

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 14.55 to 14.57 on electronic permitting.
3. Decision 14.56 directs the Secretariat, subject to the provision of appropriate funding and in cooperation with the Working Group on the Use of Information Technologies and Electronic Systems, to prepare a CD-ROM and Web-based toolkit on electronic permitting systems for consideration at the present meeting. The toolkit shall include:
 - a) *advice on the use of common information exchange formats, protocols and standards for use with electronic permitting systems;*
 - b) *advice on the use of electronic signatures and other electronic security measures;*
 - c) *advice on the development and implementation of interoperable information exchange pilot projects on electronic permitting systems;*
 - d) *a list of Parties willing to assist less developed countries in developing electronic permitting systems;*
 - e) *a list of Parties currently using electronic permitting systems; and*
 - f) *information on new developments in the use of electronic documents by relevant organizations.*
4. The Secretariat consulted with the Working Group on the Use of Information Technologies regarding the lack of external funding which has impeded the implementation of Decision 14.56.
5. An informal meeting of the Working Group was held in Geneva on 11 February 2008 to review the e-permit system of The Netherlands and those of other Management Authorities and to discuss strategies to implement decision 14.56.
6. As a result of these discussions, the Management Authority of the Netherlands offered their e-permit and database system to the Secretariat for customization and use by Parties that lack the capacity to develop national e-permit systems.
7. In addition, the Management Authority of Switzerland offered to consider the possibility of contributing technical expertise to assist with the implementation of Decision 14.56.

8. The Management Authority of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also offered to contribute human resources toward development of the toolkit.
9. The progress made regarding these various initiatives will be the subject of an oral report to the Committee.