

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



Joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and
23rd meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 July 2017

Strategic matters

CAPACITY BUILDING AND IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.31 to 17.34 on *Capacity building* as follows:

Directed to Parties

17.31 *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *provide financial and in-kind resources for capacity building activities, particularly activities to achieve Goal 1 (Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention) and Goal 3 (Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive) of the CITES Strategic Vision, as well capacity building activities required in the implementation of Resolutions and Decisions;*
- b) *use the CITES implementation reports, recommended to be introduced in 2018, to inform the Secretariat regularly about their capacity and needs; and*
- c) *utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs and financial support to update and improve its services, including translation of the contents into national languages.*

Directed to Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

17.32 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a joint working group on capacity building and identification materials to undertake the following tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:*

- a) *provide assistance to Parties in identifying CITES-listed taxa and in undertaking capacity building activities that contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention;*
- b) *determine the current availability of capacity building materials, including identification guides and other tools, and enhance their accessibility;*
- c) *review selected capacity building and identification materials, and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being*

developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions;

- d) *undertake, or provide scientific guidance to the Secretariat's undertaking of the revision and development of selected capacity building and identification materials, including materials on the development, establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas;*
- e) *review the project proposal on Improvements to the CITES identification materials: Options to promote accuracy and availability of identification material to the Parties to CITES, drafted by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), as well as any other projects or programmes identified by the Secretariat, and consider whether funding should be actively sought to support the activities;*
- f) *review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on Technical Cooperation and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on Identification Manual, and make recommendations, including possible amendments to these Resolutions if appropriate, to promote accuracy and availability of capacity building and identification materials; and*
- g) *report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees as well as at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

17.33 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall inform the Standing Committee, as necessary, on the progress made in implementing Decision 17.32.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.34 *The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding where needed:*

- a) *continue to develop and enhance the CITES website as well as the CITES Virtual College as an electronic means of providing capacity building support to Parties, including the incorporation of the following information:*
 - i) *a list of references to capacity building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions, as well as the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports, so as to enhance the continued monitoring of capacity building activities; and*
 - ii) *a list of possible financial resources and mechanisms to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund);*
- b) *within the scope of Goals 1 and 3 of the CITES Strategic Vision, provide targeted technical capacity building support and deliver general and specialized training, to: CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary, legislators and other stakeholders, particularly in new Parties, developing country Parties, Parties identified through the compliance mechanism and small island developing States.*
- c) *in consultation and cooperation with the Animals and Plants Committees, undertake the revision and development of selected capacity building and identification materials, including materials related to the development, establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas;*
- d) *issue a Notification to the Parties inviting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to provide to the Secretariat precise information on their capacity building needs, and report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the answers received; and*
- e) *further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity building assistance of relevance to CITES, for example through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Science -Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Consortium on*

Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

3. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Decisions 17.160 and 17.161 on *Identification materials*:

Directed to Parties

17.160 *The Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the working group on capacity building and identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available capacity building materials, and identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.*

Directed to the Secretariat

17.161 *Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretariat is directed to:*

- a) *continue compiling information on available identification and guidance materials, and make them available on the CITES Virtual College;*
- b) *support the development of databases and other means to make the identification materials available in a user-friendly manner;*
- c) *continue to explore means to improve and promote the accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed species, including the development of and identifying financial resources to fund projects or programmes, such as the project proposal on Improvements to the CITES identification materials: Options to promote accuracy and availability of identification material to the Parties to CITES, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), as well as the addition of functions and technologies to the Wiki Identification Manual on the CITES website.*

4. In addition to the above, multiple Decisions adopted at CoP17 contain elements or activities related to capacity building or identification. All the Decisions that contain references to capacity building are shown in Annex 1, and those that refer to identification materials or methods can be found in Annex 2 to this document.
5. In preparing for the establishment of the working group on capacity building and identification materials, pursuant to Decision 17.32 above, the Secretariat reviewed the terms of reference contained in Decision 17.32, paragraphs a) to g), and proposes a work plan for consideration by the Committees and their joint working group. An overview of the work programme activities, with proposed time frames for their implementation, can be found in Annex 3 to this document.

