



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/058

Geneva, 10 August 2017

CONCERNING:

Request for information related to identification materials

1. At its 17th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of Decisions that direct Parties to provide, develop, or improve identification materials and methodologies for various CITES-listed species.
2. The relevant Decisions to which Parties are invited to respond are the following:

a) Identification materials [Decision 17.160]

The Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the [joint Animals and Plants Committee] working group on capacity building and identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available capacity building materials, and identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.

b) Identification materials related to tiger skins [Decision 17.164]

The tiger range States are requested to inform the Secretariat whether they have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, and if so, the contacts of the relevant national focal points or agencies.

c) Timber identification [Decision 17.166]

Parties are encouraged to expand or create and maintain scientific reference collections essential for the development of methodologies to identify CITES-listed tree species and distinguish them from look-alike species, in accordance with current best practices regarding collection, curation and facilitation of exchange of reference materials.

d) Physical inspection of timber shipments [Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP17)]

Parties are encouraged to report if they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments, and provide relevant information and materials to the Secretariat.

e) Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.) [Decision 17.194]

Range, transit, consumer and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products, taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc. 17.5.3, and any further updated version.

f) Sharks and rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.) [Decision 17.209]

Parties are encouraged to share experiences with, and knowledge of, forensic means to efficiently, reliably and cost-effectively identify shark products in trade.

3. Parties are requested to send the information outlined in paragraph 2 above by email to haruko.okusu@cites.org, with clear reference to the relevant Decisions. Parties are also invited to provide succinct responses, submitting the relevant identification and guidance materials by means of email attachment or through a URL link to the relevant site containing such materials.
4. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving the above information by **10 September 2017** in order to have sufficient time to collate and summarize it for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.
5. **Identification guide for the species of the genus *Abronia* (Alligator lizards):**

At the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2017), the Committee reviewed document submitted by Mexico on the *Progress in the development of an identification guide for the species of the genus *Abronia* (Alligator lizards) (AC29. Doc.19)*, and invited Parties and other relevant players to review the identification guide included as an annex to document AC29 Doc. 19. Parties are requested to share their feedback with the Mexican Scientific Authority (CONABIO) by **31 August 2017** at the following address: ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx.