

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

QUESTIONNAIRE ON ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES  
FOR CITES MANAGEMENT (ECITES)

1. This information document has been prepared by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 40 on *Electronic systems and information technologies*.

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.156 which requests Parties to submit to the Secretariat information regarding their planned and ongoing projects related to the use of electronic systems and information technologies in improving the management of CITES trade and regarding the lessons learned. Decision 17.159 requests the Secretariat to publish the information submitted by the Parties on the CITES website.
3. In light of Decision 17.159, the Secretariat issued Notification No. 2017/041 on 24 May 2017 inviting Parties to participate in the Questionnaire on electronic systems and information technologies for CITES management (eCITES). The questionnaire was conducted as an online survey. The survey was open for Management Authorities to respond between 24 May and 2 August 2017.
4. 36 Parties responded to the questionnaire: Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
5. The summary of responses to the questionnaire is provided in the Annex to this document. To facilitate the evaluation, the responses are grouped into responses from Management Authorities that are from high-income countries<sup>1</sup> and responses from Management Authorities that are from other countries. Of the 36 responding Parties, 18 were from high-income countries and 18 from other countries.

Questionnaire results: Processes supported by the electronic CITES system

6. The questionnaire included two groups of questions. The first group of questions assesses which of the business processes of the Management Authority is supported by the electronic CITES system. The respondents could choose between “yes” (process is automated), “no” (process is not automated) and “partially” (process is partially automated).
7. 53 per cent of the Management Authorities from high-income countries and 39 per cent of the Management Authorities from other countries felt that their CITES system supports all relevant steps of the permit process.
8. 47 per cent of the respondents from both groups reported that their systems fully support on-line requests of CITES permits by traders.

