CITES–WOAH WEBINAR: COUNTRY SCENARIO PRESENTATION

Safety of International Trade in Live Wild Animals and Wild Animal Products

Lebanon's National Experience: Coordination Between CITES and Veterinary Services

CITES Management Authority | Animal Resources Directorate

Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Lebanon

Veterinary Services & Food Safety- Lebanon

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WOAH National Focal Point for Wildlife

1. Organizational Framework

Animal Resources Directorate: Veterinary Services, CITES and border quarantine network



Veterinary Quarantine Centres

AIR
Beirut–Rafic Hariri International Airport

SEA
Beirut & Tripoli Ports

LAND
Masnaa & Aboudieh

ONE DIRECTORATE

CITES Management Authority and **Veterinary Services** operate within the same institutional structure, enabling direct coordination from central authorization to veterinary quarantine and border control.

Institutional structure supporting coordinated control from central authorization to land, sea and air entry points.

Import and Export of Live Wild Animals and Wild Animal Products

Integrated process between CITES and Veterinary Services

IMPORT

Live animals & products

1. **Application** — Import request to Animal Resources Directorate
2. **CITES Review** — Species listing & origin permit verification
3. **Veterinary Review** — Animal-health / risk assessment
4. **Import Permit** — Authorization by Animal Resources Directorate
5. **Border Control** — Inspection • documents physical check • sampling
6. **Release** — Clearance after CITES & veterinary compliance

EXPORT

Live animals & products

1. **Application** — Export request to Animal Resources Directorate
2. **CITES Review** — Species identification, legal acquisition & conditions
3. **Veterinary Certificate** — Health examination & health certificate
4. **CITES Export Permit** — Issued by CITES Management Authority
5. **Border Control** — Inspection • documents physical check
6. **Export** — Customs clearance & departure

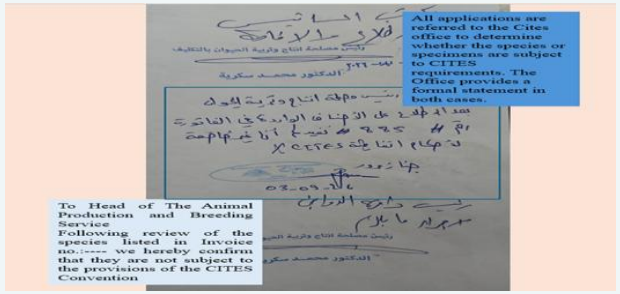


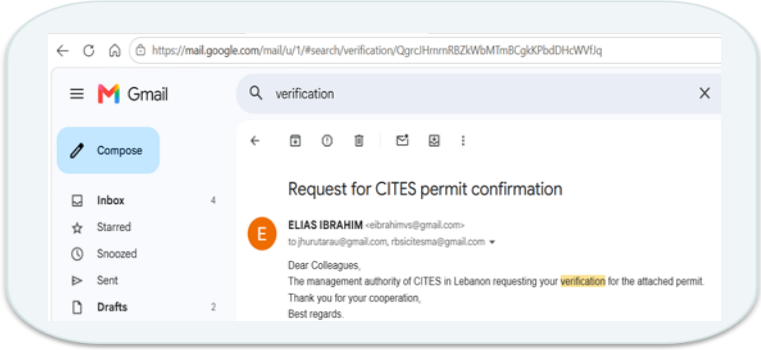
COORDINATION POINT The same institutional structure links central CITES authorization, veterinary assessment and border quarantine control.

