CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
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Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

2. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.19 on *Identification Manual*, paragraph g), the Secretariat herewith provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual.

3. The Identification Manual is one of the Convention's longest-running initiatives, having been initiated in 1977. The manual is now managed by the Secretariat and exists as the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, completing the transition between the original paper-based version to a Web-based database.

4. Access to the database is open to all users. Users who wish to add identification content, or modify existing content, must first register through the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. Once registered, users can apply to be content editors by sending a request by email to the Identification Manual administrator, with a brief indication of their areas of interest and expertise. Only information on identification characteristics can be added to or modified within the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. All additions and changes are subject to review before appearing in the Manual, and they are attributed to the submitter.

5. At the time of writing (December 2011), there were 510 registered users, 21 of whom had requested editing rights. No user edits or additions have been made to the animal sheets.

6. The Secretariat is seeking partners to make improvements to the Wiki, including providing links from keys to species pages; and having separate sections for products, parts and derivatives. In addition, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, is planning to update the Wiki to provide direct links to trade data from sheets, the species database, and other on-line identification resources, including Google Images, so as to develop the database as an easily-accessible and practical identification resource.

7. The Secretariat invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute content to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, available at http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki_id.shtml.

8. The Secretariat invites relevant organizations with experience in the development of identification manuals and in the use of Web 2.0 tools, such as Wikis, to contribute to the ongoing development of the CITES Wiki Manual.

9. The Committee is invited to note this report.