

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

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Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING MARINE TURTLE RANCHING PROPOSALS

The report which constitute this document has been prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and is submitted by the Secretariat.

The "Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals" are based on a Workshop convened under the auspices of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. They have been drafted by Stephen R. Edwards, Co-ordinator - IUCN Species Programme. The report is dated 1989.

The CITES Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank IUCN for the work done in response to Resolution Conf. 6.23 adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987).

## IUCN WORKSHOP: EVALUATING MARINE TURTLE RANCHING PROPOSALS

All populations of marine turtles were listed in CITES Appendix I or II by the Conference of the Parties in 1976. Populations of Appendix II species were provided additional protection at subsequent meetings. By 1981 all species of marine turtles were listed in Appendix I. Even with this added protection trade in marine turtle products remains high today. Lack of effective control of trade in marine turtle products is due, in part, to problems of implementing and enforcing restrictions previously adopted under CITES.

The World Conservation Strategy recognizes that rational sustainable utilization of wildlife is a legitimate conservation tool that can be used to assure survival of certain threatened species. In this context the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 3.15 (Annex 3), for ranching of populations of species listed in Appendix I. Subsequently, the Parties adopted Resolutions Conf. 5.16 and 6.22 (Annexes 4 and 5 respectively) to enhance control and monitoring procedures in relation to trade in ranch products.

Resolution Conf. 6.23 (Annex 6) calls on IUCN to convene a workshop to develop Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals. The workshop was held 23-25 January, 1988 in San José (Costa Rica). A workshop steering committee identified three broad areas of evaluation: 1) biology and conservation, 2) economics and operations, and 3) trade and law enforcement. Six specialists were invited to participate in working groups for each area during the workshop (Annex 7). Plenary sessions reviewed recommendations from the working groups; however, there was insufficient time to discuss all contributions. All decisions regarding workshop procedures and review procedures were approved by the participants. Contributions from the working groups were integrated into a draft report that was circulated to participants for their comments. Participants have reviewed three successive drafts.

This report summarizes the recommendations of the workshop and identifies areas of disagreement which remain unresolved. The principal recommendations of the workshop are presented to the Parties in two draft resolutions: "Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals" and "Additional Marine Turtle Ranching Controls". The first draft resolution amplifies or supplements conditions in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22 in relation to marine turtles. In those instances where workshop participants were unable to reach consensus, alternative paragraphs are presented in brackets. The second draft resolution provides mechanisms for independent verification of trade information and a licensing system for businesses involved in different aspects of the trade.

On behalf of IUCN, I wish to express my gratitude to the participants for their contributions to the workshop, report and draft resolutions. Funding for the workshop was provided by World Wildlife Fund - US, CITES Management Authority of France, the Bekko Trade Association of Japan, and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Further, without the indirect support of many participant's institutions (i.e., staff time, travel, phone, duplicating, and postage), it would not have been possible for IUCN to fulfill its responsibility.

### BACKGROUND

In 1981, at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in New Delhi, India, Resolution Conf. 3.15 was adopted which provides strict criteria under which populations of Appendix I species can be transferred to Appendix II to allow trade in products from ranching operations without detriment to the

survival of wild populations of the species. This Resolution requires that a ranching operation "... must be primarily beneficial to the conservation of the local populations of the species" (para. b-ii). It also identifies categories of information that are required in ranching proposals (paras. c-1 through vi).

At the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1983 in Gaborone (Botswana), France, UK and Suriname submitted proposals for ranching marine turtles. The French proposal was withdrawn and the Suriname proposal was accepted "in principle" subject to the requirement that an adequate marking system be developed. At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1985 in Buenos Aires (Argentina) proposals from France, UK and Suriname were rejected and a proposal from Indonesia was withdrawn. Resolution Conf. 5.16 (Trade in Ranched Specimens) was adopted.

The CITES Technical Committee, meeting in Lausanne (Switzerland) in 1986, endorsed a marking system proposed by France entitled "Marking of Products of Chelonia mydas from Europa and Tromelin Islands, La Réunion Turtle Ranch" and recommended its consideration at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1987 in Ottawa (Canada). The proposal from France for a turtle ranch in La Reunion was rejected. Resolutions Conf. 6.22 (Monitoring and Reporting Procedures for Ranching Operations) and 6.23 (requesting IUCN to prepare "Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals") were adopted.

#### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Two areas have caused the problems experienced by the Parties in addressing marine turtle ranching proposals: 1) fundamental concerns arising from biological uncertainties about marine turtles that give rise to conflicting advice; and 2) difficulties in assuring control of the trade in marine turtle products.

Marine turtles call for a conservative policy with regard to ranching because: 1) their maturation time is long from hatching to sexual maturity<sup>1</sup>; 2) they migrate great distances, often involving the territorial waters of a number of countries and waters outside of the jurisdiction of a Party proposing a ranch; 3) nesting cycles are complex (varying in length, timing and fidelity of nest site selection); and 4) their biology is not well known.

The conditions of Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22 should be followed with regard to ranching in general; however, guidelines are needed to clarify and amplify these conditions in order to accommodate the biological requirements of marine turtles.

Some terms defined in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22 are not easily applied to marine turtles. For example, the term "population" (as used in Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. a) refers to a group of animals while it is in the jurisdiction of the country in which a ranching operation is located, according to the report of the working group that prepared the draft resolution. Because marine turtles occur in an open marine habitat and migrate into waters outside the jurisdiction of Parties, the term "population" as used in Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. a, is inappropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Estimated to be 30 to 50 years for green turtles (12 to 15 years in captivity) and at least 20 years for hawksbill turtles.

To clarify terminology with regard to marine turtle ranching, the following definitions are provided:

1. Biological Population<sup>2</sup>: A breeding unit of a species: a) which tends to use a common "spawning" locality; b) in which the neonates tend to develop in the same geographic area; c) in which the gene frequencies tend to be different from those of other units; and d) in which gene flow is relatively rapid within the unit and less rapid between units.
2. Breeding group(s): Subpopulation(s) of a species that use specific beaches for the purpose of laying eggs.
3. Doomed eggs and/or doomed hatchlings: Those eggs and/or hatchlings which have been determined, with near certainty, will die unless collected and translocated because of conditions under which they are found (e.g., inundation by tides, beach erosion).
4. Head starting: The release into the wild of captive-reared turtles acquired at the egg or hatchling stage.
5. Natural mortality: Mortality due to factors other than those directly caused by man. Some participants wanted the definition to include a qualification of the degree to which man's indirect influence should be permitted, e.g., predation by feral animals would not be considered "natural mortality" under the present definition.
6. Ranching: The rearing of specimens in a controlled environment that are taken from the wild (as used in Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. a).
7. Ranch stock: That part of a breeding group that is managed in a marine turtle ranching operation.
8. Species: The taxonomic unit listed in the CITES appendices. From a biological perspective, a species may be composed of one or more biological populations.
9. Wild population: All wild biological populations of a species of marine turtle wherever they may be located (as used in Resolution Conf. 3.15, paragraph c-1).

There is no objection on humanitarian grounds to keeping marine turtles (except the leatherback) in tanks, provided that stocking and husbandry practices conform to generally accepted professional and technical standards.

Three species of marine turtles are unacceptable candidates for ranching at this time: Dermochelys coriacea (leatherback), Lepidochelys kempi (Kemp's ridley), and Chelonia agassizi = Chelonia mydas agassizi (black turtle). The leatherback is excluded because it is not possible, at present, to maintain this species in captivity in a humane manner. The other two species are excluded because they are highly endangered. Some participants wanted to include the Atlantic hawksbill in this list. Others wanted to list all highly endangered taxa. And others preferred not to list unacceptable taxa and to rely on Resolution Conf 3.15 to exclude unacceptable breeding group(s).

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<sup>2</sup> Taken from Lackey and Nielsen, 1980, Fisheries Management, Blackwell Scientific Publications, London, England.

Variations in the life history and biology between biological populations of marine turtles requires that each population be treated separately. Therefore, the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. c, should be applied to each breeding group. Further, each proposed ranching operation, under the jurisdiction of a Party, should be evaluated and subject to separate approval at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. However, some participants would have preferred to treat all breeding groups under the jurisdiction of a proposing Party as a single "population" subject to a single approval process. Nevertheless, Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. c, notes that proposals can embrace "... a smaller geographically separate population of the species involved ...".

It is recommended that the Management Authority of the sponsoring Party work very closely with the developer of a ranching operation in the preparation of the proposal.

Finally, a proposal should take into account the interests of other countries in the migratory range of the breeding group(s) and the status of the breeding group(s) on the high seas. Therefore, the proponent should provide other range states with a copy of the proposal and recommended procedures to help ensure that the ranching operation will not have a detrimental impact on breeding group(s) which frequent waters within the jurisdiction of those range states.

#### BIOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

In the context of Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. a, no marine turtle ranching operation should be approved unless it is beneficial to the conservation of the breeding group (i.e., contribute to its increase in the wild) within the limits of present scientific knowledge.

At the present time, Parties should recognize only two conditions under which marine turtle ranching would be acceptable:

1. the "full-knowledge condition" where the provisions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 should be satisfied for the transfer of a breeding group from Appendix I to Appendix II; OR
2. the "doomed egg and/or doomed hatchling condition" where for certain nesting beaches high natural mortality of eggs and/or hatchlings makes it likely that no harm would be done to the breeding group(s) by collecting the doomed eggs and/or hatchlings from such sites and rearing the specimens in an approved ranching facility.

Under the full-knowledge condition, the proponent should satisfy the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15, by documenting the size and trends for all components of the life cycle of the breeding group over a biologically appropriate period of time. Data should be provided for a number of years on: sizes of nesting populations, annual abundance of eggs and hatchlings, number and abundance of immature and adult marine turtles in both developmental and foraging habitats. Some participants felt that these requirements are too restrictive, noting the time and cost to obtain the information, and that they substantially alter the intent of Resolution Conf. 3.15. Others felt that the need for a conservative conservation strategy with regard to marine turtles dictates that these rigorous data requirements be fulfilled by a proponent.

Under the doomed egg and/or doomed hatchling condition the proponent should substantiate that an adequate supply of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings is available to sustain the ranching operation. Data should be provided for a number of years (taking into account annual variations in the causative

factors) on: 1) the number of nests at the nesting site; 2) the average number of eggs and/or hatchlings per nest; and 3) the probability of mortality of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings.

Under either condition proponents should:

1. Describe a research programme undertaken on the breeding group(s) which should be undertaken in consultation with the Scientific Authority and the developer of the ranching operation, assist in the preparation of the proposal and contribute to general scientific knowledge about the species for the purpose of improving its conservation status. Research data provided in the proposal should serve as base-line information for future monitoring of the ranching operation.

In addition to the reporting requirements cited in Resolution Conf. 6.22, the results of the research should be made available to the international scientific and conservation communities.

Head starting, while not regarded as justification for removing eggs or hatchlings from the wild on conservation grounds (because it has not been proven to augment wild populations of marine turtles) could be a part of the research programme of a ranching operation. However, some participants felt that head starting should be considered as a conservation benefit even though it has not been proven to augment wild populations.

2. Describe a conservation programme undertaken in relation to the proposed ranching operation. Under the full knowledge condition the conservation programme should be designed to: a) off-set the consequences of taking specimens from the wild, b) mitigate other factors detrimental to the survival of the breeding group(s), and c) not diminish the number of breeding adults in other breeding groups.

Under the doomed egg and/or hatchling condition the conservation programme should be designed to: a) mitigate other factors detrimental to the survival of the breeding group(s), and b) not diminish the number of breeding adults in other breeding groups.

Some participants felt it would be impossible to prove that a ranching operation did not "... diminish the number of breeding adults in other breeding groups".

Examples of conservation activities that would enhance the status of the breeding group(s) are: translocation of nests (including procedures and incubation methods), protection of nests and nest sites, enforcement of pertinent laws, controlled beach lighting, and use of "Turtle Excluder Devices" on commercial fishing boats.

Examples of conservation activities that would enhance marine turtle habitats are: protection of foraging grounds, beach protection and restoration, protection of near shore and neritic habitats, and enforcement of laws governing habitat protection.

