SPECIES+ / CITES CHECKLIST API

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UN WCMC
environment
programme

Purpose of the API

- Enables CITES Authorities to access up-to-date data and "pull" into their national systems

- Increases accuracy and efficiency (reducing errors and duplication of effort)

- Provides information on **CITES taxonomy** (including scientific names and synonyms) and **CITES Appendix listings** as per the CITES Checklist

National CITES permitting system / database

Purpose of the API

Also provides information on:

✓ common names
✓ distributions
✓ CITES export quotas
✓ trade suspensions

as maintained in Species+

Nomenclature changes and the API

- Each "taxon concept" (scientific name and author/year combination) has a permanent unique numeric identifier

- Associated data (e.g. legislation, distributions) are tied to each taxon concept (via its unique identifier)

- When nomenclature changes are agreed, UNEP-WCMC updates the data centrally. These changes are then available in the next data request by API users

Species+
CITES Checklist API   Species+   API Documentation   Sign In   Register an Account

NOMENCLATURE IN SPECIES+
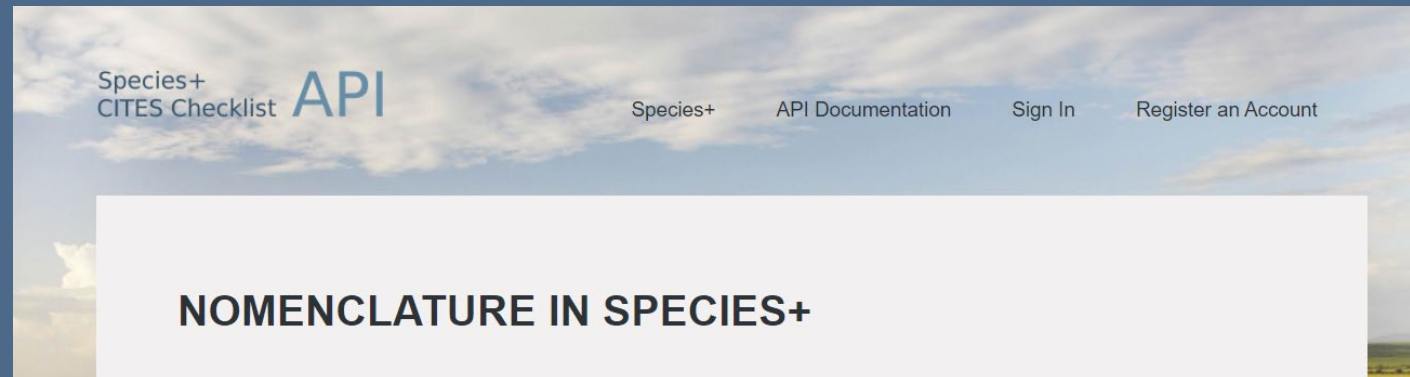
Accessing the API & information

- Via the CITES Checklist
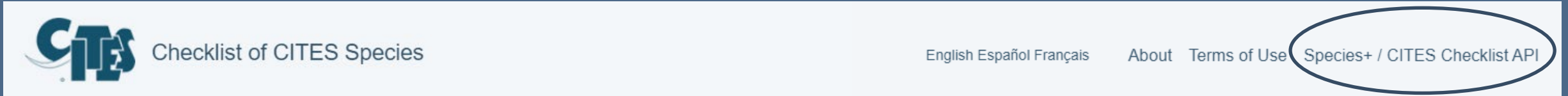
- Via Species+, in the Related Resources dropdown