Proposed work plan for the joint working group on capacity building and identification materials

Work package 1: Provide assistance to Parties in identification and capacity building [Decision 17.32, a)]

Working group activity:

6. The Secretariat suggests that the working group act as an *ad hoc* technical advisory body. It may be mobilized to provide advice on the identification of CITES-listed taxa and on capacity building activities.
7. Notification to the Parties No. 2017/038 of 15 May 2017 issued pursuant to Decision 17.34, paragraph d), invites developing countries and countries with economies in transition to provide the Secretariat with information on their capacity building needs. As appropriate, responses received will be shared with the joint working group for their comments and inputs. Parties may wish to note that Notification to the Parties No. 2017/019 of 13 March 2017 requested Parties to identify “particular capacity building needs that they may have identified in relation to the making non-detriment findings” (see document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11 on non-detriment findings).

8. Capacity building needs may also be expressed through CITES implementation reports to be introduced in 2018, as per Decision 17.31 b). National needs can be identified through existing Decisions, projects, workshops, bilateral or multilateral exchanges, compliance actions, training and capacity building work, and other means. The working group may wish to discuss whether and how such needs might best be collected, selected and considered for possible assistance.

Timeline:

9. In order to assist the working group, the Secretariat has compiled a list of all Decisions that make reference to capacity building (see Annex 1 to this document). The working group may wish to explore possible other sources of information to identify capacity building needs, and report this at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and 24th meeting of the Plants Committee in 2018.
10. It is expected that the working group will provide its capacity building and identification support on an on-going, *ad hoc* basis, when and if requested by Parties or the Secretariat.

Expected outputs:

11. The outputs from this work package may include a list of all capacity building needs identified through Decisions, responses to Notifications to the Parties, and other relevant means, and direct capacity building and identification support. The information could be made available on the CITES Website.

Work package 2: Improve the availability and accessibility of existing capacity building and identification tools and materials [Decision 17.32, b)]

12. Pursuant to Decisions 17.34 and 17.161, the Secretariat continues its effort to collect, collate and compile capacity building materials, including identification materials, and make them available on the CITES Virtual College. In this regard, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/038 on 15 May 2017, requesting information on available capacity building materials, including identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat will also reach out to other relevant stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, institutions, associations, and private businesses, to collect relevant capacity building or identification materials that they may wish to share.

Working group activity:

13. The working group may wish to support the Secretariat's efforts by following up on the above-mentioned Notification, and collecting available capacity building and identification materials from the working group member's respective countries, regions and sectors.

Timeline:

14. The working group members are encouraged to make a particular effort to gather information during 2017 and the first half of 2018. The collection of capacity building and identification materials can be on-going thereafter.
15. The working group may wish to report on the progress made in the collection of new materials at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and 24th meeting of the Plants Committee in 2018.
16. The Secretariat will make the updated list of capacity building and identification materials available to the working group before publication on the CITES website.

Expected outputs:

17. The work package is expected to result in an increased number of capacity building and identification materials that are made available through revised page(s) on the CITES Virtual College.

Work package 3: Revision and development of capacity building and identification materials [Decision 17.32 c), d) and e)]

18. The main capacity building tools developed by the CITES Secretariat are available on the CITES Virtual College webpage under the sections “available courses” (<https://cites.unia.es/>) and “CITES train the trainers PowerPoint presentations” (<https://cites.unia.es/cites/mod/resource/view.php?id=58>). Most of these materials are more than six years old, and in need of revision to ensure that both the information and mode of delivery are up-to-date.
19. The CITES Identification Manual was launched in 1977 as the official identification tool of the Convention. The Manual is managed by the Secretariat and has been accessible from the CITES website as the CITES Wiki Identification Manual (https://cites.org/eng/resources/wiki_id.php) since 2009. At the time of writing (May 2017), there were 1035 registered users, 21 of whom have requested editing rights. No user edits or additions have been made to the animal or plant sheets since the publication of the Manual on the CITES website in 2009, and the collaborative functions of the Wiki have not attracted an audience.
20. The CITES Wiki Identification Manual therefore appears to be of limited use today. Instead, Parties may have moved to other identification materials developed by other stakeholders, which use modern and user-friendly platforms and which are regularly updated. The CITES Wiki Identification Manual remains however an important historical resource.