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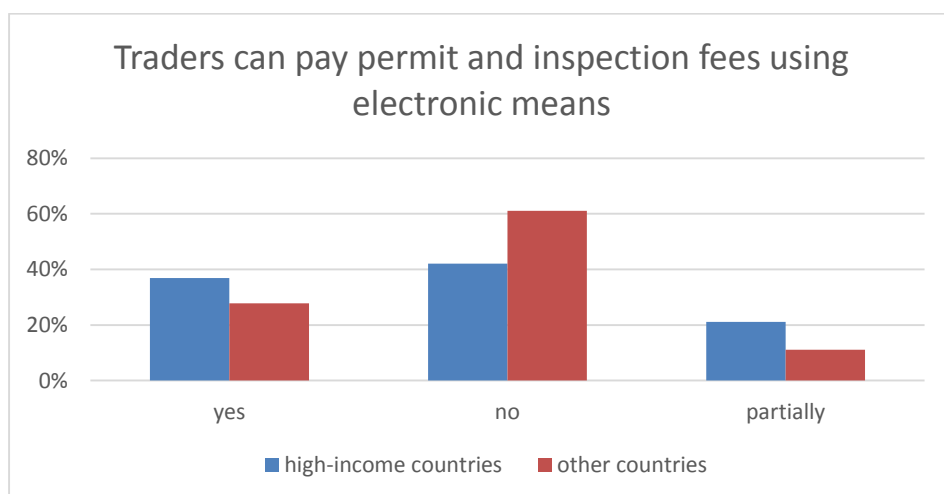
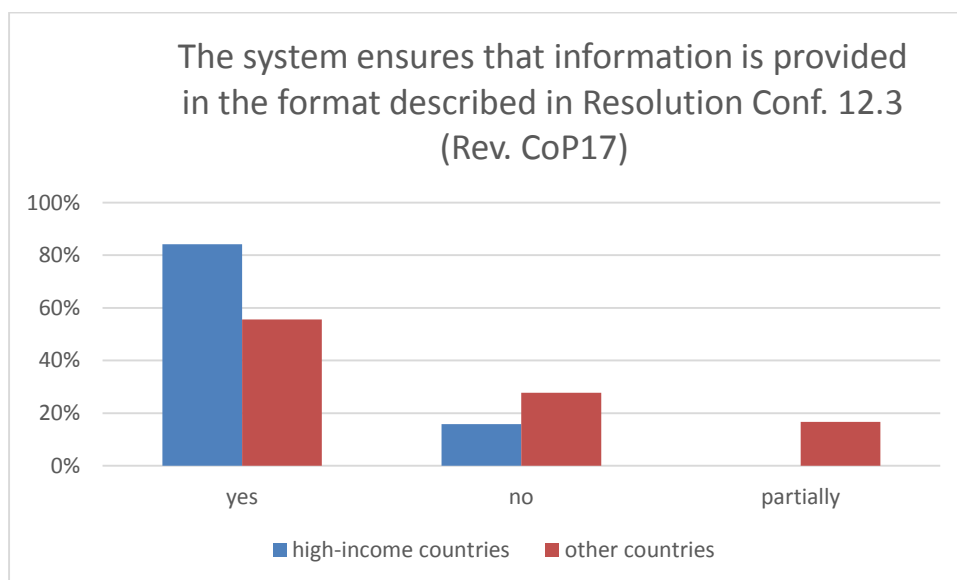
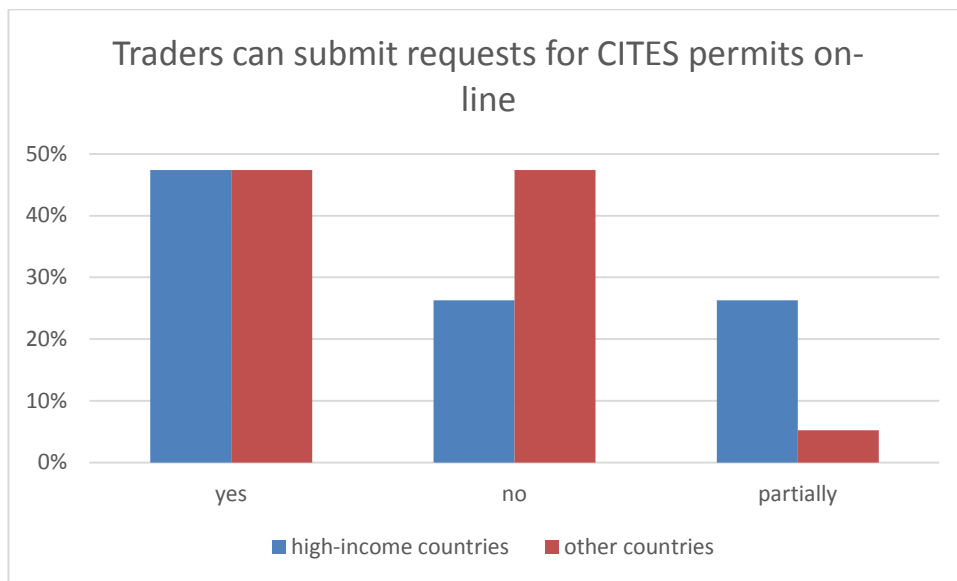
<sup>1</sup> As defined by UNCTAD Statistical Office, *Economic Groups*, <http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications.html>

9. Most of the systems in high-income and other countries can store permit requests and issued permits in a central database. In high-income countries, 79 per cent of the CITES systems can print the CITES permits, while, in the other countries' group, 50 per cent of the systems can print permits. 79 per cent of the respondents from high-income countries use their electronic CITES system for automated generation of the annual trade report. 58 per cent of respondents from other countries reported that their system generates the annual report.
10. The questionnaire also assessed the level of electronic information exchange between Management Authorities and customs administrations. 11 per cent of respondents from high-income countries and 28 per cent of the respondents from other countries reported that their customs administration has access to the electronic CITES data. 21 per cent of the respondents from both groups reported that they received electronic information from customs on the actual quantities exported on a regular basis.