- Directly at: api.speciesplus.net
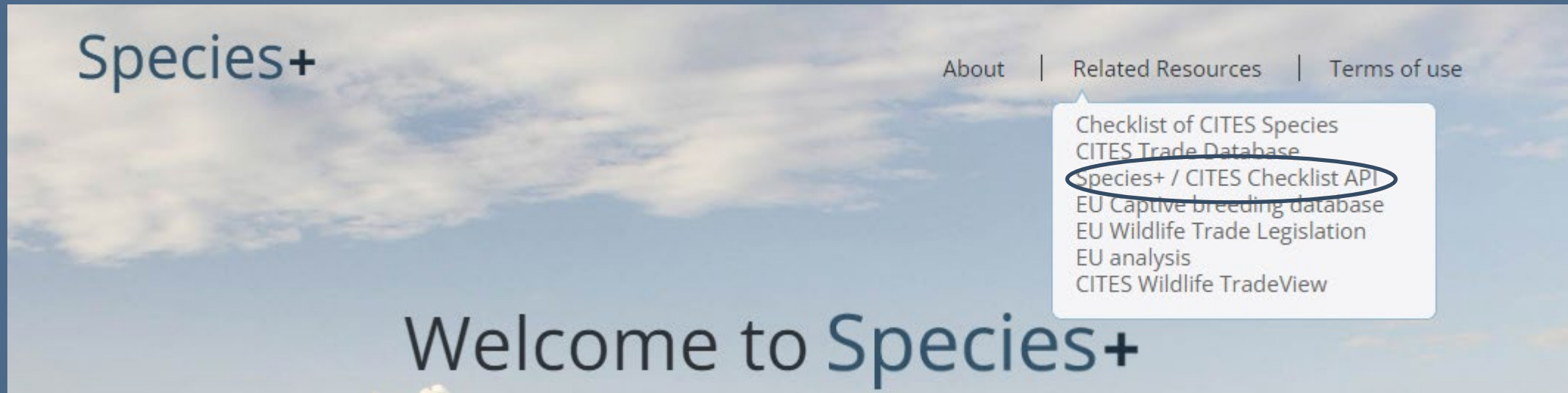