

Information exchange and co-operation

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 1

Resolution Conf. 11.3

recommends to the parties to be:

AWARE of the need for improved cooperation and coordination among CITES authorities and wildlife-law enforcement agencies at the national, regional and international levels;

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 2

Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 3

Why?

- ▶ Exchanging information and having greater collaboration between CITES agencies,
- ▶ assists in the detection and investigation of wildlife crime and
- ▶ promotes the effective enforcement of wildlife legislation nationally and internationally.

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 4

C – C – C

- ▶ **Co-operation**
 - Co-operation between the different institutions and organisations
- ▶ **Coordination**
 - Coordination of the activities of the different institutions and organisations
- ▶ **Communication**
 - Circulation of information and talking to each other

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 5

National Authorities

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graph TD
    MA[Management Authority]
    P[Police]
    PP[Public Prosecutor]
    SA[Scientific Authority]
    CBA[Customs / border agencies]
    PS[Phytosanitary Service]
    VS[Veterinary Service]
    OA[Other Agencies]
    NCB[National NCB to INTERPOL]

    MA --- P
    MA --- PP
    MA --- SA
    MA --- CBA
    MA --- PS
    MA --- VS
    MA --- OA
    MA --- NCB
    P --- NCB
    CBA --- VS
    VS --- OA
  
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Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 6

Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
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- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 7

Mechanisms for information exchange

UK solution

- ▶ Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime
- ▶ Regular meetings between NGOs and CITES MA (CITES Officers Group)
- ▶ Police and Customs Wildlife Crime Officers annual conference
- ▶ National Wildlife Crime Unit

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 8

Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 9

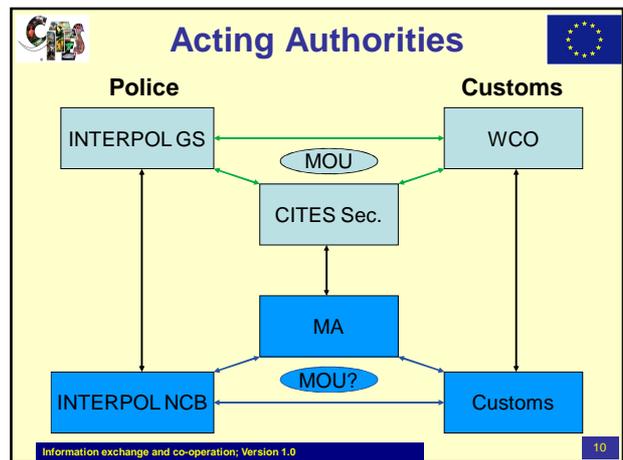


Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 11

The CITES Secretariat

- ▶ The CITES Secretariat has a number of co-operation agreements with law enforcement agencies
- ▶ ICCWC – International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
- ▶ The Secretariat has established an Enforcement Unit to support international co-operation

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 12

 **CITES forum for Enforcement Authorities** 

- ▶ The CITES Secretariat hosts a closed forum for use by enforcement authorities
 - <http://www.cites.org/forum/>
- ▶ Questions and comments can be posted and replied to
- ▶ CITES Alerts are issued via this forum

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 13

 **CITES Alerts** 

- ▶ The Secretariat issues Alerts for law enforcement purposes highlighting emerging illegal trade trends. Some examples include:
 - Illegal trade in caviar to the yachting community
 - Illegal trade in falcons
 - Combating illicit trade in great apes
 - Illicit trade in rhino horn
 - Criminal frauds involving CITES related documents

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 14

 **Table of contents** 

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ **INTERPOL**
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 15

 **INTERPOL** 

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. It exists to help create a safer world by supporting law enforcement agencies worldwide to combat crime.



Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 16

 **INTERPOL** 

- ▶ Created in 1923
- ▶ Today there are 187 member countries
- ▶ National Central Bureaus in each country
- ▶ Plays an intermediary role
- ▶ Aims to ensure the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 17

 **National Central Bureau (NCB)** 

- ▶ Collects criminal intelligence and passes it on to other NCBs and the INTERPOL General Secretariat
- ▶ Ensures police action or co-operation requested by other countries
- ▶ Transmits requests for international co-operation
- ▶ Receives requests for information, i.e. from other NCBs on behalf of their national authorities

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 18

INTERPOL Wildlife Working Group

This group focuses the expertise and experience of law enforcement officers on poaching, trafficking, or possession of legally protected flora and fauna. It runs a number of projects including:

- ▶ Operation baba – targeting illegal ivory sale in Africa
- ▶ Reptile trade
- ▶ Wildlife smuggling identification manual
- ▶ Operation TRAM on traditional medicine

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 19

Ecomessage

Ecomessage is

- ▶ INTERPOL'S reporting system for environmental crime
- ▶ and covers
- ▶ Illegal trans-border movements and illegal dumping of wastes
- ▶ Illegal trans-border activities involving radioactive substances
- ▶ Illegal trafficking in wild flora and fauna

