The eCITES Implementation Framework

A Practitioners Guide to implement electronic CITES Permits

A Framework to implement electronic CITES permits

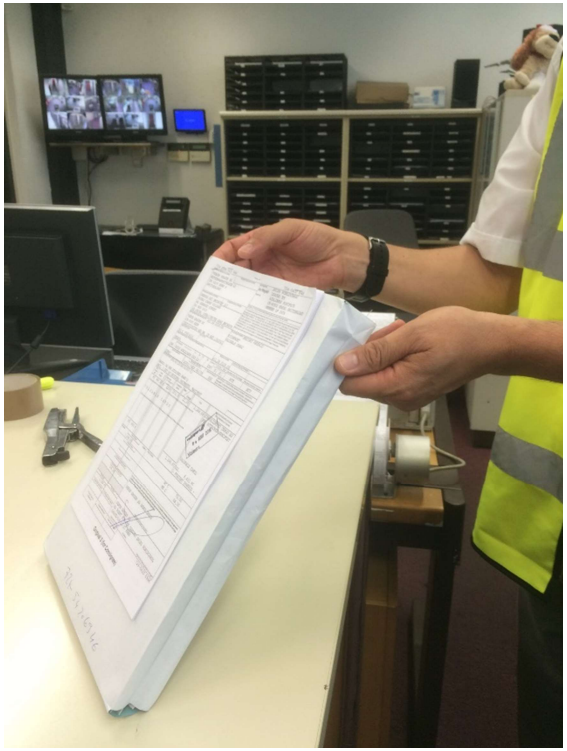
Electronic information and controls in international trade

Global Trade:

Goods:	18 trillion USD
Containers:	670+ mio p.a. (ocean only)
Documents:	8+ billion

Trade control evolved

- ..from paper documents and physical controls
- .. to electronic Customs information, Automated Risk Management and targeted inspections
- Now: WTO TFA ,Single Window, electronic supporting documents (eCoO, ePhyto, eCITES,..)
- Next: Traceability, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain,..

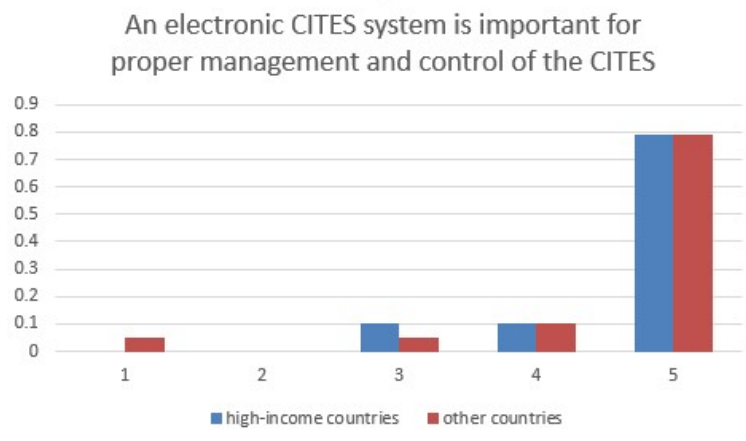


CITES MAs want to automate their business processes and exchange electronic information with Customs to enforce the Convention

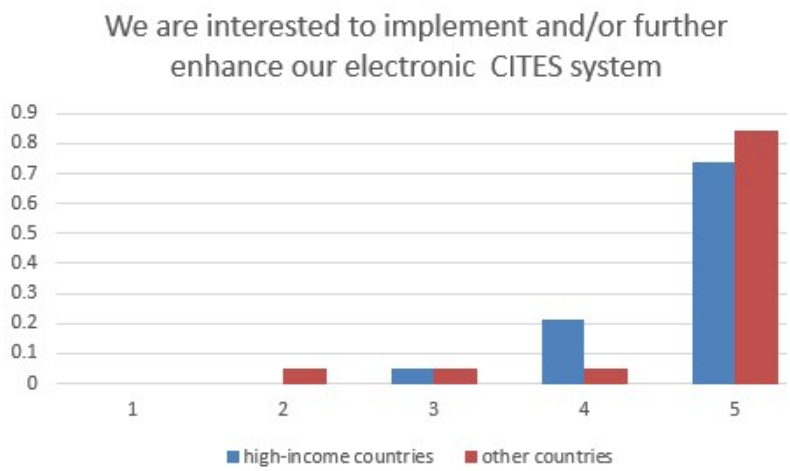
eCITES Survey 2017: Parties want to automate their CITES processes

Very strong consensus on the importance of electronic CITES systems

- ✓ “Reduces incidents of corruption”: > 80%
- ✓ “Reduces illegal trade in wildlife”: > 80%
- ✓ “An electronic system is needed for proper implementation of the Convention”: close to 100%



