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

Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

REQUIREMENTS FOR A TRACEABILITY SYSTEM FOR REPTILE SKINS

1. This document has been submitted by Switzerland and was prepared by the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP).[1]

2. At its 16th meeting in Bangkok, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.103 which directed the Animals Committee to, among other issues:

   b) examine […] any other relevant available information concerning:

      i) existing marking and tracing systems and, where relevant, accompanying certification schemes of all kinds (and not necessarily limited to those currently in use for trade in wild species), which could provide best practices that might be applicable to snakes;

      ii) a traceability system to confirm the legal origin of snake skins; and

      iii) the economic feasibility of current technologies to implement such a traceability and marking system;

   c) advise the Standing Committee on the feasibility of implementing such a traceability system for snakes; and

   d) report on the status of this work at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee.

3. As a contribution to the work of the Animals Committee outlined in Decision 16.103, RESP – through its International Working Group on Reptile Skins (IWG-RS) – initiated a process to develop the basis of a global traceability information system for reptile skins to complement and strengthen the current CITES permitting system related to this trade.

4. The consultation process comprised an informal information dinner organised by RESP during COP16, two IWG-RS meetings in April and November 2013, site visits to potential pilot countries, a one-year international consultation which included interviews and roundtable discussions attended by the whole spectrum of the value chain stakeholders and a survey by questionnaire (Annex II) to

[1] *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.*

better understand the traceability information system requirements, as well as its potential and/or anticipated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The questionnaire was generated through an interactive process with stakeholders, representative of the whole reptile skins value chain.

5. The consultation process involved more than 130 stakeholders including scientists, academics, CITES management authorities in exporting and importing countries, customs officials, animal welfare groups, traders, tanners, manufacturers, retailers and local communities from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Vietnam.

6. Annex I of this document presents the analytic results and main findings of the consultation process conducted by RESP on system requirements of the global traceability information system for reptile skins. These results provide the technical basis to begin the development of the marking and application technology, databases and information system.

7. The Animals Committee is invited to consider the results of the consultation conducted by RESP on the system requirements of a global traceability information system for reptile skins and to provide its recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON REPTILE SKINS

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR A

GLOBAL TRACEBILITY INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR REPTILE SKINS

Main findings and recommendations

1. Background

The International Working Group on Reptile Skins (IWG-RS) of the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP) has set a goal to develop, test and implement a global traceability information system for reptile skins and its corresponding databases in a number of pilot countries (including Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa) by the end of 2016.

The system aims to ensure legal, sustainable, stable and continuous supply chains for reptile skins by tracing skins from their origin in the wild or breeding facility up to the final product with controls along the entire supply and regulatory chain.

In support of the preparatory work undertaken in 2012 and 2013, the IWG-RS mandated the RESP Secretariat to confirm and document the system's requirements of all stakeholders including: source countries, industry, CITES authorities and supporting institutions.

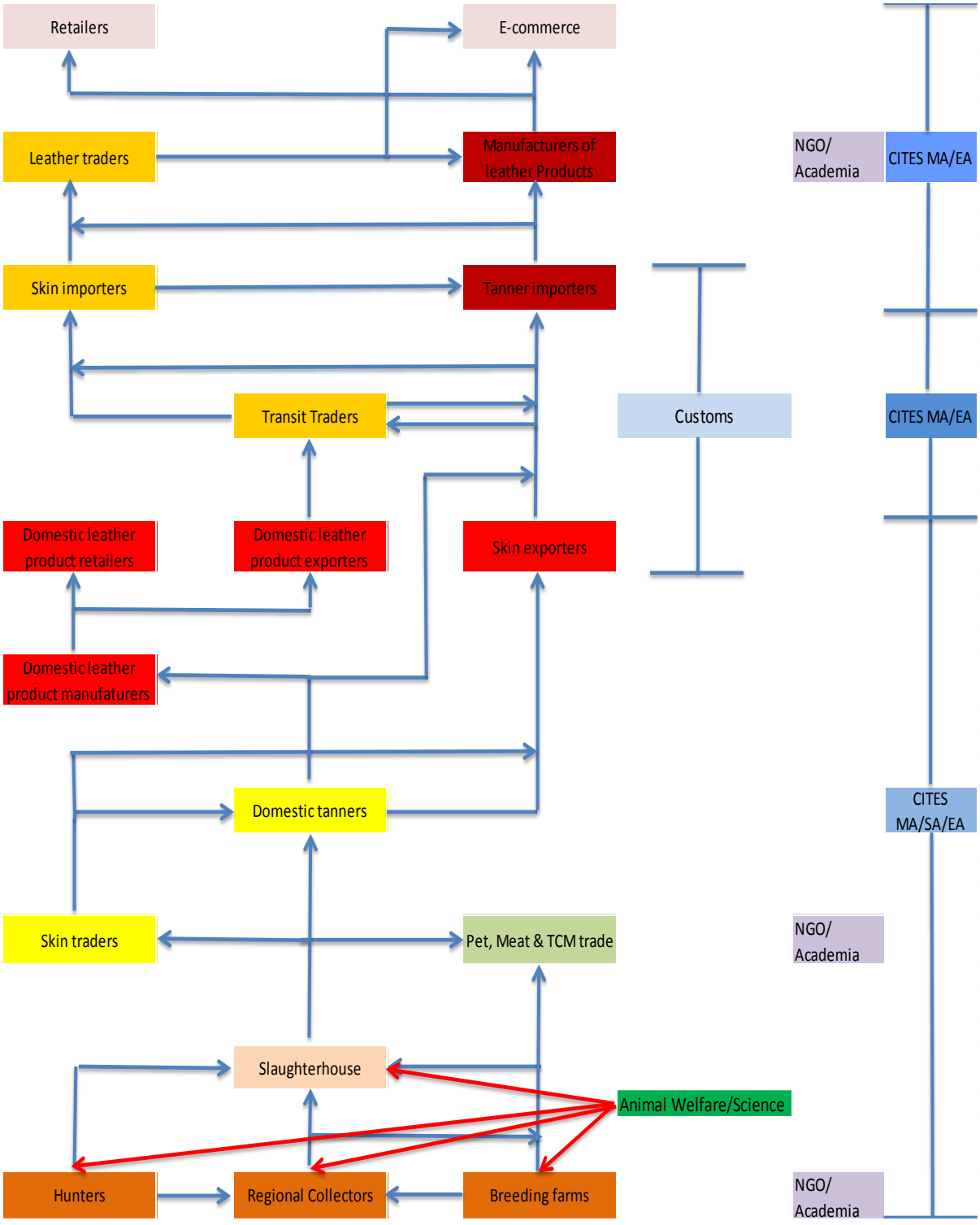
The work leading up to the achievement of the above-mentioned objective should contribute to the current CITES discussions on this topic and provide concrete recommendations based on actual field experimentation and testing to COP17, as well as specific inputs to the different meetings of the Animals Committee and Standing Committee leading up to COP17.

2. Documenting and confirming system requirements

In order to confirm the system requirements, and as the last part of the consultation process which began in early 2013, RESP distributed to a broad number of stakeholders involved in the reptile skins value chains a comprehensive questionnaire with 33 questions (Annex II), generated through an interactive process with selected stakeholder representatives for the whole value chain.

