

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



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

Relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation [Decision 11.102 (Rev. CoP12)]

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Members of the working group

Rodrigo Medellín, representative of North America (Chair);

Observers from Parties: Canada, Chile, China, France, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, United States of America

Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations: American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Animal Exhibitors Alliance, Animal Welfare Institute, Fund for Animals, DGHT, Defenders of Wildlife, International Elephant Foundation, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, TRAFFIC, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and. WWF (USA),

Terms of reference

1. Examine all information received in response to the Notification 2003/072 and the results of the case studies.
2. Formulate clear conclusions on the basis of the compiled information.
3. Identify possible strategies by which registered *ex-situ* captive breeding operations may contribute to enhancing recovery and/or conservation of the species.
4. Compile the findings regarding the different aspects of Decision 11.102 (Rev. CoP12) and identify possible strategies and other mechanisms for inclusion in the report to CoP13.

Summary of the discussions and recommendations

Given the importance of operations that breed Appendix-I species for commercial purposes, the need to enhance cooperation with countries of origin and to create a positive impact on *in situ* conservation, the Chair suggested that the group focus on the implementation of the mandate for commercial captive breeding operations of Appendix-I species.

The Chair suggested using the existing case studies as a source of ideas as to how *ex situ* operations can have a positive impact on *in situ* conservation programmes. There was significant discussion about how to use the studies or whether the case studies provided adequate basis upon which reliable recommendations could be made. Several members of the group noted the brevity and lack of detail in many case studies and suggested that the case studies be peer reviewed to ensure accuracy of the information. After considerable debate, the group reached consensus to use the existing case studies initially as a source of ideas to identify

appropriate strategies for assessing the impact of *ex situ* captive breeding operations for commercial purposes on *in situ* conservation, and to continue to examine case studies in detail.

Despite Notification to the Parties No. 2003/072 inviting Parties and organizations to provide case studies, the working group does not have enough submissions of case studies of captive breeding operations of Appendix-I species for commercial trade to assess the effect of commercial captive breeding of CITES-listed animal species on the *in situ* conservation of those species. Therefore, the WG decided to continue with the process of compiling additional case studies prepared by Parties and organizations with an emphasis on new case studies from commercial operations on the relationship between *ex situ* breeding operations and *in situ* conservation for captive-breeding operations of Appendix-I species for commercial trade.

Recommendation:

To issue a Notification to the Parties to request the submission of more case studies on the relationship between *ex situ* breeding operations and *in situ* conservation programmes for captive-breeding operations of Appendix-I species for commercial trade. This Notification should be issued immediately after AC20 and should request such submissions to be made by 2 August 2004.

[Participants from three NGOs disagreed and interpreted the need of the consultant as referring to doing a full review of *ex-situ* breeding operations]

Furthermore, the group recognized the need to have a detailed and standardized analysis of the submitted case studies (and if necessary, promote the preparation of additional ones). The Working Group felt that, given the time required to carry out this analysis and the lack of availability of the WG members, especially parties, this should be entrusted to a consultant, subject to identification of appropriate funds.

Recommendation:

Hire a consultant that will compile, critically analyse, and synthesize the case studies and if necessary, approach Parties to encourage preparation of additional case studies. The consultant will then submit the report to the working group detailed assessments showing the effect of *ex situ* commercial captive breeding operations of CITES Appendix-I species on *in situ* conservation. The terms of reference for this work by a consultant would be modified from the original terms of reference of the working group as follows:

Using the consultant's expertise, responses to the Notification to the Parties and input from specialized organizations, the AC, and the PC, evaluate the relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation by:

- i) requesting organizations to provide information on the *in-situ* conservation costs and benefits of different captive-production systems;**
- ii) assess the effect of commercial and non-commercial captive breeding of Appendix-I animal species on the *in situ* conservation of those species; and**
- iii) take into account the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on issues of access and benefit sharing in relation to *ex situ* production.**
- iv) identify factors that may facilitate or hinder effective contributions to *in-situ* conservation**

Once the consultant has prepared the above, s/he will communicate his/her findings to the Working Group so that it may continue with the next phase of the Terms of Reference as follows:

Identify possible strategies and other mechanisms by which (nationally or internationally) registered or non-registered *ex situ* breeding operations may contribute to enhancing the recovery or conservation of CITES-listed species *in situ* by:

- i) identifying examples of *in situ* recovery or conservation programmes for species produced in *ex-situ* breeding operations, and examining in what form and under what conditions operations could usefully contribute to these programmes;**
- ii) assessing the effect of reintroduction of *ex-situ* captive-bred specimens for the conservation and recovery of the species;**

