

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and marking issues

USE OF THE SOURCE CODE 'R' FOR RANCHED SPECIMENS:
REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 12.3 ON PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.

Introduction

2. Resolution Conf. 12.3, Section I, paragraph e) under RECOMMENDS, identifies codes that Parties should use on permits and certificates when describing the source of specimens. One of these codes, 'R', is defined only as 'specimens originating from a ranching operation'. No further description of what constitutes a ranching operation or reference to any resolution is given. This has created problems for Parties understanding when to use this source code.
3. The term 'ranching' is not found in the text of the Convention and is currently defined only in Resolution Conf. 11.16 on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.
4. Under Resolution Conf. 11.16, ranching is defined as "the rearing in a controlled environment of specimens taken from the wild" when populations of Appendix-I species are transferred to Appendix II based on the management practices being utilized to allow sustainable harvest of that population. Resolution Conf. 11.16 provides a number of general criteria that the ranching programme must satisfy. The ranching definition was not intended to apply to specimens of populations that do not meet those criteria.
5. According to data available to the United States, many species, including specimens of *Pandinus* spp. (scorpions), *Ornithoptera* spp. (birdwing butterflies), *Tridacna* spp. (clams), *Strombus gigas* (queen conch), *Python* spp. (pythons), *Varanus* spp. (monitor lizards), *Furcifer* spp. (chameleons), *Iguana* spp. (iguanas) and *Caiman crocodilus* (brown caiman), are being traded under source code 'R' that do not meet the criteria established in Resolution Conf. 11.16. While we are not questioning whether the trade in these specimens is detrimental to the species, the United States does not believe that use of source code 'R' for these specimens is appropriate since the only definition under CITES is what appears in Resolution Conf. 11.16.

Recommendation

6. The United States recommends that Resolution Conf. 12.3 be amended to define the source code 'R' to apply only to specimens obtained from a ranching operation that meets the criteria established in Resolution Conf. 11.16.
7. The Annex that follows contains a draft revision to Section I, paragraph e) under RECOMMENDS, of Resolution Conf. 12.3 to reflect the change proposed above.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat supports in principle the amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 regarding source code 'R', proposed by the United States of America, as it removes the ambiguity over the use of this code. It recommends however that in the proposal in the Annex to this document, the words 'of a population transferred to Appendix II' be inserted before 'in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.16'.
- B. The Secretariat notes that matters of definitions and the use of source codes are also addressed in documents CoP13 Doc. 9.1.1, submitted by the Chairman of the Animals Committee, CoP13 Doc. 9.2.1, submitted by the Chairman of the Plants Committee, and CoP13 Doc. 49, submitted by the United States.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3

Permits and certificates

NB: Proposed new text is underlined.

The United States proposes the following amendment to the source code 'R', in Section I, paragraph e) under RECOMMENDS, in the operative part of Resolution Conf. 12.3 to read:

R Specimens originating from a ranching operation in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.16