

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/051

Geneva, 20 April 2023

CONCERNING:

Request for materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted several Decisions related to identification materials and methodologies for various CITES-listed species including requests to provide, develop, or improve such materials.
2. The relevant Decisions to which Parties are invited to respond are the following:

a) Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species [[Decisions 19.144](#)]

Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the working group on identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspection officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.

Identification and guidance materials of CITES-listed species received under Decision 19.144 will be shared with the joint Animals and Plants Committee working group on identification materials that will be established in accordance with Decision 19.142.

b) Asian big cats (*Felidae* spp.) [[Decision 19.109 paragraph a](#)]

Parties are encouraged to inform the Secretariat of forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, for this information to be made available to Parties.

c) Identification of timber and other wood products [[Decision 19.146](#)]

Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee in their implementation of Decisions 19.145 and 19.147 by providing feedback or information on:

- the utility and practicality of the online repository "[Timber Identification Resource and Tools](#)", taking into consideration the compilation of timber and other wood products identification resources for both frontline enforcement officers and to experts involved in identifying timber and other wood products for forensic or legal purposes;

- CITES-listed tree species to be prioritized in the process of developing or sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples;
- identification material for *Dalbergia* species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as *Dalbergia sissoo*;
- available techniques and tools, their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes;
- gaps in current knowledge sources for CITES timber identification, on their availability and usefulness, and challenges and resourcing required to make these tools more widely available to CITES Parties;
- standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities; and
- methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise.

d) West African vultures (*Accipitridae* spp.) [[Decision 19.194 paragraph b](#)]:

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall support the production of identification materials focusing on parts and derivatives of vulture species for use by law enforcement officials.

To support the Secretariat in implementing Decision 19.194 paragraph b), Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to share any identification materials focusing on parts and derivatives of vulture species or any relevant information that will support the production of such materials.

e) Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) [[Decision 19.203 paragraph a](#)]:

Parties, international organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations that developed tools and materials that could assist Parties in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.10 (Rev. CoP19) or identification materials concerning pangolin species, their parts and derivatives, are invited to bring such materials to the attention of the Secretariat.

3. Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to submit relevant information by email to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org with the subject line: "Re: Notification No. 2023/051 on ID materials" and the relevant Decision number by 2 June 2023.
4. The information and materials received by the Secretariat will be included on the CITES Virtual College Identification Materials database any other relevant CITES webpages, as appropriate.