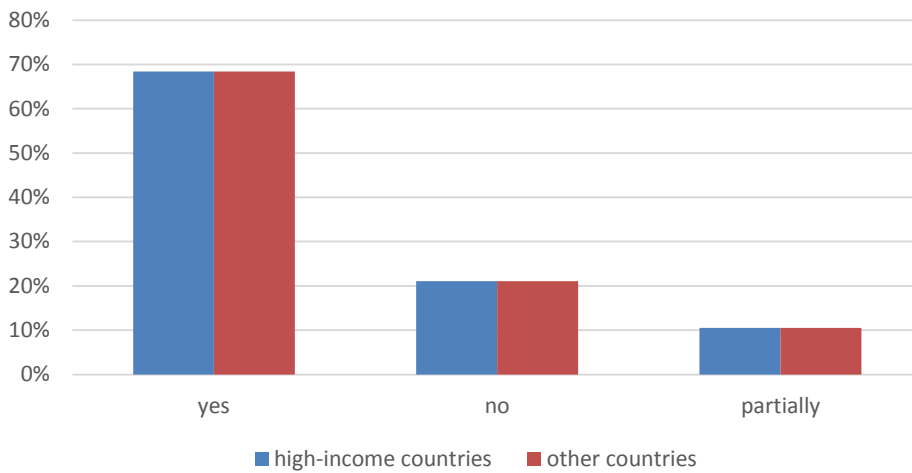
Questionnaire results: Importance for the implementation of the Convention and needs for further development

11. The second group of questions measured the importance of the electronic CITES systems for proper management and control of the CITES permit process, the role for these systems to reduce illegal trade of wildlife and plans to further develop the existing system. The respondents were asked to evaluate a given statement on a scale between 1 ("I do not support this statement") to 5 ("I fully support this statement").
12. There was overall a very strong opinion of the respondents from both groups that an electronic CITES system is important for proper management and control of the CITES permit process, that such a system increases transparency and reduces corruption and that electronic information exchange with Customs reduces illegal trade in wildlife.
13. There are significant differences between the high-income countries and other countries on their implementation needs. Respondents from high-income countries expressed moderate interest in capacity building. Respondents from other countries had high or very high interest in capacity building and stated that further implementation of electronic CITES systems would require support of donor agencies.

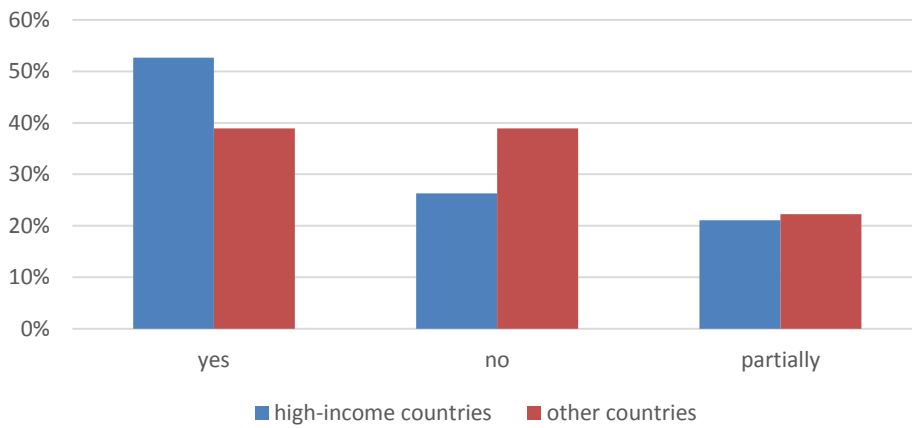
**Which of the following processes in the Management Authority are automated?**



