

Peer learning sessions of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Presentation of policy practices as a basis for the peer learning discussion

Session 4.2. Digital Transformation for SDG implementation

<b>Title of intervention, country and name of presenter</b>	<b>Digitalization for the enhanced legal, sustainable and traceable trade in wildlife</b> <b>Haruko Okusu, Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</b>
<b>Brief description</b>	CITES is a multilateral agreement that regulates trade in certain species wildlife and their products, so that it does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild. The presentation will highlight how digitalisation is an important aspect of the Convention's continued effort to provide tools and services that would help Parties ensure that wildlife trade remains legal, sustainable, and traceable, and to fight illegal wildlife trade.
<b>Policy goal(s) or challenge(s) to be addressed</b>	Balancing conservation and sustainable use through wildlife trade Fighting illegal wildlife trade Better provision of support to the Convention's Parties and governing bodies in the areas of compliance and enforcement, science and capacity building.
<b>Instruments and proposals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further use of online means for species identification, documentation, visualising trade trends, etc.</li> <li>- Support to Parties for the automation of the CITES permitting process</li> <li>- Exploring cost-effective means for automating national CITES permitting</li> </ul>
<b>Constraints and difficulties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for further digital equity</li> <li>- Financial constraints for implementing a fully electronic CITES permitting system in place (difficulties of cost-recovery)</li> <li>- Diversity of national CITES permitting processes/stakeholders</li> <li>- Communication between CITES and Customs/other agencies in the country</li> </ul>
<b>Lessons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CITES is still in the early stages of fully benefiting from the digitization efforts</li> <li>- Learning from other sectors and sharing information/experience among Parties</li> </ul>
<b>Links to additional materials</b>	<a href="#">eCITES page (CITES Website)</a>

	<p><a href="#">CITES country profile page (CITES website)</a> <a href="https://trade.cites.org">trade.cites.org</a></p>
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