

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade controls and marking issues

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Animals and Plants Committees.
2. Decision 13.68 directs the Animals and Plants Committees to establish an intersessional joint working group with terms of reference to *inter alia* define key elements of the different production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species of animals and plants, and, if appropriate, to develop as far as possible a list of specific production systems currently being utilized by Parties; to 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 to consider the definition of 'ranching' within the context of existing CITES Resolutions.
3. Already at the 21st and 15th meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (AC21 and PC15; Geneva, 2005) it was found that there was a significant divergence in views for example on the scope of the application of ranching and the use of source code R, as well as about codes and definitions for artificially propagated plants, captive-bred animals and the use of source code 'F'. It was concluded that ultimately, the different viewpoints might have to be presented to the Conference of the Parties, asking it to make a decision.
4. At the 22nd and 16th meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (AC22 and PC16; Lima, 2006), the discussion in the joint working group on the proposed use of source code R (for 'ranching') could not be concluded. No consensus had been reached on the use of source codes A, C and D (for 'artificially propagated' and 'captive bred') and F (for animals born in captivity that do not fulfil the definition of 'bred in captivity' in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.), as well as parts and derivatives thereof). There was also no consensus on extending the application of source code F to plants. Further, there was no agreement on a possible revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16. Nevertheless, in view of the progress that had been made within the joint working group, the Committees concluded that in regard to the codes, the deliberations should be continued and that, what concerns the concept of ranching, there was interest in trying to develop a common understanding for the purpose of improving the definition of ranching used for CITES purposes, and thus better define the applicability of source code R for the issuance of CITES documents.
5. The joint working group continued to work intersessionally after AC22 and PC16, but failed to reach consensus on the items mentioned in paragraph 4. Therefore, the instructions in Decision 13.68 could not be implemented.

6. To allow the continuation of this work, the Animals and Plants Committees propose that the Conference of the Parties consider the adoption of the following decision:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

14.XX The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) review the CITES trade data maintained by UNEP-WCMC to determine the species for which source code R has been used for trade, and the countries where this has occurred;
- b) survey countries applying the R code to species other than crocodylians downlisted from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to ranching, and obtain information on the management programme for the species to which this source code is applied;
- c) review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching (i.e. primarily focused on the harvest of specimens representing early life stages for rearing in captivity) and identify common elements in these programs;
- d) based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code R for CITES purposes; and
- e) report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that the discussion on different production systems for CITES-listed species and the associated source codes was initiated at the 15th meeting of the Animals Committee in 1999. The adoption of the decision from the Animals and Plants Committees contained in paragraph 6 above would postpone any decision-making until the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, over ten years later, and be limited to only one code for a single production system.
- B. In its comments about this subject at CoP13 (document CoP13 Doc. 49) the Secretariat sought clarification of the practical use of determining under which existing CITES permit source code the various production systems fit and particularly how this would be of assistance to CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. It recommended that the purpose, outputs and target audience of the review be much more clearly defined. Unfortunately these issues were not clarified and the review did not produce a result. The Secretariat therefore supports the more focused proposed decision in paragraph 6 of this document.