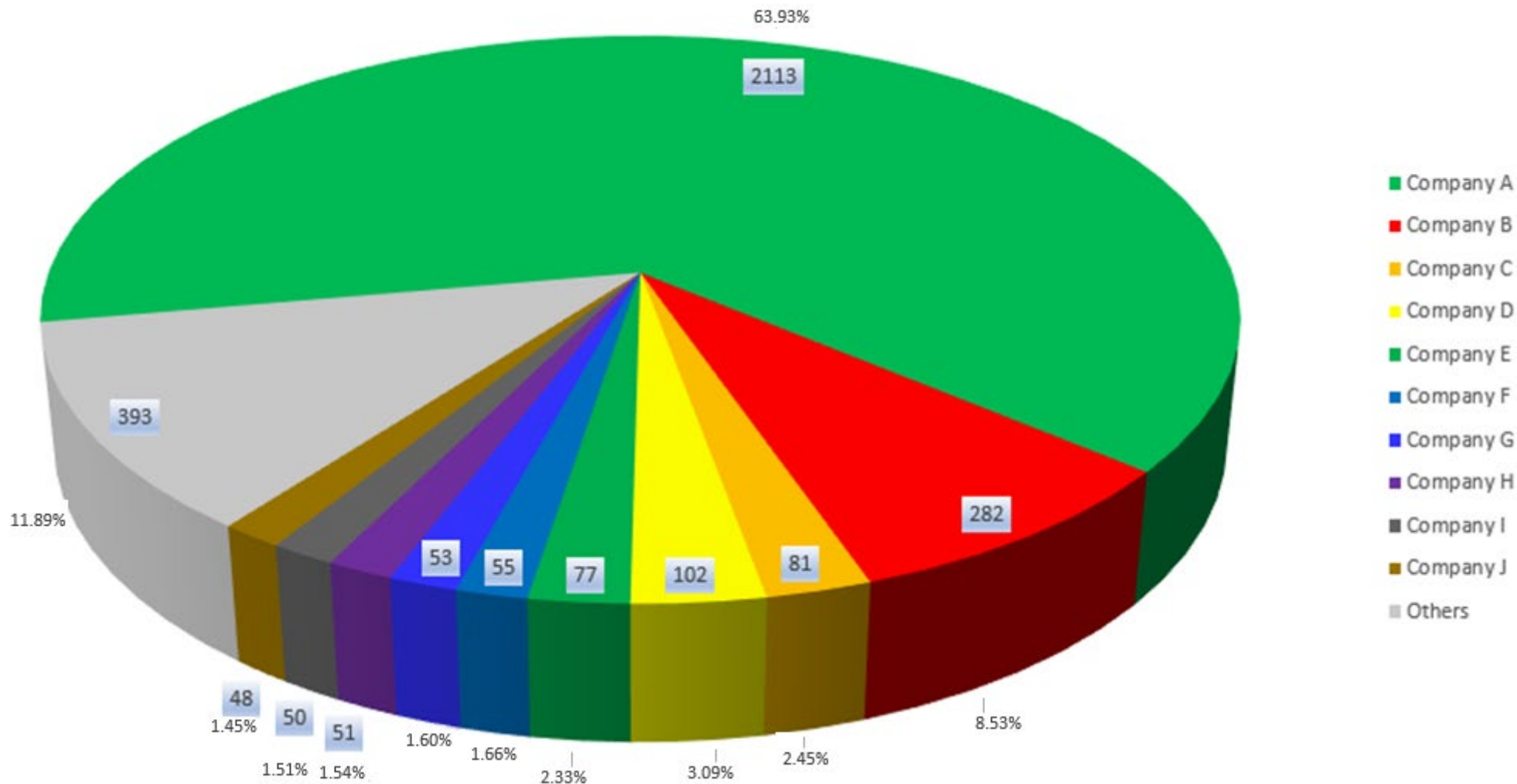




Top 10 Companies - Export CITES Permit since Deployment



Sri Lanka



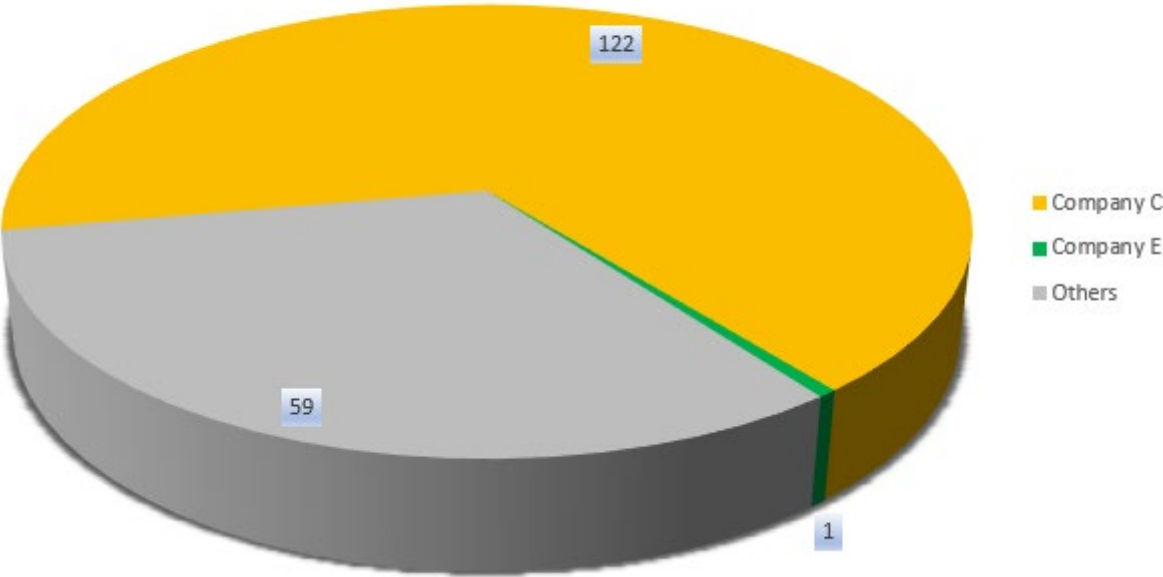


Top 10 Companies Import & Re-export CITES Permit since Deployment

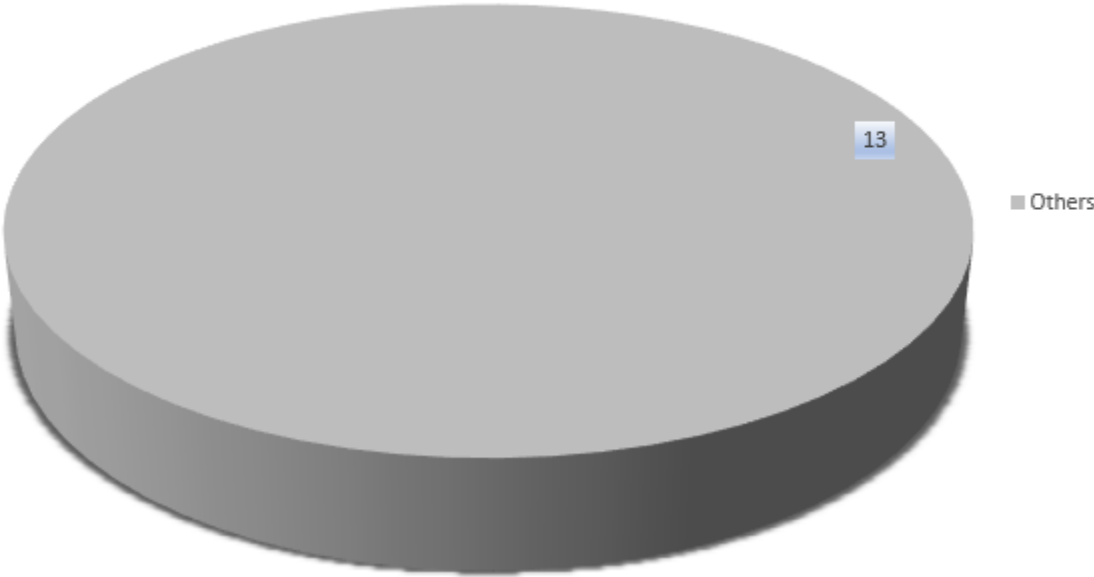


Sri Lanka

Import



Re-export

