Introduction to Traceability in CITES

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Traceability in CITES: Many options ..

**Traceability in the private sector:** Who, what, when, where?

**Traceability in CITES:**

- **Tracing what?**
  - Specimen, derivates, products, batches, features of products
  - Complete supply chain, parts of the SC, selected markets,..

- **Tracing why?**
  - Compliance with CITES, compliance with (national) regulations, sustainability of trade, UN SDGs, …

- **Tracing how?**
  - Tags, labels, barcodes, RFID, biometric markers, blockchain..
  - Event based methods, mass balance, book&claim, accounting systems, Forest Management Systems, ..

Risk of fragmented, non complementary approaches for different species and different commodity sectors

- CITES looks for common standards and approaches to traceability
Traceability and CoP 17: Discussions

- CITES objectives for traceability
  - Standards based
  - Mutually complementary traceability projects
  - Synergies and compatible with electronic CITES permits
  - Generate information for non detriment findings and monitoring programmes

- Proposal for CITES to work on
  - Common **definition** for traceability
  - Common **technical standards**
  - Common **managerial standards**: governance structure to plan and oversee traceability projects
Traceability: Technical Standards

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

- Liaison with WTO, WCO, IMO, FAO, IPPC, GS1...
- **CEFACT standard for traceability of agriculture produce**..based on ISO 19987 and GS1 EPCIS
- **CEFACT** will integrate **traceability requirements of CITES** as required

CEFACT traceability standard from the CITES perspective:

- Global standard with broad support
- Low cost technical solutions available
- Fully compatible with eCITES and IPPC eSPS
- Standard is fully integrated with other eBusiness standards (WCO DM, CEFACT CCL, FLUX..)
Traceability: Governance structure

- Traceability projects are multi stakeholder projects
- These projects require extensive consultation with all stakeholders during project scoping phase

*It’s 90% talking and 10% doing*

**UN/CEFACT Guide for planning traceability projects in cross border trade**

A Guide to develop the functional design of a traceability system..

.. and to discuss the objectives and requirements of the system with all stakeholders

- Objectives and responsibilities, not technology
- Transparent process to reach consensus
- Basis to select the technology for the traceability system
Traceability and automation of CITES permits

Foundations of a Traceability system

- Traceability requires **standardised, transparent business processes**
- Require **reliable data** on current and past trade transactions
- Traceability systems can only **reuse data** that is already available in the **in-house information systems**

CITES ePermitting system

- Standardises and automates CITES business processes
- Provides reliable electronic information on CITES permits and business processes
- Exchanges electronic CITES information with other government agencies
Traceability: Observations

Traceability and CITES

- 6 traceability studies in over 4 years but no electronic traceability systems have been implemented so far
- Value of traceability for CITES still needs to be demonstrated

Traceability and eCITES

- CITES traceability system will heavily rely on data from electronic CITES permitting systems
- Planning of CITES traceability systems should be integrated into a vision of automation of CITES business processes
- Use of information technology to improve transparency and compliance of CITES regulated trade
Thank you!

Markus.Pikart@CITES.org