



# **ELECTRONIC CITES PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR UGANDA. An Overview**

By

**Mr. Joward Baluku**

**Senior Wildlife Officer,**

**Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and  
Antiquities**

**At**

**The CITES Africa Regional Workshop On Electronic Cites Permitting Systems,  
Nairobi, Kenya.**

**On**

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**



# Presentation Outline



1. Introduction
2. Objectives
3. Key features
4. Benefits
5. Challenges and solutions
6. Future plans



# Introduction



Uganda became party in 1991.

Currently → 1 MA & 3 SA

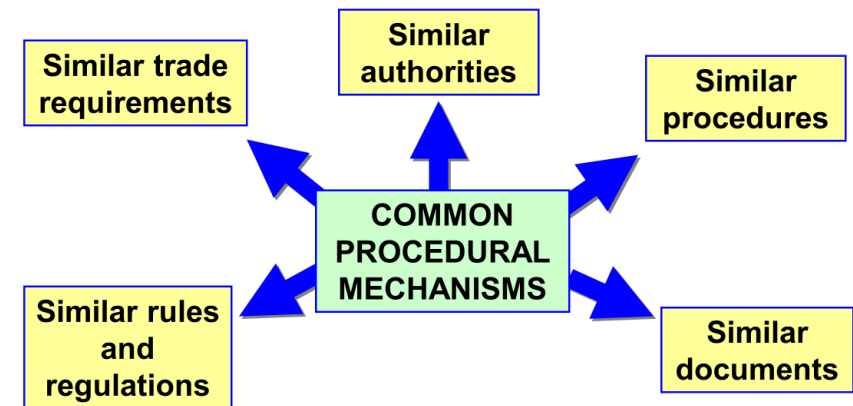
National legal, policy & regulatory framework support sustainable wildlife utilization.

eCITES permitting system is inline with the e-Government national strategic direction.

Other tools include:-

- e-CITES Implementation Framework
- CITES e-Permitting Toolkit,
- Guidelines and specifications for Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) of CITES permits and certificates,
- Guidance on Electronic Signatures on CITES Permits and certificates
- Dec. 19.150-19.152 on Electronic Systems and Information Technology

How CITES works





# Objectives for the e-CITES System

1. To improve efficiency in permit processing.
2. To enhance transparency and traceability in wildlife trade.
3. To facilitate compliance with CITES provisions, decisions & resolutions
4. To provide a user-friendly interface for stakeholders (Traders, MA, SA, Customs & other LE)
5. To minimise the risk of errors, falsification, corruption and forging of documents
6. To improve record keeping, quota management and tracking, and reporting
7. To minimise the risk of COVID and other diseases transmission



# The CITES e-Permitting System of Uganda



It is an online internet-based interactive system

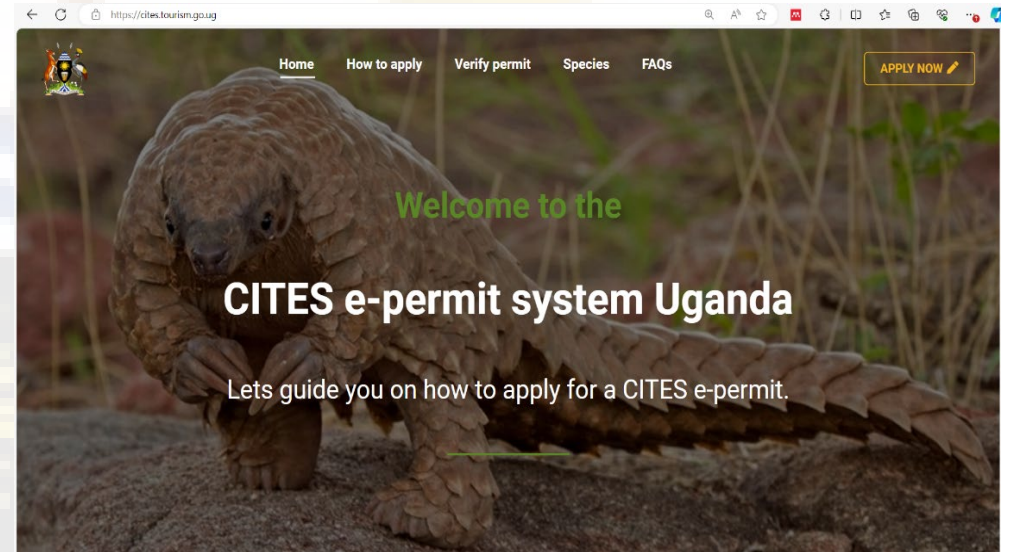
Accessed at <https://cites.tourism.go.ug> using any internet enabled gadget

Developed and launched in 2021 with financial support from USAID Uganda CWC Activity through WCS

By Ugandan software developers

Rolled out on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to date.