3. Describe a public awareness/education initiative, as a part of its conservation programme which should be designed to help local people and others (e.g., tourists, government administrators) understand the natural history of the affected species, the research programme, pertinent national and international laws and regulations, and the conservation goals of the ranching operation. Some participants felt that the public awareness/education initiative should be optional.

## ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. c-11, proponents are required to demonstrate that the ranch will be an "economic success". To satisfy this requirement proponents should identify the: 1) total capital available and the sources of funding; 2) projected time frame before the operation becomes profitable; 3) projected gross income; 4) projected operating and maintenance costs; 5) projected cash flow per year; and 6) projected annual net income or loss over five years.

In addition, proponents should:

1. Identify the owners and legal basis for ownership of the ranch (e.g., private, government, joint venture, partnership, sole-proprietorship) and clearly define the production goals and objectives of the operation. The local social, cultural and economic conditions should be accounted for in the proposal.
2. Describe the physical plant and operating procedures which should conform to professional and technical standards and include information (and illustrations where appropriate) on the:
  - a. site, indicating its geographic location, proximity to sea water, and size;
  - b. facilities for maintaining the captive stock, food storage, quarantine, slaughtering and processing, refrigeration and freezing;
  - c. seawater source, circulation, filtration, waste disposal and quality control systems;
  - d. staffing requirements and composition; and
  - e. proposed stocking, husbandry and general operating procedures by describing:
    - (1) how the stock will be collected, including: a) location of nesting sites, b) methods used in selection and removal of specimens from nests, c) size and age classes of specimens, d) collecting season(s), e) number of specimens to be collected each year, f) the government office responsible for monitoring collections, and g) methods of transport to the ranching operation;
    - (2) how the stocking levels will be managed, including the number and/or weight of turtles per 1,000 liters of seawater and square meters of surface area;
    - (3) how the ranch stock will be managed, including: a) production profiles by age and size-class, b) methods used to identify ranch stocks, c) culling procedures, exclusive of harvesting, d) methods of disposing of carcasses from non-harvest related mortalities, and e) number of specimens, by age and size classes, that will be harvested per year;
    - (4) how specimens will be released, including: a) methods used to select specimens, b) the number by age and size classes each year, c) location(s), and d) marking and/or tagging methods;

- (5) how the stock will be fed, including: a) sources of feed, b) nutritional composition, c) evaluation of additives and contaminants, and d) feeding regimen (amount, methods of distributing, frequency);
- (6) how the health care will be monitored, including: a) methods used, and b) treatment procedures; and
- (7) how specimens will be harvested, including: a) methods used to select specimens (by age and size classes), b) methods used to transport specimens to the processing site, c) slaughtering and processing techniques, d) waste disposal procedures, and e) methods used to transport products to market.

#### TRADE AND ENFORCEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Development of legal markets in marine turtle products could further stimulate trade in illegal products. Increased trade in personal effects and pre-Convention material could also be stimulated by introduction of legal products from ranching operations. Introduction of legal products from a ranching operation into international trade could be a detriment to the survival of other breeding groups, or species, of turtles if the trade stimulates general increased take of wild specimens. Export of ranched products to a country with marine turtles poses a greater risk of stimulating trade than do exports to countries with no marine turtles. Finally, unauthorized trade with reserving or non-Parties could also increase the risk of detrimental impact on other breeding groups or species of marine turtles.

The question of whether legal trade would stimulate illegal trade, or have the opposite effect, was not resolved. However, it was recognized that legal authority to prevent introduction of illegal products at ports-of-entry and into the market-place is critical for effectively reducing the influence from trade in ranched turtle products.

Also, trade controls, particularly marking, monitoring and reporting systems, are most effective when applied to raw materials derived from initial production sources. The effectiveness of these controls is generally diminished during subsequent stages of manufacture and/or trade. For example, identifying marks can be removed and production units are broken into smaller units.

Therefore, every practicable step should be taken by the proposing Party to ensure that the legal framework, administrative measures for monitoring and reporting, and adequate local and national enforcement capabilities are in place before international trade is authorized. Strict adherence to the conditions cited in Resolutions Conf. 5.16 and 6.22 is also essential, as is evidence that the Party has enacted stricter domestic legislation under Article XIV of the Convention.

In particular, proponents should:

1. Describe the legal and enforcement mechanisms that will prevent detrimental impact on other breeding group(s).
2. Document domestic laws, and their enforcement, (including those in all territories and overseas administrative political units) that regulate: a) the taking of wild marine turtles; and b) import, export, possession, transportation, purchase, and sale of all marine turtles and their products.



3. Review legislation and/or laws in importing or re-exporting countries to avoid confusion between wild derived products and the products of an approved ranch at ports-of-entry and retail outlets.
4. Contact authorities in potential importing and re-exporting countries (with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat, if necessary) for the purpose of obtaining information that will enhance control of trade in products from approved ranching operations.
5. Agree that products from the ranching operation will not be exported to any Party:
  - a. with breeding groups of any marine turtle species listed in Appendix I of the Convention unless it is satisfied that that Party has, and enforces, adequate domestic laws enacted under Articles VIII and XIV of the Convention; OR
  - b. import certificates are issued by the Management Authority of the importing Party that identify how imported products will be distinguished from products from wild specimens or non-approved ranching operations.

#### REVIEW, MONITORING AND REPORTING CONSIDERATIONS

Resolution Conf. 3.15, para. d, requires ranching proposals to be submitted 330 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat then consults with the Standing Committee to seek scientific and technical advice to verify that the criteria cited in the Resolution have been met. If needed, additional information can be requested by the Secretariat within 150 days after receipt of the proposal. Communications with the Parties follows procedures stipulated in Article XV of the Convention.

Marine turtle ranching proposals should be reviewed by independent qualified professionals, selected in consultation with the proposing Party, and include a site inspection of the ranching operation because of the considerable variation in acceptable designs for facilities and operational procedures. The report to the Parties should: 1) state whether the proponent and proposed ranching operation fulfills (or is capable of fulfilling) the pertinent criteria provided in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22 as well as the draft resolution containing the Guidelines; 2) stipulate those conditions which the ranch would have to fulfill before its products would be permitted to be traded internationally; and 3) recommend the time frame in which the ranching operation should be required to fulfill the conditions.

