

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



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

Regulation of trade

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

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Animals Committee, in consultation with the ISO Secretariat and the CITES Secretariat.*

Background

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, 2022) in document [CoP19 Doc. 9.2.1](#), suggested that in line with the directions in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17), the Animals Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, will consider these issues in the next intersessional period.
5. At the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32, Geneva, July 2023), the AC Chair proposed, in line with the AC mandate outlined in paragraph 2 g) of Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees*, to work intersessionally with the CITES Secretariat and the ISO Secretariat to develop a proposal on this matter for consideration by the Animals Committee at this meeting, taking into account the preliminary analysis in paragraph 5 and considerations in paragraph 6 of document [AC32 Doc. 21](#).

Detected issues with Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) and possible ways forward

6. The following issues with the current version were detected:
 - a) Reference is made several times to the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Groups review on the application of coded micro-chips. It appears that this review is not available anymore and no updates or revisions are planned. It is not clear how this can currently be addressed.
 - 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.

* *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.*

- c) In the operative part under subparagraph 2 a): the problems mentioned therein have been solved and this part could be deleted.
7. In addition, there may be merit in conducting an overall review of all Resolutions dealing with the issue of marking, to consider whether Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions should be amended or if a new Resolution or other technical guidance on marking techniques and standards is required, also for non-live CITES specimens.
- 8 To this end, the Committee may wish to consider proposing the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting (SC78; Geneva, February 2025):

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA The Secretariat shall,

- a) prepare an overview of all currently valid Resolutions dealing with the issue of marking; and
- b) in collaboration with the ISO Secretariat, develop guidance on the various issues in relation to marking as outlined in Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev. CoP17) and document AC33 Doc. 21.

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and determine whether Resolution Conf. 8.13 (Rev CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions should be amended or if a new Resolution or other technical guidance on marking techniques and standards is required, and
- b) submit its recommendations, including possible amendments to existing Resolutions or a new draft resolution to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the overview and draft guidance developed by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA and the recommendations from the Animals Committee under Decision 20.BB; and
- b) submit the results of this work along with its own recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting (CoP21).

Recommendations

9. The Animals Committee is invited to consider proposing the draft decisions in paragraph 8 above to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 78th meeting.