**Questionnaire on the utility and practicality of the CITES Online Repository on**

**“Timber Identification Resources and Tools”**

At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.145 on *Identification of timber and other wood products*. The decision directs the Secretariat, in close consultation with the Plants Committee, and subject to external resources to review the utility and practicality of the online repository on timber identification (<https://cites.org/eng/timber/timber-ID-repository>, referred to as the CITES timber-ID-repository in this questionnaire), and make recommendations on its development.

Parties are reminded that the terms of reference on *Maintenance and Expansion of the CITES timber-ID-repository*agreed by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting (PC26, Geneva, 2023) ([PC26 SR](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-PC26-SR_0.pdf)) for the implementation of Decision 19.145 includes undertaking coordinated extensive consultations with Parties and relevant stakeholders on the user’s experience. The Terms of Reference specifies that consultations with enforcement officers, customs and Scientific Authorities should be prioritized. All Parties and other stakeholders and especially enforcement officers, customs and Scientific Authorities are invited to complete the questionnaire to inform recommendations to improve the functionality and users’ experience of the online repository. The completed questionnaire should be submitted to Dr. Yafang Yin (yafang@caf.ac.cn) and Dr. Yang Lu (yang.lu@caf.ac.cn), with a copy to Ms. Thea Carroll (thea.carroll@un.org) no later than **4 July 2025**.

Please note that this questionnaire will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

**A. General Information Section**

Please read and respond to the following general questions:

*Respondent’s details:*

1. Name (optional):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Name of your authority / organization?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Country or region where your organization is located?

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1. What is the type of authority / organization you represent?

[ ] Management Authority

[ ] Enforcement officer

[ ] Customs

[ ] Scientific Authority

[ ] Other stakeholders:

 [ ] Non-government organizations

 [ ] Associations

 [ ] Universities

 [ ] Research affiliations

 [ ] Companies

 [ ] Others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you aware of or have you ever used the CITES timber-ID-repository? (Please select one response only)

[ ] Yes, I am aware and have used it (please proceed to Questions 6 and 7 and complete sections B - D)

[ ] Yes, I am aware but have not used it previously (please proceed to Question 6, and please use the CITES timber-ID-repository before you respond to the questions of Section B-D)

[ ] No, I was not aware of it previously (please skip Questions 6 and 7, and please use the CITES timber-ID-repository before you respond to the questions of Section B-D)

1. How did you learn about the CITES timber-ID-repository? (Please select all that apply)

[ ] Through official CITES training sessions or documentation

[ ] Government announcements

[ ] Academic publications, technical reports, or reference materials

[ ] Conferences or lectures

[ ] University or research institution channels

[ ] Recommendations from colleagues or peers

[ ] Browsing the official CITES website

[ ] Social media or online communities

[ ] Search engines

[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How frequently do you use the CITES timber-ID-repository? (Please select one response only)

[ ] Daily

[ ] Weekly

[ ] Monthly

[ ] Occasionally

**B. Functionality of the CITES timber-ID-repository**

This section aims to assess users' overall experience with the basic functions of the CITES timber-ID-repository webpages, including navigation, information retrieval, layout design, mobile device compatibility, and loading speed.

1. Which of the following webpage functions have you used? (Please select all that apply)

[ ] Browsing resource lists and detailed information

[ ] Search function

[ ] Advanced search: categorization and filtering options

[ ] Accessing resources: downloading files or accessing external resource links

[ ] Uploading new resources

[ ] Adjusting resource display: sorting preferences or list view customization

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| Based on your experience, please rate the following statements related to the functionality of the CITES timber-ID-repository webpages. (1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree somewhat, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 4 = Agree somewhat, 5 = Strongly agree)： |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| 1. The classification and navigation of timber identification resources are clear

***Current categories:*** *Manuals, guides and identification keys, Collections and xylotheques, Mobile applications and other software, Databases, Institutions, organizations, Networks and consortiums, Multimedia and infographics, News and events* |  |
| 1. It is easy to find the information you need using the search function
 |  |
| 1. The search filters provided are adequate

***Current search filters:*** *Taxonomic Group, Country of publication, Region, Project and Resource type* |  |
| 1. The interface design is usable and logically structured.
 |  |
| 1. The visual design meets my expectations.
 |  |
| 1. The interface performs well and is user-friendly on mobile devices.
 |  |
| 1. The system loads quickly.
 |  |
| 1. Information is updated regularly and in a timely manner.
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| 1. Should the webpages include additional categories for timber identification resources? If yes, please specify.

