



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

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.



CITES

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

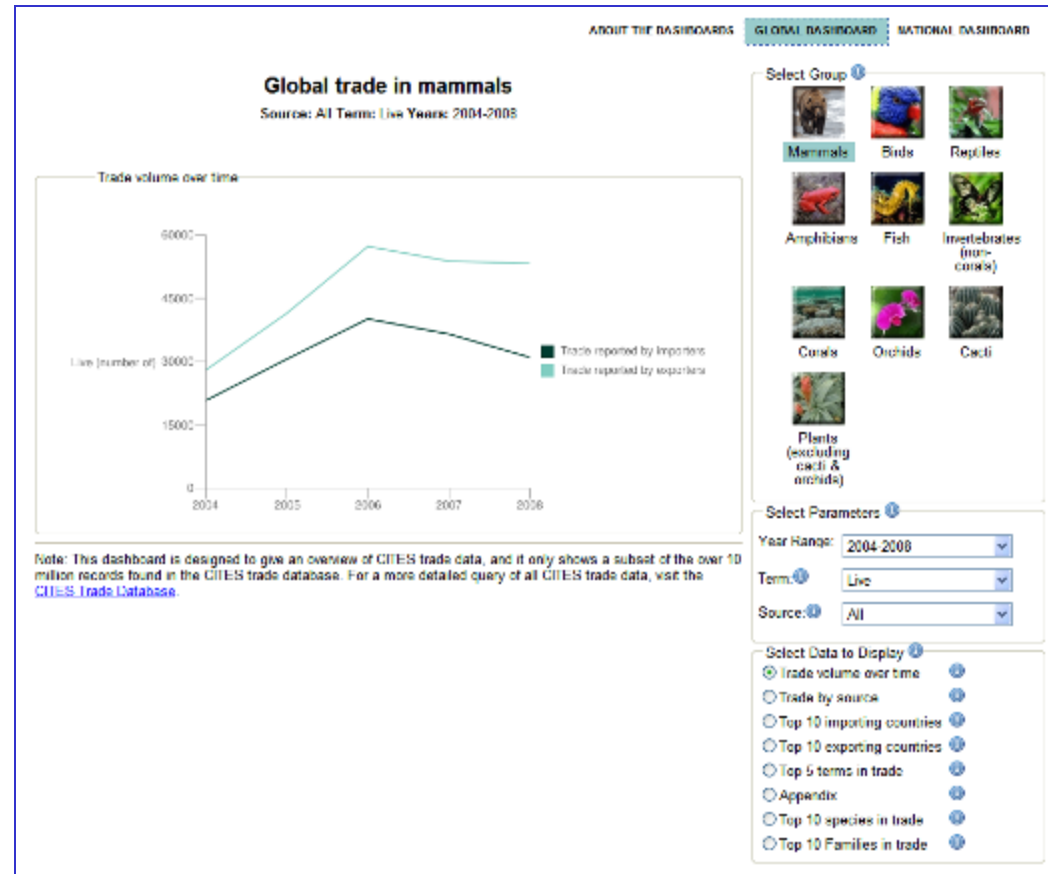
CITES has the world's most extensive collection of **primary data** on the sustainable use of biodiversity with over **11 million recorded trades**, trades that national authorities have assessed as being **legally obtained** and **not being detrimental** to the survival of the species in the wild



CITES

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



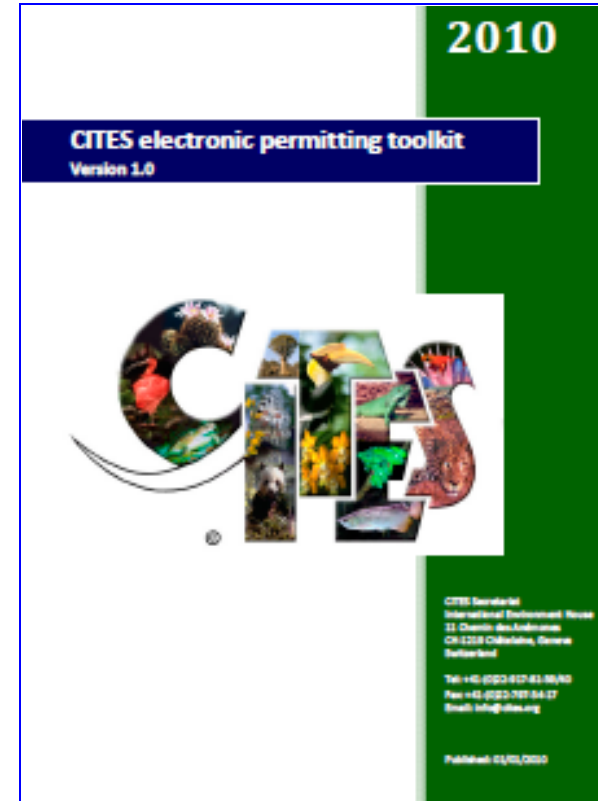
Current activities which will impact on CITES

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

You are not logged in. (Login) English (en)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

TRAINING CENTRE

CALENDAR

< November 2011 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

CITES-LISTED SPECIES

Green Turtle
Status: update

The CITES Virtual College

The development of the CITES Virtual College has been a truly collaborative initiative among many partners and organizations. There are too many institutions and people to thank, but we do wish to express our particular gratitude to the European Commission for its very generous financial support for the development and design of capacity building courses, and to the International University of Andalusia for hosting the Virtual College. I would also like to acknowledge the 175 Parties to CITES for recognizing the importance of the Virtual College in the provision of Internet-based training on the Convention, through the forward looking decision taken in Doha in 2010.

John L. Scanlon, Secretary General, CITES

WELCOMING ADDRESS

by Mr John E. Scanlon
Secretary-General, CITES

I am delighted to welcome you to the CITES Virtual College, in what we understand is a first for a multilateral environmental agreement. [More...](#)

WELCOMING ADDRESS

by Dr Juan Manuel Sureda Japón, Rector of the International University of Andalusia

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the CITES Virtual College, a project that represents a truly significant achievement

Available Courses

Introduction to CITES and Non-Detriment Findings
This course offers an introduction to what is usually called a non-detriment finding (NDF). Many researchers and observers of the Convention have called NDFs the heart of CITES and one of its very unique characteristics.

Training course for enforcement officers and information module for prosecutors and the judiciary
Under development

Introduction to CITES for Customs
Under development



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