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 20

Ecomessage

Ecomessage collects data that can be:

- ▶ Analyzed to define the size, structure and dynamics of groups involved in international environmental crime
- ▶ Alert and request assistance from law enforcement agencies in other INTERPOL member countries, and
- ▶ Cross-referenced within INTERPOL database to identify any links between an active case and prior criminality

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 21

Ecomessage form 1

Ecomessage Form: Example I

1. Subject

1.1. Aerial transportation of the offence

1.2. Case name

1.3. Legal description of the offence (include location, date of apprehension, method and legal provision)

2. Place and method of discovery

2.1. Place where the offence occurred (e.g., nature, control, geographic, international, etc.)

2.2. Describe how the offence was discovered (e.g., customs control, reporting, informant, etc.)

2.3. City, Country where offence was discovered

3. Date and time

4. Combined products

4.1. Illegal species: Specify the species of the animal and the parts of products, or botanical substances. Specify the nature of the products (e.g., wildlife). Specify the scientific and common names of the species involved, with scientific description (with authority), the date, year of collection, etc. (if any)

4.2. Quantity and estimated value. Specify the units of measure and the type of currency

5. Identity of persons involved

5.1. Name: Name (a to Z) must be completed for each person involved

5.2. Date of birth

5.3. Place of birth

5.4. Citizenship

5.5. Sex

5.6. Address

5.7. Date and place of arrest

5.8. Nationality

5.9. Address

5.10. International passport or national ID

5.11. Mobile number (if available)

5.12. Date of issue, period of validity

5.13. Profession

5.14. Role in the offence (e.g., organizer, transporter, etc.)

5.15. Other information (include telephone, fax, e-mail, etc. also subject to the above restrictions, date, etc.)

6. Companies involved

6.1. Name: Name (a to Z) must be completed for each business involved

6.2. Status of company

6.3. Operated by

6.4. Nature of processing and marketing

6.5. Place: City, Country

6.6. Other: Other (e.g., Paris, France, Skopje, MA, 25547000)

7. Means of transport and mode

7.1. Specify the mode of transport (e.g., aircraft, ship, truck, etc.) and the mode of transport (e.g., air, sea, land)

7.2. Specify the mode of transport (e.g., aircraft, ship, truck, etc.) and the mode of transport (e.g., air, sea, land)

8. Locations

8.1. East India (CITES indicator), East India (CITES indicator)

8.2. Unknown

8.3. Other

8.4. Other

9. Identification of documents used

9.1. Name of document: Name of document (e.g., CITES permit, export licence, etc.)

9.2. Date of issue: Date of issue (e.g., 15/01/2009)

9.3. Issued by: Issued by (e.g., CITES Secretariat)

9.4. Other: Other (e.g., CITES Secretariat)

10. Law enforcement agency

10.1. Name: Name of law enforcement agency (e.g., Customs, Police, etc.)

10.2. Address: Address of law enforcement agency (e.g., Customs, Police, etc.)

10.3. Contact: Contact information of law enforcement agency (e.g., Customs, Police, etc.)

11. Media reported

11.1. Name: Name of media reported (e.g., newspaper, magazine, etc.)

11.2. Date: Date of media reported (e.g., 15/01/2009)

11.3. Other: Other (e.g., newspaper, magazine, etc.)

12. Additional information

12.1. Name: Name of additional information (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

12.2. Address: Address of additional information (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

12.3. Contact: Contact information of additional information (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

13. Information requested

13.1. Name: Name of information requested (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

13.2. Address: Address of information requested (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

13.3. Contact: Contact information of information requested (e.g., CITES Secretariat, etc.)

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 22

Ecomessage form 2

Ecomessage Form: Example II

1. Subject

1.1. Reptiles in underground tunnels and their eggs

1.2. Operation Cobra

1.3. Article 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

2. Place and method of discovery

2.1. Capital Airport

2.2. Discovery by X-ray and document examination

2.3. Country, Origin

3. Date and time

3.1. 30 April 2004 at 23:00 hours

4. Combined products

4.1. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.2. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.3. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.4. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.5. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.6. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.7. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.8. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.9. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.10. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.11. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.12. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.13. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.14. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

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4.98. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.99. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

4.100. 1 CITES permit (CITES App. I) (see, see below)

