

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 PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee*.
2. At PC20, the Committee received the Progress report of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species (Decisions 15.91, 15.92). The Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species, presented the document PC20 Doc. 19.1. He thanked all those involved in the fourth meeting of the Working Group held from 7 to 11 November in Petén, Guatemala, and drew attention in particular to the recommendations emanating from that meeting, which were to be found in paragraph 36 of the document.
3. The Committee established a drafting group (PC20 DG1), chaired by the Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species, with the following mandate: Propose recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider presenting to CoP16 based on the recommendations in document PC20 Doc.19.1. As result, the Committee discussed the documents PC20 DG1 and PC20 Com.3.
4. Based on document PC20 Com.3, the Plants Committee adopted two draft proposals of Decisions for consideration by the CoP16 included in the Annex of the present document. The aim of the draft Decision is to improve the identification and guidance material and to increase their accuracy and availability to the Parties.
5. The CoP16 is invited to consider the two draft proposals included in the Annex at the present document and to adopt them.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat supports the document submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee and recommends that the proposed decisions be adopted.
- B. However, it offers the following editorial suggestions to the proposed text of Decision 16. XX to reflect the resources required to update and improve the CITES Wiki Identification Manual, as follows (proposed new text is underlined):

Directed to the Parties

* *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.*

16.XX The Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, for posting on the CITES Virtual College if appropriate, to facilitate implementation of the Convention;
- b) evaluate the status of pending identification material and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material;
- c) provide financial support for the improvement of the CITES Wiki Identification Manual; and
- d) consult with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and ~~guidance needs~~ and possible improvements to meet those needs thereof.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Plants and Animals Committees and the Secretariat

- 16.XX The Plants and Animals Committees shall form an intersessional working group, comprised of at least one representative from each Region of both Committees to, taking into consideration existing CITES identification and guidance material as well as other material produced by Parties, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations, to assist in identifying CITES-listed taxa:
- a) determine, in collaboration with Parties, the current availability of identification and guidance material (print and electronic) to increase accessibility to Parties;
 - b) consult with Parties to assess the need for additional identification material, including material under production by Parties and directed by Decisions;
 - c) compile a list of outstanding Decisions directing the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Secretariat to produce identification and guidance material for CITES-listed taxa
 - d) review and recommend amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.19 Identification Manual, taking into account new web-based technologies, to promote accuracy and availability of identification and guidance material; and
 - e) report progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Parties

- 16.XX The Parties are encouraged to:
- a) provide information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention;
 - b) evaluate the status of pending identification material and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material; and
 - c) consult with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current identification and guidance needs and possible improvements thereof.