Working group activity:

21. The Secretariat has reviewed the capacity building materials available on the CITES Virtual College, and selected the following courses for review by the working group: CITES Virtual College Course on *Introduction to CITES and Non-Detriment Findings*; CITES Train the Trainers PowerPoint Presentations on *Understanding Non-Detriment Findings, Review of Significant Trade, Proposals to amend the Appendices, and Animals and Plants Committees*.
22. The working group may wish to assign member(s) to review these presentations, and support the work of the Secretariat in revising them. Also, when reviewing the PowerPoint Presentations, the working group may wish to consider the CITES-FAO presentation materials on sharks, available on the *Shark and manta rays* page of CITES Website (<https://cites.org/prog/shark>) as they may serve as a more up-to-date reference for content.
23. In considering what type of new capacity building materials, if any, need to be developed to assist Parties in better implementing the Convention, the working group could give inputs to the Secretariat regarding “frequently asked questions” about CITES that they receive from their stakeholders. An ‘FAQ’ will be made available on the CITES website. Furthermore, the working group may also wish to highlight topics or areas of broad interest that it feels could benefit from the development of new capacity building materials.
24. The Secretariat has compiled a list of valid Decisions that make references to identification materials and methods (see Annex 2 to this document). The working group may wish to consider whether and how it could support and contribute to these activities.
25. The Secretariat is of the view that the working group does not need to develop additional identification materials for the moment. The working group may wish to consider what further role, if any, it should have in the development and revision of any identification materials.
26. With regard to the work on the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, the Secretariat recommends that the content remains available to the public as a searchable archive. In this regard, the Secretariat has revisited the proposal *Options to promote accuracy and availability of identification material to the Parties to CITES*, which was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and reviewed in 2015 by the AC/PC joint working group on identification materials (See document [AC28 Inf.17](#)). The Secretariat recommends option number two in this document, which is to integrate the current information into the Species+ (<http://speciesplus.net>) species pages. The Secretariat suggests that the funds provided from the European Union be used for this purpose, pursuant to Decision 17.161.

Timeline:

27. The working group may wish to send “frequently asked questions” about CITES to the Secretariat throughout 2017 to early 2018, and suggest new capacity building materials. It could report on progress at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and 24th meeting of the Plants Committee in 2018.
28. The timeline for the integration of the CITES Wiki Identification Material into Species+ will be decided by the Secretariat in consultation with UNEP-WCMC, but the migration is expected to be completed by CoP18.

Expected outputs:

29. The expected outputs from this work package include a list of frequently asked questions to be made available on the CITES website, a possible initiation of the revision or development of capacity building materials by the Secretariat, and a new version of Species+ with an integrated CITES identification manual.

Work package 4: Review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) [Decision 17.32, f]

Working group activity:

30. Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical Cooperation* is currently the only CITES Resolution that relates exclusively to capacity building. It simply encourages Parties, in broad terms, to provide technical assistance to developing countries, and the Secretariat ‘to continue to seek external funding for this purpose’. Considering that the need for capacity building features in many CITES Resolutions and Decisions, the Secretariat is of the view that this resolution could be expanded to include some fundamental principles on the provision of capacity building to improve the implementation of the Convention by Parties and stakeholders.
31. Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* contains a number of references to the updating of the CITES Identification Manual, including the regular collection and updating of the relevant data and illustration, and the preparation of the identification sheets. Some of these references would have to be revised in order to reflect the changes proposed above, while the availability, development and disseminations of other types of identification materials for the CITES community in general would need to be reflected.

Timeline:

32. The Secretariat suggests that the working group first reviews the two Resolutions mentioned above, as it seems important that they better reflect the current situation, and better articulate how capacity building and identification tools should be developed and disseminated. The group could exchange views as to whether and how to organise the revisions in the course of 2017, with an indication of key areas to consider for amendments or review. During the first quarter of 2018, the Secretariat could prepare draft amendments to the Resolutions for the working group to revise. The working group could present proposed amendments at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and 24th meeting of the Plants Committee in 2018. The agreed amendments would then be presented by the AC and PC Chairs to CoP18.

Expected outputs:

33. This work package may result in draft amendments to Resolutions Conf. 3.4 and Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16), which will then be presented by the AC and PC Chairs to CoP18.

Recommendations

34. The Animals and Plants Committees may wish to:
 - a) establish a joint working group on capacity building and identification materials;
 - b) consider the suggested work plan for the working group outlined in paragraphs 6 to 33 above; and
 - c) provide additional inputs to the work of the working group as necessary.

