

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

PURPOSE CODES ON CITES PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.54, directed to the Standing Committee, as follows:

The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference:

- a) *the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;*
 - b) *the working group shall:*
 - i) *determine the extent to which the use of the current purpose-of-transaction codes gives rise to difficulties of interpretation by Parties;*
 - ii) *identify the purpose and assess possible benefit for the use of such codes for all trade involving Appendix-I, -II and -III specimens; and*
 - iii) *focus on defining and/or clarifying purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage consistent utilization of the codes, including the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new codes;*
 - c) *in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, the working group should take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes;*
 - d) *the working group should submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and*
 - e) *the working group should carry out the majority of its work via email to keep costs to a minimum.*
3. The Standing Committee is invited to establish the working group at the present meeting.