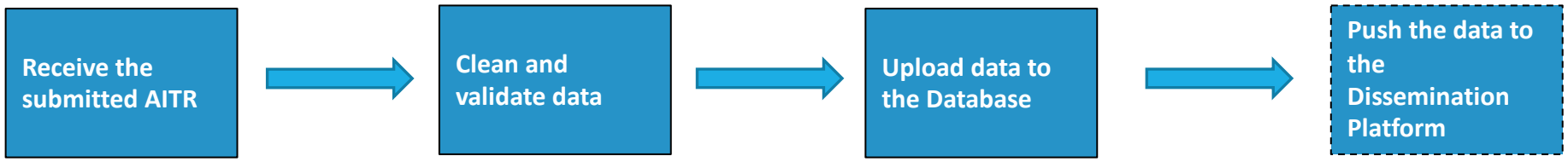
The development of the CITES Illegal Trade Database

Data Development and Dissemination Section
Research and Trends Analysis Branch
UNODC

OUTLINE

- Database vs dissemination platform
- Data cycle
- Achievements and timeline
- Value added for Parties
  - Country examples
- Demonstration of dissemination platform

Data Cycle



- AITR submitted to CITES Secretatiat
- Shared with UNODC for processing

- Transfer report to data template if necessary
- Standardize responses where applicable
- Apply validation rules to detect potential inconsistencies and outliers
- Mark duplicates to avoid double counting