Designed to streamline the process of issuing permits for international trade in endangered species.



## CITES e-permit portal

Please use your credentials to login.  
If you are not a member, please [register](#).



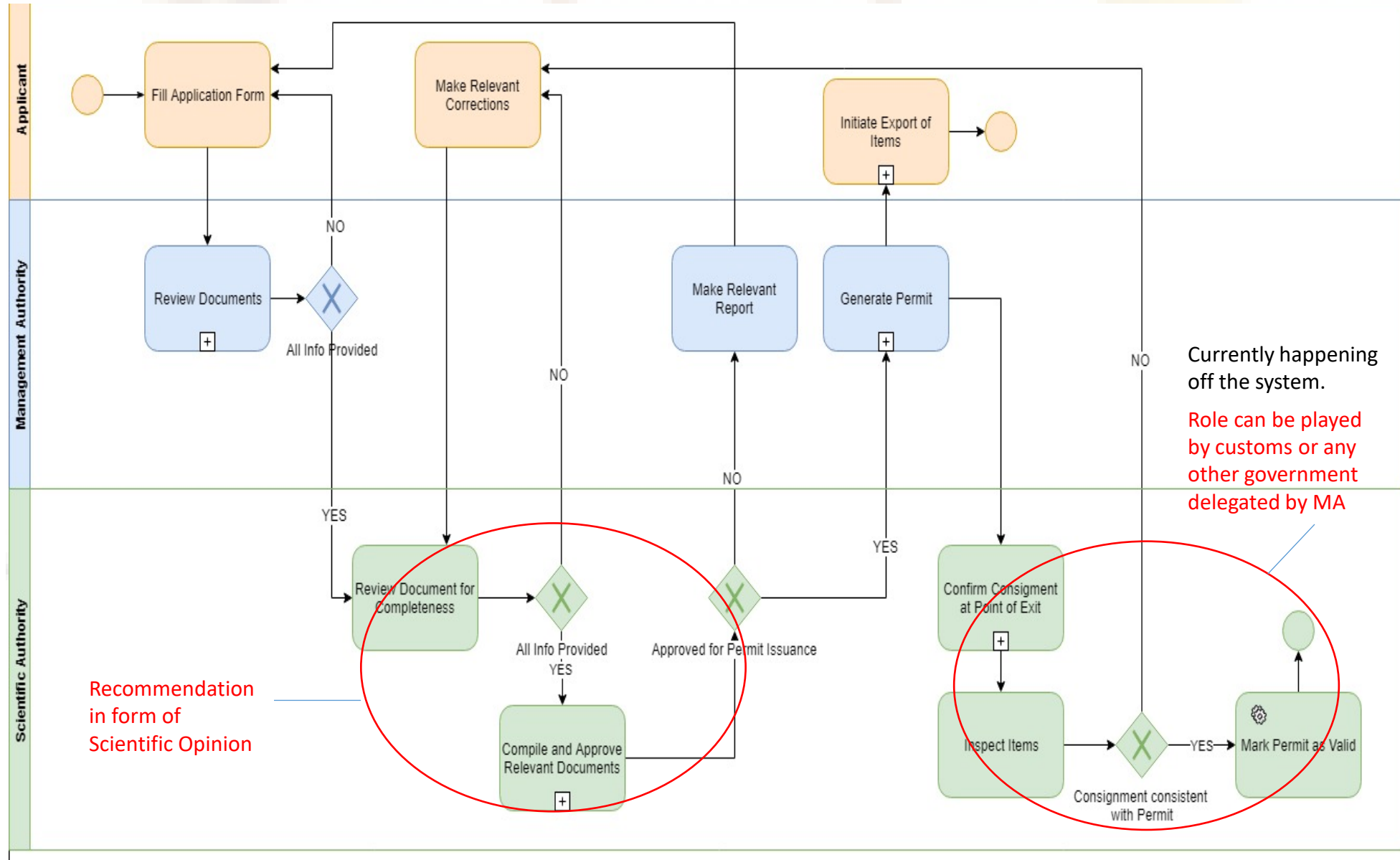
Login

[Forgot Password?](#)

