

## **eCITES EPIX Readiness Report Sri Lanka**

### **1. CITES permit process**

Sri Lanka uses a CITES permit process with two-stage approval process. In Sri Lankan Government establishments all critical decisions are made on at least inputs from two officers in the bureaucratic chain. As an example if a payment is made for a particulate purpose, one person recommends the payment and forward to his/her superior officer and the superior officer, approves the payment. The person authorized to make the payment do the real payment only after these two levels of authorizations happened. It aims at elimination of errors, enhance the transparency and eliminate frauds. The same approach was used in the CITES permit process when it was done through manual means.

The front level officer who receives the application from the client is supposed to ensure three aspects;

- a) the correctness of the application information (typos, classification and nomenclature),
- b) legality considering the Domestic legislations specially Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, and
- c) the CITES convention classification and decisions regarding the specimens.

Additionally, if there is a technical issue need to be clarified by any of the recognized scientific authorities, they will be informed and recommendation is obtained. At the end of the front level scrutinization, he/she give the first level clearance for granting the permit. The second level officer who is the immediate supervisor of the front level officer, looks at the correctness of the decision of the subordinate officers and provide second level recommendation for the granting. The officer entrusted to grant the permit executes his/her discretion based on the two recommendations. After granting the permit, the front level officer issues certificate. During the time, manual process was used, one application moves two times along the channel, one for the granting and second one for the signing the stamped certificate by the granting officer which is now completely removed.

The same system was converted to digital process with required reengineering. The front level officer's role was defines as "Permit Processing" and the his/her approval is termed as "APPROVAL 1". The second level officers role was defined as "Permit Approval" and his intervention is termed as "APPROVAL 2". The officer who plays the CITES management authority role was defined as "Granting" and his intervention was termed as "GRANTING" and the front level officers task to handover the permit to the client was identified as "Permit Issuing" and the intervention was termed as "ISSUANCE". The processes digram is attached here as the appendix 1 for further reference.

The link between the customs and the Management authority is still based on the paper based document and the reporting back of the actual quantities rarely happens.

The clients are interacting the digitally and remotely and they need not to manually submit an application. Since the paper based permit is still required to be used, the clients need to come to the office to collect the document. The payments have to be done over the counter still but actions are on going on introducing online payments. The integration with the customs system and the elimination of paper based certificate cannot implement until all other member countries finalizing and agreeing a common standard to share the documents electronically which is the subject of EPIX. In doing so we have noted some differences in the standers need to be eliminated among different entities i.e. the unit of measure used by the customs is different from CITES standards.

## 2. Electronic Permit system

**ePermit** – the clients digitally submit applications online and they are provided with user accounts to do so. The necessary training is provided by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Permit processing which includes assessment of risks and inspections are digitally entered to the system as interventions. When an intervention is requested from the client to fulfill a conditions they can submit it through the online system. The intervention of Scientific Authorities is not included in the process as in the present circumstances these outside agencies do not play a significant role as the export and import are strictly controlled by the domestic laws.

The interventions regarding permit application are recorded in the system and the permits details are also recorded in the system. The permit information can be verified by third parties by scanning the QR code printed on the certificate. However, development of an EPIX system based on the CITES toolkit is ongoing for exchange of data with other Management Authorities.

The online payment system was developed and yet to be included into the production environment. Department of Wildlife Conservation accepts online payments for other citizen services in Sri Lanka and therefore technically capable in doing so.

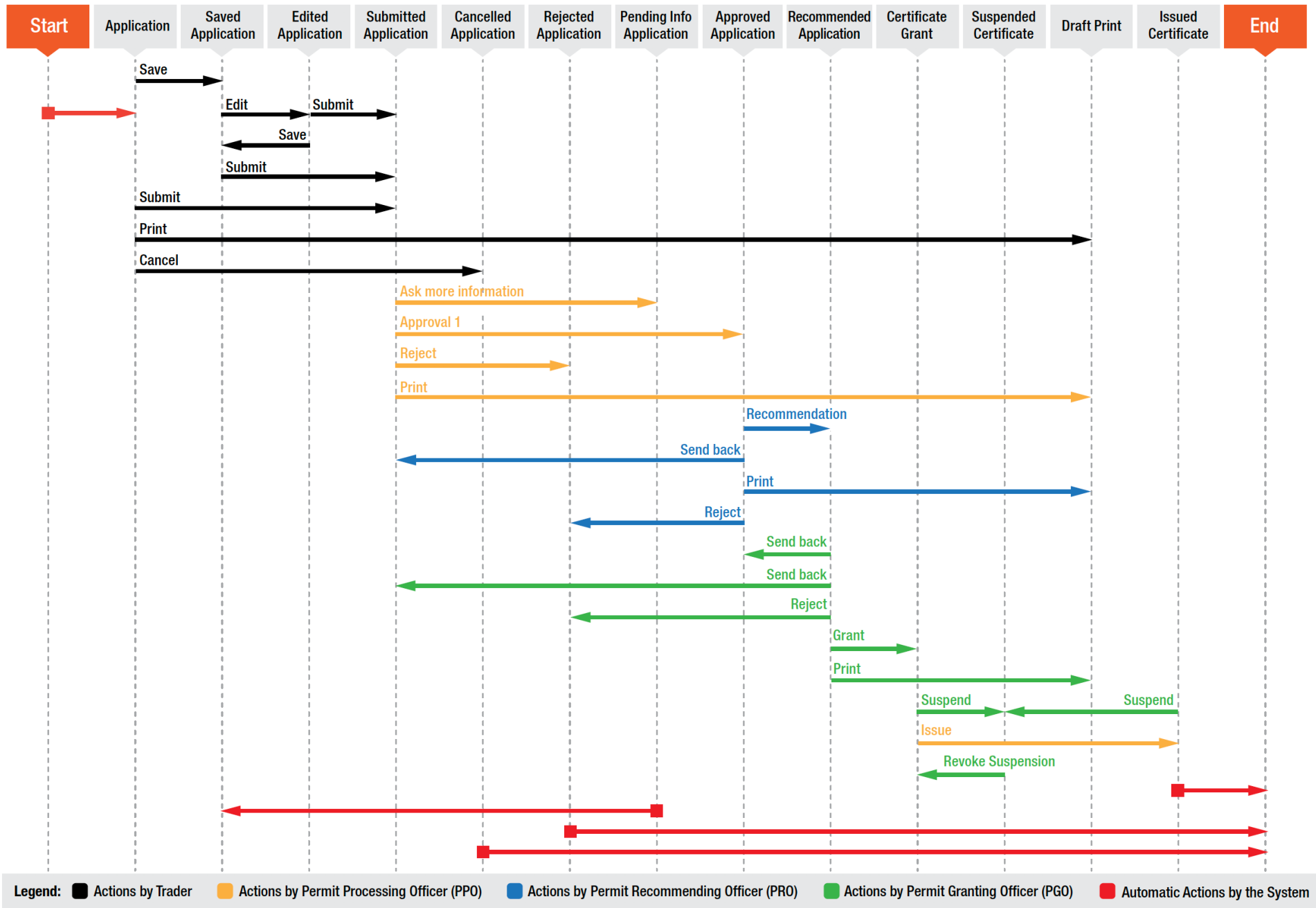
**eControl** – In the present context eControl is not fully implemented. The local and foreign costumes can authenticate the permit issued by Sri Lankan Management Authority by scanning the QR code on the permits and it connects to the system and provides a response in real time. The actual quantities are often not reported by the customs and the annual CITES reposts are prepared assuming the “applied quantities were shipped”. Sri Lankan Management Authority expects integration of the eCITES system with customs through the UNCTAD ASYCUDA program as Sri Lanka Customs is using ASYCUDA as their system. Department of Wildlife Conservation is working with UNCTAD to establish this link in the future.

