

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

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Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

RELEASE OF THE CITES WOOD APP

1. This document has been submitted by Germany in relation to agenda item 19 on the *Identification of timber and other wood products* and Decisions 18.140 – 18.143 and 16.58 (Rev. CoP18).\*
2. Global trade in timber and timber products is increasing. Consequently, in the last years a significant number of timber-producing tree species has been listed on the CITES Appendices. Due to visual resemblance of many wood specimens enforcement of timber-listings can be very challenging. Proper control can only be granted if tools are available which enable enforcement personnel to verify whether the species names given on the transport documents and the presented timber or timber product are congruent.
3. To support implementation and enforcement of CITES listings of timber producing tree species the Scientific Authority of Germany at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in collaboration with the Johann Heinrich von Thuenen-Institut (TI) of Wood Research have since long developed and published the CITES wood ID. A multi-entry key, combined with guidance, explanation and illustration helps customs and other enforcement personnel to verify the given species information and to take a decision on whether timber identification specialists should be involved. Timber identification specialists find all characteristics of the timber species allowing for their identification.
4. CITES wood ID has been available since 2005 on CD-ROM. The database has now been updated and includes all currently CITES-listed timber species in trade as well as their most common look-alike species. To address technical progress CITESwoodID is no longer available as CD-ROM but as an application. The app runs on the operation systems Android, iOS and can be downloaded from the respective app stores under the following links:  
  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.bfn.CITESwoodID>  
  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/citeswoodid/id1534768227>  
  
The version running under Windows Universal will be shortly available.
5. Parties are welcome to make use of the tool. Feedback on experiences in applying CITESwoodID is very welcome and can be addressed to [susanne.kandert@bfm.de](mailto:susanne.kandert@bfm.de)

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*