

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



Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Regulation of trade

USE OF CODED-MICROCHIP IMPLANTS FOR MARKING LIVE ANIMALS IN TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Animals Committee.\*
2. Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) on *Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade* tasks the Animals Committee (AC) to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties.
3. The AC Chair was made aware by an expert that the Resolution would need an update as the technologies and standards have changed. Furthermore, there are several specific recommendations in other Resolutions concerning the marking of specimens in trade, such as Resolution Conf. 17.12 on [Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes](#) or Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev.CoP15) on [Universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins](#).
4. The AC Chair in his report on the activities of the Animals Committee to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City, November 2022) in document CoP19 Doc. 9.2.1, suggested that in line with the directions in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17), the AC with the support of the Secretariat will consider these issues in the next intersessional period.
5. In collaboration with the focal point for CITES in the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) Secretariat, Dr. Sven Hüther, the AC Chair conducted a preliminary analysis of Resolution. Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17). Several issues with the current version were detected, including the following:
  - a) Reference is made several times to the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Groups review on the application of coded micro-chips. This review may have to be updated or other similar analysis may have to be included in the recommendations.
  - b) An additional ISO standard, ISO 14223 which is in use, but for which several security measures have not been developed yet, should not be used.
  - c) In the operative part under DIRECTS, letter a: the problems mentioned therein have been solved and this part could be deleted.
6. In addition to the review of Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17), there may be merit in conducting an overall review of all Resolutions dealing with the issue of marking, to consider whether a general Resolution or other technical guidance on marking techniques and standards, also for non-live CITES specimens, might be advisable.

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\* *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.*

7. Based on the preliminary analysis presented in paragraph 5 and considerations in paragraph 6, and in line with the AC mandate outlined in paragraph 2 g) of Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees*, the Chair of the Animals Committee will work intersessionally with the CITES Secretariat and the ISO Secretariat to develop a proposal on this matter for consideration by the Animals Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting (AC33, 2024, date and venue tbc),

Recommendations to the Animals Committee

8. The Animals Committee is invited to note this document.