Introduction to Traceability in CITES

Johannesburg, September 2016
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?**
  - Identification: Labels, tags, barcodes, RFID, biometric markers, blockchain..

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

⇒ CITES looks for structured approach to traceability
Traceability and CoP17 Discussions

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

- Proposal for CITES to work on
  - Common **definition** for traceability
  - Common **technical standards** for traceability
  - 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)

- **CEFACT** standard for traceability of agriculture produce based on ISO 19987 and GS1 EPCIS
- CEFACT will integrate **CITES traceability requirements** as required

**CEFACT** traceability standard from the CITES perspective:

- Global standard with broad support
- Low cost technical solutions available
- Fully compatible with eCITES and eSPS permits
- Fully integrated with other relevant eBusiness standards
- CEFACT liaises with all major players WTO, WCO, IMO, FAO, IPPC, CITES, …
Traceability: Governance structure

- Many choices to implement traceability in CITES
- Extensive consultation with all stakeholders required when planning the traceability project

**UN/CEFACT Guide to plan traceability projects for sustainable trade**

A Guide to develop the functional design of a traceability system

- Transparent process for planning a traceability system
- Describes the system from the perspective of the stakeholders
- Stakeholders define objectives first, then decide on technology

- Common planning framework for all traceability projects
- Makes traceability projects comparable
Traceability and automation of CITES processes

Common for all traceability systems

- 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
- MA has **reliable electronic information** on issued CITES permits in its database system
- The permit information can be **reused** for different purposes: traceability, Customs control, annual reports, non detriment findings, ..
Traceability - For discussion

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

Traceability in CITES

- Traceability in CITES is complex with limited outside experience available

- 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
Thank you!

Markus.Pikart@CITES.org

Implementing electronic CITES Permits

CoP 17 Side Event

Monday 26 September 2016 17:30 to 19:00
Room R.5
Johannesburg, South Africa