

CUSTOMS CONTROL OF TRADE IN CITES LISTED SPECIES

TRENDS, TECHNOLOGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED TRADE AND REGULATORY CONTROL

Workshop organised by UNCTAD, the Government of Switzerland and the H.M Customs Department Gibraltar with the support of the CITES Secretariat

29 to 31 May 2018, UK/Gibraltar

Background

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) establishes a legally binding regulatory regime to ensure the survival of CITES-listed species in the wild, providing opportunities for sustainable trade and economic development, in particular in developing countries and for local communities. Currently, 183 States are Party to this Convention and bound to its rules (182 countries and the European Union).

CITES regulates trade in over 36,000 species of wild animals and plants, both aquatic and terrestrial, including emblematic species such as tigers, elephants, rhinos, manta rays and great apes. The core instrument for regulating trade is a system of permits and certificates issued and controlled by a national CITES Management Authority, which has been officially appointed by the Government. The CITES permit or certificate documents the legality and sustainability of trade and is reported annually to the Secretariat. It is the core instrument to distinguish between legal and illegal trade in wildlife.

Customs Authorities have a crucial role in the effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention as they control the cross border movements of goods. The CITES permit is a supporting document that is added to the customs import or export declaration. The Customs import and export clearing system and process is the principal filtering mechanism to assess the legitimacy of the trade transaction and to detect incidents of illegal trade.

To facilitate and control global trade a number of advanced concepts have been developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other international organizations such as Revised Kyoto Convention, the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (WCO SAFE Framework of Standards), automated risk management, Coordinated Border Management, Trade Facilitation standards such as Single Window data models and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, to name some of them. In addition, Customs Authorities worldwide are using highly automated and computerized systems for the control of the border clearance processes.

It is therefore extremely important for CITES decision makers to fully understand latest approaches, technologies and agreements in the Customs trade control systems and to ensure that CITES Management Authorities can collaborate with Customs Authorities to fully exploit the potential of trade control and facilitation systems.

Understanding of Customs control and clearance procedures is of particular importance for Management Authorities that plan to implement and enhance electronic CITES Management Systems (eCITES) as these systems need to interact on the technical and on the organizational level with the Customs Authorities and Customs IT Management Systems to ensure that the concerns of trade in CITES listed species are fully taken into account in the Customs clearance process.

About the workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to foster the collaboration between the CITES Management Authorities and the Customs Authorities for improved control of trade in wildlife.

The workshop promotes a common approach of the CITES Management Authorities and Customs Authorities, based on modern and automated trade procedures and Customs clearance processes in line with the requirements of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which came into force recently.

Participants will be familiarised with the specific integrated Customs border controls, automated and simplified procedures, new technologies and their use do to improve the controls for trade in CITES listed species, in particular with regard to electronic information management and exchange.

The workshop will focus on the following main subjects:

- a) Trends and policy agendas in the Customs environment;
- b) Coordinated border controls - International recommendations and best practice
- c) Automated and simplified border control procedures;
- d) Risk-management systems and targeted inspections;
- e) CITES-related Customs clearance procedures in practice;
- f) Collaboration of Customs with other Government agencies (organizational and technical aspects); Single Window, platform for efficient import and export control procedures;
- g) Known obstacles for CITES integration into Customs control: HS nomenclature vs. CITES nomenclature; Definition and integration of CITES related non-tariff measures;
- h) Automation of the CITES permit process;
- i) ASYCUDA solution for electronic CITES permit management (ACITES)

This Workshop will also supports CITES work to ensure that the CITES Resolutions and Decisions are consistent with the electronic border clearance processes, that the joint work with UNCTAD on the development of an electronic CITES solution, organised under the MoU between UNCTAD and CITES Secretariat, and that the Secretariat support to Parties in the implementation of electronic CITES solutions (CoP Decision 17.158 b, Decision 17.157 c and Decision 17.159 c).

Additional Information

Methodology	Plenary session, Presentations, Open discussions
Working Language / Interpretation	The workshop language will be English. No simultaneous interpretation
Number and profile of participants	The Workshop is open to interested decision makers and individual experts from CITES Management Authorities, Customs Administrations, logistics and transport operators and International Organizations. There is no limitation in the number of participants.
Registration	The interested organisations/participants are requested to complete the attached Registration Form , providing the details of the participants, and to send it as soon as possible but not later than 31 March to the organisers at contact@acites.org

