CITES Secretariat

CITES: A Knowledge-Based Convention

WORLD CUSTOMS AND TRADE FORUM
Knowledge, a Catalyst for Customs Excellence
Sharing Knowledge: Inspiration for Trade Development and Economic Prosperity
Guangzhou, China
24–25 November 2011
CITES defines knowledge management as:

*The systematic creation, organization, storage and sharing of knowledge in order to better achieve the Convention’s goals*
CITES

CITES stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development.

CITES regulated trade is a multi-billion dollar business with Parties now issuing over 850,000 permits per annum – permits that effectively certify that the trade is both legal and sustainable.

Commercial trade is only prohibited for 3% of these species, such as the tiger. For the other 97% trade is regulated to be sure it is legal, sustainable and traceable.
Illegal trade in wildlife is estimated by some to be worth up to 10 billion dollars per year and it is pushing many species towards extinction.

Illegal wildlife trade now involves organized crime – which is well recognized by INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Bank.

The value of rhino horn on the black market now exceeds the price of gold.
CITES

One of the core biodiversity conventions with 175 (soon 176 and 177) Parties

The first to enter into force with over 35 years of operational experience

Well-regarded and well known

CITES has the world’s most extensive collection of primary data on the sustainable use of biodiversity with over 11 million recorded trades, trades that national authorities have assessed as being legally obtained and not being detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild
This collection of trade data is available through the CITES Trade Database.

Users are able to visualize trade patterns using the CITES Trade Dashboards.
CITES

CITES regulates commercial and non-commercial international trade in live/dead animals and plants, as well as their parts and derivatives.

The CITES regulatory system, using permits, certificates, is mature, stable and universally recognized and adopted.

The CITES regulatory permit and certificate system offers Parties the means to implement, enforce and meet the obligations under the Convention more effectively.
CITES

Steps are being taken to make the CITES permitting system and its business processes fully electronic with partners such as the World Customs Organization (WCO)

It is working with International organizations such as Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and States (Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, etc.) to assist CITES Parties to develop and implement CITES e-permitting systems
Current activities which will impact on CITES

• **WCO Data Model** for cross-border information exchange

• IATA - *Simplifying the Business* initiative

• UN/CEFACT

• Single Window concept
WCO Data Model

- The CITES e-permitting toolkit was mapped to the WCO data model
CITES and Organizational Learning

The CITES Virtual College

The provision of organizational learning is made through the CITES Virtual College.

A tailor-made course on CITES and Customs will be made available in the next few weeks.
CITES and other KM Initiatives

CITES co-Chairs with UNEP the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (IKM)

The MEA IKM initiative currently includes 18 MEAs from 13 Secretariats hosted by three UN organizations

It is one of the largest and most innovative KM projects in the UN family
CITES and other KM Initiatives

Current projects include:

– **Harmonizing** MEA Information (Decisions/Resolutions, Convention Text, National Authorities, etc.)

– Developing an **MEA-wide Virtual University**

– Developing a **Single Window** for those MEAs at the intersection of trade and environment (such as CITES, Basel Convention, Nagoya Protocol)
CITES and the WCO

The CITES Secretariat sees the WCO as one of the key international organizations setting standards with regards to electronic trade.

The WCO joined the Working Group on e-permits in the winter of 2010.
CITES and the WCO

The CITES Secretariat submitted a DMR to the WCO regarding inclusion of its permits and certificates in the next revision of the WCO data model.

The elements in the DMR were accepted by the DMPT with some revisions.
Next Steps

• Ensure that CITES e-permitting toolkit continues to be compliant with the WCO data model

• Collaborate with the WCO to build capacity in developing countries and to ensure that CITES is compliant with the WCO data model

• Announce to Parties integration of CITES standards with the WCO data model and promote use of the data model
CITES Secretariat
Geneva