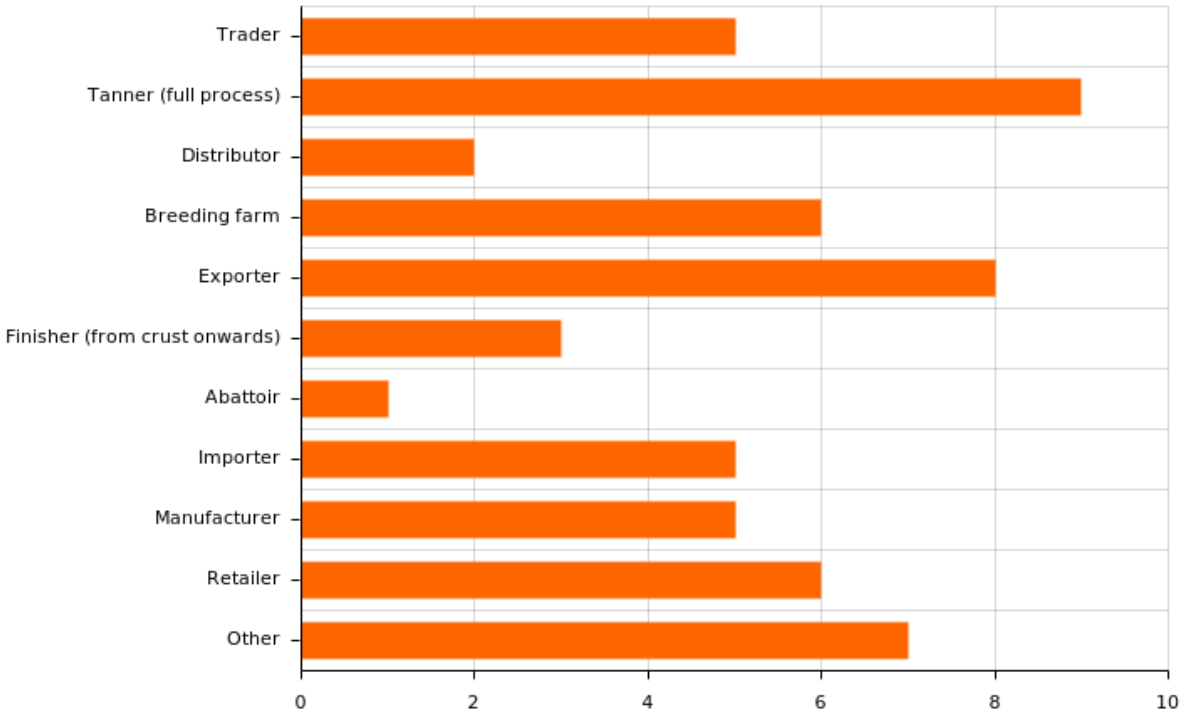
The illustration below provides a schematic representation of the flow of the value chain, including the main stakeholders of the reptile skins value chain and which was taken as a basis for the stakeholder consultation identification process.

Illustration 1. General schematic representation of reptile skin value chain



Responses were received from all categories of stakeholders. Respondents representing inter-governmental organisations accounted for 15% of the questionnaires received and government agencies for 11%. NGOs and academic institutions covering fields such as evolution, ecology, sustainability, animal welfare, conservation management, population research and sector associations, represented 23% of respondents; and industry stakeholders represented 51%. Within the industry category, responses were received from a wide array of stakeholders as illustrated in Graph 1.

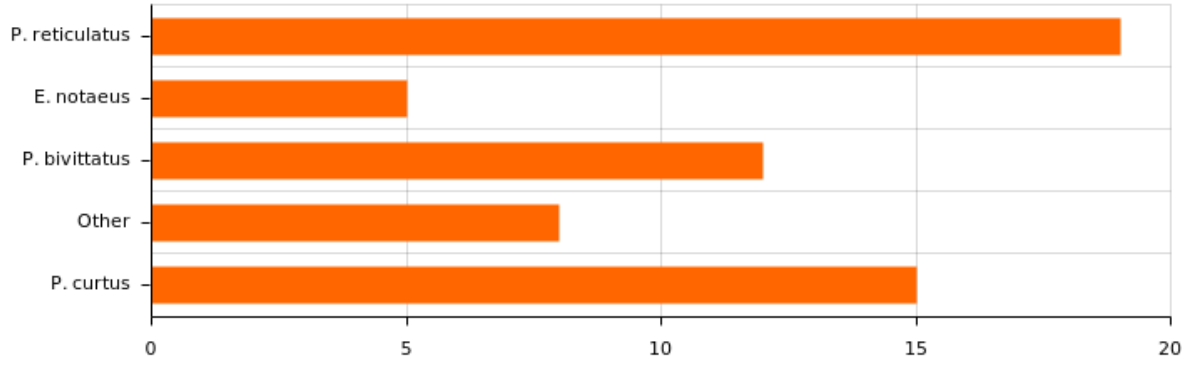
Graph 1. Number of respondents by category of industry stakeholders of the value chain.



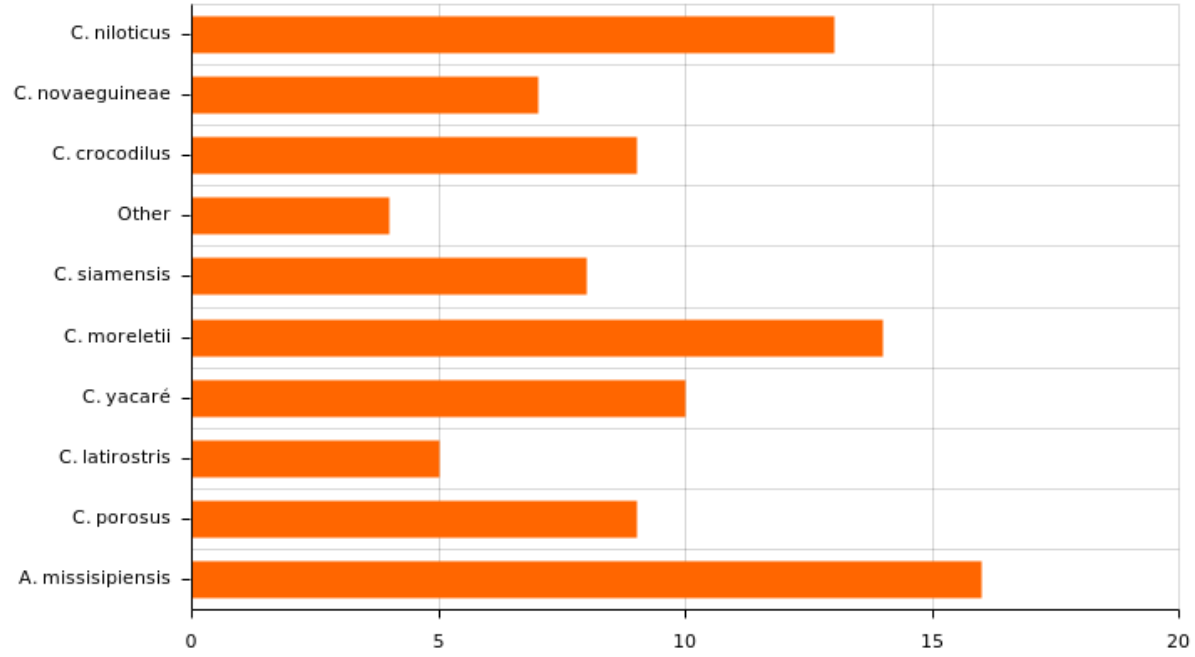
From the species perspective, the respondents to the questionnaire dealt with the three major categories of reptile skin trade: 54.8% with snake skins, 76.2% with crocodilian skins and 45.2% with lizard skins. Many of the respondents dealt with two or all three species categories.

