

## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/036

Geneva, 16 August 2013

CONCERNING:

### Identification Manual

1. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, March 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision on the *Identification Manual*:

#### **Decision 16.59**

##### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat***

*The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *form an intersessional working group comprising at least one representative from each region of both Committees to assist in identifying CITES-listed taxa, taking account of existing CITES identification and guidance material as well as other material produced by Parties, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations;*
- b) *determine, in collaboration with Parties, the current availability of identification and guidance material (printed and electronic) to increase accessibility to Parties;*
- c) *consult with Parties to assess the need for additional identification material, including material under production by Parties and requested in Decisions;*
- d) *compile a list of outstanding Decisions directing the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Secretariat to produce identification and guidance material for CITES-listed taxa;*
- e) *review, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and, taking into account new Web-based technologies, make recommendations, including amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on Identification Manual, to promote accuracy and availability of identification and guidance material; and*
- f) *report progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

##### ***Directed to the Parties***

#### **Decision 16.60**

*The Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the Working Group by:*

- a) *providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention;*
- b) *evaluating the status of pending identification material and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material; and*

- c) *consulting with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and guidance needs, and possible improvements to meet those needs.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**Decision 16.61**

*The Secretariat is directed to issue a Notification to the Parties within six months of the close of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requesting information on available identification and guidance materials for compilation by the Secretariat and report on its contents at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee to assist in the establishment of the Working Group and in the implementation of Decision 16.59.*

2. In support of these Decisions, the Secretariat invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute information, in paper or electronic format, on available identification and guidance materials, particularly those materials used by enforcement and inspections officers.
3. The information received will be compiled and made available through the *Reference materials* section of the CITES Virtual College (<https://eva.unia.es/cites/mod/resource/view.php?id=57#ID-manuals>) and through other relevant sections of the CITES website. The results of this call for information will be reported to the Animals and Plants Committees at their 27th and 21st meetings respectively (April and May 2014).
4. Parties are invited to send this information to the Secretariat ([info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)) no later than 15 November 2013).
5. The Secretariat also invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute content to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, an online database of sheets designed to help identify CITES species (available at [http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki\\_id.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki_id.php)).