- iii) **examining mechanisms for generating sustainable funding for in situ conservation from ex situ breeding operations and ensuring funds generated make identifiable and measurable contributions to in-situ conservation;**
- iv) **evaluating the capacity and need of range States to develop or manage in situ recovery and conservation programmes for species produced in ex situ breeding operations.**

The Chair of the WG identified the need to synergize with the working group on the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I species for commercial purposes. This goes directly towards the main mandate of the group as stated in Resolution Conf. 11.102, namely:

“continue to examine the complex issues related to the origin of founder breeding stock and the relationship between ex situ breeding operations and in situ conservation of the species and, in collaboration with the Plants Committee, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, **identify possible strategies and other mechanisms by which registered ex situ breeding operations may contribute to enhancing the recovery and/or conservation of the species within the countries of origin**, and report its findings at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

Specifically, our working group will produce text to be inserted into the document produced by the WG on registration of captive breeding operations of Appendix-I species for commercial purposes (Working Group 3):

Recommendation: insert the following text in document WG3 Doc. 1:

How will your operation contribute to the in situ recovery and/or conservation of the species?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| a) reintroduction | YES? HOW? | IF NOT? WHY? |
| b) financial support | YES? HOW? | IF NOT? WHY? |
| c) capacity building, | YES? HOW? | IF NOT? WHY? |
| d) education/public awareness, | YES? HOW? | IF NOT? WHY? |
| e) other. | YES? HOW? | IF NOT? WHY? |

These questions will allow subsequent monitoring of the operation to assess whether or not the ex situ operation is having a positive impact on the in situ conservation programme. [One participant from Defenders of Wildlife expressed very serious concern that the questions were too ambiguous to allow the detailed analysis by Parties required to ensure positive contributions are made. One participant from the Fund for Animals took exception with the position of the WG about obtaining information on the relationship between ex situ operations and in situ conservation, both through the process of registration of facilities and through the provisions of Article III on export without having the benefit of reviewing the case studies (see below)].

Many Appendix-I species from non-registered breeding operations are not exported under article 7.4 and therefore might not be covered by the previous point. Therefore, the WG identified the need to solve this issue with the following:

Recommendation: Parties should consider asking the same questions as in the previous point when assessing whether a specimen meets the requirements for being considered “bred in captivity” as defined in Resolution Conf. 10.16.

The group recognized the need to prepare a document entitled “Guidelines for assessing contributions of ex-situ breeding operations on in-situ conservation” for Parties to use in evaluating this issue. The group will begin working on these very important guidelines immediately.

The working group appreciates that non-registered ex situ commercial breeding operations of Appendix-I species cannot be forced either by CITES to contribute to in situ conservation operations. We therefore encourage Parties with Appendix-I breeding operations outside range States to develop bilateral or multilateral projects with those range States in order to ensure effective and monitorable in situ conservation programmes. Range States with ex situ breeding operations should enter into similar arrangements with the ex situ breeding operations in their countries.

Recommendation:

Parties with Appendix-I breeding operations outside of the range States for that species are encouraged to enter into bilateral or multilateral projects with those range states in order to establish effective and monitorable in situ conservation programmes. Range States with ex situ breeding operations should enter into similar arrangements with the ex situ breeding operations in their countries. All such arrangement should include provisions for effective implementation and monitoring.

The group identified the need to address potential adverse effects of ex situ commercial operations. Strategies for addressing the potential adverse impacts can be considered in the context of non-detriment findings made by the Parties during the course of issuing export permits for specimens of captive-bred species.

Potential adverse impacts to be considered in making non-detriment findings should include the possibility that completely closed ex situ breeding operations may create disincentives to conserve wild populations.

Recommendation:

Parties should consider the potential adverse impacts of commercial breeding operations on in situ conservation when conducting non-detriment findings in the course of issuing export permits for captive-bred Appendix-I species.

The WG will reconvene at the CoP13 to continue its work as this is an ongoing process that requires continuous updating. Several representatives of NGOs expressed serious concern that the mandate of the WG in the original terms of reference and those provided for AC 20 had not been met.

The group will establish a listserver to compile and optimize communication among the Working Group, and specifically work on the "Guidelines" document.

Members of the Working Group:

Rodrigo Medellín, Regional representative, North America (Chairman).

A) PARTIES :

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B) NGOs:

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Kristin Vehrs, American Zoos and Aquarium Association (AZA)
Carroll Muffett, Defenders of Wildlife
Marshall Myers, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Peter Dollinger, World Association of Zoos and Aquaria
Karen Steuer, WWF-US
Clare Patterson, TRAFFIC
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