Graph 2 presents the different snake species covered by the questionnaire, Graph 3 presents the crocodilian species and Graph 4 presents the lizard species.

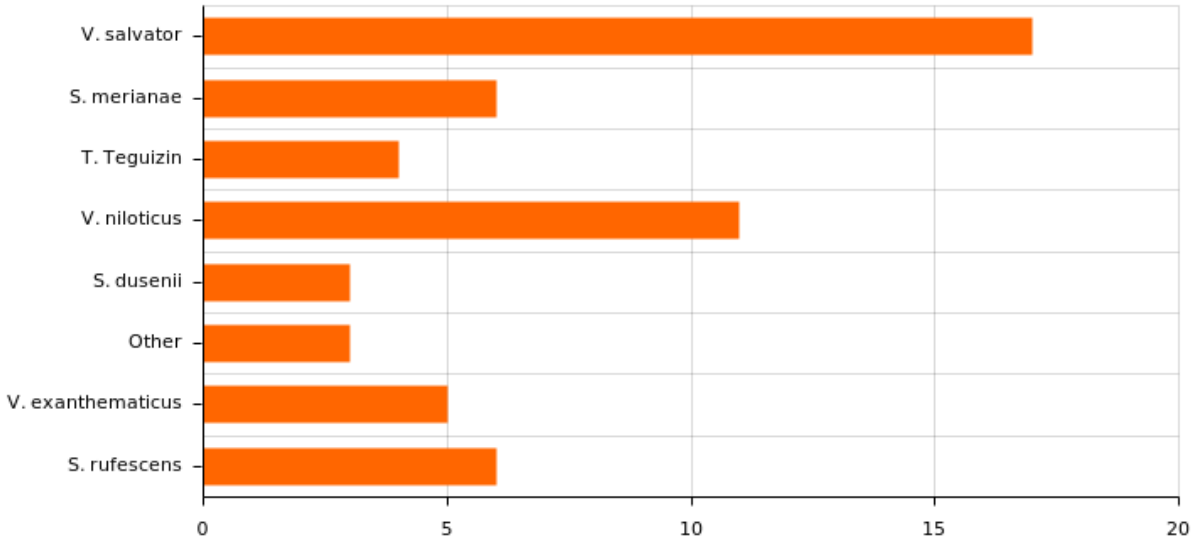
Graph 2. Number of respondents dealing with specific snake species



Graph 3. Number of respondents dealing with specific crocodilian species



Graph 4. Number of respondents dealing with specific lizard species



The figures presented in this section demonstrate that the responses received cover the whole value chain in all its aspects and that the generated results are representative of the requirements of global trade in reptile skins.

3. Main findings

3.1 Elements of the global traceability information system

According to the results of the questionnaire, the global traceability information system should be composed of four main elements: 1) an identification device, 2) an application device, 3) a tracking system, and 4) a global database linked to all the national databases.

3.1.1 Identification devices (also known as tagging devices)

Although there was some variance with regards to the main objectives of the identification device depending on the category of the stakeholder and their role within the supply chain, there was an overall convergence that an effective identification device should serve the purpose of securing against fraud throughout the entire value chain from the production of the skins (abattoir and/or farm) up to the final product in a transparent verifiable way and in real time.

Respondents to the survey had a broad experience in using existing identification devices with 42% having used plastic-loop tags, 21% plastic button tags, 16% paper tags, 16% with radio-frequency identification (RFID) chips, and 23% other devices, which varied from "passive integrated transponders" to different skin cuts to metallic numbered claw tags or colour-coded plastic loops.

It was clearly stated in the questionnaires that existing devices do not meet the expectations of stakeholders and that a more advanced and tamper-free device should be developed that is easily readable electronically like those based on RFID, barcode, microchips or other related technology. Table 1 below highlights the main requirements identified by the main stakeholder groups regarding the identification device.

Some specific challenges were clearly identified by an important number of respondents including the identification of skins once they have been cut in a relatively great number of pieces that are then re-combined to form the final product, the lack of adequate options to identify the animals/eggs that are wild harvested/ranched, and the current practice of many tanneries to remove the original tags to avoid the damaging of skins during leather processing and not exclude the use of certain machines in mechanical operations.

Regarding the removal of the tags, none of the responses favoured permanent removal of the identification device and there was a strong view (63% of the respondents) that the identification device should not be removed at any stage of the value chain, as shown in Graph 5. Reasons for not allowing even the temporary removal of the identification device is the fear of losing full control of the traceability of individual skins and of undermining the entire traceability of the supply chain, thus potentially opening the door to fraud and white-washing of illegal skins.

The remaining 37% felt that it should be possible to remove the identification device temporarily for production reasons. The main reasons for allowing for temporary removal of identification device were linked to the chemical and mechanical complexities of the tanning and manufacturing process that would make it unavoidable to temporarily remove the device in order to avoid damage to the skins during processing. Most of the respondents who favoured the temporary removal of the identification device considered that it would be acceptable to identify skins in batches until after the finishing operation when the replacement device could be placed in each individual skin and traced through the batches to its origin.

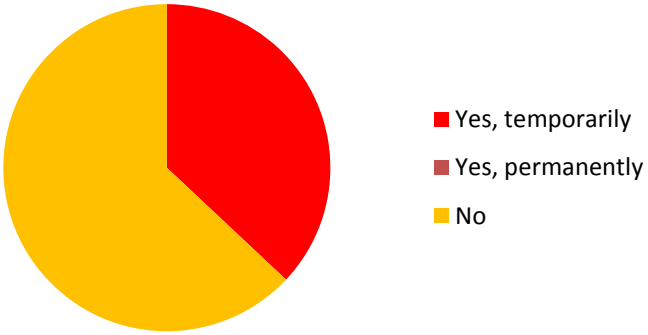
Table 1. Main requirements for identification device as expressed by stakeholder category

Stakeholder group	Main requirements for identification device
CITES Authorities	- Be tamper- free and reliable - Be linked directly to CITES documentation - Follow the skin from cradle to grave - Be permanent
Customs officials	- Be tamper- free and reliable - Be linked directly to CITES documentation - Follow the skin from cradle to grave - Be permanent - Be readable with existing technologies, including mobile application technology
Inter-governmental	- Be tamper- free and reliable

bodies	- Be linked directly to CITES documentation - Follow the skin from cradle to grave - Be permanent
Hunters/ collectors	- Be inexpensive - Be easy to apply to the skin - Allow for a simple data input procedure - Be compatible with mobile application technology
Breeders	- Be inexpensive - Be easy to apply to the skin - Allow for a simple data input procedure
Abattoirs	- Be inexpensive - Be easy to apply to the skin - Allow for a simple data input procedure
Exporters/importers/ traders	- Be readable with existing and easy to use technologies - Allow for a simple data input procedures
Tanners / Finishers	- Be readable with existing and easy to use technologies - Allow for a simple data input procedures - Be removable or process resistant and quality safe - Be inexpensive
Manufacturers	- Be readable with existing and easy to use technologies - Allow for a simple data input procedures - Be fragmentation friendly - Be tamper- free and reliable - Be inexpensive
Retailers	- Be readable with existing and easy to use technologies - Allow for a simple data input procedures - Be tamper- free and reliable - Be permanent
Scientists	- Be tamper- free and reliable - Be permanent
NGO representatives / academics	- Be tamper- free and reliable - Be permanent

Considering this, a major system requirement will be to develop an identification device that can resist the chemical and mechanical operations of the tanning process without damaging the skins as the only way to ensure total traceability of individual skins.

