CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.19 on *Identification Manual*, paragraph g), the Secretariat herewith provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual.

3. The Identification Manual is one of the Convention's longest-running initiatives, having been initiated in 1977. The manual is now managed by the Secretariat and exists as the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, completing the transition between the original paper-based version to a Web-based database.

4. Access to the database is open to all users. Users who wish to add identification content, or modify existing content, must first register through the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. Once registered, users can apply to be content editors by sending a request by email to the Identification Manual administrator, with a brief indication of their areas of interest and expertise. Only information on identification characteristics can be added to or modified within the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. All additions and changes are subject to review before appearing in the Manual, and they are attributed to the submitter.

5. At the time of writing (April 2011), there were 360 registered users, 15 of whom had requested editing rights. No user edits or additions have been made to the animal sheets.

6. The first year of use of the CITES Wiki Identification Manual has helped identify areas where the database needs improvement and modification, such as speed and ease of use, providing linkages to other CITES resources and making available taxonomic group descriptions, keys and other general information. The Secretariat has explored the possibility of making the database usable on hand-held devices and is seeking funds to make these and other improvements, so as to develop the database as an easily-accessible and practical identification resource.

7. The Secretariat invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute content to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, available at http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki_id.shtml.

8. The Committee is invited to note this report.