***Current categories:*** *Manuals, guides and identification keys, Collections and xylotheques, Mobile applications and other software, Databases, Institutions, organizations, Networks and consortiums, Multimedia and infographics and News and events*  |
| 1. Should the webpages include additional search filters? If yes, please specify.

***Current search filters:*** *Taxonomic Group, Country of publication, Region, Project and Resource type* |
| 1. What are the current limitations of the webpages in terms of design, usability, and functionality? Are there any functions or use scenarios that are still missing? Please share any additional suggestions.
 |

**C. Utility and Practicality of the CITES timber-ID-repository**

This section aims to assess the practicality, comprehensiveness, reliability, and scientific rigor of the information provided by the CITES timber-ID-repository. This includes evaluating the content, data sources, applicability to CITES implementation, and how well the online repository meets user needs.

1. What are your primary purposes for using the online repository? (Please select all that apply)

[ ] To learn about CITES-listed timber species

[ ] To support CITES enforcement, regulation, or policy-making

[ ] For scientific research

[ ] To access timber identification materials or tools

[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Which content categories in the online repository are of particular interest to you? (Please select all that apply)

[ ] Manuals, guides and identification keys

[ ] Collections and xylotheques

[ ] Mobile applications and other software

[ ] Databases

[ ] Institutions, organizations

[ ] networks and consortiums

[ ] Multimedia and infographics

[ ] News and events

1. Do you think online repository should offer multilingual versions? (Please select one response only)

[ ] If yes, please suggest languages: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] No

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| **Overall Utility of the Online Repository**Based on your experience, please rate the following aspects related to the utility / usefulness of the CITES timber-ID-repository. (1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree somewhat, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 4 = Agree somewhat, 5 = Strongly agree) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| 1. The types of resources provided are comprehensive.
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| 1. The resources are reliable.
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| 1. The resources are easily accessible.
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| 1. The repository provides comprehensive coverage of timber identification topics.
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| 1. The classification of timber identification data types is reasonable and complete.
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| 1. The classification of timber identification methods and tools is reasonable and complete
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| 1. The range of tree species covered is sufficient
 |  |
| 1. The resources provided are relevant to my needs
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| 1. **Importance of Timber Identification Data Types**

Based on the needs of you and your organization, please rate the importance of the following timber identification data types. (1 = Not Important, 2 = Somewhat unimportant, 3 = Neutral (neither important not unimportant), 4 = Important, 5 = Very Important) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| *Morphology/ Anatomy* | Wood anatomical data |  |
| Digital image data |  |
| *DNA analysis* | DNA barcode sequences |  |
| Population genetic polymorphism data |  |
| DNA fingerprinting data |  |
| *Chemical profiling* | Mass spectrometry data |  |
| Spectral data |  |
| *Stable Isotope* | Isotope ratios / geographic origin tracing data |  |
| Additional data types (please specify):  |
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| 1. **Sufficiency of Timber Identification Data Types**

Based on your needs and the needs of your organization, please rate how well the existing resources in the CITES timber-ID-repository meet your expectations for each of the following data types. (1 = Not Sufficient, 2 = Somewhat Sufficient, 3 = Moderately Sufficient, 4 = Mostly Sufficient, 5 = Fully Sufficient) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| *Morphology/ Anatomy* | Wood anatomical data |  |
| Digital image data |  |
| *DNA analysis* | DNA barcode sequences |  |
| Population genetic polymorphism data |  |
| DNA fingerprinting data |  |
| *Chemical profiling* | Mass spectrometry data |  |
| Spectral data |  |
| *Stable Isotope* | Isotope ratios / geographic origin tracing data |  |
| Additional data types (please specify):  |
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| 1. **Familiarity with Timber Identification Methods and Tools.**

Based on your experience, please indicate your level of familiarity with the following timber identification methods and tools. (1 = Not Familiar, 2 = Slightly Familiar, 3 = Somewhat Familiar, 4 = Mostly Familiar, 5 = Very Familiar) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| *Morphology/ Anatomy* | Wood anatomy |  |
| Computer vision |  |
| *DNA analysis* | DNA barcoding |  |
| Population genetic markers |  |
| DNA fingerprinting |  |
| *Chemical profiling* | Mass spectrometry |  |
| Near-infrared spectroscopy |  |
| *Stable Isotope* | Stable isotope analysis |  |
| Additional methods and tools (please specify): |
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| 1. **Importance of Timber Identification Methods and Tools**

