

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

Timber issues

PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF TIMBER SHIPMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.60, directed to the Secretariat on Physical inspection of timber shipments, as follows:

The Secretariat shall establish an electronic working group, which, in consultation with the Plants Committee and relevant intergovernmental organizations, shall:

- a) *solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for:*
 - i) *identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and*
 - ii) *physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; and*
- b) *indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities.*

On that basis, the working group should identify possible elements for further work and report at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. The Secretariat will establish this electronic working group by creating a dedicated and restricted on-line discussion forum accessible via the CITES website. A Notification informing Parties of the establishment of the working group and the electronic discussion forum, and inviting Parties and relevant intergovernmental organizations to submit the information referred to in Decision 14.60, will be issued later in 2008.
4. Italy has expressed its interest in chairing the electronic working group, and the Secretariat welcomes Italy's offer.
5. The Committee members will also be notified of the creation of the forum. They are invited to join the electronic working group, and to suggest ideas on membership of the group at the present meeting.