It is recognized that considerable capital expenditure is required to establish a marine turtle ranch with the intent of servicing an international market. Therefore, a two-stage approval process was considered in which conditional approval would be granted by the Parties allowing the proponent to begin development of the ranch with the understanding that if conditions established by the Parties are fulfilled the operation would be approved by the Standing Committee to proceed to the marketing stage.

The two-stage approval process is not endorsed by all participants. Concern is expressed that if a ranch were granted conditional approval, the automatic review, could reverse the decision and place the developer at considerable risk. A breeding group transferred to Appendix II for ranching (under Resolution Conf. 3.15) can be transferred back to Appendix I following procedures adopted in Resolution Conf. 6.22.

In addition to the Monitoring and Reporting Procedures outlined in Resolution Conf. 6.22 (with the understanding that summaries of the research and public awareness/education programmes will be included in the report) the Parties should require:

1. The proponents of conditionally approved ranching operations to fulfill the conditions of Resolution Conf. 6.22 and include an assessment of its progress in fulfilling the conditions established by the Parties.
2. The proponent to describe how it will comply with record keeping requirements cited in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.15 and 6.22.
3. A site visit by technically competent specialists (selected by the CITES Secretariat in consultation with the proposing Party) when a conditionally approved ranching operation has fulfilled the required conditions. A report of the site visit should be submitted to the Standing Committee and circulated to the Parties. If the specified conditions have been met, approval to enter its products into international trade, should be granted by the Standing Committee.
4. Site inspections of ranching operations be undertaken by qualified professionals selected by the CITES Secretariat in consultation with the sponsoring Party.
5. Review of annual reports by qualified scientific and technical personnel selected by the CITES Secretariat.
6. The Secretariat to report on the status of each conditionally approved and operational marine turtle ranch at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
7. That failure to implement the conditions of Resolution Conf. 5.16 would also justify the Secretariat taking the action specified in Resolution Conf. 6.22 to transfer the breeding group back to Appendix II.
8. That the costs for activities undertaken through the CITES Secretariat (e.g., reviews, site visits, record keeping) be borne by the proposing Party which may, or may not, raise the needed funds through a "surcharge" on exported products.

The Parties are also urged to adopt further controls on trade in marine turtle products. For example the Parties could:

1. Require details of imported ranched marine turtle products be reported annually to the Secretariat for independent review and inclusion in the biennial report to the Parties. Some participants felt that this should be stronger, requiring that import certificates be issued for all marine turtle products and duplicate copies of import certificates and export permits be provided annually to the Secretariat for independent verification and inclusion in a biennial report to the Parties.
2. Implement a licensing system for exporters, re-exporters, importers, manufacturers and retailers of marine turtle products under the purview of the Management Authorities in the countries where these activities take place to facilitate enforcement of CITES regulations governing trade in marine turtle products.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals

RECOGNIZING that ranching has been beneficial to the conservation of certain crocodile species listed in Appendix I of the Convention;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 6.23 adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987) requested that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) convene a meeting of specialists on marine turtle biology, trade controls, and ranching operations to provide the Parties with guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted for consideration under Resolution Conf. 3.15;

ACKNOWLEDGING that IUCN has submitted a report to the Secretariat;

RECALLING further that Resolution Conf. 3.15, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981), provides criteria and conditions for the transfer of populations from Appendix I to Appendix II to conduct ranching operations, that Resolution Conf. 5.16, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), provides recommendations on trade in ranched specimens, and particularly marking requirements, and that Resolution Conf. 6.22, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987), establishes monitoring and reporting procedures for ranching operations;

RECOGNIZING that the provisions of Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22 require clarification and amplification to fairly evaluate marine turtle ranching proposals because of the biological uncertainties underlying marine turtle science and the considerable variation in the life history between different biological populations of marine turtles, where the term "biological population" means a breeding unit of a species which tends to use a common spawning locality, the neonates tend to develop in the same geographic area, the gene frequencies tend to be different from those of other units and the gene flow is relatively rapid within the unit but less rapid between units;

RECOGNIZING that illegal trade and trade with reserving Parties in marine turtle products is a serious problem for law enforcement and marine turtle conservation worldwide and that approved ranching operations should pose no problems with respect to enforcement of international and national trade controls for marine turtles through legal measures and administrative safeguards;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

1. that, for marine turtles, the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 shall:

- [a. not be applied, at this time, to Dermochelys coriacea (leatherback), because it is not possible to maintain in captivity in a humane manner, and Lepidochelys kempi (Kemp's ridley) and eastern Pacific populations of Chelonia mydas, sometimes referred to as Chelonia agassizi or Chelonia mydas agassizi (black turtle) because they are extremely endangered;]

OR

- [a. not be applied, at this time, to Dermochelys coriacea (leatherback), because it is not possible to maintain in captivity in a humane manner, and Lepidochelys kempi (Kemp's ridley), eastern Pacific populations of Chelonia mydas, sometimes referred to as Chelonia agassizi or Chelonia mydas agassizi (black turtle) and Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata (Atlantic hawksbill) because they are extremely endangered;]

OR

- [a. Delete paragraph, relying on the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 to exclude non-viable taxa.]
- [b. apply to each breeding group, where the term "breeding group" means a sub-population of marine turtle species that uses a specific beach for the purpose of laying eggs;]

OR

- [b. Delete paragraph, recognizing that the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 c) can apply to "... a smaller geographically separate population of the species involved ..." within a country.]
- c. require Management Authorities to invite developers of ranching operations to work closely with them in the preparation of proposals;
- [d. require separate proposals for each marine turtle ranch under the jurisdiction of a proposing Party at meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and]