Decisions containing references to capacity building

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
17.40	Livelihoods	Secretariat	Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall: ... c) cooperate with relevant UN agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations to establish <i>ad hoc</i> livelihoods funding and promote capacity building activities that support Parties to implement the Convention as an important part of enabling livelihoods; and
17.55	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions	Parties	Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity building activities .
17.83	Enforcement matters	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding: ... b) work with the World Bank and other ICCWC partner organizations to mobilize the “Wildlife crime and anti-money laundering” training programme developed under the auspices of ICCWC, to enhance capacity amongst law-enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges , to detect and investigate illegal transactions and suspicious activities associated with wildlife crime, and to effectively prosecute and adjudicate money-laundering cases associated with wildlife crime;
17.102	Captive-bred and ranched specimens	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, engage in a capacity building project using materials prepared under Decisions 16.63 a) vii) and 15.52 a). ...
17.113	Bushmeat	Secretariat	Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and other organizations as appropriate, develop guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing Parties’ capacity to regulate bushmeat trade , and shall report on these efforts at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
17.153	Traceability	Parties	Parties are invited to: ... e) collaborate in the provision of capacity building programmes that promote South-South and North-South cooperation in the development of traceability systems.
17.159	Electronic systems and information technologies	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding: ... c) provide capacity building and advisory services to support Parties interested in implementing electronic solutions for the management of CITES permits and certificates.
17.164	Identification (tiger skins)	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall:

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
			<p>a) issue a Notification to the Parties to request the tiger range States to inform the Secretariat whether they have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, and if so, the contacts of the relevant national focal points or agencies; and</p> <p>b) inform the Parties which tiger range states have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, and the contacts of the relevant national focal points or agencies; ...</p>
16.58 (Rev. CoP17)	Physical inspection of timber shipments	Secretariat	<p>By the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall: ...</p> <p>c) incorporate this information into its capacity building activities related to timber trade.</p>
16.48 (Rev. CoP17)	Introduction from the sea	Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall report at the 69th or 70th meetings of the Standing Committee on the implementation of the Convention by the Parties concerned in relation to the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Introduction from the sea</i>. ... It should especially assess the capacity of chartering States and the States in which the vessels are registered to control compliance with the provisions of the CITES Convention.</p>
17.204	Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	Madagascar	<p>Madagascar shall: ...</p> <p>c) subject to the availability of funds, organize workshops in support of the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision, and to strengthen the national capacity to formulate non-detriment findings, and identify and agree on monitoring mechanisms that include appropriate technology (e.g. timber tracking); ...</p>
17.208		Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall: ...</p> <p>b) subject to available funding, assist with relevant capacity building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of <i>Diospyros</i> spp. and <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. from Madagascar, including through international capacity building workshops; and ...</p>
17.209	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)	Parties	<p>Parties are encouraged to: ...</p> <p>b) share experiences and examples of making non-detriment findings for trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays including, where appropriate, how artisanal fishing is taken into consideration, and communicate them to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES Sharks and Rays Portal (https://cites.org/prog/shark) in order to improve capacity and knowledge of national and regional harvest levels and management measures; ...</p>
17.212		Secretariat	<p>Recognizing the continued requests from Parties for assistance in implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings, and the need for further capacity building activities in this regard, the Secretariat shall seek additional funding to address the capacity needs raised at regional implementation meetings (Casablanca, Dakar and Xiamen) *</p>

