

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

Committee II

Improving the efficiency of international cooperation on permit and certificate verification

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.3 (REV. COP15)

This document has been prepared by a working group, following discussion of document CoP16 Doc. 35 (Rev. 1) in the seventh session of Committee II.

This text below is presented as a revision of section XIV of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP15) on Permits and certificates, reflecting the substantial matters in Document CoP16 Doc. 35 (Rev. 1), as an alternative to the proposals contained in that document.

PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES

XIV. Regarding acceptance and clearance of documents and security measures

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) the Parties refuse to accept permits and certificates if they have been altered (by rubbing out, deleting, scratching out, etc.), modified or crossed out, unless the alteration, modification or crossing-out has been authenticated by the stamp and signature, or its electronic equivalent, of the authority issuing the document;
- b) whenever irregularities are suspected, Parties exchange issued and/or accepted permits or certificates to verify their authenticity;
- c) when a security stamp is affixed to a paper permit or certificate, Parties refuse the document if the security stamp is not cancelled by a signature and a stamp or seal;
- d) Parties refuse to accept any permit or certificate that is invalid, including authentic documents that do not contain all the required information as specified in the present Resolution or that contain information that brings into question the validity of the permit or certificate;
- e) Parties refuse to accept permits and certificates that do not indicate the scientific name of the species concerned (including subspecies when appropriate), except in the case where:
 - i) the Conference of the Parties has agreed that the use of higher-taxon names is acceptable;
 - ii) the issuing Party can show it is well justified and has communicated the justification to the Secretariat;
 - iii) certain manufactured products contain pre-Convention specimens that can not be identified to the species level; or
 - iv) worked skins or pieces thereof of *Tupinambis* species that were imported before 1 August 2000 are being re-exported, in which case it is sufficient to use the indication *Tupinambis* spp.;

- f) export permits and re-export certificates be endorsed, with quantity, signature and stamp, by an inspecting official, such as Customs, in the export endorsement block of the document. If the export document has not been endorsed at the time of export, the Management Authority of the importing country should liaise with the exporting country's Management Authority, considering any extenuating circumstances or documents, to determine the acceptability of the document;
- g) when a Party refuses to accept a permit or certificate, it will keep the original or electronic copy or, if this is not compliant with its national laws, it will cancel the paper document indelibly, preferably by perforation, particularly the security stamp, or register the electronic document as cancelled;
- h) when a Party refuses to accept a permit or certificate issued for export or re-export, it immediately inform the exporting or re-exporting country;
- i) when a Party is informed that a permit or certificate it has issued for export or re-export has been refused, it take measures to ensure that the specimens in question do not enter into illegal trade;
- j) Parties ensure that, when the original of a paper permit or certificate is not used by the permittee for the trade authorized, it is returned by the permittee to the issuing Management Authority in order to prevent the illegal use of the document, and in the case of an electronic permit or certificate, notification is sent to the issuing Management Authority and the electronic permit is registered as unused; and
- k) Parties carefully check the e-mails and telefaxes they receive confirming the validity of permits, in order to ensure that the information that appears on them, including the numbers, corresponds to that in the CITES Directory;
- l) when an exporting or re-exporting Party receives a request from an importing Party to verify the authenticity and validity of a CITES permit or certificate, it make every effort to respond to that request within 15 days of receiving the request;
- m) if an exporting or re-exporting Party is not able to verify the validity of a CITES permit or certificate within 15 days of receiving such a request from an importing Party, it should provide a preliminary response within 15 days of receiving the request and a final response as soon as possible thereafter. The maximum period for such verification should not exceed 30 days;