OR

- [d. Delete paragraph, relying on past procedures associated with Resolution Conf. 3.15.]
  - e. require proposals to take into account the interests of other countries in the migratory range of the breeding group(s) as well as the status of the breeding group(s) on the high seas, within the limits of present scientific knowledge;
2. that the requirements of Resolution Conf. 3.15 a) shall:
- a. apply to the breeding group(s) from which the ranch stock shall be acquired, where the term "ranch stock" means that part of a breeding group that is managed in a marine turtle ranching operation;
  - [b. at the present time, apply to only two conditions:
    - 1. where data are provided for a number of years on the sizes of nesting populations, annual abundance of eggs and hatchlings and number and abundance of immature and adult marine turtles in both developmental and foraging habitats; or
    - 11. where for certain nesting beaches high natural mortality of eggs and/or hatchlings makes it likely that no harm would be done to the breeding group(s) by collecting the doomed eggs and/or doomed hatchlings from such sites and rearing the specimens in an approved ranching facility, where:

[(1) the term "natural mortality" means mortality due to factors other than those directly caused by man; and]

OR

[(1) the term "natural mortality" means mortality due to factors other than those either directly or indirectly caused by man, e.g., predation by feral animals would not be considered "natural mortality"; and]

(2) the term "doomed eggs and/or doomed hatchlings" means those eggs and/or hatchlings which have been determined, with near certainty, will die unless collected and translocated because of conditions under which they are found (e.g., inundation by tides, beach erosion);

iii. where, in relation to the doomed egg and/or doomed hatchling condition, the proponent substantiates that an adequate supply of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings is available to sustain the ranching operation by providing data for a number of years on the number of nests at the nesting site, the average number of eggs and/or hatchlings per nest, the probability of mortality of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings, and annual variations in the causative factors;]

OR

[b. at the present time, besides the procedures outlined in Resolution Conf. 3.15, marine turtle ranching would be acceptable at certain nesting beaches where high natural mortality of eggs and/or hatchlings makes it likely that no harm would be done to the breeding group(s) by collecting the doomed eggs and/or doomed hatchlings from such sites and rearing the specimens in an approved ranching facility, where:

[i. the term "natural mortality" means mortality due to factors other than those directly caused by man; and]

OR

[i. the term "natural mortality" means mortality due to factors either directly or indirectly caused by man, e.g., predation by feral animals would not be considered "natural mortality"; and]

ii. the term "doomed eggs and/or doomed hatchlings" means those eggs and/or hatchlings which have been determined, with near certainty, will die unless collected and translocated because of conditions under which they are found (e.g., inundation by tides, beach erosion);

c. that under such circumstances the proponent should substantiate that an adequate supply of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings is available to sustain the ranching operation by providing data for a number of years on the number of nests at the nesting site, the average number of eggs and/or hatchlings per nest, the probability of mortality of doomed eggs and/or hatchlings, and annual variations in the causative factors;]

3. that the conservation requirements under Resolution Conf. 3.15 b) shall:

- a. not be met by head starting, where the term "head starting" means the release into the wild of captive-reared turtles acquired at the egg or hatchling stage; however, head starting could be included as part of the research programme;
- b. be met by a undertaking a conservation programme which:
  - i. off-sets the consequences of taking specimens from the wild, mitigates other factors detrimental to the survival of the breeding group(s) and does not diminish the number of breeding adults in other breeding groups; or
  - [ii. under the doomed egg and/or doomed hatchling condition, mitigates other factors detrimental to the survival of the breeding group(s), and does not diminish the number of breeding adults in other breeding groups;]

OR

- [ii. under the doomed egg and/or doomed hatchling condition, mitigates other factors detrimental to the survival of the breeding group(s);]

- [c. be met by including a public awareness/education programme, as part of the conservation programme, that helps local people and others (e.g., tourists, government administrators) understand the natural history of the affected species, the research programme, pertinent national and international laws and regulations, and the conservation goals of the ranching operation;]

OR

- [c. be met by undertaking an optional public awareness/education programme, as part of the conservation programme, that helps local people and others (e.g., tourists, government administrators) understand the natural history of the affected species, the research programme, pertinent national and international laws and regulations, and the conservation goals of the ranching operation;]

4. that the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 c) ii), requesting "... an assessment of the likelihood of ... economic success of the ranching operation", require the proponent to:

- a. identify the:
  - i. owners and legal basis for ownership of the ranch (e.g., private, government, joint venture, partnership, sole-proprietorship);
  - ii. total capital available and the sources of funding;
  - iii. projected time frame before the operation becomes profitable;
  - iv. projected gross income;
  - v. projected operating and maintenance costs;
  - vi. projected cash flow per year; and

- vii. projected annual net income or loss over five years;
- b. define the production goals and objectives of the operation taking into account the local social, cultural and economic conditions;
- c. describe (and illustrate as appropriate) the physical plant and operating procedures (in accordance with established professional and technical standards) by providing information on the:
  - 1. design of the physical plant, including the:
    - (1) site, indicating its geographic location, proximity to sea water, and size;
    - (2) facilities for maintaining the captive stock, food storage, quarantine, slaughtering and processing, refrigeration and freezing;
    - (3) seawater source, circulation, filtration, waste disposal and quality control systems; and
    - (4) staffing requirements and composition;
- 11. proposed stocking, husbandry and general operating procedures including:
  - (1) how the stock will be collected (e.g., a) location of nesting sites, b) methods used in selection and removal of specimens from nests, c) size and age classes of specimens, d) collecting season(s), e) number of specimens to be collected each year, f) the government office responsible for monitoring collections, and g) methods of transport to the ranching operation);
  - (2) how the stocking levels will be managed (e.g., the number and/or weight of turtles per 1,000 liters of seawater and square meters of surface area);
  - (3) how the ranch stock will be managed (e.g., a) production profiles by age and size classes, b) methods used to identify ranch stocks, c) culling procedures, exclusive of harvesting, d) methods of disposing of carcasses from non-harvest related mortalities, and e) number of specimens, by age and size classes, that will be harvested per year);
  - (4) how specimens will be released (e.g., a) methods used to select specimens, b) the number by age and size classes each year, c) location(s), and d) marking and/or tagging methods);
  - (5) how the stock will be fed (e.g., a) sources of feed, b) nutritional composition, c) evaluation of additives and contaminants, and d) feeding regimen (amount, methods of distributing, frequency));
  - (6) how the health care will be monitored (e.g., a) methods used, and b) treatment procedures); and