- Data from the submitted AITR uploaded to the database on an individual manner

- Data pushed to the dissemination platform on a periodic basis

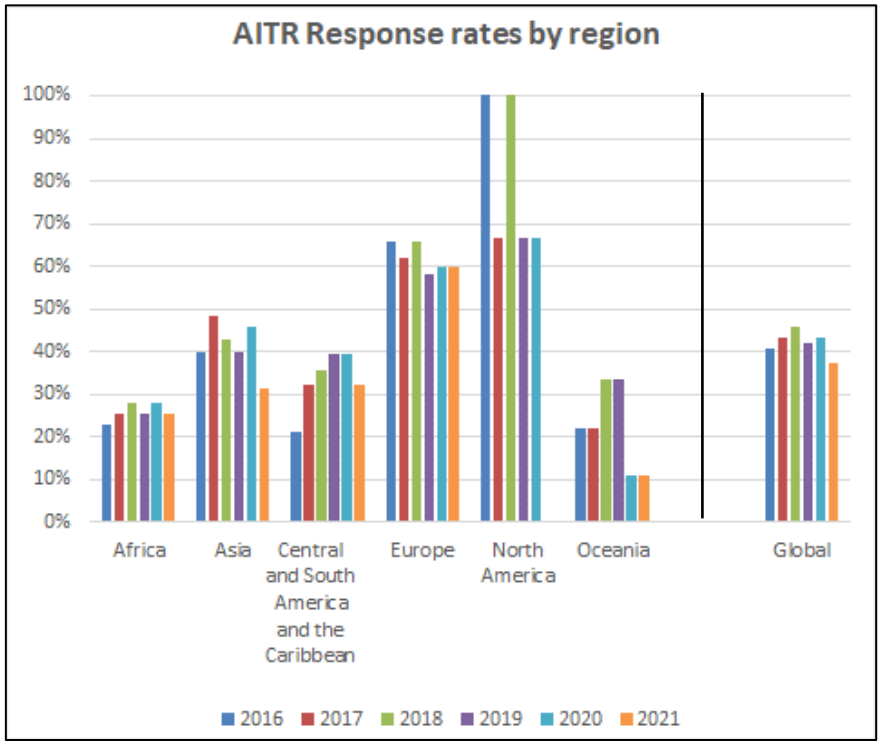
Data Cycle – Clean and validate data

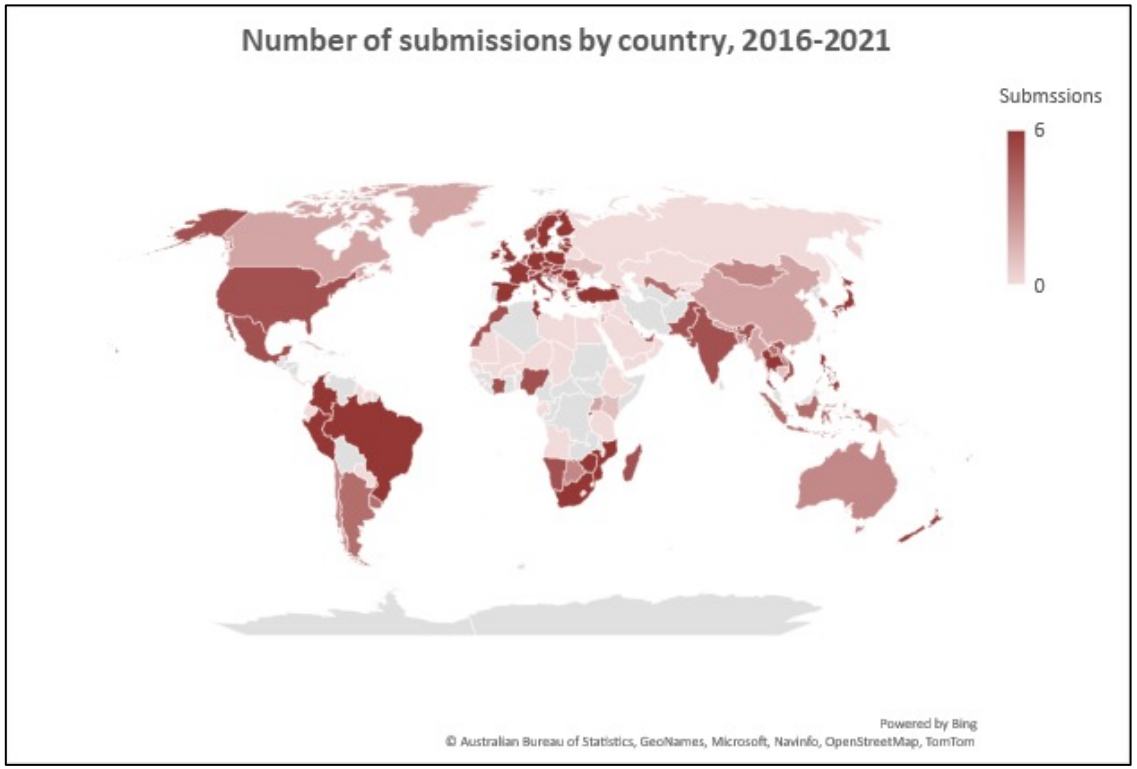
Estimated processing times for an ITR, depending on state and size

State of the AITR	Small report	Large report
Perfectly reported in CITES template	30 mins	3 hours
Reported in template with some abnormalities	2.5 hours	12 hours
Submission in non-CITES template	5 hours	2+ days

What we have achieved so far

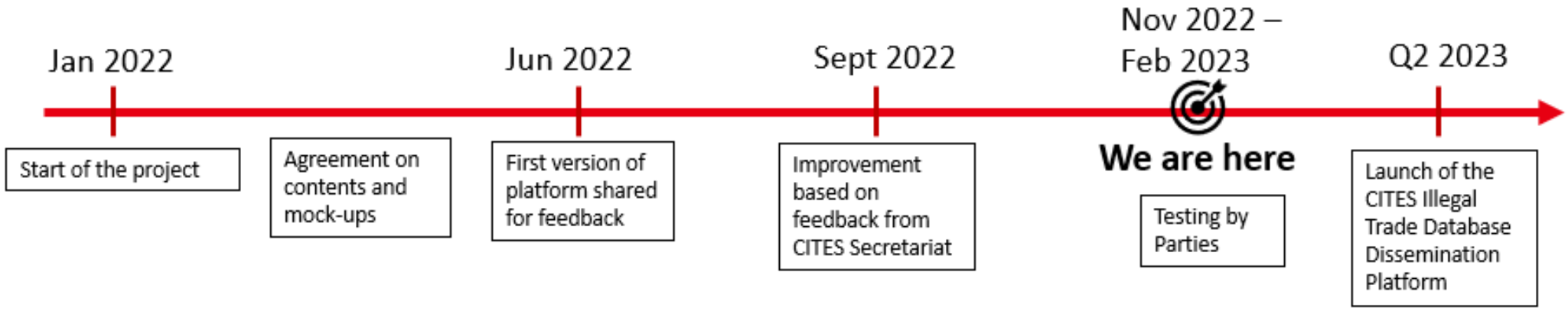
- Processed and entered into the database a total of **414** AITR for 2016-2021, covering **91** countries or territories*
- The Database contains about **107,000** seizure records*