**eReport** – The annual report generation is included in the present system and reports can be generate for any time period using the system. The reports are generated according to the CITES requirements and formats. Sri Lanka can now send the annual report in the first week (optimistic target 1<sup>st</sup> of January !) of each year for the previous calendar year.


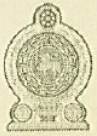

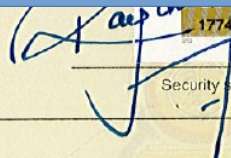

Sri Lanka uses the ASUCUDA eCITES system and it is almost completed. Other than the specified services in built to the system it provided the capability of integration with other systems in the Department. The Department of wildlife conservation is in the process of development of an EPIX system using the slandered of eCITES Tool kit. It was scheduled to be staged during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April but had to reschedule due to the COVID-19 emergence situation. However it will be available for testing during 3rd week of April 2020. The focal point to test/mange the EPIX pilot is Mr. M.S.L.R.P.Marasinghe (Deputy Director Planning and ICT) of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (contactable through +94 71 8024240 and ranjandwc@gmail.com).

The real samples of the new CITES permits are attached as appendix 2.

# Appendix 1. Process Diagram





 <b>CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA</b>		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. 20SL000092 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER :		Original 2. Valid until <b>02-10-2020</b>					
3. Importer (name and address)  <b>Mr. Larry Nau</b> Bergen Water Gardens & Nursery 7443 Buffalo RD Churchville NY, 14428 USA		4. Exporter/re-exporter (name, address and country)  <b>BORNEO EXOTICS PVT LTD</b> "SANDIGIRI FARM" OLD COLONY, PALMERSTON JUNCTION, LINDULA, LK - Sri Lanka							
3a. Country of import  <b>US - United States</b>									
5. Special conditions  <small>If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; if for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations; or, in the case of non-air transport, with the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants</small>		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">                       DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST                      REPUBLIC OF                      SRI LANKA                      0094 112888585                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                       DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE                      CONSERVATION                      SRI LANKA                      0094 112883355                 </div> </div>							
5a. Purpose of the transaction <b>T - Commercial Trade</b>		5b. Security stamp no. <b>1774661</b>							
7./8. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant		9. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (age/sex if live)	10. Appendix no. and source	11. Quantity (including unit)	11a. Total exported/Quota				
<b>7./8. S.N.: <i>Nepenthes hybrid</i>; C.N.: Pitcher Plants</b>		<b>9. As per the attached list;</b>	<b>10. Appendix: II ; Source: A - Plants that are artificially propagated</b>	<b>11. Quantity: 1300 NAR</b>	<b>11a. Quota: N/A</b>				
12. Country of origin *		Permit no.	Date	12a. Country of last re-export					
N/A		N/A	N/A	Certificate no.					
N/A		N/A	N/A	Date					
N/A		N/A	N/A	12b.No of the operation ** or date of acquisition ***					
N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A					
* Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, bred in captivity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export) ** Only for specimens of Appendix-I species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes *** For pre-Convention specimens									
13. This permit/certificate is issued by:  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;">                     Department of Wildlife Conservation,                      811A, Jayanthipura,                      Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.                 </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">                     02-04-2020                      Date                 </div> <div style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">                       Security stamp, signature and official seal                 </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>									
14. Export endorsement:									
15. Bill of lading/Air waybill number:									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Block</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Block	Quantity	A					
Block	Quantity								
A									
Port of export		Date		Signature					
				Official stamp and title					