[LOGIN](#)



# PROCESS FLOW





## Features of the System



- 1) Online application submission and processing for permits
- 2) Real-time tracking of permit status and history
- 3) Separate but linked portals for the different users
- 4) QR code unique to each and every permit
- 5) Only the MA Processor and Approver can print a permit
- 6) Only the applicant can edit/change the information in an application
- 7) Auditable and trackable processes
- 8) Unlike the applicants, Authority users' accounts can only be created by the System Admin
- 9) Integration with CITES species database for data consistency
- 10) Automated/personalised notifications and alerts sent to the registered email address only.
- 11) Security stamp and seal
- 12) Locally hosted with backup server







# The CITES e-Permitting System of Uganda.....



Current usage (**as of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024**)



119 (11 MA & SA, 108 applicants)



Over 1,300 applications



1,576 permits



3,720 specimens





OLD

## Standard Permit/Certificate Form

<b>CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA</b>		<b>PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. 004883</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:									
3. Importer (name and address): <b>Toni Romani</b> c/o Faculty of Arts Liberales, University of Windsor 69 Nowar Street, 00-046 parszawa Tel: +39-3429859177, Email: t.romani@univ.windsor.pl		4. Exporter/re-exporter (name, address and country): <b>Buyoma Primate Conservation Project</b> P.O. Box 342 Hoima, Uganda Attn: Toni Romani Tel: +256 739 589 944 Email: t.romani@univ.windsor.pl									
3a. Country of Import <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">Poland</div>		Signature of the Applicant <div style="text-align: center;">               _____              Signature of the Applicant           </div>									
5. Special conditions (if any): <b>Must be inspected by Uganda Wildlife Authority, Customs &amp; Veterinary depending on exit. Copy of customs certified permit must be returned to this office within 14 days of export. For live animals this permit or certificate is only valid if the transport conditions conform to the CITES Guidelines for transport or, in the case of air transport, to the IATA Live Animals Regulations.</b>		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority <b>Barirega Akankwasah, Ph.D.</b> <b>Commissioner Wildlife Conservation</b> <b>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Sports</b> <b>P.O. Box 441 Kampala, Uganda</b> <b>Tel: +256 207 750 400 / 772 833 345</b> <b>Email: barirega.akankwasah@wcd.go.ug or akankwasah@gmail.com</b>									
5a. Purpose of the transaction (see reverse) <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">S</div>		5b. Security Stamp No. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">1960509</div>									
7/8. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>7/8. <i>Pan troglodytes</i></b>  <b><i>chimpanzee</i></b> </div>		9. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (age/sex if alive) <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>9. Hair samples in 2 plastic bags</b> </div>									
12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Uganda</b>   <b>1960509</b>   <b>12/01/2021</b> </div>		10. Appendix No. and source (reverse) 11. Quantity (including unit) <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>10. I W</b>   <b>11. 100g</b> </div>									
7/8. <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b>  <b>7/8. 9. 11.</b> </div>		12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date</b>  <b>10. 11.</b> </div>									
7/8. <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b>  <b>7/8. 9. 11.</b> </div>		12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date</b>  <b>10. 11.</b> </div>									
7/8. <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b>  <b>7/8. 9. 11.</b> </div>		12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date</b>  <b>10. 11.</b> </div>									
7/8. <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12. Country of Origin * Permit No. Date</b>  <b>7/8. 9. 11.</b> </div>		12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date</b>  <b>10. 11.</b> </div>									
* Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, bred in captivity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export) ** Only for specimens of Appendix-1 species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes *** For pre-convention specimens											
13. This permit/certificate is issued by: <b>Dr. Barirega Akankwasah</b> <b>Commissioner Wildlife Conservation</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <b>Kampala</b>              Place           </div> <div> <b>27th January 2021</b>              Date           </div> </div>											
14. Export endorsement		15. Bill of Lading/Air way Bill Number:									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Block</th> <th style="width: 80%;">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> </tbody> </table>		Block	Quantity	A		B		C		<div style="text-align: center;">               1960509                Security stamp, signature and seal (see back)           </div>	
Block	Quantity										
A											
B											
C											

