

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by Italy, as Chair of the Working Group on Physical Inspection of Timber Shipments*.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 14.60 and 14.61 on the *Physical inspection of timber shipments*. Decision 14.60 is directed to the Secretariat as follows:

The Secretariat shall establish an electronic working group, which, in consultation with the Plants Committee and relevant intergovernmental organizations, shall:

- a) *solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for:*
 - i) *identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and*
 - ii) *physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; and*
- b) *indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities.*

On that basis, the working group should identify possible elements for further work and report at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Decision 14.61 is directed to the Standing Committee as follows:

The Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with Parties and relevant intergovernmental organizations, shall examine the outcome of the working group, to identify best practices and capacity-building measures that may be implemented with technical and/or financial support from donors.

3. Italy is the Chair of the Working Group. To assist the Working Group in its task, the Secretariat has created a discussion forum on its website, as announced in Notification to the Parties No. 2009/015 of 17 April 2009. The Working Group has attracted a wide interest, especially from Parties. However, the Chair of the Working Group is seeking a greater participation from timber exporting countries.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

4. At the time of writing, no submissions have been received on existing procedures for identification of CITES-listed timber species, as well as species similar in appearance, and on physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species. The Chair of the Working Group will provide an oral update to the Standing Committee on further developments.