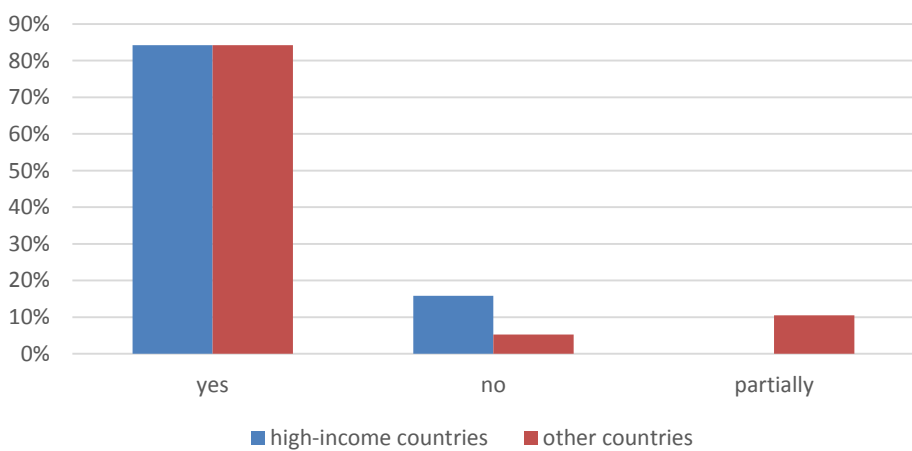
### All permit requests are stored in a database



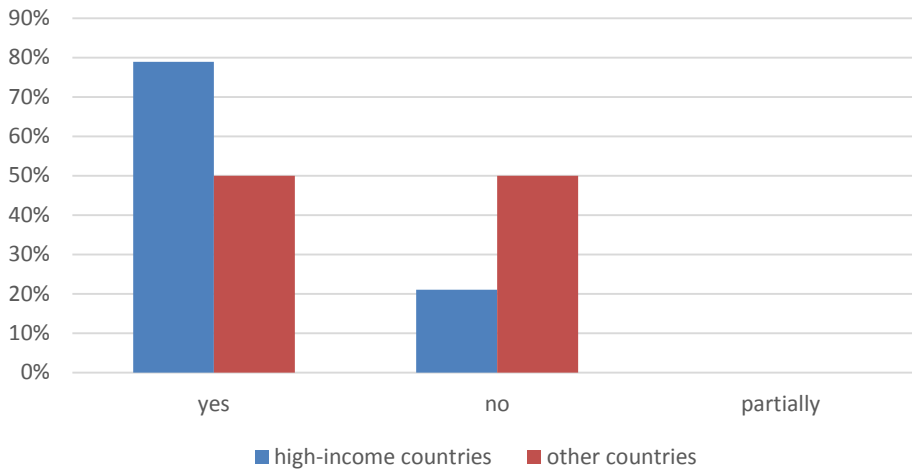
### The electronic CITES system supports the relevant steps of the permit process



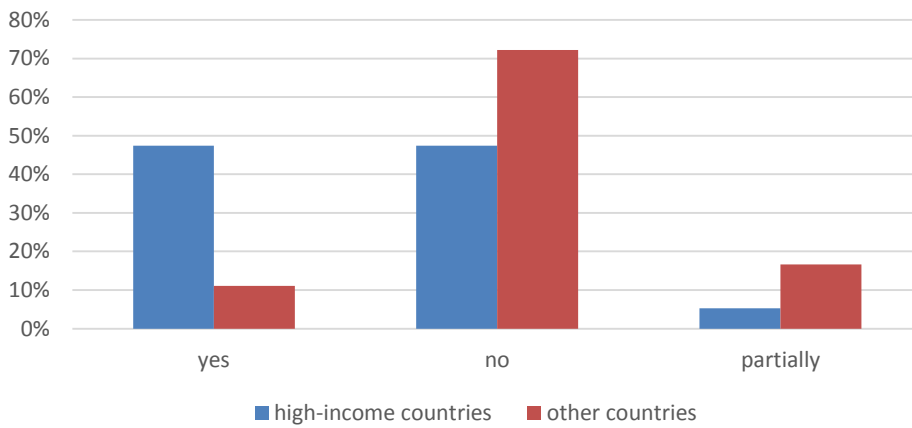
### Information on all issued permits is recorded in a database



