

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

PURPOSE CODES ON CITES PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.54, instructing the Standing Committee to establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, and specifying its terms of reference.
3. At its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee established that working group, under the chairmanship of the United States of America.
4. At the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2010), in document CoP15 Doc. 31, a summary of the outcomes from the working group was presented, together with a draft revision of the Decision. After some discussion, a revised version, Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP15) was adopted as follows:

The Standing Committee shall re-establish an intersessional joint working group to review the use of purpose-of-transaction codes by Parties, with the following terms of reference:

- a) *the working group shall be composed of Parties from as many of the six CITES regions as possible, and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with expertise in the issuance of CITES documents and use of purpose-of-transaction codes for evaluation within the permit issuance process and trade data analysis;*
- b) *the working group shall, communicating through electronic media, focus on clearly defining purpose-of-transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;*
- c) *in evaluating the use and definition of purpose-of-transaction codes, the working group should take into account any difficulties of implementation by Parties and the potential resource implications of inclusion of any new codes or deletion of current purpose-of-transaction codes; and*
- d) *the working group should submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15), or to any revision thereof, at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall report, with its recommendations, at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Recommendation

5. The Standing Committee is invited to re-establish the working group on purpose codes, in accordance with Decision 14.54 (Rev. CoP15).