



Introduction to CITES and preparations for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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What is CITES?

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
 - Regulates international trade in list species of plants and animals
 - Species listed in one of three Appendices with varying levels of protection and document requirements for international trade in the listed species
 - 183 Party countries and the European Union



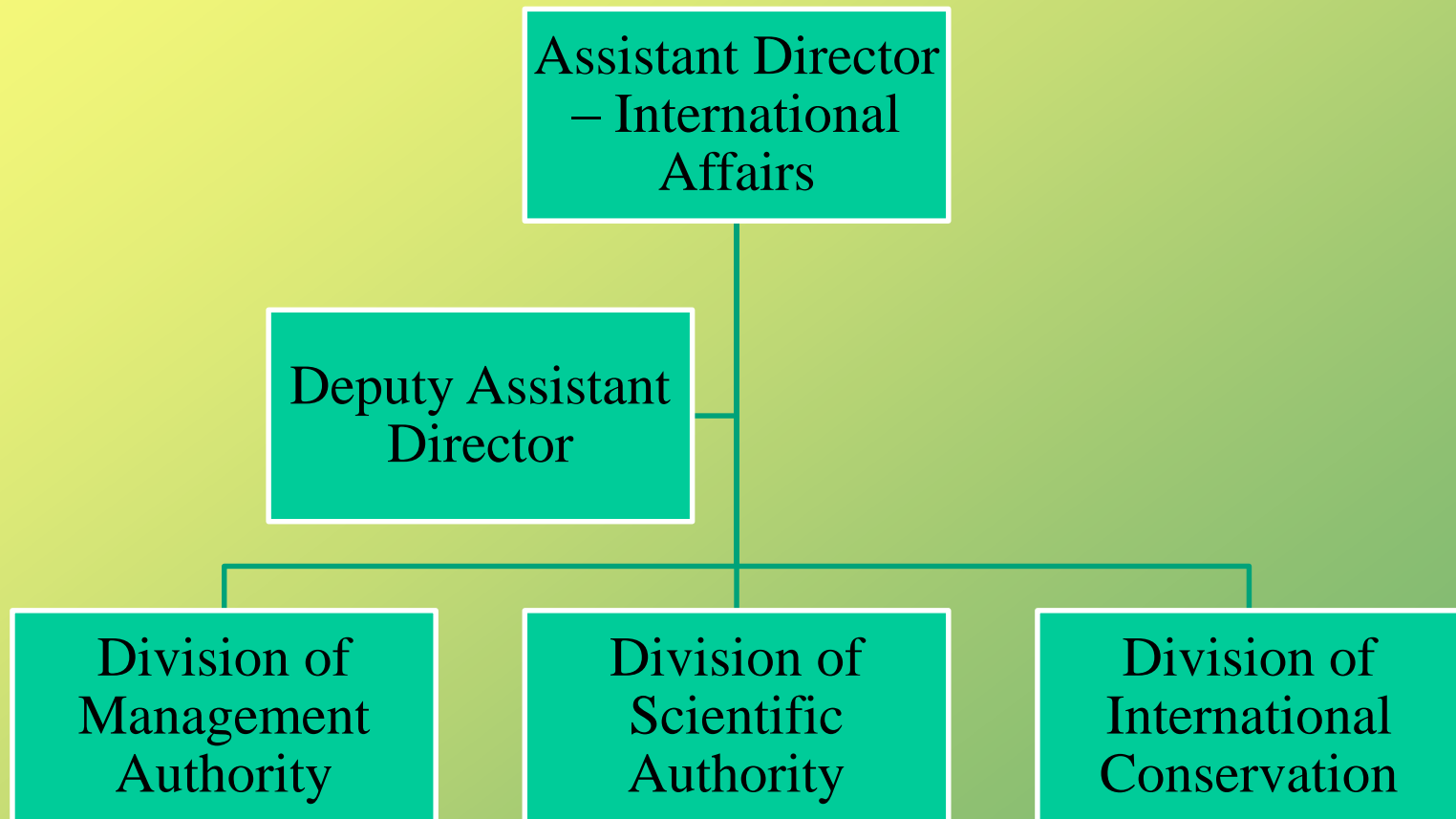
The basic approach of CITES

- Based on a system of permits and certificates
 - Generally speaking, permits are issued when certain conditions are met (*two findings* – legal acquisition and non-detriment)
 - Must be presented when leaving or entering a country
- National laws to implement CITES