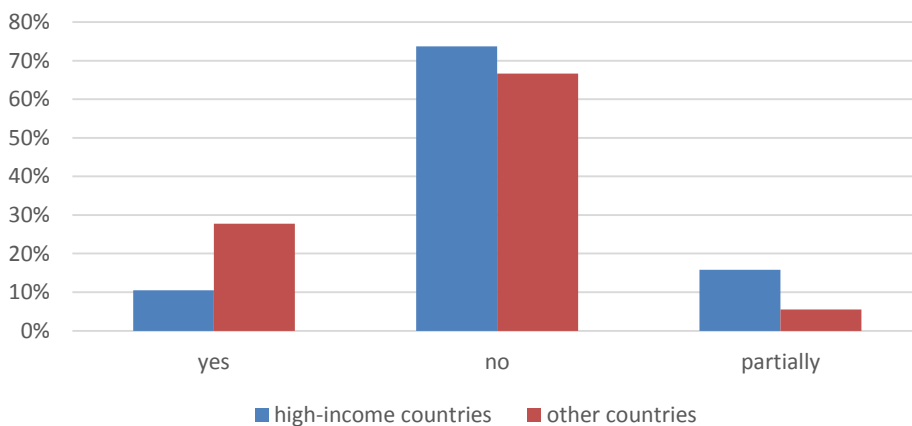
### The system will print the CITES permit



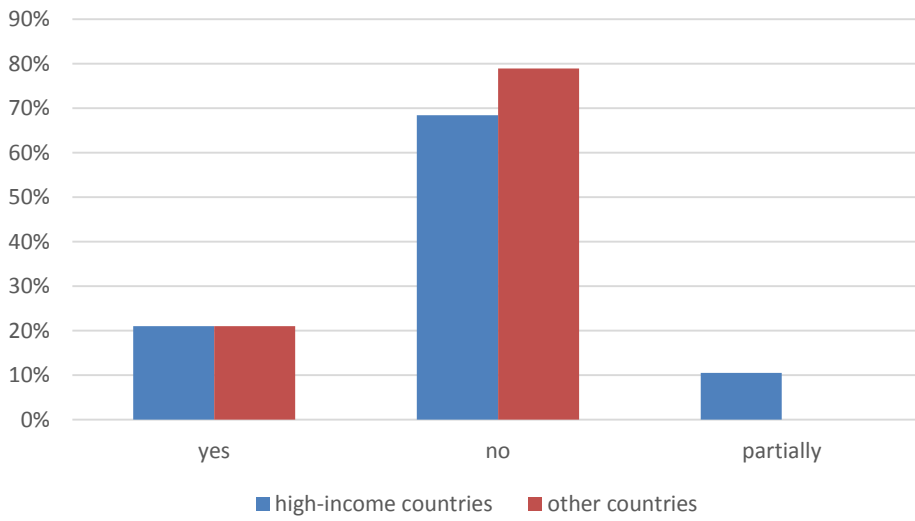
### The Scientific Authority is connected to the electronic CITES system