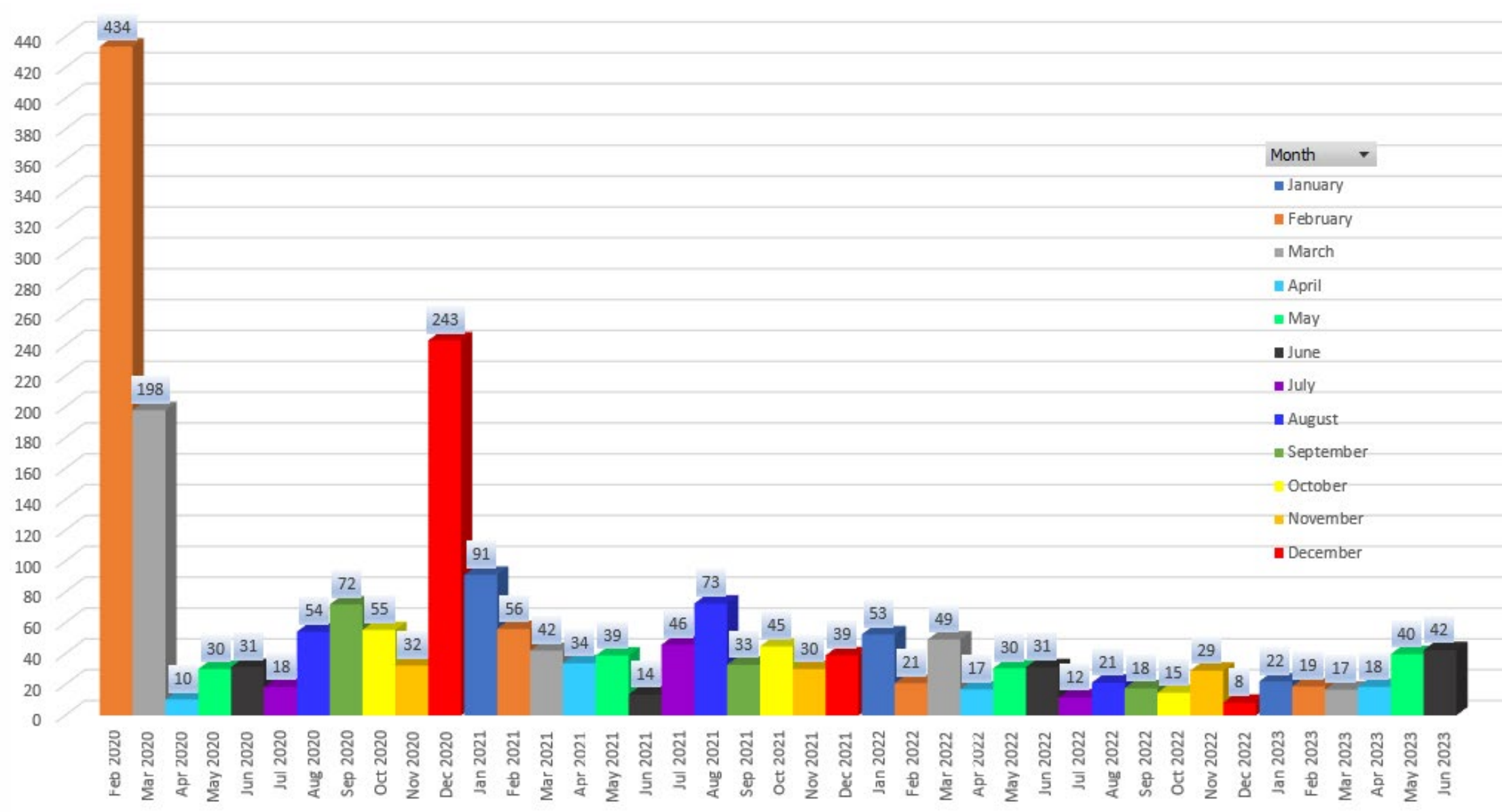




Average processing time (in hours) Export CITES Permit per Month



Sri Lanka





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eCITES status and upscaling

Preparation for deployment of eCITES in other countries & territories

Continuous improvement of eCITES BaseSolution

- ▶ ICT infrastructure - Strengthening of the eCITES infrastructure in UNCTAD to support Mozambique and other MAs requesting eCITES
- ▶ New components and capabilities - eCITES Base Solution new accounting module
- ▶ EPIX - Enhanced module for exchanging information of CITES permits between MAs and/or other government agencies