Graph 5. Views on whether it should be possible to remove the identification device for processing



Regarding the identification of the animals/eggs and the area of capture, it was considered that a potential option would be to concentrate on the identification of hunters and/or collectors through a register that would then be linked to the identification device applied to the skin from the animal that was hunted or collected from the registered individual.

Finally, regarding the procurement and distribution of the identification devices, it is generally believed that the national CITES MA or SA should be in charge of ordering and distributing the devices and that there should be a central management system at the CITES secretariat with the support of an IT infrastructure, which can be either institutional or private based.

3.1.2 Application device or method

The objective of the application device or method is to ensure that the identification device can be easily and securely attached to the skin.

Notwithstanding the fact that the questionnaire did not include many questions regarding the requirements for the application device or method, through the information provided in other areas, some important results can be drawn.

The results of the questionnaire indicated that although most crocodilians are farm bred or ranched and that most pythons are mainly harvested from nature, the system should not treat production methods differently. As such, the application device should be accessible and applicable both in technologically and well-structured breeding farms and in remote places and by individuals with low educational skills.

3.1.3 Tracking system

The results of the questionnaire pointed to a certain degree of confusion between the identification devices and the tracking systems. Many stakeholders believe that once a skin is tagged (identified) it is also traced; however this is not the case.

In assessing the current identification devices used (see section 3.1.1) and linked to the CITES permitting system, one of the major shortcomings identified was their inability to track the skins throughout the supply chain. Table 2 below highlights the main requirements identified by stakeholder groups regarding the tracking system.

Notwithstanding that opinions were mixed regarding the effectiveness of the existing system for crocodilians, there was a strong convergence that any tracking system developed, should link directly to the CITES permitting system and be universal to all reptile skins.

Table 2. Main requirements for tracking system as expressed by stakeholder category

Stakeholder group	Main requirements for tracking system
CITES Authorities	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation and trade - Be able to establish the accurate source of the animal - Cradle to grave principle - Be universal - Provide a reliable source for correct identification of species - Be applicable to fragments of skins
Customs officials	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation and the conformity products with documentation - Be able to establish the accurte source of the animal - Provide a reliable source for correct identification of species - Be universal - Be applicable to fragments of skins - Streamline the verification process - Be applicable to the consumer product
Inter-governmental bodies	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation and trade - Cradle to grave principle - Be universal
Hunters/ collectors	- Include bio-sustainability and animal welfare data - Be able to ensure the legality of documentation
Breeders	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation - Be credible and supported by all stakeholders - Provide management efficiency
Abattoirs	- Be able to ensure the legality of sourcing
Exporters/importers/ traders	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation - Be able to ensure the legality of sourcing - Streamline documentation process
Tanners / Finishers	- Be able to ensure the legality of sourcing - Streamline documentation process - Provide management efficiency - Be able to provide quality verification raw materials vs. suppliers
Manufacturers	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation and trade - Be able to ensure the legality of sourcing - Be applicable to the consumer product - Include bio-sustainability and animal welfare data - Cradle to grave principle - Be credible and supported by all stakeholders
Retailers	- Be able to ensure the legality of documentation and trade - Be able to ensure the legality of sourcing - Be applicable to the consumer product

	- Include bio-sustainability and animal welfare data - Cradle to grave principle - Be credible and supported by all stakeholders
Scientists	- Include bio-sustainability and animal welfare data - Be credible and supported by all stakeholders - Provide a reliable source for correct identification of species - Be accessible for scientific research
NGO representatives / academics	- Include bio-sustainability and animal welfare data - Be able to ensure the legality of trade

In order to effectively and transparently track skins in real-time and throughout the value chain, it is necessary to establish adequate points of data input, control and define specific rules and procedures, including roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders who should be directly involved in the system. This also entails that the system should be based on a universally harmonised technology that is accessible to all the stakeholders involved and should be compatible for use with common apparatus like smartphone applications technology.

The tracking technology used by the system should be inherent to the identification device. Even though the respondents to the questionnaire did not indicate a strong preference towards a specific technology, it was stated clearly that it should be based on digital electronics, provide real-time information and be linked to a global database, and thus – as in the case of the identification device – RFID, barcode, and other microchip technology were mentioned as possible options.

Data input points should be established at each entry/exit point of the flow of the skin throughout the value chain beginning when the skin first enters the system, which should be either when the animal is bred, captured or the egg collected, to when it leaves the system at the point of sale and beyond in the case of many high value products that need to be sent back across borders for maintenance or repairs. Last but not least, the system will protect consumers when confronted by official bodies like customs, wildlife agencies, among others, concerning the legality of the product they carry or wear.

Most of the stakeholders already access/produce data related to official CITES permits, export and import documentation, shipping and material quality/quantity/size information, invoicing, etc. The tracking system should aim to integrate to the extent possible to these existing information flows already existing within the value chain.

Data control points should be established in specific points of the value chain where the flow of the skins comes together for the handling/processing by a limited number of stakeholders. The points identified by the respondents as the most appropriate included, ports of exports/imports (customs), tanneries and the final brand/retail point.

Finally, appropriate system rules, procedures and guidelines should be created and made accessible to all stakeholders directly linked to the system.

The results of the questionnaire shed light on a vast number of tracking systems and technologies already in operations at the farm, tannery and manufacturing level. Most of these tracking systems are linked to ERP software with the objective to follow the animal, the skin or the batch of skins throughout the production/transformation process. In many cases, these internal systems link to CITES import/export documentation and/or tag numbers and hence constitute a limited traceability system from the arrival of the materials up to the sale to the customer. But each of these systems is unique for the individual entity and is not accessible from outside sources.

The development of the tracking system and related technology should consider the existing knowledge and expertise of existing in-house traceability systems. From those stakeholders with previous tracking system experience, approximately 73% of them though that their experience might be useful and provide useful inputs to the development of the new global system, and as pointed out in section 3.5,

there was a strong willingness from the stakeholders consulted to share this experience and participate in the development of the system.

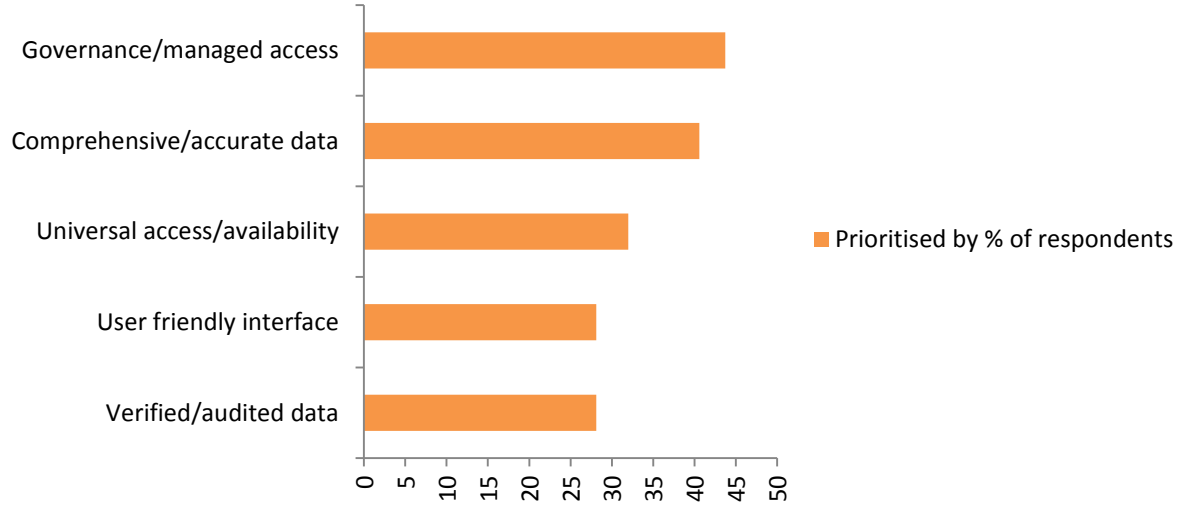
3.1.4 Global database

The global traceability information system must have a secure central database that links to national and commercial databases which can be consulted real-time. Information in the database should cover the entire value chain from the hunters and/or breeding farms up to the final product, or from cradle to grave.