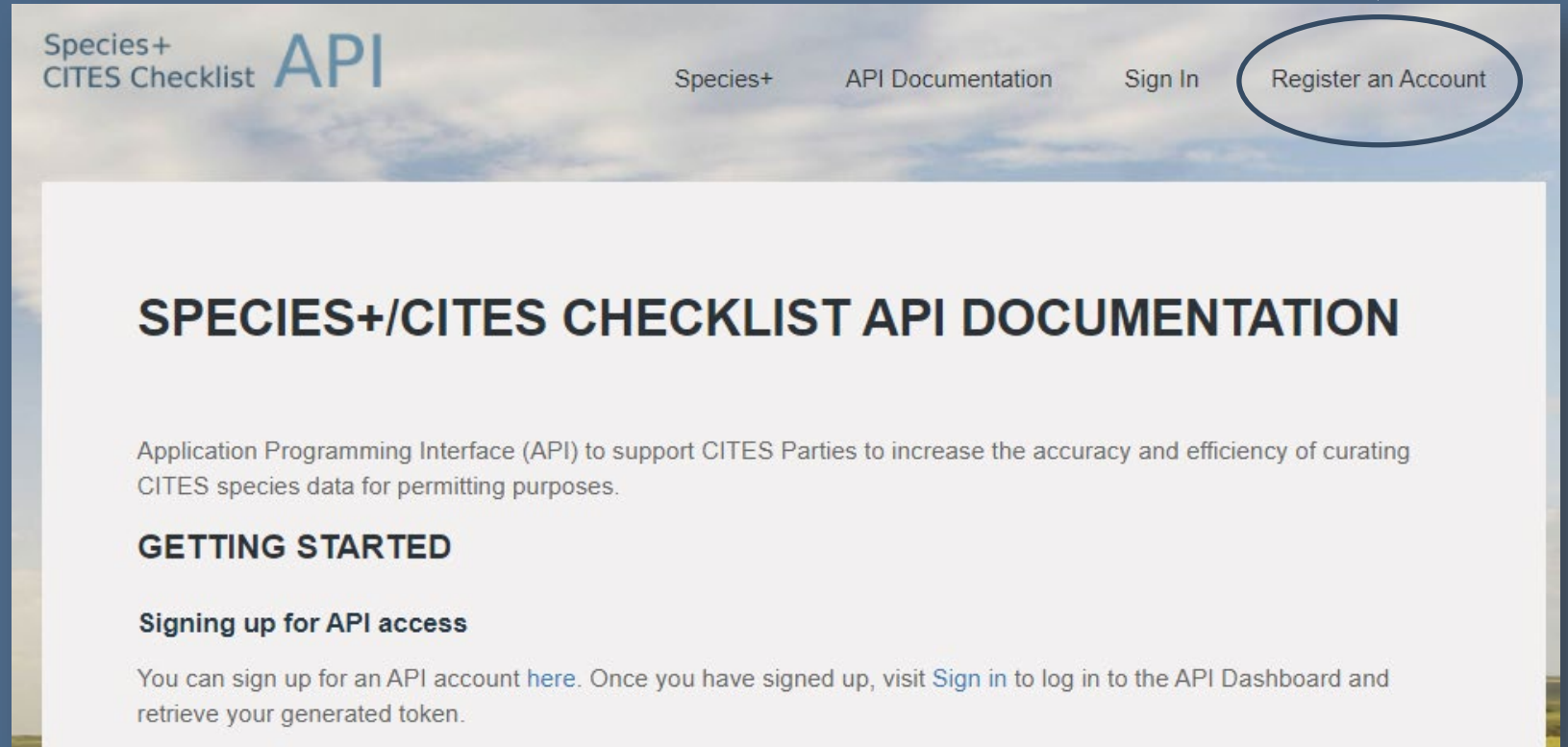
Using the API

