

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
CONTAINING SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE APPENDICES TO CITES

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America*.

Background

2. Several timber species used in the production of musical instruments have been listed in the CITES Appendices. Consequently, musicians with instruments containing these timber species and other CITES-listed species and who frequently travel internationally with their instruments must obtain CITES documents for each cross-border movement with their instruments. Under such circumstances, the instruments remain the property of the musician and return with them to their State of usual residence. Such movements are not for the purpose of sale of the instrument or to otherwise transfer ownership. The issuance of CITES documents for these frequent cross-border movements creates an administrative burden on both the CITES authorities and the musicians and, based on their recurring nature, may lend themselves to a streamlined process, similar to that adopted by the Conference of the Parties for personally owned live pets in Resolution Conf. 10.20 on Frequent cross-border movements of personally owned live animals. Through our public consultation process for developing U.S. submissions for CoP16, several U.S. luthiers and other member of the musical instrument industry recommended that the United States consider submitting a document for consideration at CoP16 proposing a streamlined process for cross-border transport of personally-owned musical instruments containing CITES-listed species.

Proposal the United States is considering submitting for CoP16

3. With this document we wish to inform the Standing Committee that, in response to the recommendation from the U.S. musical instrument industry and luthiers about a streamlined process for cross-border transport of musical instruments containing CITES-listed species, the United States is considering whether to submit a document for consideration at CoP16 that would propose either a revision to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on Permits and certificates, or an expansion of Resolution Conf. 10.20, to include a passport system for personally-owned musical instruments similar to the one for personally-owned live animals included in Resolution Conf. 10.20. The United States believes that a musical instrument passport would provide an efficient way for individuals to travel internationally with their musical instruments for performances or personal use and to return to their States of usual residence with their instruments.
4. The United States is inviting feedback from the Standing Committee on the merits of such a proposal. We also invite the cooperation of other Parties in the development and submission of such a document.

* *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.*