Based on your needs and the needs of your organization, please rate the importance of the following timber identification methods and tools. (1 = Not Important, 2 = Somewhat important, 3 = Neutral (neither important not unimportant), 4 = Important, 5 = Very Important) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| *Morphology/ Anatomy* | Wood anatomy |  |
| Computer vision |  |
| *DNA analysis* | DNA barcoding |  |
| Population genetic markers |  |
| DNA fingerprinting |  |
| *Chemical profiling* | Mass spectrometry |  |
| Near-infrared spectroscopy |  |
| *Stable Isotope* | Stable isotope analysis |  |
| Additional methods and tools (please specify): |
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| 1. **Sufficiency of Timber Identification Methods and Tools**

Based on your needs and the needs of your organization, please rate how well the existing resources of the CITES timber-ID-repository meet your expectations for each of the following methods and tools. (1 = Not Sufficient, 2 = Somewhat Sufficient, 3 = Moderately Sufficient, 4 = Mostly Sufficient, 5 = Fully Sufficient) |
|  | Rating (1–5) |
| *Morphology/ Anatomy* | Wood anatomy |  |
| Computer vision |  |
| *DNA analysis* | DNA barcoding |  |
| Population genetic markers |  |
| DNA fingerprinting |  |
| *Chemical profiling* | Mass spectrometry |  |
| Near-infrared spectroscopy |  |
| *Stable Isotope* | Stable isotope analysis |  |
| Additional methods and tools (please specify): |
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| 1. Has your organization ever used the CITES timber-ID-repository in the context of CITES implementation?

If yes, please briefly describe how it was used. |
| 1. Have you or your organization encountered any difficulties accessing certain resources (e.g., method descriptions, databases, tool downloads, etc.) of the CITES timber-ID-repository?

If yes, please specify the resource name and describe the issue encountered. |
| 1. Please list up to five CITES-listed tree species for which you or your organization believe identification resources should be prioritized in the CITES timber-ID-repository and briefly explain your reasoning.
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**D. Open-Ended Questions**

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| 1. Are you aware of any relevant timber identification resources that are not yet included in the CITES timber-ID-repository.

If so, please provide the details in the table below: |
| Resource Name | Brief Description | URL or Contact Information | Resource Type |
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| 1. Has your organization ever shared wood specimen information with other organizations?
 |
|  Yes  |
|  No  |
|  If yes, please briefly indicate the modes or channels of sharing (Please select all that apply):  |
|  Electronic documents  |
|  Hard copy documents  |
|  Physical wood specimens  |
|  Other modes (please specify):  |
| 1. Based on your opinion or your organization's practices, what are the main barriers currently affecting the sharing of wood specimen information of among organizations?
 |
| 1. What suggestions or expectations do you and your organization have for strengthening the sharing of wood specimen information among organizations?
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| 1. Have you or your organization encountered any specific challenges or limitations in your use of timber identification techniques (e.g., wood anatomy, image recognition, chemical analysis, DNA testing, etc.)?

If so, please briefly describe. |
| 1. Do you and your organization have any suggestions for improving or promoting the application of timber identification technologies, including the possible use of advanced / cutting edge technologies?
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| 1. What do you or your organization consider to be the most urgent issue that needs to be addressed in the current CITES timber-ID-repository?
 |
|  Incomplete content  |
|  Slow updates  |
|  Lack of data format diversity  |
|  High technical complexity and difficulty to understand  |
|  Limited practicality and difficult to apply |
|  Other (please specify):  |
| 1. Would your organization be willing to cooperate with the CITES Secretariat by contributing materials to the CITES Timber Identification Repository?
 |
|  Willing to cooperate  |
|  Types and formats of resources you are willing to share:  |
|  Electronic documents  |
|  Hard copy documents  |
|  Physical timber specimens  |
|  Other modes (please specify):   |
| 1. Do you or your organization have any additional suggestions for improving the CITES timber-ID-repository?
 |
| 10. Do you or your organization have any other suggestions for enhancing the timber identification capacity of CITES Parties? |

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire.

Please email the completed version to Dr. Yafang Yin (yafang@caf.ac.cn) and Dr. Yang Lu (yang.lu@caf.ac.cn), with a copy to Ms. Thea Carroll (thea.carroll@un.org) no later than **4 July 2025**.