- Review the **API documentation available** on the dedicated API page

- **Register for an account** and sign in to generate an authentication token for accessing the API

- Tools are available to **test the API**

- Option to access data based on **filters** and/or to pull only data that has been updated since a specified date / time

Species+
CITES Checklist **API**

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SPECIES+/CITES CHECKLIST API DOCUMENTATION

Application Programming Interface (API) to support CITES Parties to increase the accuracy and efficiency of curating CITES species data for permitting purposes.

GETTING STARTED

Signing up for API access

You can sign up for an API account here. Once you have signed up, visit Sign in to log in to the API Dashboard and retrieve your generated token.

Further technical details can be found in the API documentation:
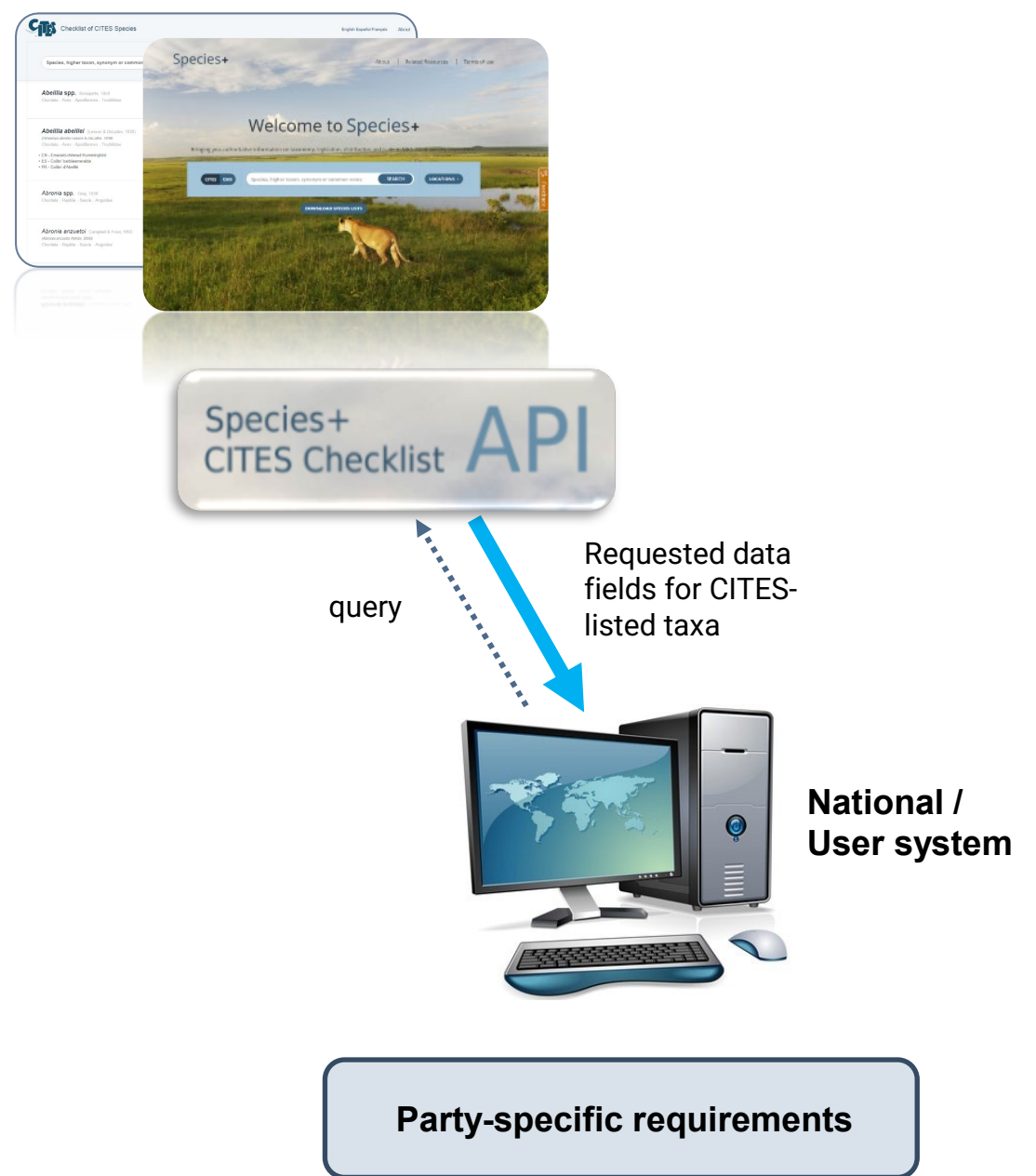http://api.speciesplus.net/

Please contact UNEP-WCMC with any queries in relation to the API.
aude.caromel@unep-wcmc.org **or** species@unep-wcmc.org

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API - general

The API is designed to be **flexible** so that it can be used by any system. As national systems differ, the documentation provided is not overly prescriptive, but rather it provides a framework for using the API.