<p>Accommodation (location, contact details, price)</p>	<p>The participants can book the hotel themselves or can benefit of the rates negotiated by the UNCTAD ASYCUDA Center of Excellence with the Rock Hotel, 3 Europa Rd, UK/Gibraltar, Tel: +350 20073000, https://www.rockhotelgibraltar.com</p> <p>The negotiated rate for a single occupancy room is (tbc) GBP (including city/tourist tax, breakfast and wireless internet).</p> <p>The negotiated rate for a double occupancy room is (tbc) GBP (including city/tourist tax, breakfast and wireless internet).</p> <p>Participants are responsible for setting their accounts before departure. Each participant has to pay for accommodation and meals directly to the hotel.</p> <p>In order to benefit of the negotiated rates at the Rock Hotel the participants should confirm it as soon as possible but not later than 31 March to the organisers at contact@acites.org</p> <p>Rates and room reservations received after 31 March will be subject of availability.</p>
<p>Meals (lunch) / Social events</p>	<p>Not included in the programme.</p>
<p>Travel (airport – venue etc.)</p>	<p>The participants can arrive at the Malaga airport (Spain) or at the Gibraltar airport. Transfers from the Malaga airport to the hotel in Gibraltar and back can be organised with a transport company from Gibraltar at a flat rate of 150 EUR per trip. <u>Please note that Spanish registered taxis are not allowed to enter in Gibraltar.</u></p> <p>Please indicate the exact arrival and departure time as well as the airport in your registration form.</p>
<p>UK/Gibraltar Visa</p>	<p>The participants are responsible to verify if their passport requires an UK/Gibraltar visa for this mission.</p> <p>For the participants who have to apply for an UK/Gibraltar visa, the organisers can issue letters of invitation that will be sent in parallel to the participants and the UK Consulate Services in the application countries.</p>
<p>Address of Venue</p>	<p>University of Gibraltar 5 Europa Point, GX11 1AA UK/Gibraltar</p>

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 (29 -31 May 2018, University of Gibraltar)

DRAFT AGENDA

DATE	TOPIC	TIME SLOT	CONTENT/PRESENTERS/MODERATORS
Monday, 28 May 2018	Arrival of participants		Arrival in UK/Gibraltar or Malaga/Spain + transfer to UK/Gibraltar Check-in the Rock Hotel
Tuesday, 29 May 2018	Opening Remarks	09.30h - 10.15h	Welcome addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. John Cortes, Minister with responsibility for Education, Heritage, Environment, Energy and Climate Change (tbc) • Prof. Daniella Tilbury, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gibraltar • Mr. John Rodriguez, Comptroller of Customs, Customs Department Gibraltar • Mr. Mathias Lörtscher, Head of CITES Management Authority of Switzerland, Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office • Mr. Markus Pikart, UNEP / CITES Secretariat
	Introduction	10.15h - 10.30h	Address by the Workshop leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of the day • Key topics to be covered
	Trends and policy agendas in the Customs environment	10.30h - 11.00h	Guest Speakers and Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An insight into the changes in the Customs environment • How can Customs agencies work collaboratively to improve the efficiency of control of trade in CITES listed species? • Modern instruments for Customs Border Control (WCO) <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Speakers: Mr. J. Rodriguez, Comptroller of Customs (tbc), Mr. Constantin Ciuta, UNCTAD Senior Customs Adviser</i></p>

		<i>Ms. Anja Wegner, Technical Attaché, World Customs Organization</i> Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator (tbc)
Coffee Break	11.00h - 11.30h	
eCITES: Supporting management authorities in the automation of their CITES permit process	11.30h - 12.30h	<p>Presentation of CITES standards and tools for automation of the permit process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking stock of existing CITES standard and tools for electronic permit processing • Latest work of the CITES Working Group on electronic systems • Expectations of Management Authorities on eCITES implementation • Electronic Permit Information Exchange: Concepts and state of pilots • Looking ahead: Upcoming technologies and trends <p><i>Speakers: Mr. M. Pikart, CITES Secretariat, Mr. M. Loertscher, Chair of the CITES Working Group on electronic Systems</i></p> <p>Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator (tbc)</p>
Coordinated border controls - International recommendations and best practice	11.30h - 12.00h	<p>Guest Speakers and Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the trends in Customs and security globally and regionally? • International recommendations and best practice <p><i>Speakers: Mr. C. Ciuta</i> <i>(tbd)</i></p> <p>Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator (tbc)</p>
Lunch Break	13.00h - 14.30h	
CITES-related Customs clearance procedures in practice	14.30h - 15.00h	<p>Guest Speakers and Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES-related Customs clearance procedures <p><i>Speakers: (tbd)</i></p> <p>Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator (tbc)</p> <p>Study visit to one Customs office.</p>
End of Session	17.00h	