*** Data refers to the state of the Database on 9 November 2022, with a total 345 AITR**

The work ahead

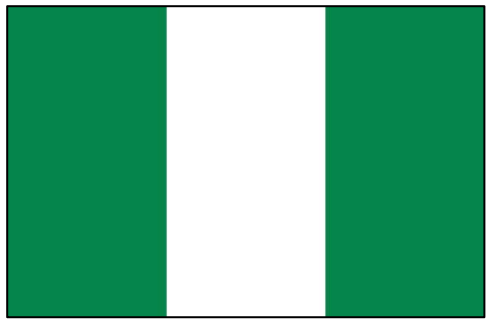


What is the added value for Parties?

- Parties of CITES are required to submit the Annual Illegal Trade Reports by October 31 each year - Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18)

- Countries only have a partial view of the regional and global trends, and of the main sources and destinations for the wildlife being trafficked in their territory when looking at national data only. Using data reported by other countries can help (amongst other things):
  - Identify trends in wildlife trafficking at the regional and global level
  - Better understand the role of the country in global and regional wildlife trafficking
  - Identify sources of wildlife trafficking routes into the country
  - Identify countries of destination for trafficking departing from the country
  - Target potential partners in international cooperation for fighting wildlife trafficking more efficiently

Country examples

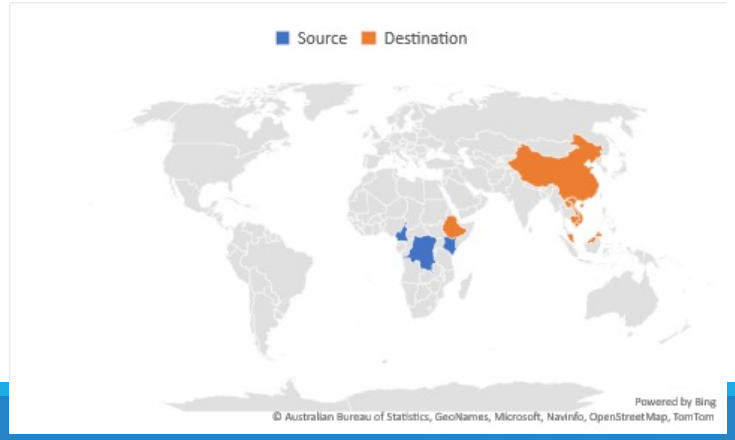


NIGERIA

Pangolin seizure data

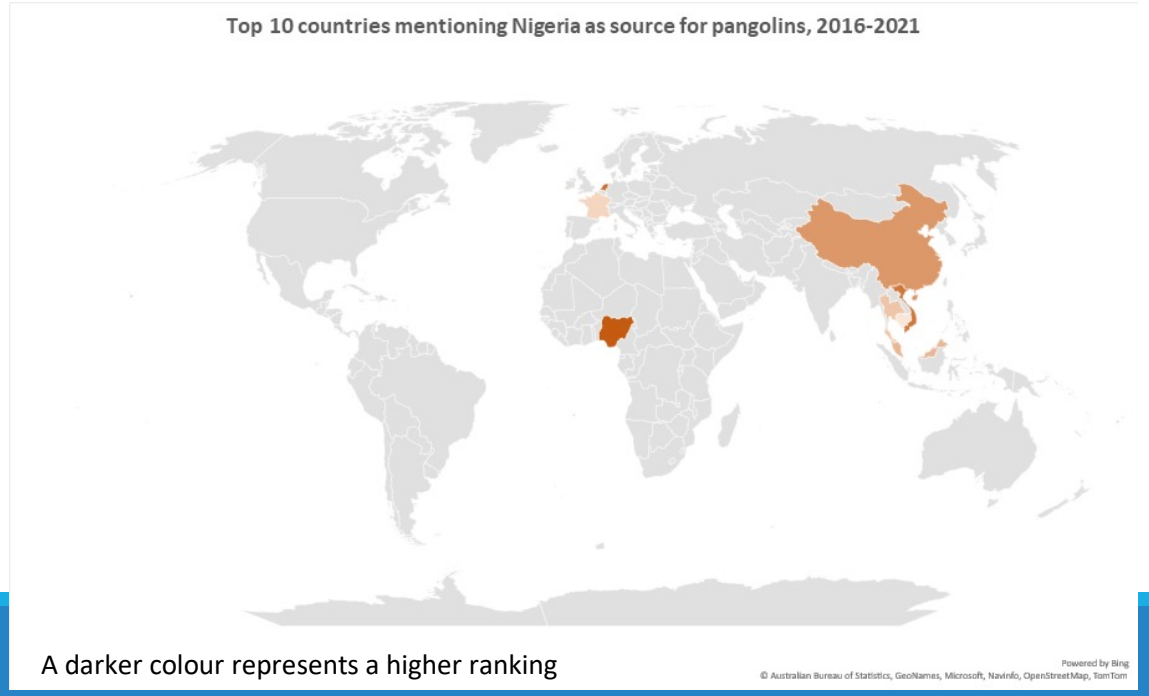
Based only on **national reported data**:

