

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-21 May 2005

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the regional representative for North America.
2. At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13; Bangkok, 2004), the United States of America submitted document CoP13 Doc. 49 entitled "Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species", which summarized the deliberations of both the Animals and Plants Committees on the issue of production systems and their relationship to source codes used on CITES permits. Although the discussion of production systems had its genesis at the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee (Antananarivo, July 1999), similar discussions began in the Plants Committee at its 11th meeting (Langkawi, September 2001). The topic of production systems has been on the agendas of nearly every meeting of both committees since. However, these discussions have sometimes been confusing, and clear definitions of different production systems have not yet been developed, nor have the Parties received clear guidance from the Committees on the application of source codes to specimens derived from different production systems.
3. In document CoP13 Doc. 49, the United States recommended that the Animals and Plants Committees complete their work of identifying and defining different production systems, and determine under which existing CITES permit source code each production system appropriately fits and whether the addition of any new source codes is necessary.
4. Following discussion of document CoP13 Doc. 49, the Parties adopted Decision 13.68, which reads:

The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish an intersessional joint working group with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) *the working group shall be composed of members and observer Parties within the Animals and Plants Committees, from as many of the six different CITES regions as possible, with expertise in determining and defining the existing production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants;*
- b) *the working group shall:*
 - i) *focus on clearly defining key elements of the different production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants, and, if appropriate, developing as far as possible a list of specific production systems currently being utilized by Parties;*
 - ii) *determine under which existing CITES permit source code each production system appropriately fits and whether the addition of any new source codes is necessary; and*
 - iii) *consider the definition of 'ranching' within the context of existing CITES Resolutions;*

- c) *to avoid duplication of work, the working group should use, as a basis for its discussions, the following documents on production systems from previous meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees:*
- i) *AC20 WG6 Doc. 1 – Report of the AC20 working group on Control of captive breeding, ranching and wild harvest production systems for Appendix-II species;*
 - ii) *AC20 Inf. 18 – Plant and animal production systems and CITES source codes (prepared by the United States);*
 - iii) *AC20 Inf. 15 – Draft review of production systems – Report to CITES Secretariat (prepared by the IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme);*
 - iv) *PC12 Doc. 23.1 – CITES plant production systems (prepared by the Vice-Chairman of the Plants Committee);*
 - v) *AC19 WG4 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) – Report of the AC19 working group on Control of captive breeding, ranching and wild harvest production systems for Appendix-II species;*
 - vi) *Annex 8.2 of the Summary record of the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee – Report of the Coral Working Group on coral production systems;*
 - vii) *AC17 Inf. 12 – Wild fauna management and production systems: Their description, conservation implications and treatment by CITES (prepared by Dr Hank Jenkins of Creative Conservation Solutions); and*
 - viii) *AC17 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1) – Control of captive breeding, ranching and wild harvest production systems for Appendix-II species (prepared by Dr Hank Jenkins of Creative Conservation Solutions);*
- d) *in evaluating production systems and determining under which source code each production system fits, the working group should take into account that both the Animals and Plants Committees have agreed that source codes should not be used to replace non-detriment findings by Scientific Authorities;*
- e) *the working group should provide interim reports on its progress toward the achievement of its goals at each Animals and Plants Committee meeting between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties;*
- f) *after incorporating suggestions from both the Animals and Plants Committees, the working group should submit a final report, which may include a draft resolution of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and*
- g) *the working group should carry out the majority of its work via email to keep costs to a minimum.*
5. At the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 21st meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, May 2005), the two Committees are to meet in a joint session to address items that have been directed to both Committees by the Conference of the Parties. During this joint session, the Committees should consider establishing an intersessional joint working group on production systems, which could:
- a) meet once during the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees to develop a provisional schedule to complete its work;
 - b) conduct its work intersessionally via e-mail;
 - c) provide a progress report at the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee and 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee and obtain input at those meetings for refinement of the document; and

d) provide a final report at the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee and 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, which, pending further refinements at those meetings, should result in a document for CoP14 containing definitions of production systems and associated source codes, as directed by the Conference of the Parties through Decision 13.68.

6. The relevant documents cited in Decision 13.68 are available on the CITES website.