Many stakeholders indicated the information system as a "Multi-enterprise Collaboration HUB" or "Supply Chain Collaboration", which indicates and overall need for further transparency and a call to strengthen the collaboration between the different stakeholders to achieve this.

The system is expected to be compatible with national databases and industry ERP systems and linked to the CITES permit system, safeguarding commercial interests. Graph 6 provides the top 5 most important factors to consider in developing the global database. The most important factor highlighted by 43.75% of respondents was the transparent and effective governance of the system including the management of access to data. Closely following with 40.6% was the importance of ensuring a comprehensive and accurate set of data which should be comparable to support decision making at the international level. The third factor in level of importance with 32% referred to ensuring universal access and 24/24 availability of data. Finally, there was a tie for the 4th spot between ensuring that the data of the system is externally verified and audited (which also links to the 2nd place factor of having accurate data), and making sure that the user interface is friendly towards all the potential users. Although it did not make it into the first five spots, it is worth mentioning that security did come up as the first priority for close to 20% of the respondents.

Graph 6. Top 5 most important factors to consider in developing the global database

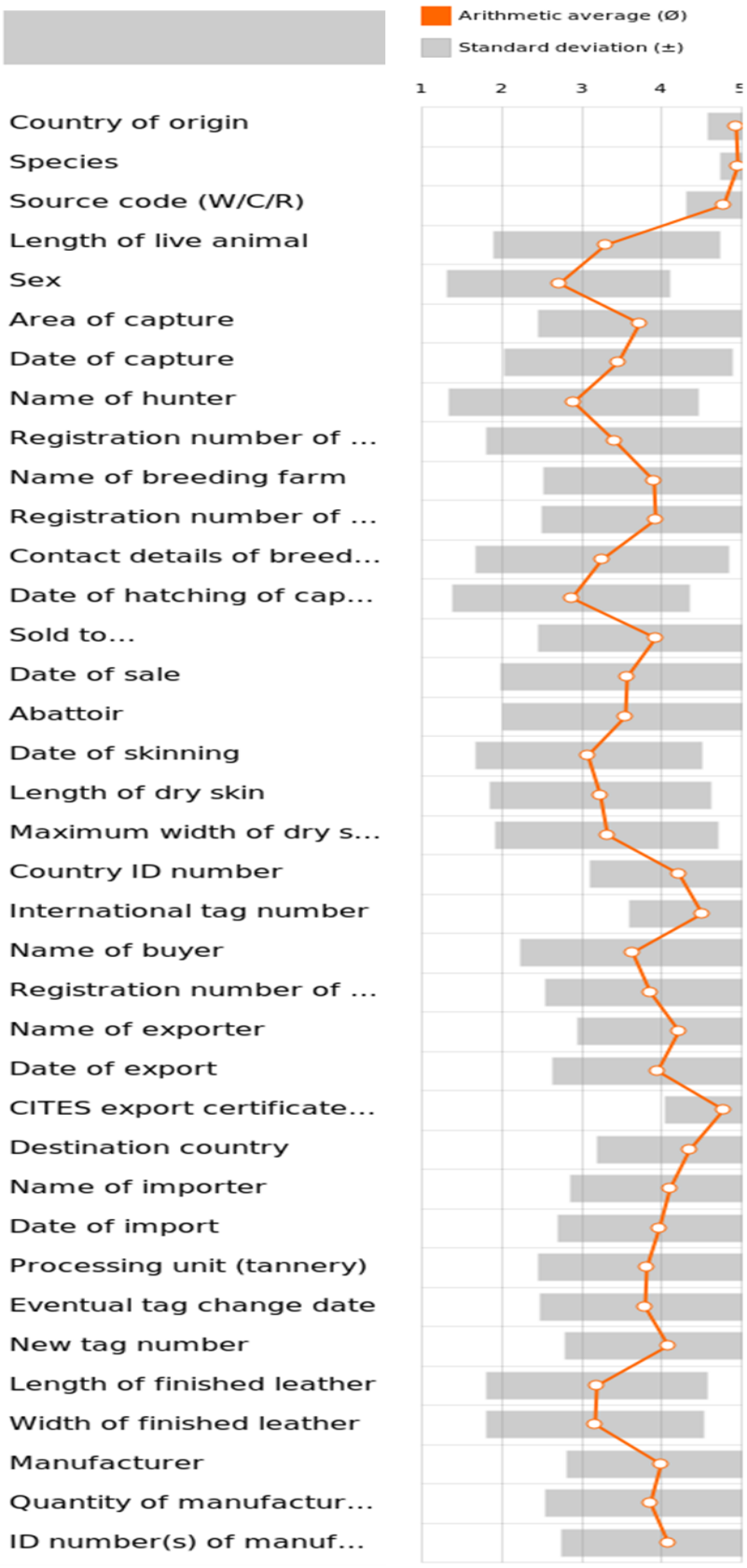


3.2 Data series

Having comprehensive, accurate and verified data ranked very high in stakeholders' priorities with regards to the requirements of the global database. As such, this section will explore the types of data that are expected to be captured, accessed and analysed by the system.

Table 3 below provides the level of importance of including specific data (pre-established in the questionnaire) as part of the traceability information system. As can be seen from this table, data found in existing CITES permits ranked very high in importance and in general terms, there was no data set that received an average score lower than 2.5 (out of five), with sex of the animal, name of hunter, date of hatching being the only data sets received less than a 3 score.

Figure 1. Rank of importance given to specific data sets to be included in the system



In addition to the list of data provided by the questionnaire, the table below provides additional data sets that were deemed important by respondents to be included as part of the global traceability information system.

Slaughtering method	Hunter harvest number: x/out of y of quota	Information on any contracted processors	National quota information
"statement that info provided is true"	Changes of ownership of live animals	Fiscal/tax information	Communities that are the custodians of habitat/species
Inventory information	Management plans		

It was also deemed important by the respondents that the traceability information system should provide a useful tool for communications, education and awareness building and specific information on these aspects should also be included to enhance the story-telling opportunities of the system.

Some of the most important types of information that could be included to support this story-telling include the description of the full process from harvest to finished goods, including the management plans used to guarantee sustainability and animal welfare best-practices, trends in wildlife populations in host country of material used for the final product, analysis on humane killing methods for reptiles in the skin trade, and information about the species, its origins, its habitat and other basic regulatory information.

It was suggested by a number of respondents that an educational notice should be included on how sustainable use of this species is permitted by law and can have positive effects on conservation, livelihoods of local populations, at the same time indicating that non-regulated and over-exploitation can have a detrimental effect which could potentially lead to the extinction of the species.

Finally, it was also deemed important that information about how the product has been traced to its origins and the importance of this traceability be included.

3.3 Financing of the system

An important number of respondents mentioned that it might be too early to have an understanding of the potential costs per skin of the system and what would be the acceptable and feasible economic costs related to it.

