

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

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Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Exemptions and special trade provisions

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION RELATING TO  
CAPTIVE-BRED AND RANCHED SPECIMENS

1. This document is submitted by the Standing Committee. It was prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, August 2011), Poland, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, introduced document [SC61 Doc. 27](#), drawing attention to problems of implementation of the Convention in relation to captive-bred and ranched specimens. The Committee recognized that there were a number of problems and established a working group on this subject, under the chairmanship of the United States of America, to identify the problems and to recommend solutions at the following meeting.
3. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2011/037, to seek information on the experience of Parties, to be used as a basis for the discussions of the working group.
4. At its 62nd meeting (Geneva, July 2012), the Standing Committee considered the report of the working group in document [SC62 Doc. 26](#),
5. Following discussion of that document, the Standing Committee:
  - a) directed the Secretariat, where reasonable, to investigate the cases identified in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 26, being examples of taxa and types of trade of potential concern;
  - b) agreed that the implementation of Decisions 15.52 and 15.53, regarding development and review of a guide on the use of source codes, was a high priority and would help to address several important issues;
  - b) approved the draft decisions in document SC62 Doc. 26, to be forwarded to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a number of amendments; and
  - c) noted the need to coordinate the outputs from the working group on this subject with those from the working group on snake trade and conservation management relating to captive breeding.

Recommendations

6. The Standing Committee recommends that the Conference of the Parties:
  - a) agree that Decisions 15.52 and 15.53, regarding development and review of a guide on the use of source codes, should remain in effect following CoP16; and
  - b) adopt the draft decisions presented in the Annex to the present document.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. This issue was raised in the Standing Committee primarily because a number of Parties issue permits for specimens declared as being bred in captivity or ranched without confirming the veracity of these declarations. It is understood that there are several possible reasons why a Party might be unable to do so, in particular because it may have inadequate resources. However, in these cases it may be important to place the burden of proof on the persons that wish to export the specimens.
- B. The Secretariat recommends that the draft decisions presented in the Annex to the present document be adopted. However, in paragraph b) of the first draft decision, the word "respectively" should be deleted.
- C. As indicated in paragraph 5. d) of the present document, the Standing Committee noted the need to coordinate the consideration of this document with that of document CoP16 Doc. 57 on *Snake trade and conservation management*, since that also deals with the issue of captive breeding.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION RELATING TO  
CAPTIVE-BRED AND RANCHED SPECIMENS

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
PROPOSED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

***Directed to the Secretariat***

16.XX The Secretariat shall:

- a) contingent on the availability of external funds, contract an appropriate expert or experts to:
  - i) evaluate the concerns identified in the examples in document SC62 Doc. 26 Annex, regarding trade in specimens claimed to be derived from captive breeding or ranching;
  - ii) review CITES Annual Report data for specimens recorded using source codes C, D, F and R;
  - iii) identify problems with CITES implementation associated with these examples;
  - iv) consider ways to more effectively share available information on captive-breeding and ranching operations;
  - v) evaluate the utility of a captive breeding database (including wider application of the existing UNEP-WCMC Captive Breeding Database being developed for the European Union);
  - vi) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, taking into consideration the report and recommendations of the working group on implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens presented at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee; and
  - vii) develop draft checklists or guides for the inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities and review of permit applications for captive bred and ranched specimens;
- b) Provide a draft of this report and additional materials to the Animals Committee at its 27th meeting, respectively, for review; and
- c) Distribute final report and materials to the Parties if endorsed by the Animals and Standing Committees.

16.XX The Secretariat shall report at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee on significant cases where it has taken initiatives or entered into a dialogue with Parties on trade in specimens declared as bred in captivity or ranched where there is serious doubt about the identified source of the specimens in trade.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

16.XX The Animals Committee, at its 27th meeting, shall review the report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

16.XX The Standing Committee, at its 65th meeting, shall:

- a) review the report and the recommendations of the Animals Committee and make its own recommendations to the Parties concerned and the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) consider proposing amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) or Resolution Conf. 14.3 or proposing a new resolution to provide a process for reviewing the implementation of CITES for specific examples of trade in specimens that are claimed to be produced via captive breeding or ranching.