



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2009/015

Geneva, 17 April 2009

CONCERNING:

Discussion forum on timber identification and physical inspection

- 1 In compliance with Decision 14.60, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007), the Secretariat has established an electronic working group on timber identification and physical inspection of timber shipments.
2. To assist the Working Group in its task, the Secretariat has created on its website a discussion forum to allow it to compile information on procedures adopted by Parties for:
 - a) the identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and
 - b) the physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species.
3. Only members of the Working Group have access to this forum. Membership in the group and access to the forum are provided by the Chair of the timber identification and physical inspection Working Group (Italy).
4. Parties and relevant intergovernmental organizations are invited to provide information on existing procedures for identification of CITES-listed timber species, as well as species similar in appearance, and physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species. They are further invited to indicate how information on those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities. This information may be sent to the CITES Secretariat, or to the Chair of the Group at the following address:

Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare
Direzione per la Protezione della Natura
Divisione I – Autorità di Gestione CITES
Attn: Dr Antonio Maturani (Head of Unit), Alessandra Rossi (forum manager)
Via Capitan Bavastro 174
I-00154 ROMA
Italy

Tel: +39 (06) 57 22 83 64/82/75; 57 22 83 39

Fax: +39 (06) 57 22 83 25

Email: dpn-cites@minambiente.it

5. The forum is equipped with an automated email alert function to allow users to receive an email each time a new message is posted. One can subscribe to email alerts of either an entire forum or of a specific topic being discussed within that forum. The Secretariat recommends selecting the first option so that no comments are missed.

6. More information can be found under the 'User manual' section of the forum section, including explanations of different categories of membership, subscription to email alerts, submission of messages, etc. The 'User manual' can be viewed by clicking on the appropriate link in the top menu of each page on the forum section.
7. The Secretariat would appreciate being kept informed of any difficulties encountered while using the forums and would welcome any suggestions on ways to improve this facility. Comments should be sent to Mr Liu Yuan, the CITES webmaster, at yuan.liu@cites.org, or should be posted on the 'Feedback forum'.