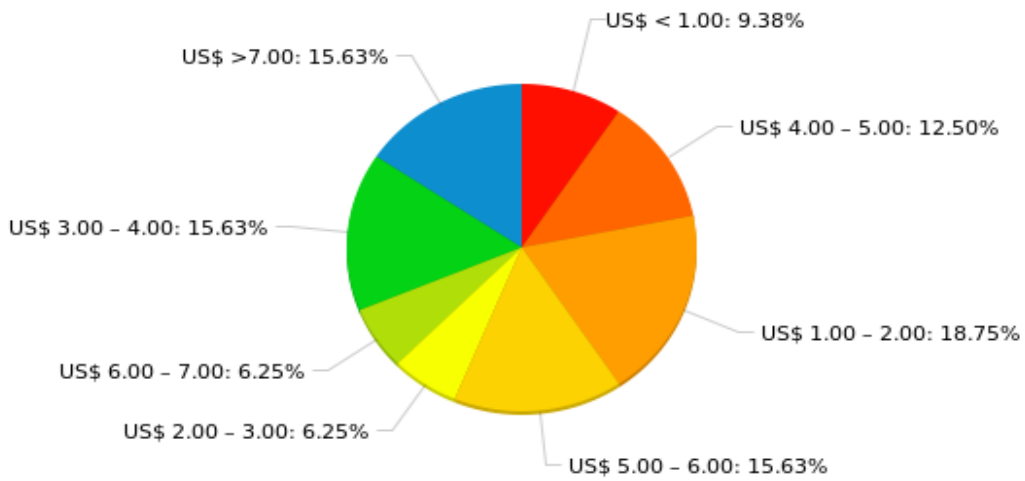
However, the results of the consultation process did provide some useful initial indications regarding the financing of the system such as the confirmation that costs expectations between crocodilians and snakes were not completely aligned.

As illustrated in Graph 7 (price per skin for crocodilians) and Graph 8 (price per skin for snakes), 9.4% of the respondents felt that the price per skin for crocodilians should be less than US $1 whereas for snakes, 19.2% of the respondents felt that the price per skin should be less than US $1.

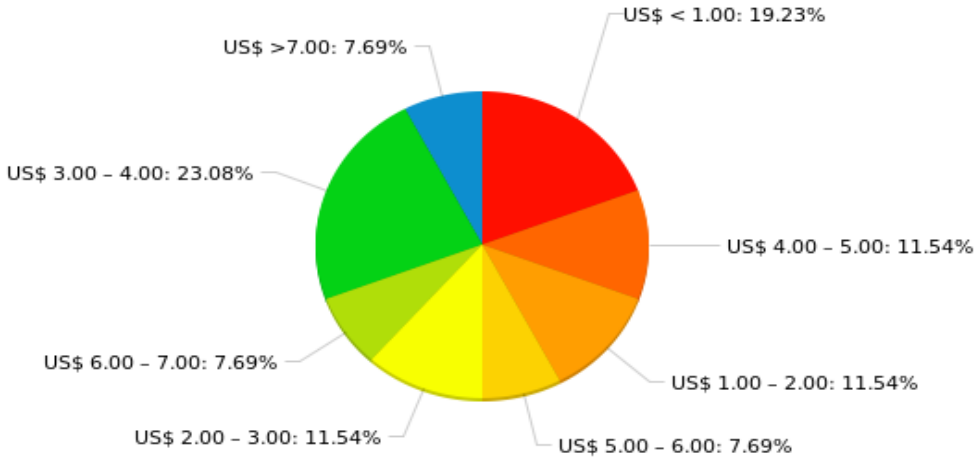
However, for snake skins the price range between US $ 3.00 – 4.00 received the highest number of votes (23.1% of the total) whereas for crocodilian the price range that received the most votes (18.8%)

was lower at US $ 1.00 – 2.00. This is also probably due to the level of urgency seen in establishing a traceability system for snakes as compared to crocodilians.

Graph 7. Acceptable costs of the system for crocodilian skins indicated by price per skin in US dollars

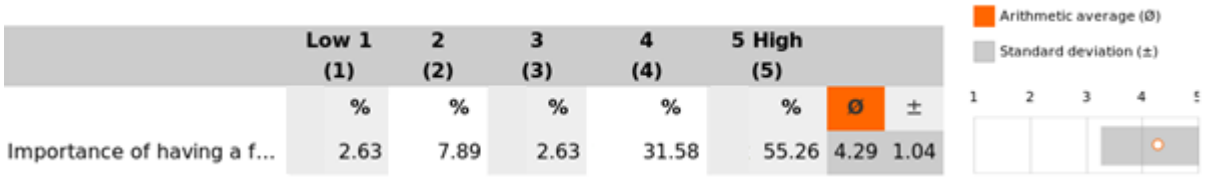


Graph 8. Acceptable costs of the system for snake skins indicated by price per skin in US dollars



Another important information provided by the results of the questionnaire was the importance given to attaching a funding scheme to the traceability system to (co)finance conservation and monitoring activities in the source countries. As demonstrated in Graph 9, 86.45% of the respondents felt that it was either important or very important to have this funding scheme. Only 10.81% of the respondents felt it was not important to have it. On a scale of 1 to 5, the point of gravity for importance was at 4.29.

Graph 9. Importance given to having a funding scheme to co-finance conservation and monitoring activities



	Low 1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 High (5)		
	%	%	%	%	%	Ø	±
Importance of having a f...	2.63	7.89	2.63	31.58	55.26	4.29	1.04

3.4 Major opportunities and risks identified

In view of the responses to the questionnaire, it is clear that each group of interviewees expressed their respective opinions from their own scientific, social and industrial point of view. Some issues found opposing positions due to opposing interests. The scientific approach is mostly focused on sustainability and biodiversity, whereas the commercial view is focussed more on animal welfare, clean supply chain, prestige of the company and its end product. The crosscutting issue that was addressed by all was the urgent requirement for easily accessible, secure tools that assure a verifiable, legal, traceable, socially responsible and sustainable supply chain. The traceability system is expected by all categories to contribute to wildlife conservation.

The table below provides a SWOT analysis of a traceability system for reptile skins as seen by the value chain stakeholders through their responses to the questionnaires.

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
- Demand from CITES Parties - Stakeholder driven - Stakeholder familiarity with issues at hand - Stakeholder experience with existing identification and tracking systems - Awareness of stakeholders' need for legality - Financial soundness of the value chain - CITES existing worldwide set-up - Proven economic sustainability crocodile breeding - Widespread interest for overall improvement value chain - Stakeholder willingness to test and experiment	- Great diversity of stakeholders - Conflicts of interest among stakeholder categories and between species categories - Existing identification systems unsatisfactory - Widespread economic interests of illegal trade - Falsification of CITES documentation - Unproven economic sustainability for captive breeding of pythons - Corruption - Fragmentation of skins during production process - Lack of already identified suitable options
Opportunities	**Threats**
- Strengthen CITES objectives - Legalisation of the value chain - Transparency and credibility of the value chain - Ethical and sustainable sourcing - Simplification of bureaucracy - Real-time verification and controls - Contribution to biodiversity and sustainability research and actions - Improvement of animal welfare practices - Improvement of social and financial conditions of the upstream value chain	- Dissent among value chain members - Bureaucratic complications - Complicated procedures of data inputs - Possible cost, insufficient financing - Fraud by non-compliant entities - Abuse of system to whitewash illegal products - Insufficient risk management - Rivalry between stakeholders / species categories – crocodilians vs. snakes - Non implementation guidelines - Corruption

- Cradle to grave traceability of reptile products - Consumer confidence and protection - Funding wildlife sustainability programs - Capacity building for human resources - Trade facilitation	- Production market shift to non-compliant countries or entities - System provokes trade barriers - Increased production costs

In general terms, stakeholders stated that a transparent and effective traceability system would significantly increase the legality of the trade, which is considered already at a high level for the crocodilians but insufficient or non-existent for the snakes.