Deployment of eCITES in Mozambique

eCITES solution was launched on 5 October in Mozambique during the 20th anniversary of the African Wildlife Consultative Forum



Feasibility Studies for eCITES implementation



- ▶ Cambodia – Feasibility study funded by FAO



- ▶ Vanuatu – Feasibility study funded by CITES/US Wildlife (Next step: Submission of UNCTAD project proposal to SPREP for eCITES deployment in Vanuatu)

Current Status

UNCTAD eCITES BaseSolution (version 2) deployed on live environment

- ▶ ANAC started granting CITES Export permits as from 1 February 2023 (13 Permits granted to date)
- ▶ New/updated version of training materials, to include the latest functionalities introduced by eCITES v2
- ▶ Continuous support provided to traders & MA staff
- ▶ Decision to continue the rollout with the issuance of Permits for non-CITES species

Ongoing discussions regarding national extensions and implementation of Augmented Solution, including of:

- ▶ Electronic permit exchange with national customs and border control agencies including MOZ Single Window integration
- ▶ Strengthening of Legal Acquisition Finding: advance quota control, traceability, control of supporting documents, electronic Risk Management when evaluating permit requests
- ▶ Cross border exchange of CITES permits (EPIX) – piloting the solution with South Africa





1

Country specific requirements

2

Phased implementation with minimum core

3

Continuous enhancement and alignment with standards/requirements

4

Opportunities

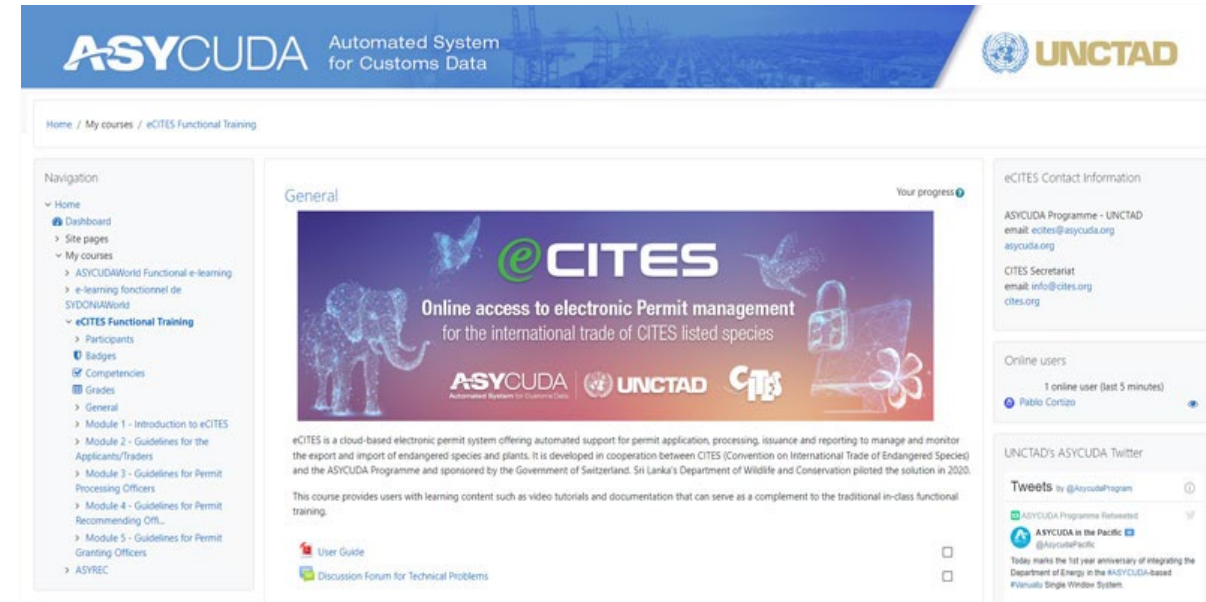


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Providing eCITES Permit solution with learning content such as video tutorials and documentation that can serve as a complement to the traditional in-class functional training

- ▶ Training modules (5) adapted to the roles/tasks of key actors (Applicants, Management Authority) in relation to the eCITES solution
- ▶ One common module for all actors, introduction to eCITES
- ▶ 3 modules covering the Management Authority's main tasks, from receiving an Application to the issuance of CITES Permit
- ▶ New/updated version of training materials, to include the latest functionalities introduced by eCITES v2





THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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