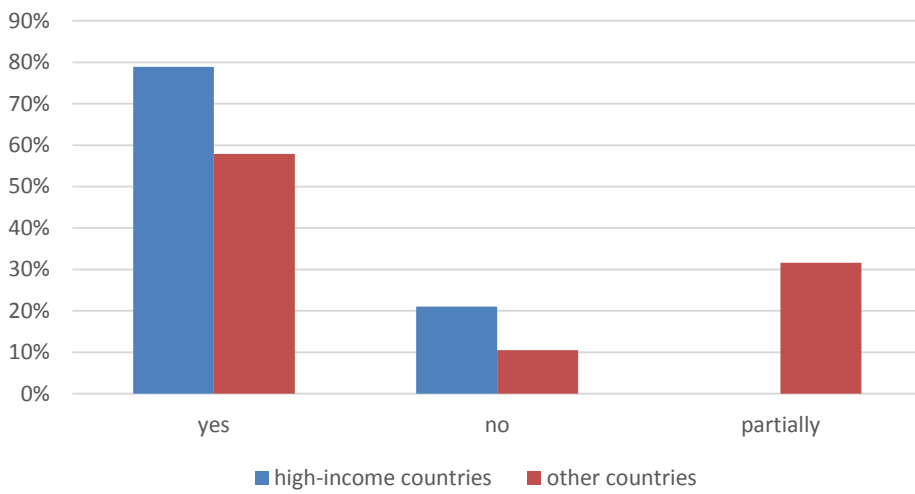
### Electronic permit information is accessible to customs



On export, customs will provide the MA with information in electronic format on the actual quantities exported