- 53 seizure cases 2016-2019, 2021
- 7 alleged destinations, 3 sources



Based only on **data reported by other countries**, 2016-2021:

- 58 additional cases mentioning Nigeria as source
- 3rd most mentioned source for pangolin seizures at the global level
- 5 additional cases mentioning Nigeria as destination



Country examples

THAILAND

Elephant seizure data

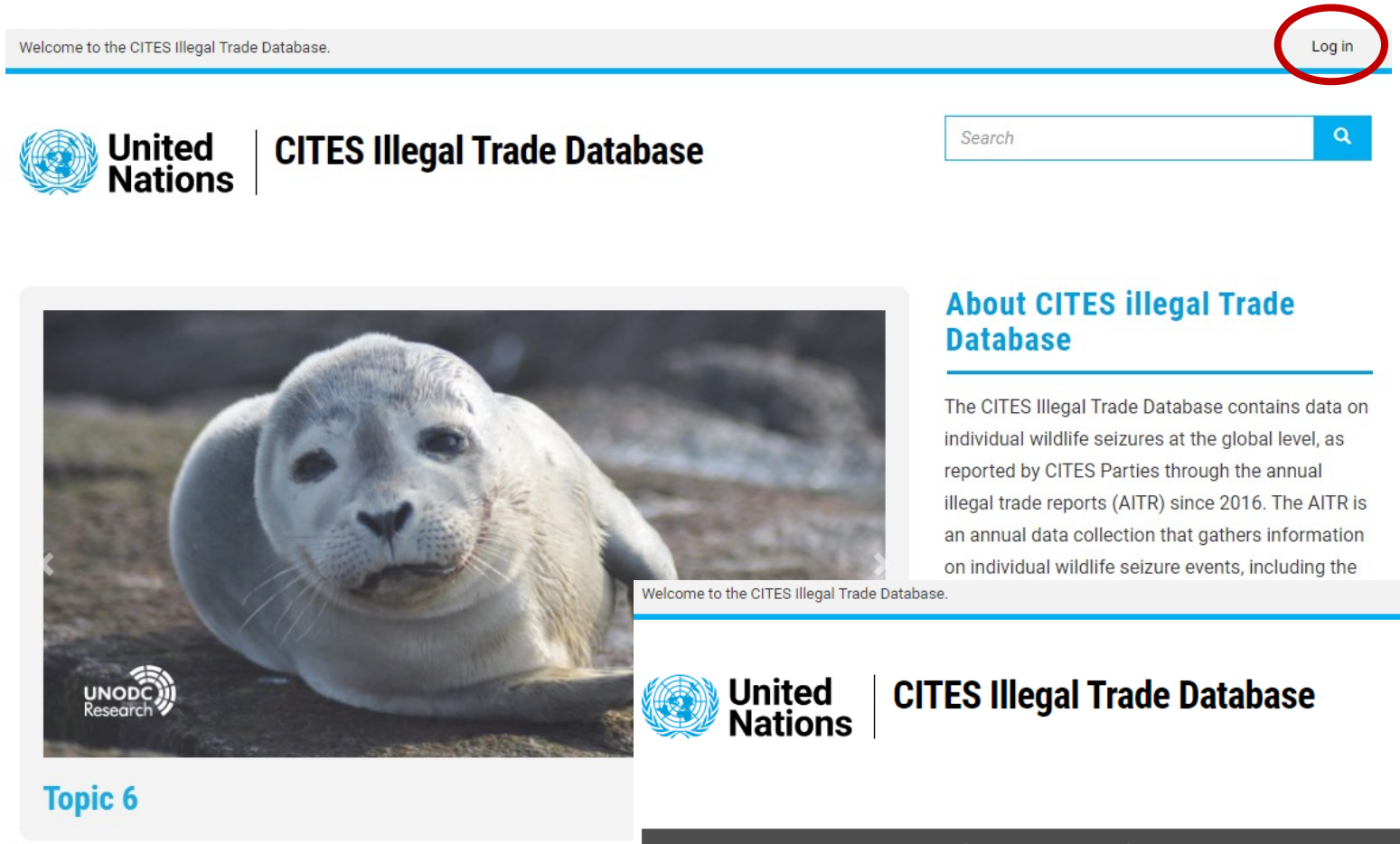
Based only on **national reported data**:

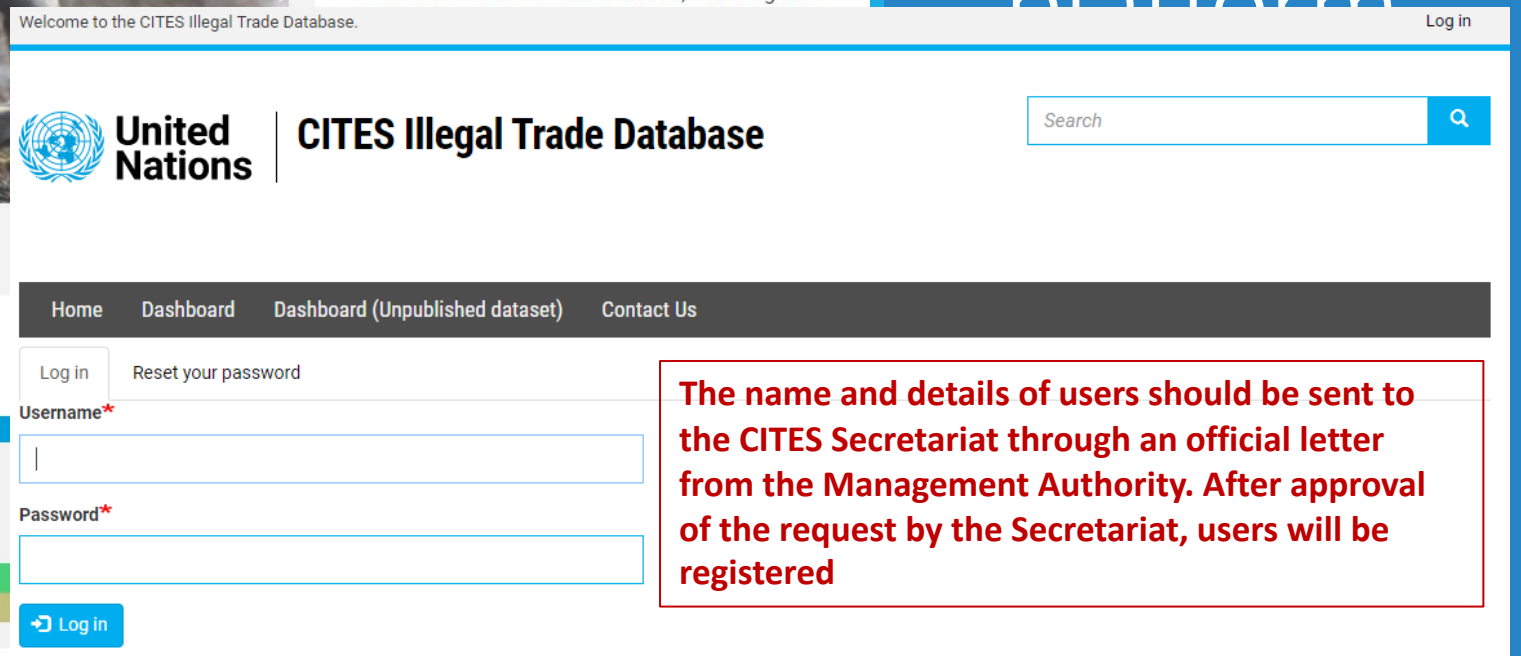
- 21 seizure cases 2016-2021
- 4 destination (neighboring) countries reported