- (7) how specimens will be harvested (e.g., a) methods used to select specimens (by age and size classes), b) methods used to transport specimens to the processing site, c) slaughtering and processing techniques, d) waste disposal procedures, and e) methods used to transport products to market);
5. that the conditions of Resolution Conf. 3.15 c) iv), requesting "... assurance that the operation shall be beneficial to the wild population through reintroduction or in other ways ..." (where the term "wild population", in the context of marine turtles, means all wild biological populations of a species wherever they may be located), require the proponent to undertake a research programme on the breeding group(s) in consultation with the Scientific Authority and the developer of the ranching operation which:
    - a. assists in the preparation of the proposal;
    - b. contributes to general scientific knowledge about the species for the purpose of improving its conservation status;
    - c. provides data that will serve as base-line information for future monitoring of the ranching operation; and
    - d. is reviewed under the reporting requirements cited in Resolution Conf. 6.22, and the results are made available to the international scientific and conservation communities;
  6. that, in addition to satisfying the conditions stipulated in Resolution Conf. 5.16, proponents:
    - a. describe the legal and enforcement mechanisms that will prevent detrimental impact on other breeding group(s);
    - b. document domestic laws, and their enforcement, (including those in all territories and overseas administrative political units) that regulate: 1) the taking of wild marine turtles; and 2) import, export, possession, transportation, purchase, and sale of all marine turtles and their products;
    - c. review legislation and/or laws in importing or re-exporting countries to avoid confusion between wild derived products and the products of an approved ranch at ports-of-entry and retail outlets;
    - d. contact authorities in potential importing and re-exporting countries (with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat, if necessary) for the purpose of obtaining information that will enhance control of trade in products from approved ranching operations; and
    - e. agree that products from the ranching operation will not be exported to any Party:
      - i. with breeding groups of any marine turtle species listed in Appendix I of the Convention unless it is satisfied that that Party has, and enforces, adequate domestic laws enacted under Articles VIII and XIV of the Convention; and
      - ii. import certificates are issued by the Management Authority of the importing Party that identify how imported products will be distinguished from products from wild specimens or non-approved ranching operations;



7. that in addition to the monitoring and reporting requirements stipulated in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22:
  - a. marine turtle ranching proposals will be reviewed by independent qualified professionals, selected in consultation with the proposing Party, and include a site inspection of the ranching operation;
  - b. a report will be submitted to the Parties stating whether the proponent and proposed ranching operation fulfills the criteria provided in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22, and this Resolution;
  - c. summaries of the research and public awareness/education programmes will be included in the annual report submitted in accordance with the conditions provided in Resolution Conf. 6.22;
  - d. proponents will describe how they will comply with record keeping requirements pursuant to Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.15 and 6.22;
  - e. periodic site inspections of ranching operations will be undertaken by qualified professionals selected by the CITES Secretariat in consultation with the sponsoring Party; and
  - f. failure to implement the conditions of Resolution Conf. 5.16 shall also justify the Secretariat taking the action specified in Resolution Conf. 6.22 to transfer the breeding group back to Appendix I;
- [8. that, because of the capital investment required to establish a marine turtle ranch, a two-stage approval process be adopted under which:
  - a. the site report submitted to the Parties shall:
    - i. state whether the proponent and proposed ranching operation is capable of fulfilling the pertinent criteria provided in Resolutions Conf. 3.15, 5.16 and 6.22, and this Resolution;
    - ii. stipulate those requirements that the ranch would have to fulfill before its products would be permitted to enter international trade; and
    - iii. recommend the time frame in which the ranching operation should be required to fulfill the conditions;
  - b. if the proponent is determined to be capable of fulfilling the stipulated requirements in paragraph 8. a., conditional approval shall be granted to begin construction and development of the ranch but not to enter its products into international trade until the requirements are fulfilled;
  - c. conditionally approved ranching operations would include an assessment of their progress in fulfilling the requirements in annual reports submitted in accordance with the conditions provided in Resolution Conf. 6.22;
  - d. a site visit is undertaken by technically competent specialists (selected by the CITES Secretariat in consultation with the proposing Party) when a conditionally approved ranching operation has fulfilled the requirements and a report is submitted to the Standing Committee and circulated to the Parties; and

- e. if the requirements have been met, the Standing Committee would grant approval for the ranching operation to enter its products into international trade; and]

OR

[8. Delete paragraph.]

9. that the costs for those activities undertaken through the CITES Secretariat in implementing the terms of this Resolution shall be borne by the proposing Party which may, or may not, raise the needed funds through a surcharge on exported products.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Additional Marine Turtle Ranching Controls

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 6.23 adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987) requested that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) convene a meeting of specialists on marine turtle biology, trade controls, and ranching to provide the Parties with guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals submitted for consideration under Resolution Conf. 3.15;

ACKNOWLEDGING that IUCN submitted a report to the Secretariat;

RECOGNIZING that illegal trade and trade with reserving Parties in marine turtle products is a serious problem for law enforcement and marine turtle conservation worldwide and that approved ranching operations should pose no problems with respect to law enforcement of international and national trade controls for marine turtles through legal measures and administrative safeguards;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 5.16, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), provides recommendations on trade in ranched specimens, and particularly marking requirements, and that Resolution Conf. 6.22, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ottawa, 1987), establishes monitoring and reporting procedures for ranching operations;

RECOGNIZING further that additional controls are required to assure that trade in marine turtle products do not add to the threat of other taxa listed in Appendix I;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RESOLVES

- [1. to require details of imported ranched marine turtle products be reported annually to the Secretariat for independent review and inclusion in a biennial report to the Parties; and]

OR

- [1. to require that import certificates be issued for all marine turtle products and duplicate copies of import certificates and export permits be provided annually to the Secretariat for independent verification and inclusion in a biennial report to the Parties; and]
2. to implement a licensing system for exporters, re-exporters, importers, manufacturers and retailers of marine turtle products under the purview of Management Authorities in the countries where these activities take place to facilitate enforcement of CITES regulations governing trade in marine turtle products.

Conf. 3.15\*

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

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THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
New Delhi (India), 25 February to 8 March 1981

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Ranching

CONSIDERING that the provisions of Article III of the Convention control international commercial trade in specimens of species included in Appendix I;

RECOGNIZING that this control of trade in species included in Appendix I is intended to improve the status of their wild populations;

RECOGNIZING that as a result of this control, the populations of species included in Appendix I may vary between the countries in which they occur in the degree to which they are endangered;

RECOGNIZING the importance of maintaining Appendix I protection in those countries where the wild population is still endangered;

RECALLING that the terms of the Resolution on specimens bred in captivity or artificially propagated (Conf. 2.12), adopted at its second meeting (San José, 1979), do not allow the entry into trade of specimens of species included in Appendix I which have been reared in captivity following collection from the wild;

RECOGNIZING the desire of some Parties with successful programmes for the conservation of certain species to restore those species into international trade as soon as to do so is no longer detrimental to the survival of their wild populations of those species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS

- a) that populations of species included in Appendix I, which occur within the jurisdiction of Parties, but which are deemed by the Parties to be no longer endangered and to benefit by ranching (by

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\* This document was prepared after the meeting from document Com. 3.12 adopted after having been amended. (Note from the Secretariat).

which is meant the rearing in a controlled environment of specimens taken from the wild) with the intention of trade be included in Appendix II;

- b) that, in order to be considered by the Parties, any proposal to transfer a population to Appendix II in order to conduct a ranching operation satisfy the following general criteria:
  - i) the operation must be primarily beneficial to the conservation of the local population (i.e., where applicable, contribute to its increase in the wild); and
  - ii) the products of the operation must be adequately identified and documented to ensure that they can be readily distinguished from products of Appendix I populations;
- c) that for obtaining approval for transfer to Appendix II of the country's population, or a smaller geographically separate population of the species involved, in order to conduct a ranching operation, the Management Authority submit a proposal to the Secretariat, such a proposal containing the following:
  - i) evidence that the taking from the wild shall have no significant detrimental impact on wild populations;
  - ii) an assessment of the likelihood of the biological and economic success of the ranching operation;
  - iii) assurance that the operation shall be carried out at all stages in a humane (non-cruel) manner;
  - iv) assurance that the operation will be beneficial to the wild population through reintroduction or in other ways;
  - v) a description of the methods to be used to identify the products through marking and/or documentation; and
  - vi) assurance that the criteria continue to be met, with records open to scrutiny by the Secretariat, and that the Management Authority shall include in its reports to the Secretariat sufficient detail concerning the status of its population and concerning the performance of any ranching operation to satisfy the Parties that these criteria continue to be met; and
- (d) that in order to be discussed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties any proposal for amendment of the appendices pursuant to this resolution be received by the Secretariat at least 330 days before that meeting; the Secretariat will consult with the Standing Committee in seeking such appropriate scientific and technical advice to verify that the criteria specified under b) and c) have been met; if in the opinion of the Secretariat further information concerning the criteria is required, the Secretariat shall request information from the proposing Party within 150 days after receipt; thereafter, the Secretariat shall communicate with the Parties in accordance with Article XV of the Convention.



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

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conf. 5.16

Trade in Ranched Specimens

ACKNOWLEDGING that Resolution Conf. 3.15, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981), established that any proposal to transfer a population to Appendix II in order to conduct a ranching operation must be primarily beneficial to the conservation of the local population and that products of the operation must be adequately identified and documented to ensure that they can be readily distinguished from products of Appendix I populations;

RECALLING that marking of parts and products of a ranched population is necessary for adequate identification and documentation in compliance with Resolution Conf. 3.15, paragraph b), sub-paragraph ii);

RECOGNIZING that if each Party establishes a different marking system for parts and products of a ranched population of the same species, confusion will result, and enforcement will be difficult;

RECOGNIZING that a need exists to establish minimum requirements for uniform marking of products of ranched populations that are entered into trade;

RECOGNIZING that once a ranching proposal has been approved for a species it is necessary to ensure that all Parties concerned comply with the terms and conditions of that approved proposal;

BELIEVING that any subsequent proposal for ranching operations of a species previously approved should be consistent with the terms, conditions and intent of any proposal currently in effect for that species;

RECOGNIZING that if adequate protection is to be provided for both ranched populations and wild populations of a species for which ranching has been approved, trade with non-Party countries must be discouraged;

RECOGNIZING finally that Parties may impose more restrictive domestic controls upon trade in specimens of listed populations under Article XIV of the Convention;

.../...

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS

- a) that the term "product of the operation" mean any whole live or dead animal or plant or part or derivative thereof, whether or not processed in any way, produced from a ranched population that is intended to be entered into trade;
- b) that the term "product unit" mean the smallest single item of any product of the operation that will be individually marked, packaged and entered into trade;
- c) that the term "uniform marking system" mean a system of marking each product unit approved by the Parties for a species which as a minimum includes the International Organization for Standardization code for the country of origin, a unique identification number and the year of production, or if for product units on hand or manufactured from products of the operation on hand at the time of the proposal, the year of the proposal approval;
- d) that the term "primary container" mean any container used to immediately contain a product of the operation;
- e) that each product unit and/or primary container entered into trade be indelibly marked with a unique identification number meeting the minimum requirements of the uniform marking system;
- f) that any Party submitting a ranching proposal for a population of a species for which no previous ranching proposal has been approved include in the proposal, in addition to the necessary biological data, the following:
  - i) a marking system that meets the minimum requirements of the uniform marking system defined in this Resolution;
  - ii) a list of the products of the operation which specifies the product unit for each product of the operation;
  - iii) a description of the methods that will be used to mark product units and/or containers entered into trade; and
  - iv) an inventory of current stocks of specimens and products of the operation on hand;
- g) that any Party submitting a ranching proposal for a species for which a previous ranching proposal has been approved include in the proposal:
  - i) a marking system that conforms with the uniform marking system approved by the Parties for that species;
  - ii) a list of the products of the operation which specifies the product unit for each product of the operation;
  - iii) a description of the methods that will be used to mark product units and/or containers entered into trade; and
  - iv) an inventory of current stocks of specimens and products of the operation on hand;