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
			and identified in the course of the 2013-2016 EU-CITES project. * See Annex 1 of document AC28 Com. 9.
17.213		Secretariat and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	The CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Secretariats are invited to continue and expand their collaboration concerning the conservation of and trade in sharks and rays, in particular by: ... e) continuing to support the development and application of guidance and capacity building tools for making non-detriment findings , in particular for situations where data availability is low, the fishery is mostly artisanal, sharks are caught as bycatch, or where catches concern sharks that are part of shared stocks, and, upon request, supporting Parties with targeted advice to ensure compliance with Article IV for trade in CITES Appendix-II listed sharks and rays.
17.225	Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)	Parties, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations	Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to Parties requesting additional capacity and resources to implement Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species effectively. Parties are also encouraged to implement the relevant recommendations from relevant international forums and tools, including but not limited to the Zero Poaching Symposium outcomes and Zero Poaching toolkit and the relevant Global Tiger Initiative/Global Tiger Forum processes addressing resources that are needed to combat poaching, trafficking and illegal trade.
16.153 (Rev. CoP17)	East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>)	Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States for <i>Osyris</i> species	The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of <i>Osyris</i> species shall: ... c) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently listed populations; ...
17.241	African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	Secretariat	Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): ... g) support capacity building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;
17.285	Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)	Range States of <i>Strombus gigas</i>	The range States of <i>Strombus gigas</i> shall: ... e) collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at subregional or regional level to support the making of non-detriment findings, and promote relevant research and capacity building activities through regional fisheries management bodies;
17.289		Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, pending the availability of external funding,

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
			<p>a) continue to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Working Group on Queen Conch composed of ... to provide assistance to range States of <i>S. gigas</i> in order to enhance the capacity of their CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan and apply the NDF guidance;</p>
17.302	African tree species	Plants Committee	<p>The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate: ...</p> <p>c) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species; ...</p>

Decisions containing references to identification materials or methods

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
17.124	Illegal trade in cheetahs (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>)	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in consultation with relevant experts, commission the development of a CITES cheetah trade resource kit that compiles relevant information and tools to assist in implementing the Convention with regard to trade in cheetahs, and addresses <i>inter alia</i> : identification of live cheetahs and parts and derivatives thereof ; ...
17.131	Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope (<i>Pantholops hodgsonii</i>)	Parties concerned by the illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope	All Parties concerned by the illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope are encouraged to draw upon the offer of support from the CITES Management Authority of Switzerland, in particular with regard to identification methods and exchange of information and knowledge about this topic.
17.162	Identification (ivory)	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funds, prepare a revised and updated version of the Identification Guide for Ivory and Ivory Substitutes , taking into account modern forensic methods such as DNA analysis, for circulation to the Parties.
17.164	Identification (tiger skins)	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall: a) issue a Notification to the Parties, to request the tiger range States to inform the Secretariat whether they have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins , and if so, the contacts of the relevant national focal points or agencies; and b) inform the Parties which tiger range states have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins , and the contacts of the relevant national focal points or agencies; c) subject to external funding, contract a qualified expert or body to assess the feasibility of establishing, to aid enforcement efforts, a central repository of photographs of wild tigers and seized tiger skins. ...
17.166	Identification (timber)	Parties	Parties are encouraged to expand or create and maintain scientific reference collections essential for the development of methodologies to identify CITES-listed tree species and distinguish them from look-alike species, in accordance with current best practices regarding collection, curation and facilitation of exchange of reference materials.
17.167		Plants Committee	With respect to CITES-listed tree species, the Plants Committee shall, at its 23rd and 24th meetings: ... <u>Concerning wood and other material as reference samples for identification purposes, in collaboration with relevant</u>

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
			<p>stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives previously made available to Parties:</p> <p>a) determine, for all CITES-listed tree species, the locations and availability of existing reference samples or collections, and identify priorities in addressing gaps;</p> <p>b) encourage interested Parties to identify, collect and curate reference samples, and facilitate exchange to make them available, as appropriate, to research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities concerned;</p> <p>c) identify and compile information on best practices for the collection and curation of reference samples, identifying gaps where they exist; and</p> <p>d) consider how best to assist and strengthen capacities for forensic work on identification of CITES-listed tree species in trade.</p>
16.58 (Rev. CoP17)	Physical inspection of timber shipments	Secretariat	<p>By the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;</p> <p>b) publish the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and ...</p>
16.136 (Rev. CoP17)	Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)	Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) subject to external funding and in consultation with the Animals Committee, organize a study to:</p> <p>i) provide an overview of molecular, DNA-based and other forensic methods that could assist in identifying the species and populations of Acipenseriformes specimens in trade, determining the origin or age of specimens, and differentiating wild from captive-bred or aquacultured specimens;</p> <p>ii) review relevant developments in this area, including the availability and reliability of uniform identification systems;</p> <p>iii) evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods (including practicality, costs, time-efficiency, reliability, technical requirements, etc.); and</p> <p>iv) formulate relevant guidance for CITES Parties, enforcement agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders; ...</p>
17.186	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)	Secretariat	<p>The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:</p> <p>a) contract independent consultants to undertake a study compiling information on challenges and lessons learnt with regards to implementation of the Appendix II listing of European Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) and its effectiveness. This includes in particular the making of non-detriment findings, enforcement and identification challenges, as well as illegal trade. This study should notably take account of the</p>