Based only on **data reported by other countries**, 2016-2021:

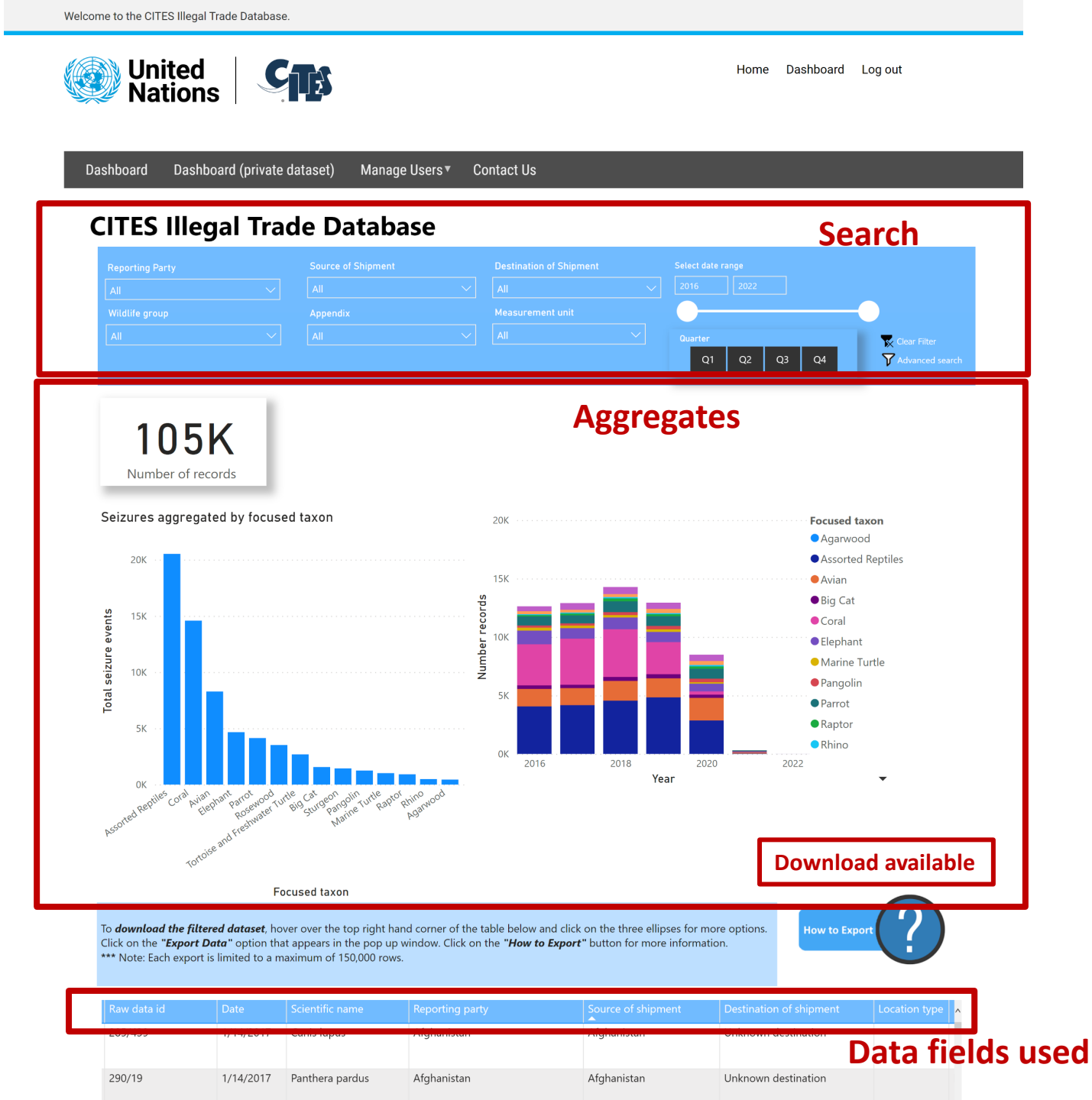
- 10 additional cases mentioning Thailand as source (in distant regions)
- 15 additional cases mentioning Thailand as destination
- 3rd most mentioned destination for elephant seizures within Asia