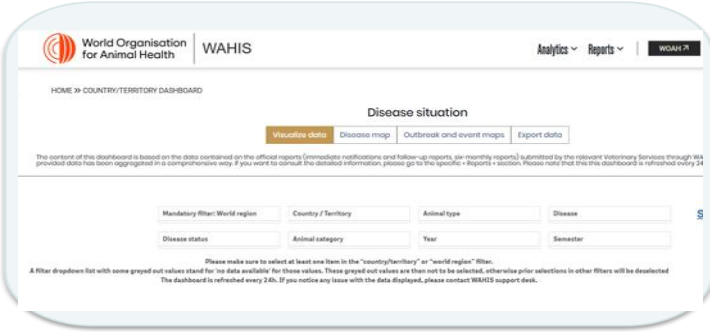
2.1. PRACTICAL CASE – IMPORT OF LIVE BIRDS

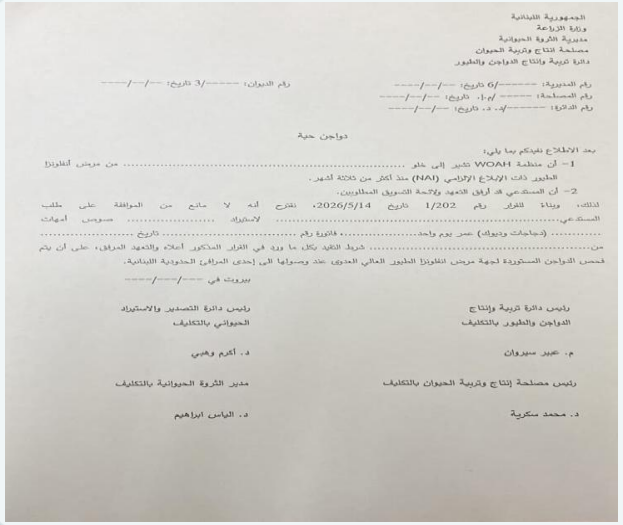
Control starts before authorization — not only at the border

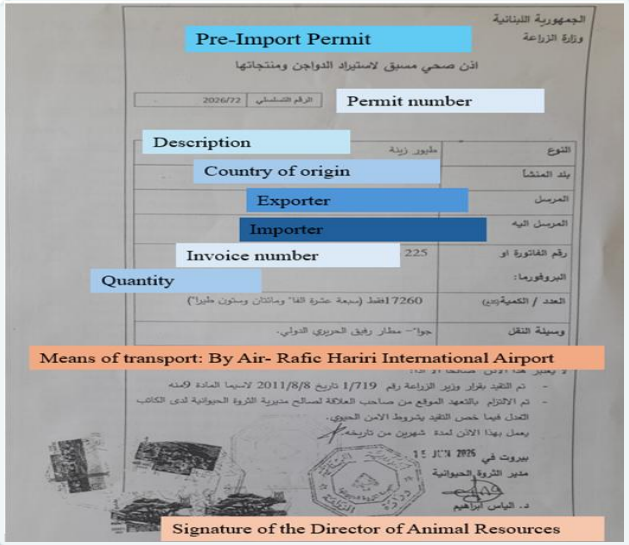
Import application → **CITES review** → **Veterinary risk assessment** → **Veterinary Assessment Record** → **Director's approval** → **Border + lab controls** → **CITES / customs clearance**













Re-export and Transit of Live Wild Animals and Wild Animal Products

Integrated CITES and Veterinary Services control from entry to exit

RE-EXPORT

Live animals & products

1. **Application** — Re-export request and supporting documents
2. **CITES Review** — Verification of species, previous import & status
3. **CITES Certificate** — Re-export certificate issued by CITES Management Authority
4. **Veterinary Inspection** — Physical and documentary control at exit point
5. **Health Certificate** — Veterinary health certificate issued by border quarantine centre
6. **Departure** — Final compliance check and release for re-export

TRANSIT

Across Lebanese territory

1. **Entry Control** — Veterinary inspection at the point of entry
2. **Document Check** — CITES, veterinary and transport documents reviewed
3. **CITES Referral** — Shipment file referred to the CITES Office
4. **Verification** — Coordination with relevant CITES authorities as needed
5. **Controlled Movement** — Animal welfare, safety and transport conditions maintained
6. **Exit Control** — Re-inspection and document matching before departure

COORDINATION POINT CITES verification and veterinary border control remain connected throughout re-export and transit, ensuring compliance, traceability, animal health and welfare.