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
			data compiled and advice issued by the ICES/GFCM/EIFAAC Working Group Eel; ...
16.157 (Rev. CoP17)	Agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.)	Secretariat in collaboration with the Plants Committee	Range, transit, consumer, and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products , taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc. 17.5.3, and any further updated version, if appropriate. They are encouraged to distribute these identification manuals as training material to management and enforcement officials .
17.203	Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	Madagascar	Madagascar shall: ... d) continue the production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> from Madagascar;
17.209	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)	Parties	Parties are encouraged to: ... e) share experiences with, and knowledge of, forensic means to efficiently, reliably and cost-effectively identify shark products in trade; and ...
17.210		Secretariat	The Secretariat shall: a) make guidance materials available for the identification of CITES-listed sharks and rays , including fins and other products and derivatives, on the CITES Sharks and Rays Portal, and the sharing of genetic testing protocols and other forensic approaches; and ...
17.213		Secretariat and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	The CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Secretariats are invited to continue and expand their collaboration concerning the conservation of and trade in sharks and rays, in particular by: a) exploring options for using the existing iSharkFin tool for the identification of dried and skinned shark fins; ...
17.216		Standing Committee	On the basis of information provided by the Secretariat and the Animals Committee, the Standing Committee shall consider issues concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays, and provide guidance as appropriate, pertaining to: ... b) identification and traceability, taking into consideration requirements that have been developed for the trade in specimens of other Appendix-II species, and their applicability to specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays in trade; ...
17.269	Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.)	Range states of saiga antelope (<i>Saiga</i> spp.) (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation,	Range States of <i>Saiga</i> spp. and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives are encouraged to address challenges in controlling illicit trade in saiga horns and derivatives thereof by:

Decision	Title	Directed to	Text
		Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and important consumer and trading countries of saiga parts and derivatives	a) supporting the development of tools to facilitate the identification, sourcing and determination of age of saiga horns; ...
17.291	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)	Secretariat	The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding: ... c) in collaboration with ICCWC, relevant Parties and experts, establish a secure rapid-response identification network to connect inspecting officials to a network of verified specialists on species identification , with an initial pilot phase focusing on tortoises and freshwater turtles, that could be extended to other species, if appropriate.
17.300	Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>)	Range States for the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>)	Parties are encouraged to: ... b) establish, on a national or regional basis, repositories where relevant genetic identification data are stored and to make these accessible online; and ...

Summary and proposed timeline of the suggested work package activities

Year and Quarter	2 017		2018				2019		
	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q
Work package 1: Provide assistance to Parties in identification and capacity building [Decision 17.32, a)]									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the information on the capacity building needs expressed by Parties, in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2017/038 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the list of Decisions that make reference to capacity building (see Annex 1 to this document) and identify which other sources of information they wish to use to identify capacity building needs 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide direct capacity building and identification support 									
Work package 2: Improve the availability and accessibility of existing capacity building and identification tools and materials [Decision 17.32, b)]									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the information on available capacity building materials, including identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention (Dec. 17.160), received in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2017/038. 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively collect available capacity building and identification materials from their respective countries/regions/sector and send them to the Secretariat 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review an updated list of capacity building and identification materials available on the CITES website (CITES Virtual College) 									
Work package 3: Revision and development of capacity building and identification materials [Decision 17.32 c), d) and e)]									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the CITES Virtual College materials selected by the Secretariat for revision, and identify one or more members who will review each material 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider types of new capacity building materials that need to be developed (e.g. Frequently Asked Questions) 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee the work of migrating the CITES Wiki Identification Manual to Species+, undertaken by UNEP-WCMC 									
Work package 4: Review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) [Decision 17.32, f)]									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on <i>Technical Cooperation</i> and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on <i>Identification Manual</i>, and agree on whether and how revisions could be organised 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review draft amendments of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the working group Chair 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the amendments and submit the suggested changes to CoP18 									