

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade controls and marking

REVIEW OF IDENTIFICATION AND GUIDANCE MATERIAL (DECISION 16.59)¹

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals and Plants Committees intersessional working group on identification and guidance materials, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.
2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013) adopted Decisions 16.59 to 16.61 on *Identification Manual*.
3. According to Decision 16.59, 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.*
4. In compliance with Decision 16.59, paragraph a), the Committees established an intersessional working group, comprising at least one representative from each region of both Committees.² The mandate of the intersessional working group included activities listed in paragraphs a) to e) of the Decision. The mandate

¹ This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.

² Document [AC27-PC21 Sum. 2](#), p.2, provides information on membership and Chairs of the intersessional working group on identification materials. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has withdrawn its membership from the working group.

also required the working group to report progress at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee.

5. The working group is collaborating with the Secretariat to determine the current availability of identification and guidance materials, and also assessing the need for additional materials, per paragraphs c) and d) of Decision 16.59.
6. Per paragraph d) of the same Decision, a compilation of outstanding Decisions to produce identification and guidance materials has been completed (see [Annex 1 of document AC27/PC21 Doc. 14](#)) and is under discussion by the working group. The aim of the compilation is to assess the scope of the current decisions, evaluate the need to improve or streamline work in support of these decisions, and provide guidance in the drafting of future decisions on identification materials.
7. With regard to paragraph e) of Decision 16.59, a 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's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), is under review by the working group and by the Secretariat.
8. The Chairs of the working group will provide an oral update of feedback received on the project proposal submitted by UNEP-WCMC and the tasks related to Decision 16.59.

Recommendation

9. Taking into consideration the results of the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee is invited to note this document.