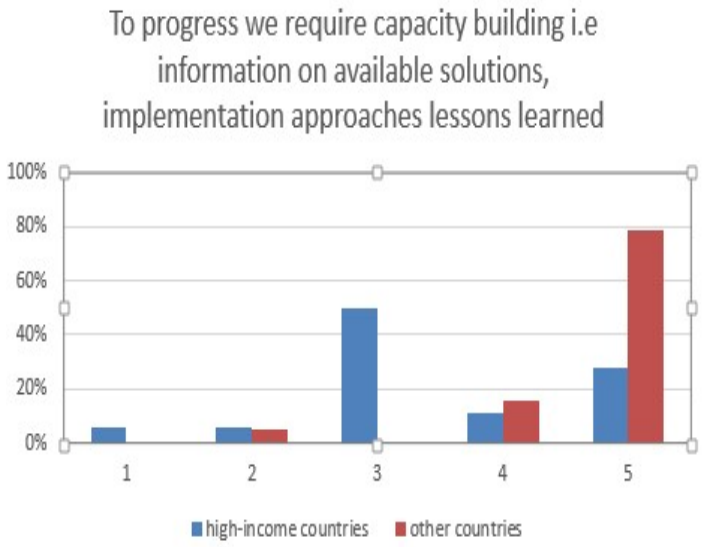
Interest of MAs to implement electronic CITES systems



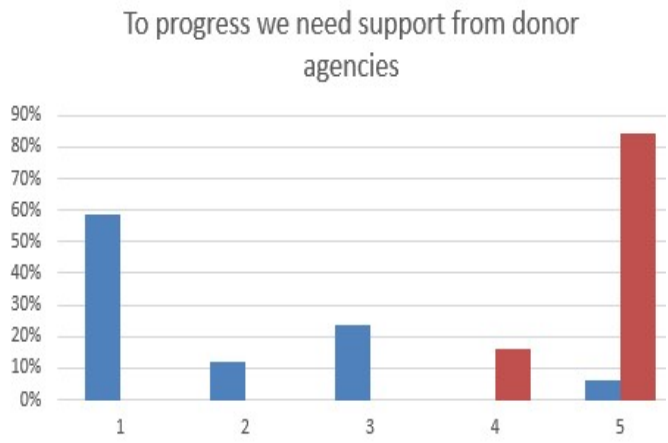
1 (I disagree) to 5 (I fully agree)

eCITES Survey 2017: Parties from developing countries need support from donors

Low income countries require capacity building and advisory services



Support from donor agencies is crucial for low income countries



1 (I disagree) to 5 (I fully agree)

Automation of the CITES permit process

Challenging situation for Parties:

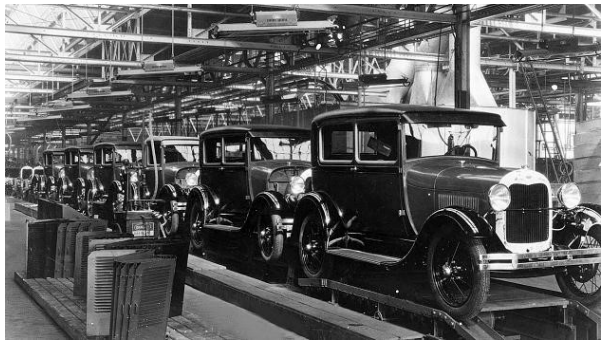
- ❑ eBusiness is multi disciplinary and technology-laden
- ❑ CITES permit process is rather complex
- ❑ An eCITES software solution requires advanced functionality
- ❑ Low permit volumes limits options for cost recovery

eCITES Strategy: Reduce development costs & project complexity

Design once, use many:
Standard approach to project implementation and a standard software package

➔ **eCITES Implementation Framework**: Generic project implementation approach for Parties

➔ **ASYCUDA eCITES**: Off-the-shelf software solution for the automation of permit processes



A Framework to automate CITES processes

Objective of eCITES *: Simplify and automate business processes and establish collaboration of stakeholders through exchange of electronic information for an improved implementation of the CITES Convention*

➔Focus on processes and collaboration; technology is only a means to an end

eCITES Implementation Framework helps project managers to understand:

- ❑ What are the business processes that should be automated
- ❑ Which processes are the most important to automate
- ❑ How automation will improve the work of the MA
- ❑ How to structure the national eCITES implementation

➔ Outcome: a high level implementation plan for the national eCITES project

eCITES Implementation Framework

Approach taken

- Take **lessons learned** from Single Window and eCITES projects
- **Stepwise implementation** through sub-projects
- Each step has an **identifiable** outcome and **benefit**
- All steps together provide a **complete automation of the CITES processes**
- Countries can **adapt** implementation **speed** to their **readiness**