- h) that any Party that re-exports products of ranched populations that have been altered from the product unit imported into that country to the extent that it renders the mark illegible provide prior notification to the Secretariat that includes the following:
  - i) a marking system that conforms with the uniform marking system approved by the Parties for that species;
  - ii) a list of the products of the operation which specifies the product unit for each product of the operation;
  - iii) a description of the methods that will be used to mark product units and/or containers entered into trade; and
  - iv) an inventory of current stocks of specimens and products of the operation on hand;
- i) that export permits and re-export certificates for product units be accepted only if they mention the actual country of origin and if they contain reference to the identifying marks on such product units and/or containers thereof;
- j) that Parties do not export or re-export a product unit of a ranched population to a non-Party or a reserving Party, nor accept an import of a product unit of a ranched population from such states;
- k) that all Parties prohibit trade in products of a ranched population unless such trade complies with all terms, conditions and requirements of the approved ranching proposal for that population;
- l) that no Party allow trade in a product unit of a ranched population that was on hand at the time of the proposal approval unless such product unit is marked in conformity with the uniform marking system and is included in the inventory submitted as part of the proposal; and
- m) that any Party with an approved ranching proposal submit any changes in the information required in paragraph f) or g) of this Resolution to the Secretariat. The same procedures that are found in Article XV of the Convention applicable to approval of amendments to Appendices I and II apply to the approval of requested changes in sub-paragraph i) of paragraph f) or g);

AGREES that for ranching proposals approved at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- a) the proposals shall be deemed to have complied with the terms of paragraph f) or g) of this Resolution, as appropriate, as soon as the Party concerned submits to the Secretariat the information required in such paragraph that was not otherwise included in the approved proposal and all other Parties are so notified by the Secretariat; and
- b) the marking system used is exempt from the minimum standard established in recommendation c) of this Resolution until 1 May 1986; and

.../...



DIRECTS the Technical Committee to review and develop recommendations, if necessary, for consideration at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on:

- a) the establishment of reporting and monitoring procedures for ranching operations and captive breeding operations; and
- b) the adequacy of existing controls for regulating the trade in specimens of Appendix II species that are similar to Appendix I species.



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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conf. 6.22

Monitoring and Reporting Procedures for Ranching Operations

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 3.15, adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981), lays down criteria and conditions for the transfer of populations from Appendix I to Appendix II in order to conduct a ranching operation, and that Resolution Conf. 5.16, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), contains detailed recommendations on trade in ranched specimens, in particular with regard to their marking;

CONSIDERING that the criteria laid down in Resolution Conf. 3.15 are sufficiently strict to assess the risks and benefits for the survival of the species or population in the wild, but that the way in which this assessment and that concerning the requirement that the operation continues to meet these criteria are to be carried out requires the establishment of additional procedures;

CONSIDERING that Resolution Conf. 3.15 - unlike Resolution Conf. 5.21 adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985) - does not contain the necessary mechanism for transferring populations back to Appendix I if it is established that a ranching operation no longer meets the criteria;

CONSIDERING that proper monitoring of and reporting on trade in ranched specimens are only possible if all importing countries consider all products of the operation to be readily recognizable, which is facilitated by the fact that, following Resolution Conf. 5.16, all such specimens are to be marked;

.../...

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

### RESOLVES

- a) that in order to facilitate the task of the Secretariat, laid down in paragraph c) vi) of Resolution Conf. 3.15, annual reports on all relevant aspects of the ranching operation be submitted to the Secretariat by the Party concerned, in addition detailing any new information on the following:
  - i) the status of the wild population concerned;
  - ii) the number of specimens (eggs or young) taken annually from the wild;
  - iii) an estimate of the percentage of the total production of the population taken;
  - iv) the number of animals released and their survival rates estimated on the basis of surveys and tagging programmes, if any;
  - v) the mortality rate in captivity and causes of such mortality;
  - vi) production, sales and exports of products; and
  - vii) conservation programmes and scientific experiments carried out in relation to the ranching operation or the wild population concerned;
- b) that, with the consent of the Standing Committee and the Party concerned, the Secretariat should have the option to visit and examine a ranching operation wherever circumstances require it to do so; and
- c) that where the Secretariat reports failure to comply with Resolution Conf. 3.15 or this Resolution, and the Standing Committee and the Party concerned fail to resolve the matter satisfactorily, the Standing Committee may, after full consultation with the Party concerned, request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population concerned back to Appendix I; and

RECOMMENDS that, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 5.9 on the Control of Readily Recognizable Parts and Derivatives, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), Parties consider all products of ranching operations to be readily recognizable.



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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conf. 6.23

Guidelines for Evaluating Marine Turtle Ranching Proposals

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties adopted at its third meeting (New Delhi, 1981) Resolution Conf. 3.15 under which populations of Appendix I species could be transferred to Appendix II to allow international trade in products from ranching operations providing that these are beneficial to the conservation of the local population;

RECALLING further that subsequently, at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 5.16, which provides recommendations as to how the products of such ranching operations must be adequately identified and documented to ensure that they can be readily distinguished from products of Appendix I populations;

RECOGNIZING that the Parties, through the adoption of these Resolutions, have expressed their desire to provide means for establishing ranching operations for marine turtles and other species while controlling international trade resulting from these operations;

RECOGNIZING also that the Parties fully support the principles of the World Conservation Strategy and so wish to sustain their commitment to assure the long-term conservation of marine turtles;

CONSIDERING that several proposals to transfer specific populations of marine turtles from Appendix I to Appendix II for the purpose of ranching, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 3.15, have been rejected at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING also that a number of facilities have been developed for ranching marine turtles with the prospect of marketing marine turtle products internationally;

.../...

RECOGNIZING further that there is a continuing high volume international trade in wild-captured marine turtle products by Parties and non-Parties to the Convention;

BELIEVING that there remains a need to provide guidance for the evaluation of the biological, economic, and trade control aspects of marine turtle ranching proposals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

REQUESTS that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), subject to availability of funding, convene a meeting of specialists on marine turtle biology, trade controls, and ranching;

RECOMMENDS

- a) that this specialist meeting provide the Parties with guidelines for evaluating marine turtle ranching proposals that take into account biological, economic, and trade control aspects; and
- b) that such guidelines be transmitted to the Secretariat of CITES for circulation to the Parties by 30 April 1988; and

URGES interested Parties, and governmental and non-governmental organizations, to provide the funding necessary to convene this meeting.

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