



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD



ASYCUDA eCITES BaseSolution

Online access to electronic Permit management



Within the framework of the MOU signed between the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD, and a project sponsored by the Government of Switzerland both organisations have jointly developed a cloud-based electronic permit system offering automated support for permit application, processing, issuance and reporting. The technical infrastructure of the core service is to be initially hosted and maintained by UNCTAD.

This electronic permit solution is targeted primarily to the 183 parties to the CITES Convention that do not have access to electronic permit management systems. The *eCITES BaseSolution* system, as it is called, is intended to be maintenance free for the Management Authority (MA), and does not require advanced technical expertise or IT systems in the MAs.

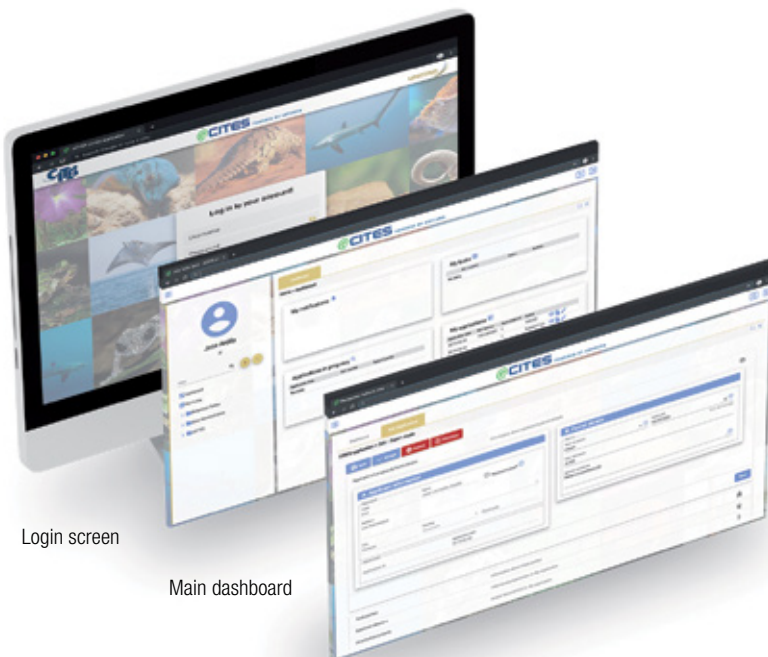
The *eCITES BaseSolution* is of particular interest for CITES Parties with low to medium permit volumes and for Parties from developing and least developed countries. As the system is already developed and accessible on the Internet¹ it can be deployed in a country at short notice and is being piloted under a specific project in the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). The *eCITES BaseSolution* is developed to improve the Management Authorities' capacity to control trade of CITES listed species.

Electronic Permit Management – Base vs Augmented Solution	@CITES	
	Base solution	Augmented solution
<i>eCITES – Business Requirements, Information Flows, System Capabilities/Functionalities</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation of the elementary CITES permit procedures: electronic permit requests, electronic notification of traders, management of supporting documents, prepayment 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; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparency and accountability in the permit process: who, what, when, where; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instant access to all pending and issued permits; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction between traders and government officials is on-line, formalized and recorded; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faster and better controlled permit processes, traceability of all decisions and reduced opportunities for informal procedures; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures conformity with the provisions of the CITES Convention, improve the monitoring of legal international trade while reducing the incidences of illegal wildlife trade; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable electronic data for better annual trade reporting; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility to adopt stricter domestic measures and to include some non-CITES species; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access from any device with an internet browser; 	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic permit exchange with national Customs and border control agencies including Single Window integration; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, secure and reliable cross border electronic exchange and verification of CITES permit data among CITES Management Authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point-to-point; Through a regional Hub. 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Customs Risk Management for CITES listed species and targeted controls; 	-	✓

¹ The system was showcased at CoP18 and can be made available for demonstration to interested Parties.

Electronic Permit Management – Base vs Augmented Solution	@CITES	
	Base solution	Augmented solution
<i>eCITES – Business Requirements, Information Flows, System Capabilities/Functionalities</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened Legal Acquisition and Non-Detriment Finding (NDF): advanced quota control, traceability, workflow with Scientific Authority, assignment of tasks, electronic Risk Management when evaluating permit requests; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reuse eCITES data for traceability, end-to-end control and visibility of the supply chain; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of specimens of signatures and stamps of Management Authorities; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration and maintenance of a database of registered facilities; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of national eCITES reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on actual quantities exported; Customized reports and statistical analysis to strengthen NDFs. 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation of exemptions and special procedures; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates to facilitate and expedite trade that will have a negligible impact, or none, on the conservation of the species concerned; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling Customs Authority and other Enforcement Authorities to fulfill their tasks using mobile devices; 	-	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation of other processes to support various business models and national legislations. 	-	✓

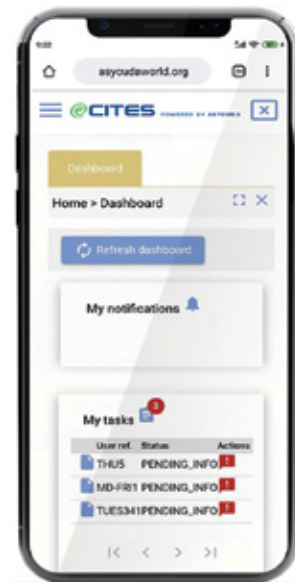
Key principles for selecting the solution: maximizing business value ('operational improvement') and maintaining cost efficiency ('value for money') while ensuring a seamless transition from the current working procedures to the new system ('no disruptions').



Login screen

Main dashboard

Electronic application form



Mobile enabled

The *eCITES BaseSolution* can be implemented through a technical assistance 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:	113k 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:	105k 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:	40k USD p.a.
Online support, testing and troubleshooting, training of new staff, changes in 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 already been 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 a group of countries.



📍 UNCTAD / ASYCUDA
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

📍 CITES Secretariat
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

🐦 @AsycudaProgram
✉ ecites@asycuda.org
🌐 asycuda.org

🐦 @Cites
✉ info@cites.org
🌐 cites.org