The major brands believe that a traceability system would give credibility to the industry and enhance consumer confidence, by putting the industry in a better light regarding animal welfare compliance up to the final product. Scientists expect to obtain better indications on the sustainability of populations in the wild from the system.

Some respondents who are not currently using snake skins in their product lines would, with a credible traceability system, be willing to consider the use of snake skins for their products which could lead to the creation of employment. Last but not least the traceability system should reduce the use of counterfeited CITES export certification and ensure the correct use of source denomination and obedience of local CITES Appendix restrictions.

Respondents to the questionnaire also highlighted a number of potential risks if the system is not developed and/or implemented correctly. Some operators warn against the risk of disclosure of commercially sensitive data in an inefficient system.

The European tanning industry believes that there is a certain risk that a badly managed, over bureaucratic or insecure system will divert the trade to non-compliant countries, which do not, or even only partly, implement the traceability system.

Some interviewees fear that an ineffective system will increase corruption and/or invite non-compliant operators to circumvent the system and even exploit the system to legalise illegal skins, and hence not improve the legality of the trade, or even deplete the natural resources.

The transformation industry fears that the introduction and implementation of a traceability system will increase production costs and influence negatively the profitability and indirectly employment particularly in Western Europe.

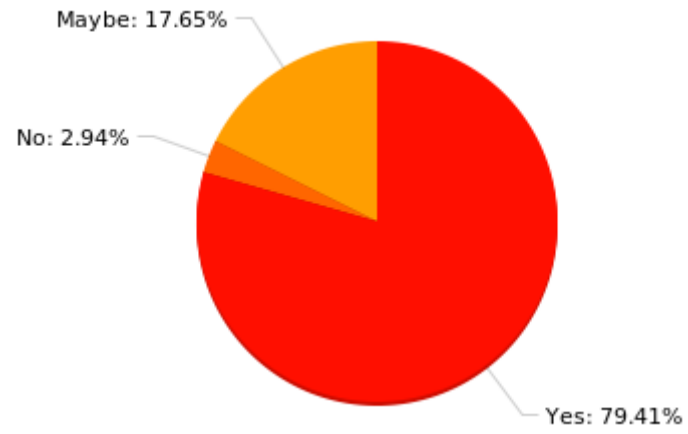
The results pointed to the need for a universal system for all reptile skins and indicated that it would not be appropriate to separate the system between crocodilians, snakes and lizards. However, since crocodilians are believed to have a fairly effective identification system, urgency was put on pythons and lizards. It was also indicated that the future identification devices should consider that the skin of the snakes is more delicate and that the present crocodile tags would not be suitable.

3.5 Interest and commitment to engage in the development of the system

In order to assess the potential engagement of key stakeholders and their interest to actively participate in the process of development of the global traceability information system that is being undertaken by the IWG-RS of RESP, the questionnaire included a couple of questions pertaining to the willingness of respondents to share their existing knowledge and expertise in support of the development of the system; and if they would be interested in participating in the RESP initiative and take part in the development of the system.

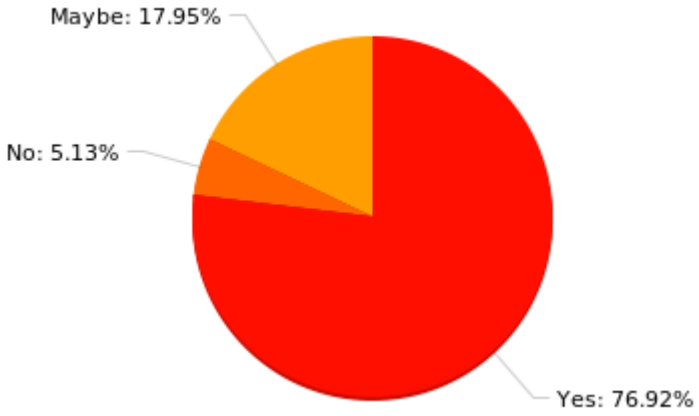
Of the 73% of respondents that believed their experience and knowledge of identification devices could be valuable for the development of the system, 97% affirmed that they would be open to possibly sharing their experience, with 79.41% who confirmed their willingness to do so, as shown in Graph 10.

Graph 10. Willingness of stakeholders to share their experience in support of the development of the system



Finally, similar level of responses was received regarding stakeholders interest to participate in the IWG-RS and take part in the development of the system. As shown in Graph 11, 94.87% of the respondents expressed their potential interest in participating with 76.92% having confirmed their interest in participating.

Graph 11. Willingness of stakeholders to share their experience in support of the development of the system



The overall results of the consultation processes undertaken over a period of more than one year, indicate that there is a level of awareness and momentum building up around the development and implementation of an effective global traceability information system which can contribute and be linked to the current CITES permitting system.

In response to these results, RESP will activate the development phase of the traceability system following the AC27 in line with the recommendations and inputs received from the Parties of CITES on this occasion, and will contribute to provide inputs to the CITES process in the lead up to COP17.

RESP

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON REPTILE SKINS

QUESTIONNAIRE ON

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR A TRACEBILITY INFORMATION SYSTEM

CONFIDENTIAL

(For exclusive use of RESP)[2]

Please submit to eduardo.escobedo@resp.ch by 31 January 2014

Purpose

The International Working Group on Reptile Skins (IWG-RS) of the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP) has initiated and endorsed during its meeting on 19 November 2013, the practical phase to develop and successively experiment a global traceability information system for reptile skins. The system is intended ensure legal, stable and continuous supply chains for reptiles skins by tracing skins from their origin in the wild or breeding facility up to the final product through identification schemes associated with information systems with various controls along the supply and regulatory chain.

In support of the preparatory work undertaken in 2012 and 2013, the IWG-RS has mandated the RESP Secretariat to confirm and document the system's requirements of all stakeholders including: source countries, industry, CITES authorities and supporting institutions.

The questionnaire has been formulated to better understand the system's requirements, as well as its potential and/or anticipated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The information provided in the questionnaire will support the production of a document that will provide the technical basis to begin the development of the marking and application technology, databases and information system. This document, containing the results of the system requirements analysis and recommendations, will be submitted for the consideration of the 27th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee.

[2] *All the information provided in this questionnaire will be used solely by the RESP Secretariat for the purpose of internal strategy development linked to the development of the traceability information system by the IWG-RS and will be treated as confidential. Results of the questionnaires will be aggregated and communicated only on a whole with no references made to any specific questionnaire.*

1st PART - GENERAL INFORMATION

Name:	
Function:	
Company / Organisation:	
Country:	
Email Address:	

1. What type of organisation do you represent?
   (Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

Inter-governmental Institution ☐ Environmental Convention ☐ UN-Agency ☐ Other (specify):
Government ☐ CITES MA ☐ CITES SA ☐ CITES EA ☐ Other (specify):
Commercial ☐ Hunter ☐ Breeding farm ☐ Abattoir ☐ Trader ☐ Exporter ☐ Importer ☐ Tanner (full process) ☐ Finisher (from crust onwards) ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Distributor ☐ Retailer ☐ Other(specify):
Institutional ☐ NGO covering:

☐ Academic covering:

☐ Scientist covering:

2. What type of species do you deal with?
(Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

Snakes

☐ *P. reticulatus* ☐ *P. bivittatus* ☐ *P. curtus*

☐ *E. notaeus* ☐ Other

Crocodilians

☐ *C. niloticus* ☐ *C. siamensis* ☐ *C. porosus*

☐ *C. novaeguineae* ☐ *C. moreletii* ☐ *A. missisipiensis*

☐ *C. crocodilus* ☐ *C. yacaré* ☐ *C. latirostris*

☐ Other

Lizards

☐ *V. salvator* ☐ *V. niloticus* ☐ *V. exanthematicus*

☐ *S. merianae* ☐ *S. dusenii* ☐ *S. rufescens*

☐ *T. Teguizin* ☐ Other

3. What is the range of your activities with regards to the potential traceability system?
(Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

☐ Local ☐ Domestic ☐ International

4. Please briefly describe all the transformation and/or bureaucratic processes that your organisation undertakes related to the skins, that you believe might impact or be impacted by the traceability information system.

