

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

USE OF TAXONOMIC SERIAL NUMBERS

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on the use of taxonomic serial numbers<sup>1</sup>.

Background

2. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 15.67 to 15.69 on the *Use of taxonomic serial numbers*. Decision 15.68 is directed to the Standing Committee as follows:

*The Standing Committee shall, at its 61st meeting (SC61), establish a working group, in consultation with the nomenclature experts of the Animals and Plants Committees and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, to:*

- a) *investigate the usefulness and feasibility of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers as an element of CITES data sets;*
  - b) *report its findings at SC62; and*
  - c) *if necessary, prepare a draft resolution for submission and consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. The Working Group reported its findings at SC62 (Geneva, 2012). A detailed summary of work accomplished by the Working Group is available in Document SC62 Doc. 37<sup>2</sup>.
  4. At SC62, the Standing Committee adopted the recommendations made in subparagraphs 26. a) and c) of Document SC62 Doc. 37:
    - a) *directing the TSN Working Group to continue its e-mail discussions until CoP16, in order to consider technical aspects of database design and data sharing and to develop criteria for potential TSN providers, with results of these discussions to be provided to the Chair of the Working Group on Information Technologies and Electronic Systems;*

and...

- c) *recommendation that the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting, direct the Secretariat to adapt and extend Decisions 15.67 and 15.69...*

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/62/E62-37.pdf>

## Recommendation

5. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the Decisions made at SC62, and adapt Decisions 15.67 and 15.69 as follows:

### DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

#### **Decision 16.XX**

##### ***Directed to Parties***

The Parties, particularly those engaged in the development of single window systems, are encouraged to consider the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic data systems, alternative options they might use or may be using, and provide comments to the Secretariat.

#### **Decision 16.XX**

##### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, compile information voluntarily provided by the Parties regarding the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic data and alternative options they may be using and make this information available to other Parties.

### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat acknowledges that a growing number of Parties are developing or using electronic permitting systems where the use of Taxonomic Serial Numbers would be of most benefit. The Secretariat also acknowledges the role of Single Window environments to make available and harmonize electronic trade documentation including electronic CITES permits and certificates.
- B. The Secretariat is aware of the interest expressed by some Parties to continue investigating the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic data systems and electronic trade documentation.
- C. The Secretariat supports in principle the present document and its recommendations. However, it proposes the following amendments to the proposed text, in line with more common technological terminology (text to be deleted is crossed out; proposed new text is underlined):

##### ***Directed to Parties***

- 16.xx ~~The Parties, particularly those engaged in the development of single window systems~~ Single Window environments, are encouraged to consider the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic ~~data systems~~ for management of data on authorization of trade under CITES, and alternatives to such numbers that ~~alternative options they might use or may be using, and to provide comments to the Secretariat.~~

##### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 16.xx The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding, compile information voluntarily provided by the Parties in accordance with Decision 16.xx (above) ~~regarding the usefulness of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers in their domestic data and alternative options they may be using~~ and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting.