

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Interpretation and implementation matters

Exemptions and special trade provisions

CAPTIVE-BRED AND RANCHED SPECIMENS:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.102 on *Captive-bred and ranched specimens*, which was renewed at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019). This decision is directed to the Secretariat and reads as follows:

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, engage in a capacity-building project using materials prepared under Decisions 16.63 a) vii) and 15.52 a). This project should involve all regions and a variety of taxa. The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on the work undertaken under the present Decision.

3. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), produced guidance for the inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities, and on the proper application of CITES source codes, in fulfillment of Decisions 16.63, paragraph a) vii) and 15.52, paragraph a).

Implementation of Decision 17.102

4. In March 2021, a capacity development workshop to provide training for African Parties on how to use and apply these guidance materials was hosted by the CITES Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This workshop took place thanks to the generous financial support from the European Union and Switzerland. Because of the difficulties caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop, which was originally scheduled to take place in Benin, was held online. The workshop took place over four days and was held in both English and French. In excess of 100 participants from 19 African countries registered to take part, including CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, customs and national enforcement agencies, and from public institutions involved in the implementation of CITES in Africa. The workshop was also designed to allow Parties to present their experiences at inspecting captive facilities and applying source codes and to learn from other Parties across Africa.
5. To provide additional capacity-building support to Parties in relation to the use of source codes and the inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities, thanks to funding from the European Union and Switzerland, the Secretariat partnered with IUCN to develop a mobile and tablet application (app) for (i) determining the correct source codes of specimens, and (ii) undertaking inspections of captive breeding and ranching facilities for CITES listed taxa and evaluating compliance of those facilities with the requirements of the Convention. The documents "*Guide to the application of CITES source codes (2017)*" and "*Guidelines for inspection of captive-breeding and ranching facilities (2017)*", referred to in paragraph 3 above, were used as the basis for the development of this app.

6. The app, called CapaCITES, is a multilingual tool to assist with inspection of captive-breeding and ranching facilities and determination of source codes for CITES permits. For determination of source codes, the app guides the user through a series of questions to identify the correct source code of a specimen. Additional information and links are provided throughout the App to assist the user. For inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities, the app guides the user through a series of steps to assess the facilities and evaluate their capacity to produce the numbers of specimens being traded each year. The information recorded before, during and after the inspection should be compared to determine the veracity of a facility's claims of captive breeding and/or ranching. The app provides detailed instructions and data collection forms that can be printed and shared. It is important that detailed and accurate records of inspections are kept, as these are essential for long-term monitoring and assessing annual production levels and overall management performance.
7. CapaCITES was [launched](#) in January 2022 and is currently available in 10 languages: English, French, Spanish, Khmer, Indonesian, Laotian, Malay, Mandarin, Thai and Vietnamese. Additional funding has been secured to make the app available in Arabic and Russian.
8. The App is available for Android and iOS operating systems and is free to download from the App Store (for Apple devices) and Google Play Store (for Android devices).

To download the app from the App Store, use the following link:

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/cites/id1557609298>

To download the app from Google Play Store, use the following link:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.epicbio.cites>
9. The digital format of this tool allows the system to be updated regularly as CITES evolves and feedback mechanisms within the App will allow CITES to adapt the App to the needs of Parties over time without the need to issue multiple printed documentation.
10. The Secretariat published information on the CapaCITES app and how users can access it on 28 January 2022 in Notification to the Parties No. 2022/007. Parties are invited to download the app and provide feedback on its usefulness directly through the feedback button in the app.

Recommendations

11. The Standing Committee is invited to encourage Parties to make use of the app and provide feedback on its usefulness to the Secretariat or directly through the feedback button in the app.