U.S. CITES implementation



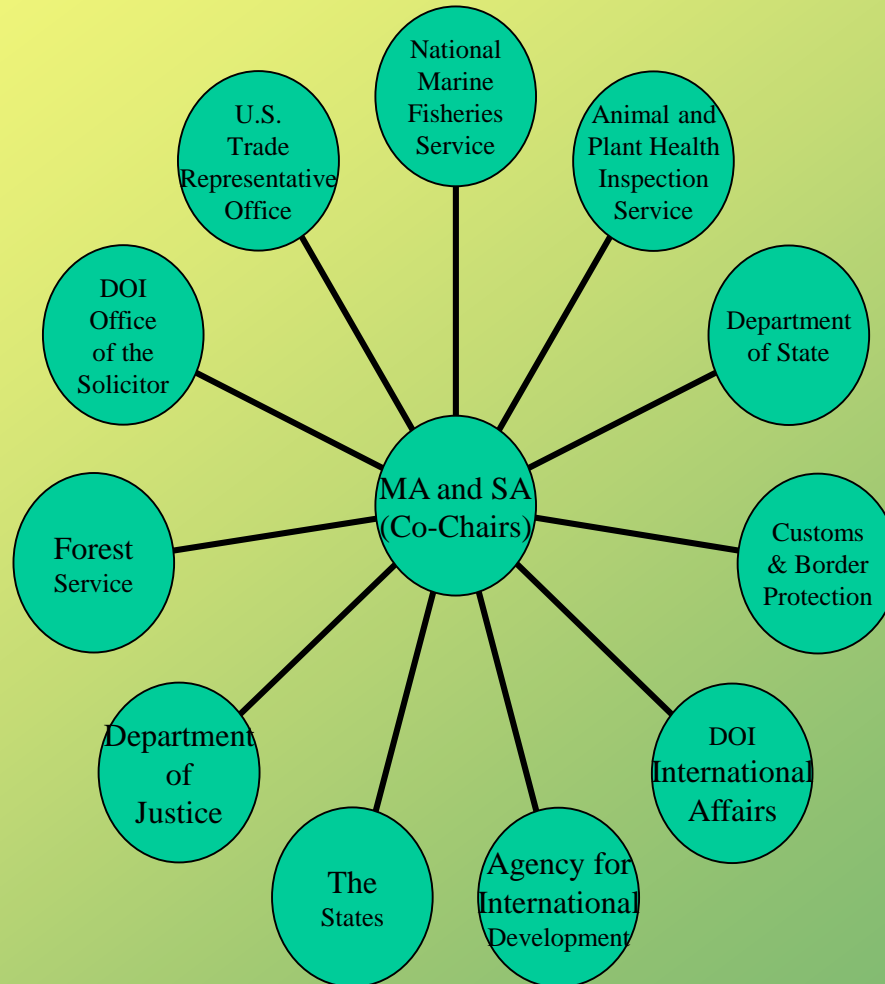


U.S. CITES Authorities

- U.S. Management Authority
 - CITES policy and coordination
 - Makes legal acquisition findings
 - Except for some permit issuance by Office of Law Enforcement, sole office for issuing CITES permits/certificates
- U.S. Scientific Authority
 - CITES science policy, both plant and animal
 - Makes non-detriment findings for permits



CITES Interagency Coordination Committee





Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

- The CITES Parties meet every 2 ½ to 3 years at a CoP to review the current implementation of the Convention
- Each CoP lasts for 2 weeks
- During each CoP, the Party countries:

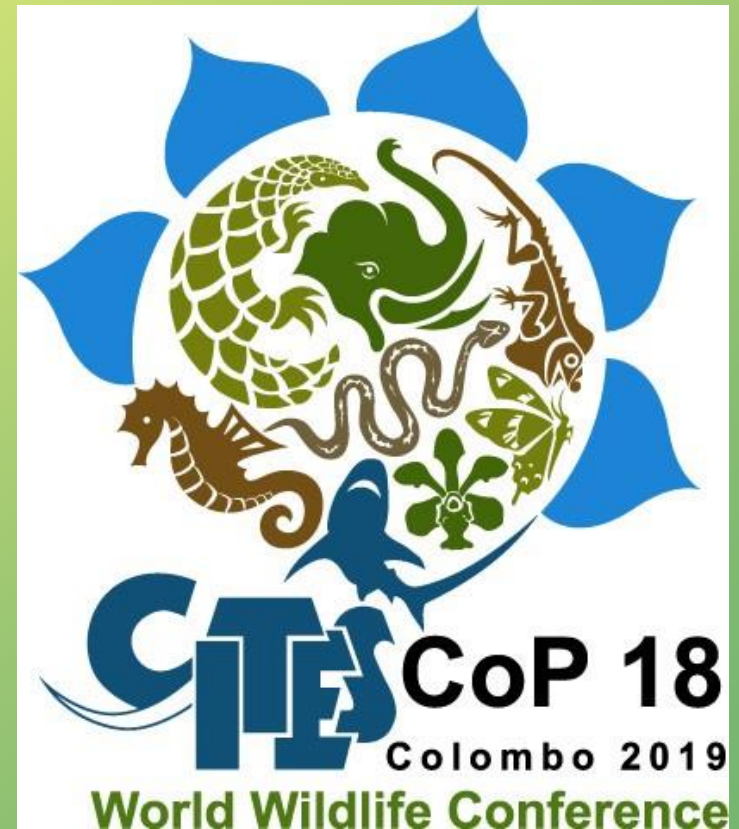


- Discuss working documents of the meeting
- Decide whether to adopt proposals to amend the Appendices
- Decide whether to adopt proposed Resolutions and Decisions



Participating in a CoP as an observer

Numerous international governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and national non-governmental organizations, private sector/industry organizations, and academic organizations participate as observer





Public Participation

- U.S. Government bases CITES decisions on full public review and comment through notices and proposed rules in the *Federal Register*.
- Regulations are proposed and made available for comment for 30-60 days or longer.
- Substantive comments are considered in developing final regulations or in taking other actions (It is not a vote!)



Public participation and CoP17 preparations

- Multiple FR notices published in advance of a CoP (starting approx. 18 months before the meeting) to seek public input on U.S. submissions as well as U.S. negotiating positions on other Parties' submissions. Through FR notices and public meetings, input sought on:
 - recommendations for U.S. submissions
 - comments on U.S. proposed submissions
 - tentative U.S. negotiating positions on other Parties' submissions



CoP18 - Timber-related issues

- *Widdringtonia whytei* (Mulanje cedar) – Appendix II without an annotation
- *Dalbergia sissoo* (North Indian rosewood) – Delete from Appendix II
- *Dalbergia* spp. and *Guibourtia* spp. (rosewoods) – Amend Annotation #15
- *Pericopsis elata* (Afrormosia) – Amend annotation to include “transformed wood”
- *Pterocarpus tinctorius* – Include in Appendix II without an annotation
- *Cedrela* spp. – Include in Appendix II without an annotation
- Malagasy rosewoods/ebonies and Neotropical timber working group





CITES plant listings and annotations – guiding principles



- controls should concentrate on those commodities that first appear in international trade as exports from range States (these may range from crude to processed material)
- controls should include only those commodities that dominate the trade and the demand for the wild resource



FWS - International Wildlife Trade Program

Thank you!

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