From Masnaa Land Border to Beirut Airport

Integrated CITES–Veterinary coordination for a live wild animal consignment transiting Lebanon

1 MASNAA BORDER

File sent to CITES Office via WhatsApp

2 CITES VERIFICATION

Lebanon CITES Office confirms documents with Syrian CITES

3 TRANSIT AUTHORISED

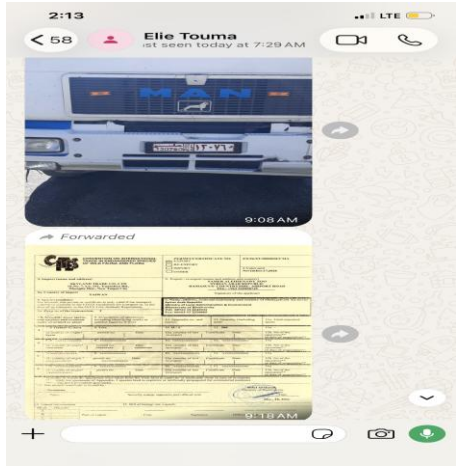
Masnaa Centre proceeds and issues transit documentation

4 SECURE MOVEMENT

Shipment sealed and escorted by Customs to Beirut Airport

5 AIRPORT RE-CHECK

Veterinary Centre re-inspects, matches documents & contents



Masnaa – document verification with CITES Office



Veterinary transit certificate



Secure movement



Beirut Airport – same packages and vehicle

CONTINUOUS CONTROL

Masnaa Veterinary Quarantine Centre → CITES verification → transit certificate & Customs escort → Beirut Airport veterinary re-inspection → CITES coordination → clearance for departure.

4. NON-COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

When CITES Requirements Are Not Met

A coordinated response to non-compliant international consignments and CITES specimens detected or seized within Lebanon

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Import • export • re-export • transit

Non-compliant consignments identified through authorization or border-control procedures.

DOMESTIC ENFORCEMENT

Detected • reported • seized within Lebanon

CITES-listed specimens identified through field reports, inspections or enforcement action.

CENTRAL COORDINATION ROLE OF THE CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE

For domestic cases, the CITES Office coordinates with the Animal Resources Departments in all governorates — all operating under the Animal Resources Directorate — ensuring rapid local follow-up and field response.

The Animal Health Service is engaged alongside CITES to support field missions and verify the health, condition and welfare of live animals.

COORDINATED ASSESSMENT & FIELD RESPONSE

CITES OFFICE

Species identification • CITES status • documentation • legal/administrative coordination

ANIMAL RESOURCES DIRECTORATE & CENTRAL AUTHORITY

Case follow-up • investigation • support for implementing welfare Law

LOCAL ANIMAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENTS

Governorate-level follow-up • local coordination • support to field implementation

ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICE

Animal-health assessment • welfare verification • veterinary support during missions

PROPORTIONATE OUTCOME

REFUSE / RETURN (international trade) • SEIZE / CONFISCATE • SAFE PLACEMENT / REHABILITATION / OTHER APPROPRIATE DISPOSITION

CITES ENFORCEMENT IN PRACTICE

Wildlife Confiscation, Protection & Coordinated Field Action

CITES Management Authority Office
Animal Resources Directorate • Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon

One institutional structure • direct coordination • animal safety

From field detection and confiscation to veterinary follow-up, rehabilitation and release where appropriate.

5. COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

CITES & Veterinary Services: Integrated Control

Complementary responsibilities for legal, safe and humane international movement of wild animals and wild animal products

C — CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- **Species & legal status**
  Identification of species and CITES listing status
- **Permits & documentation**
  Verification of permits, certificates, origin and legal acquisition
- **Traceability & compliance**
  Document control and support to enforcement where required

INTEGRATED COORDINATION

Shared review of documents, specimens, health risks and transport conditions

ANIMAL WELFARE | ONE HEALTH | PUBLIC HEALTH

Legal trade • safe transport • biosecurity • biodiversity conservation

V — VETERINARY SERVICES

- **Animal health & biosecurity**
  Epidemiological risk assessment, inspection, sampling and laboratory control
- **Animal welfare**
  Fitness for transport, handling, containers and conditions during movement
- **Sanitary control**
  Quarantine and risk-based measures protecting animal and public health

SHARED OBJECTIVE

CITES compliance + Animal Health + Animal Welfare + Biosecurity + Public Health → One Health

Coordination ensures that international wildlife movement is legal, traceable, safe and humane — not merely administratively compliant.