**NEW**

## Standard Permit/Certificate Form

<b>CITES</b> INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. <b>S/N UG005971</b>  <b>RE_EXPORT</b>	ORIGINAL  2. VALID UNTIL 1-4-2024										
3. Importer(Name, email and address)  <b>PHUC LAM MINH TRADING CO LTD</b> <b>thu.huatuongmai94@gmail.com</b> <b>+84962731616</b> <b>NGAI CAU ANH KHANH COMMUNE, HOAI DUC VILLAGE,HANOI,Viet Nam</b>		4. Exporter/re-exporter (Name, email and address)  <b>MARUTI OVERSEAS LIMITED-UGANDA</b> <b>marutiug@gmail.com</b> <b>+256703455789</b> <b>P.O.BOX 4461 KAMPALA,KAMPALA,Uganda</b>											
3a. Country of import  <b>Viet Nam</b>		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority  <b>Mr. George Owyesigire</b> <b>Ag Commissioner Wildlife Conservation</b> <b>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities</b> <b>P.O. Box 4241 Kampala, Uganda</b> <b>Tel: +256 200780400</b> <b>Mob: +256 773226841</b> <b>Email: gowyesigire@yahoo.com</b>											
5. Special conditions  1. A copy of the customs certified permit must be returned to this (CITES MA) office within 14 days of export. 2. A copy of the customs certified permit must be returned to this (CITES MA) office within 14 days of export.  <i>For live animals this permit or certificate is only valid if the transport condition conform to the CITES Guidelines for transport or, in the case of air transport, to the IATA live Animal Regulations.</i>		 <b>WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT</b>											
5a. Purpose of the transaction <b>T</b>		5b. Security stamp No. <b>1961462</b>											
7/8 Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant  <b>A 7/8. Afzelia africana</b> <b>(AFRICAN MAHOAGANY)</b>		9. Description of specimens including identifying marks or numbers (age/sex if alive)  <b>9. Other(Square logs)</b>											
12. Country of origin Permit No. Date <b>South Sudan 30/2023 2023-07-04</b>		10. Appendix No. and source 11. Quantity(including unit) <b>10. II W 11. 20CBM(27500kgs)</b>											
12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX</b>		12b. Date of acquisition <b>11a. 30PCS</b>											
B 7/8. XXXX 12. Country of origin Permit No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>		10. XXXX 11. XXXX 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>											
12b. Date of acquisition <b>11a. XXXX</b>		C 7/8. XXXX 12. Country of origin Permit No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>											
12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>		12b. Date of acquisition <b>11a. XXXX</b>											
D 7/8. XXXX 12. Country of origin Permit No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>		10. XXXX 11. XXXX 12a. Country of last re-export Certificate No. Date <b>XXXX XXXX XXXX</b>											
12b. Date of acquisition <b>11a. XXXX</b>		13. This permit/certificate is issued by: <b>George Owyesigire</b>											
Place <b>Kampala</b>		Date <b>2-10-2023</b>											
14. Export endorsement  <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th>Block</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>29 pieces</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Block	Quantity	A	29 pieces	B		C		D		15. Bill of lading/Air way Bill Number:  <b>AP24-39482913</b>  Port of export Date Signature <b>10435</b>	
Block	Quantity												
A	29 pieces												
B													
C													
D													
		To verify this permit please scan the QR Code on the right or visit https://cites.tourism.go.ug/verify-permit/ 											



## Benefits of the system so far



The CITES e-permitting system for Uganda has facilitated sustainable wildlife trade through:-

1. Paperless, efficient and environmentally friendly transactions;
2. Reduced delays and related inconveniences;
3. Enhanced security features to minimise the potential risk of falsifying permits;
4. Facilitated application, licensing and compliance monitoring;
5. Reduced risk of spreading diseases;
6. Improved quota tracking and report preparation;
7. Increased transparency along the chain; and
8. Improved coordination and collaboration among Management and Scientific Authority users
9. Supports wildlife conservation efforts by ensuring decisions are based on data



# Challenges & Solutions



## Challenges

1. Initial resistance to change
2. Technological limitations within existing infrastructures
3. Human element

## Solutions

1. Training and user engagement
2. Continuous technical support.
3. Upgrade of ICT infrastructures.



## Future plans



- Integrate the system with the Customs' ASYCUDA system, Banking/financial system and others (Phytosanitary and veterinary health certification)
- Develop the system into a prototype that can be taken up and customized by other countries.
- Incorporate advanced data analytics tools for reporting and monitoring
- Expand the system to regulate domestic wildlife trade
- Develop a mobile App for the system
- Continuously update and improvement
- Enable automated permit information exchange between MAs





# Acknowledgement





**THANK YOU**  
***For God and my Country***

