

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

Annotations

INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR TRADE
IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 18.317 as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.317 *The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility of, and the requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention.*

3. The Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022) discussed the implementation of Decision 18.317 on the basis of the Secretariat's report contained in document [SC74 Doc. 82](#). In its report, the Secretariat reported on the initial requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention. Those requirements will allow such an information system to produce a review and analysis of:
 - a) the scale of trade in listed tree species, in terms of specimens, volumes and values;
 - b) patterns and trends of such trade; and
 - c) conservation and socio-economic benefits of such trade.
4. The expected outputs of an information system would include an in-depth analysis of international trade in CITES-listed tree species for review by the Parties at each meeting of the CoP; a data-driven, interactive and graphic presentation of the results of this analysis, including images, charts and infographics; and the publication and submission of a tree-species trade report to the CoP.
5. In its discussion, the Standing Committee supported the renewal of the Decision on the information system scoping and the draft decision to undertake a feasibility study. It also considered the possibility of using Harmonized System (HS) tariff codes for the information system. Some members welcomed the initiative but did not support crafting a species-specific system of HS codes to track CITES-listed species, as HS codes were intended to track commodities in trade rather than trade itself. Furthermore, HS codes were revised over long periods of time while CITES listings might be revised more frequently. It was suggested that the Secretariat consult the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for guidance. Other members welcomed the initiative to add HS codes and suggested a request to the World Customs Organisation to revise HS codes to identify relevant products of CITES-listed tree species.

6. The Committee invited the Secretariat to take note of the concerns and comments expressed on the use of HS codes, and agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions in Annex 1 to the present document.

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decisions on *Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species* in Annex 1 to the present document.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR TRADE
IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED TREE SPECIES

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.317 (Rev. CoP19)

The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention and submit any relevant recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall commission a study exploring the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system as proposed and provide its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS**

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

Decision	Activity	Indicative costs (USD)	Source of funding
19.AA	Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall commission a study exploring the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system as proposed and provide its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.	USD 40,000 for a study	Extrabudgetary