5. Identity of persons involved

5.1. Name: Name (a to Z) must be completed for each person involved

5.2. Date of birth

5.3. Place of birth

5.4. Citizenship

5.5. Sex

5.6. Address

5.7. Date and place of arrest

5.8. Nationality

5.9. Address

5.10. International passport or national ID

5.11. Mobile number (if available)

5.12. Date of issue, period of validity

5.13. Profession

5.14. Role in the offence (e.g., organizer, transporter, etc.)

5.15. Other information (include telephone, fax, e-mail, etc. also subject to the above restrictions, date, etc.)

6. Companies involved

6.1. Name: Name (a to Z) must be completed for each business involved

6.2. Status of company

6.3. Operated by

6.4. Nature of processing and marketing

6.5. Place: City, Country

6.6. Other: Other (e.g., Paris, France, Skopje, MA, 25547000)

7. Means of transport and mode

7.1. Specify the mode of transport (e.g., aircraft, ship, truck, etc.) and the mode of transport (e.g., air, sea, land)

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8. Locations

8.1. East India (CITES indicator), East India (CITES indicator)

8.2. Unknown

8.3. Other

8.4. Other

9. Identification of documents used

9.1. Name of document: Name of document (e.g., CITES permit, export licence, etc.)

9.2. Date of issue: Date of issue (e.g., 15/01/2009)

9.3. Issued by: Issued by (e.g., CITES Secretariat)

9.4. Other: Other (e.g., CITES Secretariat)

10. Law enforcement agency

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Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 23

Table of contents

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0 24



World Customs Organization



- ▶ Established in 1952, currently has 174 member countries
- ▶ Manages information exchange networks including a database in which all cases of fraud reported by the Members as well as details on the types of concealment used, methods, risks and trends are displayed (CEN – Customs Enforcement Network)



Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

25



World Customs Organization



- ▶ Has Regional Intelligence Liaison Officers (RILO) based around the world.
 - RILOs co-ordinate intelligence exchange and co-operation with law enforcement agencies
- ▶ Has developed an e-learning course Customs and wild fauna and flora comprising of 7 modules
- ▶ Has launched Environet – a closed list server for environmental discussions amongst WCO members

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

26



Table of contents



- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

27



Regional Co-operation



- ▶ **EU Enforcement Group**
 - Meets twice a year in Brussels
 - European Commission, Brussels
- ▶ **North American Wildlife Enforcement Group**
 - Canada, US, Mexico
- ▶ **Lusaka Agreement**
 - Lusaka Task Force
- ▶ **ASEAN WEN**

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

28



Table of contents



- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ E.g.s of mechanism for information exchange
- ▶ International co-operation
- ▶ CITES Secretariat
- ▶ INTERPOL
- ▶ WCO
- ▶ Regional co-operation e.g.s
- ▶ EU TWIX

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

29



EU TWIX



- ▶ “EU - Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange”
- ▶ EU-TWIX = Internet tool developed to facilitate information exchange and international co-operation between wildlife law enforcement officials in the EU
- ▶ 2 components:
 - ▶ the database
 - ▶ the mailing list
- ▶ Administration is managed by TRAFFIC

Information exchange and co-operation; Version 1.0

30

EU TWIX

- ▶ A total of 470 wildlife law enforcement officials across 27 EU Member States + Croatia, Switzerland, Montenegro and Norway
- ▶ And 101 EU enforcement agencies including:
 - ▶ Customs / Police
 - ▶ Environmental inspection services
 - ▶ CITES Management Authorities
 - ▶ Veterinary and phytosanitary inspection services
 - ▶ Prosecutors offices

31

EU-TWIX DATABASE

32

EU-TWIX DATABASE

33

EU-TWIX DATABASE

34

EU-TWIX DATABASE

Order	Family	Genus	Species	CITES no.	IC	Number	Description	Seizure	Mass	Unit of measure	Type of marks	Mark reference	Reporting country	Date	Agency	Reference No.	Country of origin	Directorate	Type of incident
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0406	Udskoven 1.02	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0413	Udskoven 0.413	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0238	Udskoven 0.238	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0478	Udskoven 0.478	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0594	Udskoven 0.594	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	1.13	Udskoven 1.13	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	ACPIENSERIDAE	Bubo	Ursus	II	B	1	CAV	Udskoven 0	-	-	-	Udskoven	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful
ACPIENSERFORDEL	-	-	-	0	CAV	0413	Udskoven 0.413	Kg	Udskoven	-	-	-	Denmark	13.03.2009	Denmark CITES Management Authority	DK-3805-09-01	Russian Federation	Inspection	Unlawful

35

Database benefits

- ▶ Determine enforcement priorities based on monitoring of illegal trade patterns (e.g. species, countries, methods)
- ▶ Alerts countries to illegal trade in own country; helps develop search criteria
- ▶ Assess detection efficiency (e.g. goods passing through one country, picked up in another)

36



Mailing list



- ▶ Real-time daily use to exchange information and seek assistance (e.: seizures and stolen specimen alerts)
- ▶ Facilitates investigations
- ▶ Facilitates identification of seized specimens, locating rescue centres, etc.
- ▶ Sharing of resources and expertise (e.g. lab analyses)
- ▶ Reveals scope of illegal trade networks in the EU
- ▶ Assistance with practical application of CITES