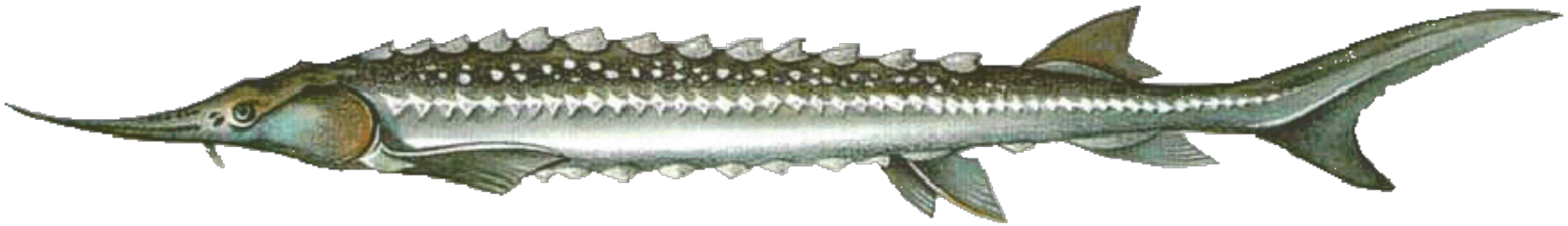
Four steps in eCITES implementation

- **ePermit**: Automate CITES permit request, issuance and payment
- **eControl**: electronic information exchange with Customs & automated risk management
- **eReport**: electronic information for automated reporting
- **eExchange**: electronic permit information exchange between Authorities of different countries

Stage	Supported Business Process
ePermit	Request and issuance of ePermits (paper and electronic) Management and storage of CITES trade data for CITES annual reporting Inspection/risk assessments Payments
eControl	Permit information exchange with Customs Risk management and validation at export Single Window integration
eReport	Automated exchange of national permit data from country to CITES Secretariat and UNEP WCMC EPIX* to generate statistics and CITES reporting
eExchange	Exchange of national permit data between countries Cross border traceability of CITES permits

Project component - ePermit

- **What:** Automation of all processes for request of permits, scheduling of inspection, issuance of permits, payment of fees
- **Required**: Traders can connect to MA to provide permit information, access status of permit requests and inspection schedule
- **Benefits**: Simplified and transparent process, compliance history of traders, electronic payment, less fraud



Project Component - eControl

- **What:** Integration with Customs; electronic CITES information for cross check with electronic customs declaration & automated risk management
- **Required**: electronic data exchange between CITES authorities and Customs, collaboration to identify and control risks
- **Benefits**: Improved control at the border; faster clearance time; better trade statistics; less fraud

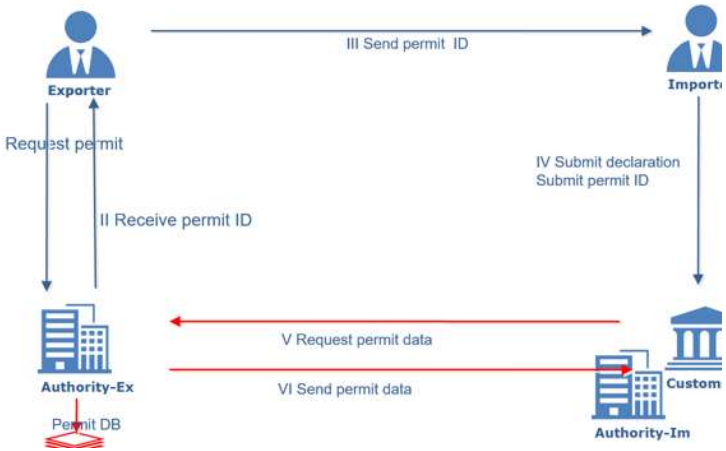
Project Component - eReport

- **Electronic permits for annual reporting**: use data for automated reporting and for scientific analysis
- **Required**: Repository (database) of electronic permits (from ePermit, eControl)
- **Benefits**: Quality data; timely and automated reports; better decisions on NDF; less work;

Project Component - eExchange

- **What:** Exchange of electronic permits between authorities in different countries
- **Required**: fully automated national CITES systems in both countries, common technical standards; framework of trust (agreements), ..
- **Benefits**: integrated cross border processes; reduction of fraud; pre-arrival information and scheduling of inspections; better statistics

EPIX Permit cross border workflow



How CITES can benefit from an Implementation Framework

Benefits of an eCITES Implementation Framework

- Provides a reference point for managers when planning/overseeing eCITES projects
- Facilitates exchange of experiences and lessons learned
- Reduction of project risks and costs
- Better access to external funding
- Deployment of standard software solutions
- Collaboration and permit exchange between MAs

Proposed

- Recommend Parties to use the Implementation Framework as a guideline when planning and implementing electronic CITES projects
- Recommend to Parties to provide feedback on the use of this Framework for further improvement

Thank you!

Markus.Pikart@CITES.org