You have control over what fields are pulled, the timing and frequency of the data updates and how the API interacts with your system.
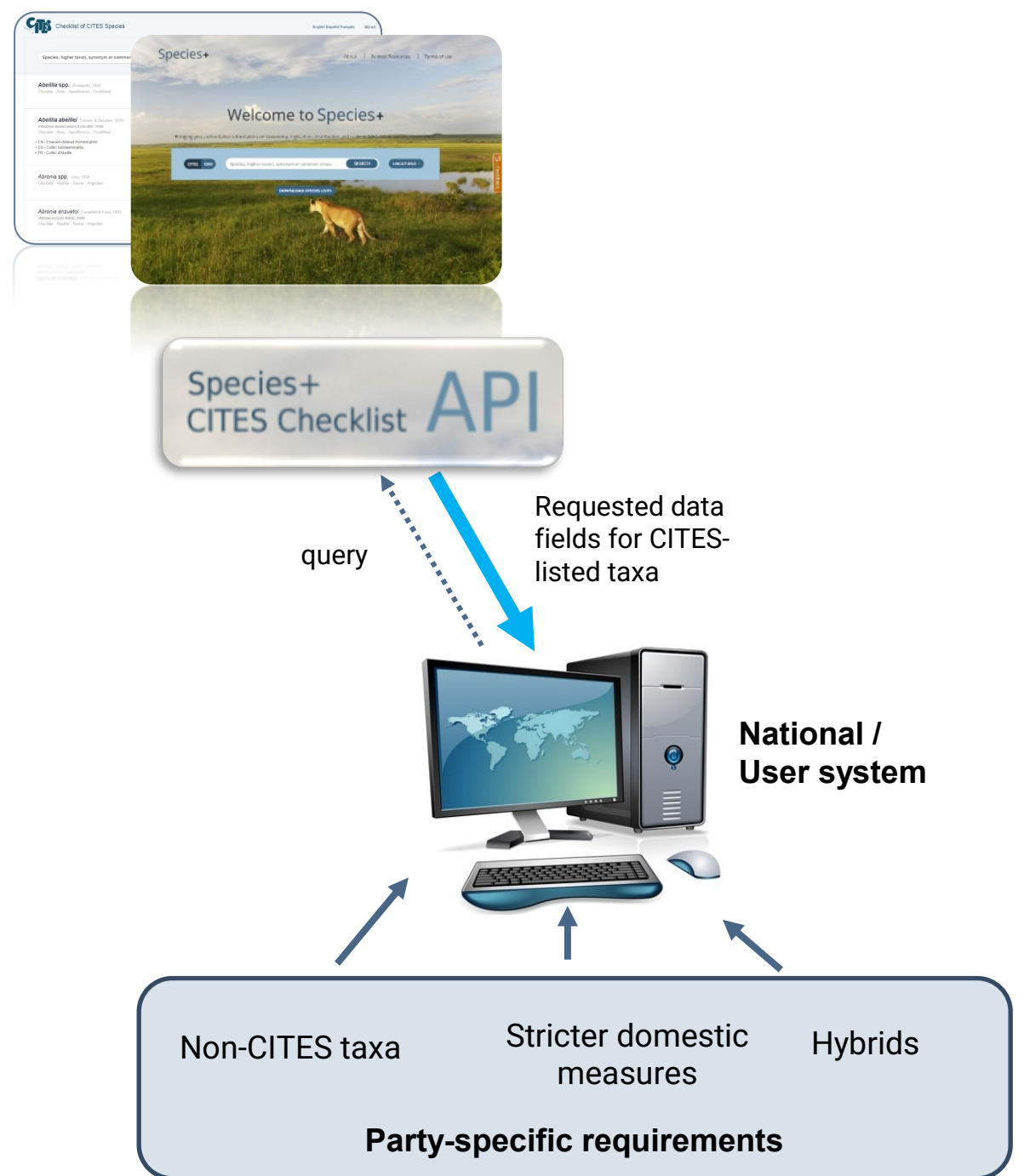

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CITES Checklist API

query

Requested data fields for CITES-listed taxa

**National /
User system**

Party-specific requirements

Question 1 – Party-specific names

❖ National databases may have **existing names** (e.g. additional non-CITES species regulated for another purpose, more detailed hybrid names, etc.)

The API is designed to be flexible and can be configured to only update the relevant data fields corresponding to CITES-listed taxa. Fields to designate this group and the inclusion of the Species+ ID field would help facilitate this.