The Dissemination platform

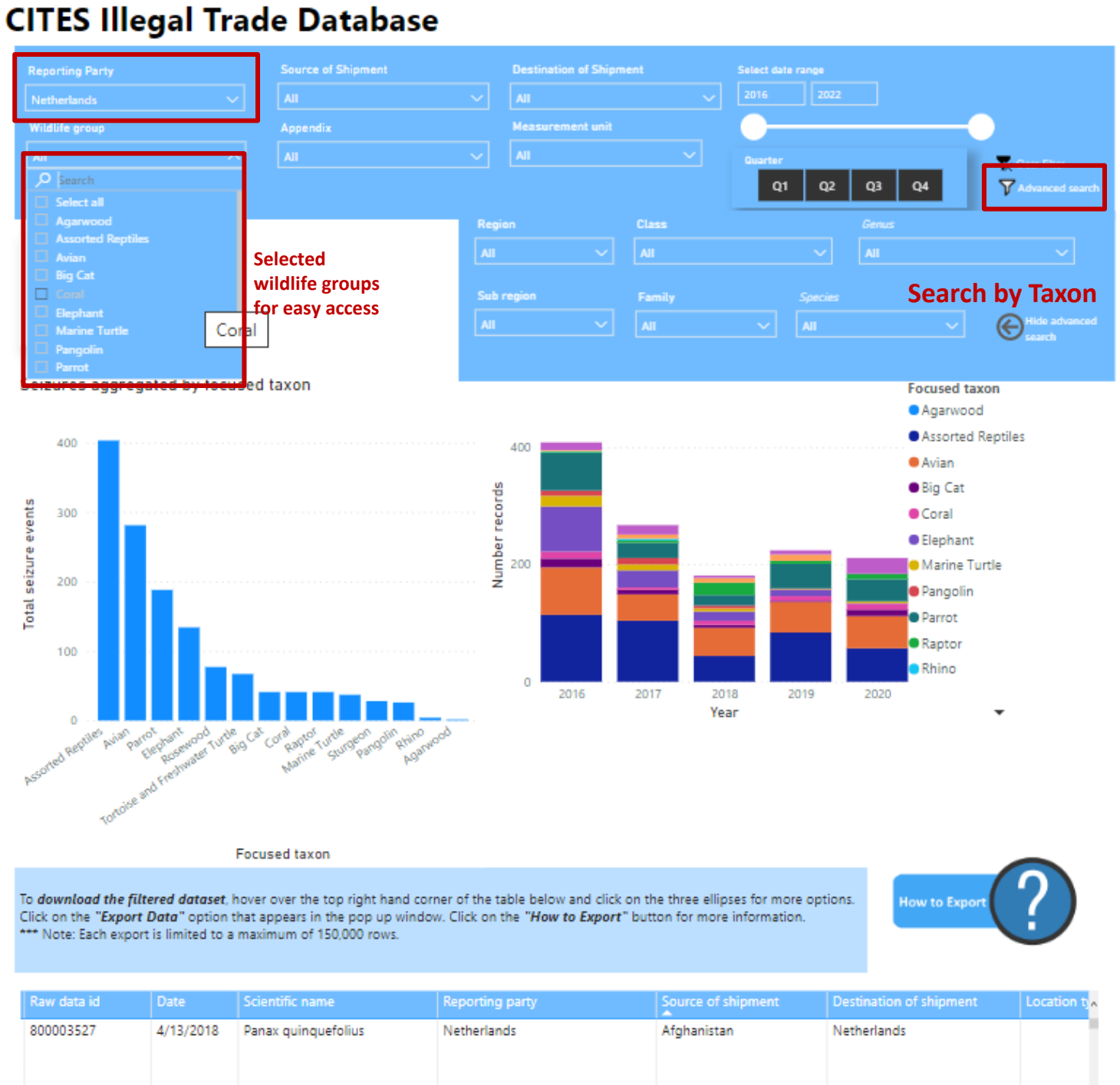




The name and details of users should be sent to the CITES Secretariat through an official letter from the Management Authority. After approval of the request by the Secretariat, users will be registered



The Dissemination platform



The Dissemination platform

Thank you for your attention.
Any questions?