

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

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 22 April to 3 May 1985

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

CAYMAN TURTLE FARM

This document was prepared and submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Cayman Islands Government.

BACKGROUND

1. The United Kingdom (UK), has already submitted a proposal for the Cayman Turtle Farm (CTF) to be classified as a ranch. This proposal (Doc. 5.44 Annex 3) contains full details of CTF's work, and its contribution to conservation through (eg) species survival research, education, the release of young turtles to the wild, and co-operation in breeding highly endangered species of sea turtles.
2. At the CITES Technical Committee meeting held in Brussels on 25-30 June 1984, the Secretariat asked the UK to consider an alternative approach to resolving the acceptability of CTF's products through a specific resolution. Although the UK believes that the ranching proposal is a sensible route to resolving the problem, a draft resolution has been prepared in response to the Secretariat's request (see Annex). [Further details of CTF can be found in the ranching proposal (Doc. 5.44 Annex 3)].

SUMMARY

3. The UK therefore submits two options for the solution of the problem of the Cayman Turtle Farm:
 - (A) A specific Resolution (attached as Annex);
 - (B) The transfer of the CTF turtle population to Appendix II of the Convention by classifying CTF as a ranch (Doc. 5.44 Annex 3).

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cayman Turtle Farm

RECOGNIZING that the Cayman Turtle Farm acquired the whole of its stock from the wild by the end of 1978, and before Resolution Conf. 2.12, adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (San José, March 1979), defined the term "bred in captivity";

CONSIDERING that trade in offspring specimens which derive from the farm's original stock is not detrimental to the survival of wild populations;

NOTING that the Cayman Turtle Farm benefits sea turtle conservation, particularly through species survival research, education, breeding, actual and potential replacement of illegal trade and the release of hatchlings to the wild;

NOTING also that the operations of the Cayman Turtle Farm are structured to meet the breeding criteria laid down by Resolution Conf. 2.12;

AWARE that the circumstances of the Cayman Turtle Farm are unique, because of the combination of the elements above, and should not be regarded as a precedent;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES to interpret Article VII, paragraph 4, of the Convention, such that products of the Cayman Turtle Farm derived from specimens acquired before March 1979 (or the offspring of these specimens) be regarded as specimens of species included in Appendix II, provided that:

- a) the products defined above are properly marked and documented in the same way as products covered by Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching;
- b) complete records on all biological and processing aspects of the Farm's operation are maintained under the supervision of the CITES Management Authority, with records open to scrutiny by the Secretariat;
- c) the CITES Management Authority submits information about the Farm's operations to the Secretariat on request; and
- d) the Management Authority of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland includes details of the conservation and economic performance of the Farm in its annual reports.