

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

Identification Manual

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.19, transferring the responsibility for the publication of the Identification Manual to the Secretariat.
3. As required in that Resolution, the Secretariat regularly reports at each meeting of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees¹. This document is a summary of its reports since the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010) and provides an overview of the current status of the Wiki Identification Manual.
4. The Secretariat noted in its reports that recommendations made by Parties to improve the Wiki system supporting the Identification Manual could not be implemented because of a lack of resources.
5. Recommendations to improve the Wiki Identification Manual made by Parties at meetings of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees included making it usable on hand-held devices and smart phones, and improving its graphical user interface and its speed of access. Parties also highlighted the need to provide links from keys to species pages and to have separate sections for parts and derivatives. Other recommendations included the provision of direct links to trade data from sheets, the species database, and other online identification resources, including Google images².
6. The Wiki Identification Manual remains a popular resource with, at the time of writing (3 September 2012), 626 registered users, 21 of whom had requested editing rights. In addition, the Manual was also accessed by over 6,000 users from April 2011 to August 2012.
7. In light of the above, the Secretariat invited 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. The Secretariat is in communication with Belgium and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) regarding possible collaboration in the further development of the Manual. The Secretariat is also working with UNEP-WCMC to link the CITES Wiki Manual with other relevant information tools and resources.

¹ For reporting since CoP15, see documents AC25 Doc. 24, AC26 Doc. 22, PC19 Doc. 19, PC20 Doc. 21, SC61 Doc. 37 and SC62 Doc. 38.

² The CITES Wiki Manual may be of relevance to existing and future Decisions on the need for identification materials, including Decision 14.137 on Agarwood-producing taxa, 15.90 on Aniba rosaeodora, and 15.96 on Bulnesia sarmientoi, among others.

8. The Secretariat reminds Parties of Resolution Conf. 11.19, where the Conference of the Parties:

EXHORTS Parties having successfully submitted proposals to include new species in the Appendices, to provide appropriate data for inclusion in the Identification Manual within one year after acceptance of such additions;

APPEALS to Parties and organizations to provide funds to ensure the production of the Identification Manual; and

REQUESTS the Parties to promote the use of the Identification Manual.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider the proposed revision to Resolution Conf. 11.19 contained in the Annex to this document.

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 11.19

Proposed deletions are struck-out and proposed additions are underlined.

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THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DIRECTS the Secretariat to:

- a) prepare ~~sheets~~ texts on the identification of animal and plant species for inclusion in the Identification Manual in the three working languages of the Convention;
- b) upon request from a Party, provide advice on the identification of species, or seek advice from experts on the taxa concerned;
- c) ensure, where relevant, that the subject of identification of species or specimens is included in training seminars organized by the Secretariat;
- d) provide assistance to Parties in the development of national or regional identification manuals;
- e) obtain, from Parties whose proposals to include new species in the Appendices have been adopted, appropriate data for inclusion in the Identification Manual within one year after acceptance of such additions;
- f) publish, within its financial capacity, the Identification Manual;
- g) inform ~~each meeting~~ of the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees on the progress made whenever appropriate; and
- h) report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

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