

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and traceability

USE OF TAXONOMIC NUMBERS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.56 and 16.57 on *Use of taxonomic serial numbers*. These Decisions direct the Parties and the Secretariat as follows:

**Directed to Parties**

*16.56 Parties, particularly those engaged in the development of Single Window environments, are encouraged to consider the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic systems for management of data on authorization of trade under CITES, and alternatives to such numbers that they might use or be using, and to provide comments to the Secretariat.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

*16.57 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, compile information voluntarily provided by the Parties in accordance with Decision 16.56, make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting and make this information available to Parties at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At the time of writing, the Secretariat has not received information from Parties as requested in Decision 16.56.
4. The Secretariat notes that in discussions with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) regarding inclusion of guidelines from the CITES e-permitting toolkit in the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA),<sup>1</sup> UNCTAD stressed the need for a numeric identifier, i.e., taxonomic serial numbers, linked to the scientific names of CITES species listed in the CITES Checklist. Such linkage would facilitate the development and use of a CITES module in ASYCUDA.
5. The Secretariat would find it useful to continue discussions with UNCTAD and with other organizations working to develop new electronic customs procedures on the use of numeric identifiers or taxonomic serial numbers linked to the scientific names of species in the CITES Checklist and on how such use can facilitate the integration of CITES permitting procedures in ASYCUDA and other automated customs systems.

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<sup>1</sup> ASYCUDA is a computerised customs management system which covers most foreign trade procedures. The system handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, and transit and suspense procedures. (see: <http://www.asycuda.org/aboutas.asp>). More information on collaboration between the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD on ASYCUDA is available in document SC66 Doc.35, on Electronic permitting: Report of the working group.

Recommendation

6. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to note this report, and the Secretariat's oral report at the present meeting.