

ASYCUDA eCITES BaseSolution

Online access to electronic Permit management

To provide access to electronic Permit solutions for many of the 193 that do not have access to electronic permit management systems, the Secretariat and the UNCTAD ASYCUDA programme developed a cloud-based electronic Permit system which provides electronic permit processing to Parties while the technical infrastructure of the core service is hosted maintained by UNCTAD. The *eCITES BaseSolution* system is virtually maintenance free for the MA and does not require advanced technical expertise or IT systems in the MA.

This solution is of particular interest for CITES Parties with low to medium permit volumes and for Parties from developing and least developed countries. As the system is already developed and accessible on the Internet¹ it can be deployed in a country on a very short notice.

This system will bring important the benefits to Management Authorities in controlling of trade in CITES listed species:

- Automation of the elementary CITES permit procedures: electronic permit requests, electronic notification of traders, management of supporting documents, pre-payment of fees, control of the internal permit approval process, management of quotas and trade suspensions, issuance of permits, automated generation of CITES annual trade reports
- Transparency and accountability in the permit process: who, what, when, where
- Instant access to all pending and issued permits
- Interaction between traders and government officials is on-line, formalized and recorded
- Faster and better controlled permit processes and reduced opportunities for informal procedures

On request of the Management Authority the eCITES BaseSolution can be extended after successful hand-over and initial operation. These national extensions may include:

- Electronic permit exchange with national Customs and border control agencies including Single Window integration
- Cross border electronic exchange of CITES permits (EPIX)
- electronic Customs Risk Management for CITES listed species and targeted controls
- Strengthened Legal Acquisition and non-detriment Finding: advanced quota control, traceability, workflow with Scientific Agencies, electronic Risk Management when evaluating permit requests, customized reports and statistical analysis

¹ The system will be made available for testing of interested Parties at CoP18

The eCITES BaseSolution can be implemented through a project agreement between UNCTAD and the beneficiary country. The implementation steps are outlined in the presentation on the eCITES implementation steps.

The indicative costs for the implementation of the eCITES BaseSolution are listed below. The costs are provided for the eCITES implementation itself (one-time implementation costs per country) and the annual supporting costs which are listed as core support costs (costs for services accessible to all countries) and the country support costs (costs for services provided directly to a Party)

Implementation

- eCITES@ASYCUDA.org country implementation: 113” USD

Needs assessment and permit process, start up and rollout missions, national configuration, training of staff and traders, post implementation online support and troubleshooting

Annual Support Costs

- eCITES@ASYCUDA.org core support costs: 105” USD p.a.

eCITES BaseSolution 24/7 availability, security & services monitoring, BaseSolution software maintenance, urgent extensions and troubleshooting, deployment of new eCITES releases, update of code lists after CITES meetings, Licenses (DB, OS, Cloud Service)

- eCITES@ASYCUDA.org country support cost: 40” USD p.a.

Online support, testing and troubleshooting, training of new staff, change sin national configuration and configuration of new legislation, backup and recovery, national eCITES workshop/follow up

All costs are strictly for services provided to the beneficiary country (training of staff, national configuration, access to services, backstopping and troubleshooting). The development of the eCITES BaseSolution has been already paid for and is therefore not charged to the Party.

Countries own their eCITES@ASYCUDA.org implementation including the source code of the system. A Party may always choose to operate the solution under their own responsibility and in their own country or within a regional eCITES Center that is supported by group of countries.