

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES (DECISION 15.53)  
(Agenda item 12)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair:	Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres)
Parties:	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and
IGOs and NGOs:	UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Creative Conservation Solutions and Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform, Humane Society International.

Mandate

1. Review the draft guides in the Annexes to document AC28 Doc. 12 and provide feedback to the Secretariat towards improving the proposed guide on the appropriate use of source codes.
2. Provide suggestions for incorporating examples of different production and cultivation systems into the guidance without overcomplicating the guide.

Recommendations

The working group recommends the Animals Committee adopt the following feedback for transmission to the Secretariat:

**Regarding the document:**

The Animals Committee recognized that the goal of the guide was to assist Parties in determining the most appropriate source code for a particular specimen. The Animals Committee noted this document should not provide guidance towards making a non-detriment finding or an export decision. As such, language regarding the appropriateness of an export should be removed.

The Animals Committee reiterated the aim of creating a clear and user-friendly guide. As such, the Animals Committee noted with appreciation the two formats used for presentation of the *Application of CITES Source Codes* document found in Annexes 1 and 2 of AC28 Doc. 12. The Committee indicated that the final version of the document should include both formats of the guidance as, depending on personal preference, both are equally useful. Given the two presentation styles, the Animals Committee recommends both versions include identical information such that the only variance between the guides is the style of the graphics.

The Animals Committee recommended that the guidance provided should make consistent reference to the Resolutions that form the sources for the guidance. Additionally, the guidance should not introduce new terms such as “farmed.”

The Animals Committee further recommended that the document reflect the definitions for source codes found in Resolution Conf. 12.3 on *Permits and Certificates*. Regarding source code O, the definition of this code in Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 12.3 indicates that this code may be used with another code and the guide could provide guidance on how to implement this requirement of the code.

The Animals Committee recommended that the document provide more guidance in cases where there is uncertainty as to whether provisions of the relevant resolutions have been met.

### **Regarding examples of different productions systems**

In general, the Animals Committee felt the guidance could be improved with the addition of better or more detailed descriptions or advice on how to interpret the language of the Resolutions associated with source codes, including various examples of production systems. For example, Res. Conf. 10.16 on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity* indicates that the competent authority should be satisfied that the breeding stock is “managed in a manner that has been demonstrated to be capable of reliably producing second-generation offspring in a controlled environment.” Advice on what is meant by this language would be useful.

The Animals Committee recommends Parties be invited to propose ideas for case studies on species or types of production systems to support the guide, such as case studies related to the application of source codes for clam mariculture.

It was noted that mixed production systems can cause a practical problem with application of source codes.

### **Regarding challenges in the use of source codes:**

In undertaking the review of this document, the Animals Committee recognized that there is ambiguity within the relevant resolutions associated with source codes and that interpretation can require reference to more than one resolution. These both can result in different interpretations of the use of source codes by the Parties. Some of the challenges identified (noting that there may be others) included:

- The interpretation of source code F versus source code C or source code W was recognized as ambiguous. For example, some Parties emphasized the part of the definition of source code F that says “born in captivity” when considering the application of source code F whereas other Parties also take into consideration the parental lineage when determining the application of source code F.
- Similarly, the Animals Committee noted differences of interpretation regarding the application of source code R versus source code W or source code F, particularly in the case of Appendix II species.
- Source code C is defined by referencing Resolution Conf. 10.16 on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*. However the definition of source code C found in operative paragraph i) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 on *Permits and Certificates* also includes reference to the provisions under which the specimens are traded. Further there can be questions regarding the application of source code C and source code D regarding the purpose of production given the reference to the provisions under which the specimens are traded.

**Conclusions:**

The Animals Committee recommends a new version of this guidance be prepared taking into account the suggestions provided by the Committee above, the additional comments from Parties at this meeting, and the comments from the Plants Committee.

The Animals Committee noted that further feedback from the Standing Committee or Parties, particularly for resolving inconsistent or conflicting direction between existing Resolutions, may be required.