

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

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 online manual is open to all. Users who wish to add identification content, or modify existing content, must first register through the CITES Wiki Identification Manual. Once registered, they 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 by the Secretariat before appearing in the Manual, and they are attributed to the submitter. Where appropriate, the Secretariat shall consult with taxon experts before approving additions and changes.
5. At the time of writing (May 2011), there were 385 registered users, 15 of whom had requested editing rights. No user edits or additions have been made to the animal sheets. Edits had been made to 34 plant sheets (mostly additions to ORCHIDACEAE). A new sheet for *Lodoicea maldivica*, included in Appendix III on 14 October 2010 at the request of Seychelles, was prepared and added to the database by the Department of Environment of Seychelles and the Seychelles Islands Foundation. The Secretariat is grateful to the Government of Seychelles and to the expert contributors for these important contributions.
6. The first year of use of the CITES Wiki Identification Manual has helped identify areas where the online manual needs improvement and modification, such as searching speed and ease of use, providing linkages to other CITES resources and making available taxonomic group descriptions, keys and other general information. The Secretariat has explored the possibility of making the database usable on hand-held devices and is seeking funds to make these improvements so as to develop the online manual 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 Committee is invited to note this report.