

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

IDENTIFICATION MANUAL

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.19 on the *Identification Manual*, paragraph g) under "Directs", the Secretariat submits the present report to inform Parties on progress made with the production of the Identification Manual. A similar report was presented by the Secretariat at the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva and Dublin, March 2012)<sup>1</sup> and at the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC20, Dublin, March 2012)<sup>2</sup>.
3. The Identification Manual is one of the Convention's longest-running initiatives, having been initiated in 1977. First published in print format and now available as an online Wiki, the CITES Identification Manual is publicly available on the CITES website<sup>3</sup>.
4. Since the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat has received suggestions from Parties on how to improve the online Manual, including enhancing the platform of the Wiki with Web 2.0 tools and providing links to images and videos. Other comments concerned the interface of the Wiki to facilitate navigation. The Secretariat was also invited by the Chair of the Plants Committee to comment on a draft decision on identification materials.
5. The Secretariat thanks the Parties for their comments, but reminds them that improvements to the CITES Wiki Manual are subject to the availability of external financial resources.
6. Users of the Identification Manual who wish to add identification content, or modify existing content, must first register online. Once registered, users can apply to be content editors by sending a request by email to the Wiki administrator (the Secretariat), with a brief indication of their areas of interest and expertise. Only information on identification characteristics can be added to or modified within the Wiki. All additions and changes are subject to review before appearing in the Manual, and they are attributed to the submitter.
7. At the time of writing (April 2012), there were 582 registered users, 21 of whom had requested editing rights. No user edits or additions have been made to the animal and plant sheets since December 2011.
8. The Secretariat is seeking partners to assist in the administration of the Wiki and to improve it, including providing links from keys to species pages and having separate sections for parts and derivatives. In addition, the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, is planning to update the Wiki to provide direct links from individual species identification sheets to trade data, the CITES species database and other online identification resources, including Google Images, so as to develop the Identification Manual as an easily-accessible and practical identification resource.

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<sup>1</sup> See document AC26 Doc. 22.

<sup>2</sup> See document PC20 Doc. 21.

<sup>3</sup> See [http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki\\_id.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/wiki_id.php).

9. The Secretariat invites Parties, organizations and experts to contribute content to the CITES Wiki Identification Manual.
10. The Secretariat also invites relevant organizations with experience in the development of identification manuals and in the use of Web 2.0 tools, such as Wikis, to contribute to the ongoing development of the CITES Wiki Manual.
11. The Committee is invited to note this report.