Wednesday, 30 May 2018	<p>Overview of the previous day</p> <p>Guest Presentation: EUROPOL work to strengthen CITES controls in Customs clearance <i>Speaker: Mr. Igor Jakupic, EUROPOL</i></p>	09.30h - 10.00h	<p>Address by the Workshop leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline to the day • Key topics to be covered
	<p>WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the concept of Risk Management <i>Speaker: Mr. M. Pikart, CITES</i></p> <p>Customs control and Risk Management: a practitioner's perspective <i>Speaker: Mr. N. Popa, UNCTAD ASYCUDA Centre of Excellence</i></p>	10.00h - 11.00h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction into Trade Facilitation and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement • Selectivity, risk assessment and risk management as basis for efficient controls • Implementation of Risk Management in Customs controls • Risk management and targeted inspections
	Coffee Break	11.00h - 11.30h	
	<p>Customs control and Risk Management: a practitioner's perspective (cont.)</p> <p>Customs control and Risk Management: implementation in an electronic system <i>Speaker: Mr. C. Ciuta, UNCTAD</i></p>	11.30h - 12.00h	<p>Implementation of Risk Management in aCITES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Risk Management implemented in aCITES and in automated Customs data management systems • How do electronic CITES and Customs systems exchange electronic information

<p>Discussion (all): Risk Management for CITES controls: Can we use it, do we use it, can we afford not to use it? <i>Moderator: M. Loertscher, Switzerland</i></p> <p>Guest presentation: Experience with the automation of CITES permit processes (Australia)</p>	<p>12.00h - 13.00h</p>	<p>Group discussion on experiences and opportunities of Risk Management for trade in CITES listed species</p>
<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>13.00h - 14.30h</p>		
<p>Selected Trade Facilitation instruments of the WTO TFA <i>Speaker: Mr. M. Pikart, CITES</i></p> <p>Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Instruments by Customs: a practitioner's perspective <i>Speaker: Mr. N. Popa, UNCTAD ASYCUDA Centre of Excellence</i></p>	<p>14.30h - 15.30h</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction into Trade Facilitation instruments that are relevant for CITES Authorities: Border Agency Collaboration, Post Clearance Audit, Authorized Operators • Practical implementation of Trade Facilitation instruments in the border clearance process
<p>Single Window and CITES <i>Speaker: Mr. M. Pikart, CITES</i></p> <p>Guest presentation: ASEAN and PAA experience: Single Window and cross</p>	<p>15.30h - 16.30h</p>	<p>eCITES and Single Window</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction into the Single Window concept • What can Single Windows do for CITES?

	<p>border exchange of electronic certificates in Asia (Malaysia);</p> <p>Guest presentation: Single Window, Union Custom Code and the exchange of licenses, permits and certificates <i>Speaker: Mr. Milagros Vergez European Commission, DG TAXUD</i></p> <p>Discussion: eCITES and Single Window: Experiences and expectations (all)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with Single Window and cross border exchange of permits, licenses and certificates in the Asia Pacific Region • Preparation and implementation for electronic exchange of permits, licenses and certificates in the EU
	<p>Electronic Data Exchange and integrated workflows with aCITES <i>Speaker: Mr. C. Ciuta, UNCTAD</i></p> <p>Guest presentation: EPIX Pilot project France - Switzerland (tbd)</p> <p>Discussion: CITES and Facilitation Concepts (all)</p>	16.30h - 17.00h	Electronic permit exchanges and Single Window integration in a software solution
	End of Session	17.00h	
Thursday, 31 May 2018	<p>Overview of the previous day</p> <p>Guest presentation: Perspectives for a regional eCITES approach in the Caribbean (Bahamas) (tbd)</p>	09.30h - 10.00h	<p>Address by the Workshop leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline to the day • Key topics to be covered

<p>CITES questionnaire on electronic systems: Needs and expectations of Management Authorities <i>Speaker: Mr. M. Pikart, CITES</i></p> <p>aCITES: A solution for electronic CITES permit management <i>Speaker: Mr. C. Ciuta, UNCTAD,</i></p> <p>Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator</p>	<p>10.00h - 11.00h</p>	<p>Electronic CITES systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations of CITES Management Authorities on automation of CITES processes • Implementation of business processes and workflows in aCITES • Configuration to national requirements
<p>Coffee Break</p> <p>11.00h - 11.30h</p>		
<p>Setting up aCITES national implementation <i>Speaker: Mr. N. Popa, UNCTAD ASYCUDA Centre of Excellence</i></p> <p>Followed by open discussion led by a Moderator</p>	<p>11.30h - 13.00h</p>	<p>How to start a national aCITES implementation project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a Technical Assistance Project • Procedure, options, cost estimations etc. • Regional implementation approaches
<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>13.00h - 14.30h</p>		
<p>Conclusions of the Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of lessons learnt • Proposal of actions • Recommendations to CITES <p><i>Moderator: Mr. M. Loertscher, Switzerland</i></p>	<p>14.30h - 15.30h</p>	<p>Discussion on the findings of the workshop and possible recommendations for future action</p>
<p>Closure of the meeting</p> <p>15:30h</p>		

