



Wildlife Trade Management

@CITES

Sri Lanka pilots the implementation of eCITES, a cloud-based electronic system offering automated support for permit application, processing, issuance and reporting for international trade of endangered species

Situation

The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) in Sri Lanka needed to improve its operational capacity to control the export, import and introduction by sea of specimens of endangered CITES-listed species of flora and fauna, and products derived from, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and environmental management in Sri Lanka.

Solution

UNCTAD's ASYCUDA, in partnership with the Government of Switzerland and the CITES Secretariat, developed an electronic permit system called eCITES. It was then tailored and configured to comply with DWC requirements and regulations. eCITES is a cost-effective, easy to deploy and user-friendly system for interested national management authorities.

Result

The eCITES system has shown the following results since its implementation in February 2020:

- Offers a 24/7 accessible online and fully automated support for CITES permit application, processing, issuance and annual reporting
- Provides automatic alerts on actions to be performed along the procedure
- Allows direct access to Species Identification and Classification
- Has inbuilt controls allowing accurate data to be submitted by the applicants
- Provides for secured permits using QR code feature
- Provides better data to decide on non-detriment findings and enables government agencies to better target their inspections
- Facilitates the exchange of electronic permits and information across borders, which increases transparency
- Improves collaboration between international and national agencies in implementing CITES provisions.

592

Import/export permits issued for international trade of endangered species on eCITES from February to October 2020

This photo was taken before the COVID19 pandemic.



The live implementation of the eCITES permitting solution developed jointly by the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD, and tailored to DWC needs, marks an important step in the Department's efforts to improve its operations in compliance with its international obligations.

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*Chandana Sooriyabandara,
Director General of the Sri Lanka Authority*

Partners:



SRI LANKA

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Total Number of Customs Offices



Volume of Activity (2019)

17,995
Customs **Manifests**

1,236,017
Customs **Waybills**

793,133
Import Declarations

656,991
Export Declarations



Customs annual revenue evolution (Billion rupees)



Persons Trained

