

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

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Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 13.69 and 13.70 on electronic permitting.
3. Decision 13.70 directs the Secretariat, subject to the provision of appropriate funding, to:
  - a) *advise the Parties on the work done by UNEP-WCMC in the development of simple Internet-based software tools and provide recommendations based on experience and testing by Parties;*
  - b) *evaluate the experience of other permit-based agreements or conventions, such as CCAMLR, in using electronic permitting systems;*
  - c) *provide guidance to the Parties on the extent to which it may be practicable to make use of computerized systems to meet their obligations under CITES and on the extent to which this would be consistent with the obligations set out in the Convention and related Resolutions and Decisions of the Parties and subject to the direction of the Standing Committee; and*
  - d) *engage the World Customs Organization on data harmonization and how it relates to the implementation of CITES and report on their efforts at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee.*
4. Decision 13.69 is directed to the Standing Committee, as follows:

*Based on the information provided by the Secretariat, and subject to the provision of appropriate funding, the Standing Committee shall establish a working group to further explore the use of information technology or electronic systems to enhance the implementation of CITES and report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
5. The Secretariat is currently seeking the external funds required to complete the tasks outlined in Decision 13.70 and for supporting the working group described in Decision 13.69, but no funds have as yet been identified or pledged.