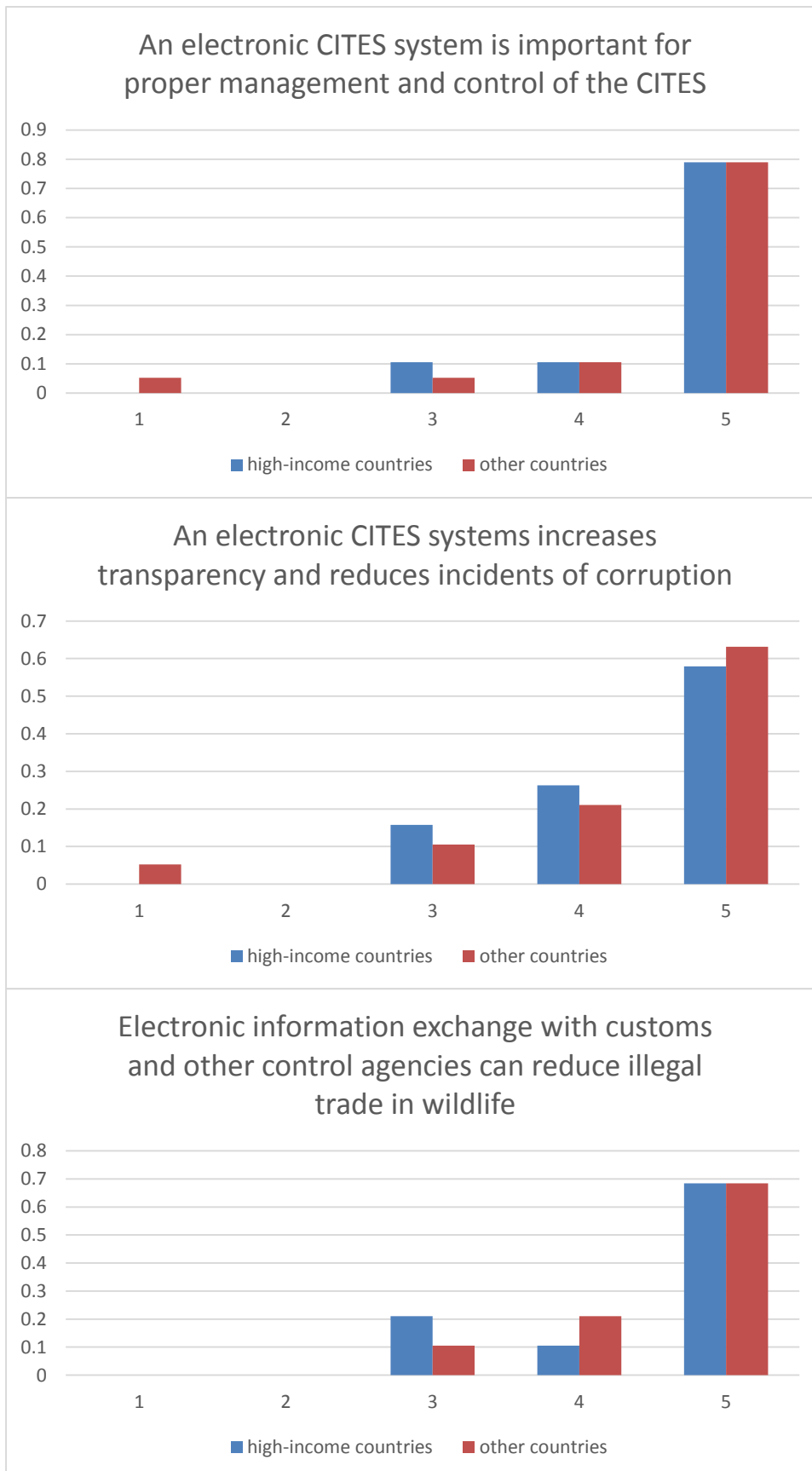


The annual trade report is generated using the information in the database

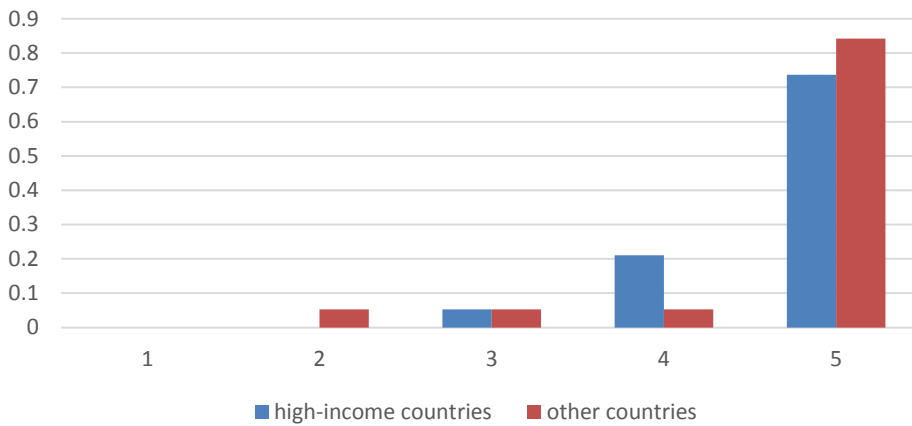


## From your experience which of the following statements is true?

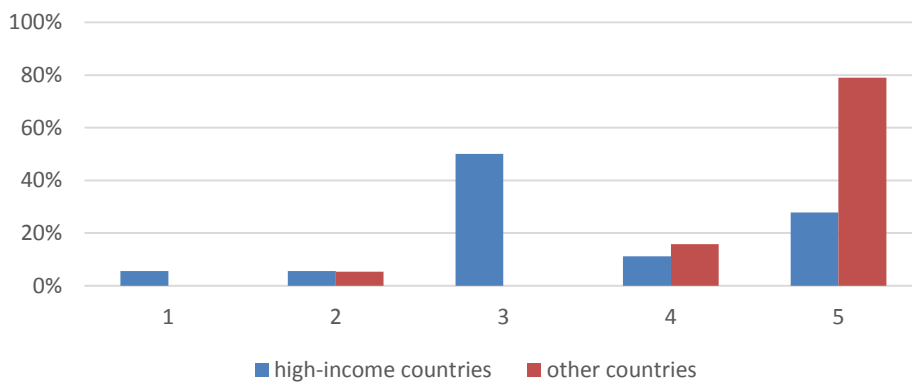
Respondents could choose in a range from 1 “I do not support this statement” to 5 “I fully support this statement”



### We are interested to implement and/or further enhance our electronic CITES system



### To progress, we require capacity building i.e information on available solutions, implementation approaches lessons learned



### To progress we need support from donor agencies