5. Please briefly describe what official documentation is received and/or generated by your organisation (permits, authorisations, invoices, etc.), if any:

6. What are the most important issues and requirements related to your organisation that a traceability system should help you address? (Maximum 3)

   a)

   b)

   c)

7. Are there any specific issues and/or requirements that should be addressed separately between crocodilian and snake skins?

   If any, please specify:

8. What are the most important opportunities for your organisation that a traceability system could create if developed and implemented effectively? (Maximum 3)

   a)

   b)

   c)

9. Beyond the general opportunities for your organisation mentioned above, would there be any specific opportunities related either to crocodilian and/or snake skins that you would like to mention?

   Please specify:

10. What are the most important potential risks that a traceability system could create for trade in <u>snake skins</u> if not developed or implemented effectively? (Maximum 3)

    a)

    b)

    c)

11. What are the most important potential risks that a traceability system could create for trade in <u>crocodilian skins</u> if not developed or implemented effectively? (Maximum 3)

    a)

    b)

    c)

12. On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest), and in addition to the costs related to inherent function of the traceability system (such as determining the origin of the material, tracking the flow throughout the supply chain, etc.), how important do you think it is to

have a funding scheme attached to the traceability system, which finances conservation and monitoring activities in the source country?
(Mark with "X" as appropriate)

Low				High
1 ☐	2 ☐	3 ☐	4 ☐	5 ☐

13. What range of realistic cost per skin do you objectively think would be viable in the implementation of an effective traceability information system, taking into account that a traceability system aims at legalisation and fair representation of the trade?
(Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

Snake skins
☐ US$ < 1.00 ☐ US$ 1.00 – 2.00 ☐ US$ 2.00 – 3.00 ☐ US$ 3.00 – 4.00

☐ US$ 4.00 – 5.00 ☐ US$ 5.00 – 6.00 ☐ US$ 6.00 – 7.00 ☐ US$ >7.00

Crocodile skins
☐ US$ < 1.00 ☐ US$ 1.00 – 2.00 ☐ US$ 2.00 – 3.00 ☐ US$ 3.00 – 4.00

☐ US$ 4.00 – 5.00 ☐ US$ 5.00 – 6.00 ☐ US$ 6.00 – 7.00 ☐ US$ >7.00

2nd Part – Identification technology & application requirements

14. Has your organisation used/experimented with different types of identification devices, if yes which? (Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

Plastic loop-tag Please specify for which species: ☐ with number ☐ with barcode ☐ with barcode and number
Plastic button tag Please specify for which species: ☐ with number ☐ with barcode ☐ with barcode and number
Paper tag Please specify for which species: ☐ with number ☐ with barcode ☐ with barcode and number
RFID Please specify for which species: ☐ Chips ☐ Other(specify):
Other Please specify for which species: ☐ Please specify:

15. What was the objective to introduce these identification devices and what has been your experience in using them?

16. Please mention which factors are the most important to your organisation with regards to the development of the reptile skins identification and tracking system and related technology considering that these should be economically feasible, accessible, viable, secure and applicable by all stakeholders of the system. (Maximum 3)

    a)

    b)

    c)

17. Do you have already a strong preference with regards to the identification device that could be used for the system? If yes, please mention which, for which species, and the reasons for this.

18. Who do you think should be in charge of the ordering and distribution process of the identification devices?

19. Do you believe that it should be possible to remove the identification devices for processing?
    (Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Temporarily ☐ Permanently

and please share with us the reason why:

20. Do you think your experience in using / experimenting with identification devices could provide valuable input in the development process of the new traceability system?
    (Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

    ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

    and please share with us the reason why:

21. Would you be willing to share your experience with RESP?

    ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

22. Would you be interested in participating in the RESP initiative and taking part in the development of the traceability system?
    (Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

    ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

3rd Part – Data requirements

23. On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being low and 5 being high), what importance would you give to including the following data in the traceability information system?
(Mark the appropriate answer with "X")

	Low				High
	1	2	3	4	5
Country of origin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Source code (W/C/R)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Length of live animal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sex	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Area of capture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of capture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Name of hunter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registration number of hunter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Name of breeding farm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registration number of breeding farm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contact details of breeding farm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of hatching of captive bred specimen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sold to…	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of sale	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Abattoir	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of skinning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Length of dry skin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maximum width of dry skin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Country ID number	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
International tag number	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Name of buyer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registration number of buyer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Name of exporter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of export	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CITES export certificate number	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Destination country	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Name of importer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of import	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Processing unit (tannery)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Eventual tag change date	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New tag number	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Length of finished leather	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Width of finished leather	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Manufacturer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quantity of manufactured objects linked to finished leather tag	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ID number(s) of manufactured objects linked to finished leather tag	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

24. Please mention any additional information that is not mentioned under question 23 and which you may deem important to include as part of the traceability information system (e.g. statutory information on “concessions”, management plans, quotas, harvesting, inventories, movements of skin products and related documentation, etc.):

25. Please mention any other information that might be important to include for communication, education or awareness building purposes?

4th Part – Database technical requirements

26. What are the most important factors to consider in developing the global database?
(Maximum 3)

a)

b)

c)

27. Please provide information of the database system that you are currently using, if any:

28. How many users from your organisation do you foresee should have access to input information in the global database?

29. How many users from your organisation do you foresee will access data for consultation purposes from the global database?

30. Please indicate which of the data defined in question 23 should be restricted for consultation and who should have access to this restricted information?
(Mark all applicable pairs of restricted info / access to this restricted information with "X")

	National authorities	CITES MA or SA	NGOs	Customs officials	Traders	Manufacturers	Consumers
Country of origin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Source (W/C/R)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Length of live animal	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sex	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Area of capture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Date of capture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Name of hunter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Registration number of hunter	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Name of breeding farm	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Registration number of breeding farm	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Contact details of breeding farm	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Date of hatching of captive bred specimen	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Sold to…	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Date of sale	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Abattoir	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Date of skinning	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Length of dry skin	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Maximum width of dry skin	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Country ID number	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
International tag number	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Name of buyer	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Registration number of buyer	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Name of exporter	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Date of export	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
CITES export certificate number	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Destination country	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Name of importer	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Date of import	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Processing unit (tannery)	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Eventual tag change date	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
New tag number	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Length of finished leather	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Width of finished leather	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Manufacturer	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Quantity of manufactured objects linked to finished leather tag	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
ID number(s) of manufactured objects linked to finished leather tag	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

31. What other data you identified in point 24 should be restricted for access and to whom? (Please mention all applicable)

32. Are there any restrictions within your organisation's Information Technology policy that should be considered with regards to accessing the global database from within the company or in remote locations?

33. Which type of organisation do you think should manage the global database?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!