Solutions will vary depending on the set-up of each database, but the use of the API would not impede the capability of handling additional species names.
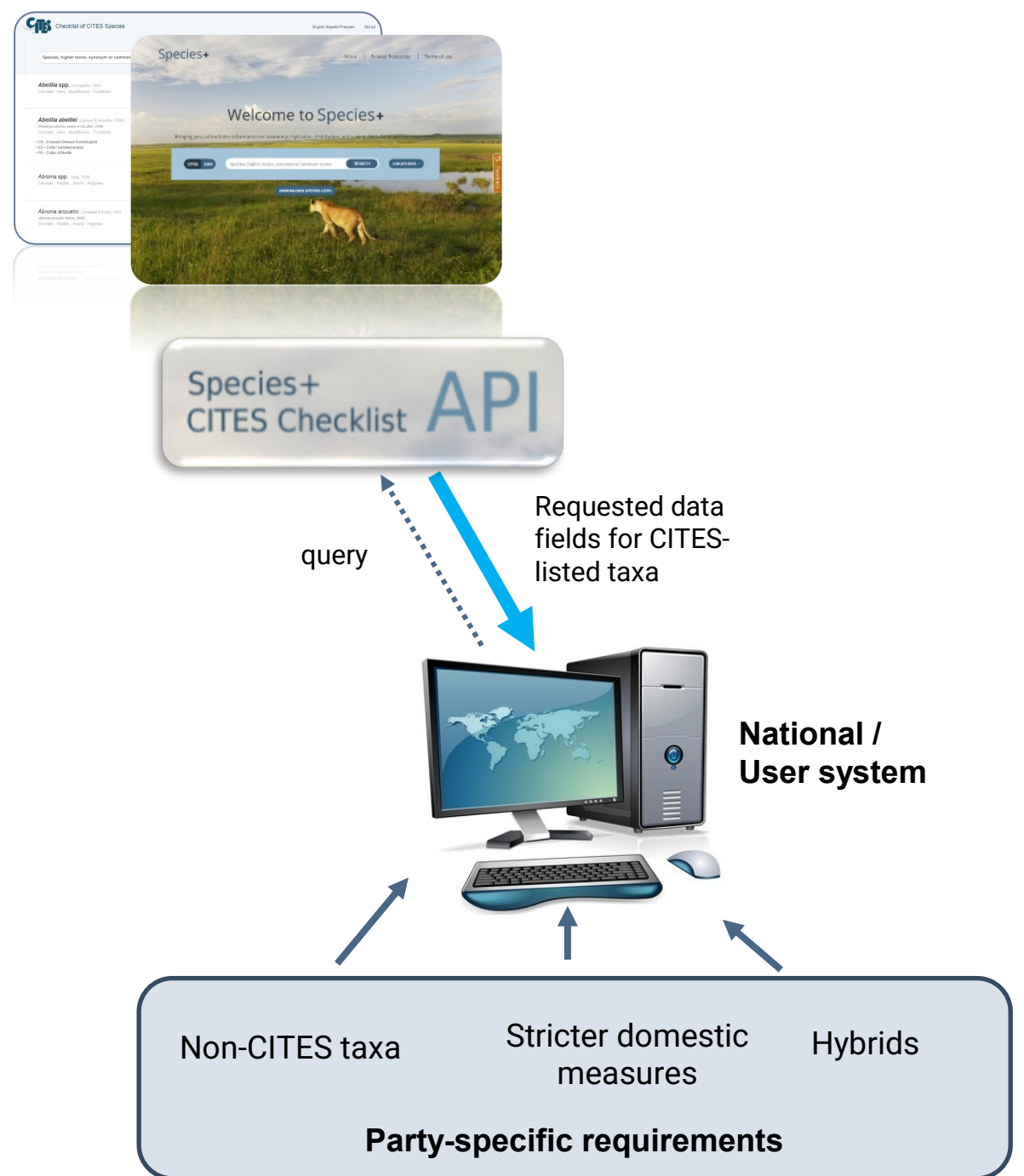
Question 2 – Party-specific legislation

❖ National databases may have **stricter measures** for some CITES species

The solution is needed in the national database itself, such as implementing two fields: one for the CITES listing as given by the API, and one for the stricter domestic measures for the same taxon.

Solutions will vary depending on the set-up of each database, but the use of the API would not impede the capability of handling stricter domestic measures.

query

Requested data fields for CITES-listed taxa

National / User system

Non-CITES taxa   Stricter domestic measures   Hybrids

Party-specific requirements

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Thank you