Continuous CITES–Veterinary Cooperation

Formal, direct and continuous coordination within the Animal Resources Directorate

FORMAL & DOCUMENTED COORDINATION

Official correspondence, referrals and written technical opinions support documented decisions and administrative traceability.

DAILY DIRECT COMMUNICATION

Continuous contact between the CITES Office, Veterinary Services and quarantine centres enables rapid consultation, document verification and case follow-up.

REGULAR COORDINATION MEETINGS

Periodic meetings allow joint review of procedures, practical cases, emerging challenges and improvements to the workflow.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

Exchange of expertise, species-identification resources and CITES guidance supports veterinary officers involved in border control.

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Direct contact with foreign CITES Management Authorities and Veterinary Authorities supports permit verification and resolution of cross-border cases.

COMPLEMENTARY RESPONSIBILITIES

CITES: legality, species, permits & traceability.
Veterinary Services: animal health, sanitary requirements, biosecurity & welfare.

ONE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

Shorter communication channels → continuous coordination → coherent technical and administrative decisions

Complementary CITES and veterinary functions allow international wildlife trade to proceed legally, safely and efficiently.

7. KEY CHALLENGES

Operating Effectively Under Real-World Constraints

The challenge is not institutional coordination — it is maintaining effective control despite operational, human-resource and technical limitations.

01

UNOFFICIAL BORDER CROSSINGS

Veterinary quarantine and CITES controls cannot be systematically applied outside official border points.

02

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS DURING CRISES

Security instability and restricted field access can affect border and field-control operations.

03

LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES

A small CITES team handles international trade files, technical verification and domestic wildlife cases.

04

LIMITED DIGITAL & TECHNICAL RESOURCES

Limited digital infrastructure and dedicated technical tools are partly compensated for by daily direct telephone communication with veterinary quarantine centres.

05

CONTINUOUS CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS

Ongoing specialized training is needed in species identification for V.S. Staff & Customs staff), CITES document verification, wildlife-related veterinary control and animal welfare.

PRACTICAL RESPONSE

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION • ADAPTIVE WORKING METHODS • INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING • JOINT FIELD ACTION

Limited technology is addressed pragmatically through direct daily telephone coordination when rapid operational support is needed.

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons Learned & Practical Recommendation

What Lebanon’s practical experience shows about making CITES–Veterinary coordination work in real conditions

01 INTEGRATION MATTERS

Coordination is most effective when CITES and Veterinary Services are integrated from the beginning of the authorization process.

02 VERIFICATION MUST CONTINUE AT THE BORDER

Border inspection provides a second verification point to identify discrepancies that may not be detected during document review alone.

03 DIRECT ACCESS TURNS COORDINATION INTO ACTION

Rapid access to CITES expertise — including photo-based identification and field support when required — enables timely operational decisions.

04 COMMITMENT CAN BRIDGE RESOURCE GAPS

Even with limited resources and challenging security conditions, a shared commitment across the team to animal protection and welfare, supported by close coordination, enables effective action with the resources available.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATION

Build coordination into the system — not only into individual cases.

Integrate CITES and Veterinary Services throughout the trade pathway, maintain direct communication and border verification, and invest continuously in the people responsible for implementation.

Effective coordination depends not only on resources, but also on people, commitment and a shared responsibility for animal health and welfare.

CITES × VETERINARY SERVICES

Thank You

for your attention

Protecting wildlife through coordination, animal health and welfare.

CITES Management Authority of Lebanon
Animal Resources Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture – Republic of Lebanon

CITES NATIONAL CONTACTS — LEBANON

Management Authority | Ministry of Agriculture

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CITES compliance • Veterinary risk management • Animal welfare • One Health