

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



Twentieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Johannesburg (South Africa), 29 March-2 April 2004

Process for registering operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes
(Resolution Conf. 12.10 and Decision 12.78)

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Members of the working group

Chile (Chair);

Regional representatives: Asia, Europe and North America;

Observers from Parties: Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America;

Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations: Animal Exhibitors Alliance, Birds International Avicultural Park Breeding and Research Centre Environmental Investigation Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde E.V., Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Society for the Protection of Animals; and

The CITES Secretariat.

Terms of reference

1. Examine all responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2003/071.
2. Formulate concluding findings and recommendations as requested under Decision 12.78, paragraphs a), b) and c) for inclusion in the report to CoP13, including proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.10.

Summary of the discussions and recommendations

1. Examination of the responses to the Notification indicated that most problems rest with CBO's (captive breeding operations) not submitting applications, and much less with problems of rejected applications.
2. For this reason, the WG felt that we should focus on ways to make the application process more "user-friendly" for the CBO's.
3. The consensus of the WG was not to amend Resolution Conf. 12.10 or the Annexes, which are the result of 7 years of work on this issue, especially since the amendments made at CoP 12 that made the process easier, have not had much time to be "field-tested".

4. The WG recommends that the Secretariat disseminate a Notification encouraging MA's to work with their CBO's to prepare and submit applications. The Notification should also include a copy of Canada's application form as a sample (which is available at: www.cites.ca).
5. The WG encourages Parties when preparing applications, to consult with other relevant Parties that may potentially have objections, so as to minimize possible delays. This hopefully will minimize the occasional problem where a single party may halt or delay the registration process.
6. The following table summarizes the WG's findings related to paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 12.78. The WG on *in situ* production and *ex situ* conservation, dealt with paragraph c) of Decision 12.78.

a. Perceived problems limiting the wider use of the procedure	b. Recommendations for resolving them
1. Preparing the application is too complicated or complex, especially for small operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA should work closely with the CBO to prepare the information required in Annex I, or establish a support group with breeders and government, in order to facilitate the procedure • Simplify the language by using a basic application form, such as the one used by Canada..
2. It is difficult to provide proof of legal acquisition of breeding or parental stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where actual documentation is difficult to obtain, MA may accept signed affidavits in lieu of actual copies of old or unobtainable documents, as is provided for in Resolution Conf. 12.10.
3. Concerns over "laundered" Appendix-I specimens getting into international trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat will disseminate, together with the notification of a new CBO being added to the registry, details of the specific marking method (and the identifying codes or prefixes used by the CBO, where possible) used by the registered CBO. • Adequate enforcement by all Parties to eliminate illegal trade
4. Some Parties are allowing import of Appendix-I species under Article III, so registration is deemed as unnecessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Parties should allow trade for commercial purposes of Appendix I species, unless it conforms strictly to Resolution Conf. 5.10 and Conf. 12.10 • The WG recommends that the Standing Committee examine the issue of international trade in Appendix I species from non-registered CBOs.
5. National legislation of some importing countries prohibits the importing MA from identifying the purpose of import of Appendix I species as commercial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage importing countries to amend legislation to facilitate import of Appendix-I species from registered CBO's.
6. Concern that commercial trade of Appendix I species may stimulate poaching of the species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate enforcement by all Parties to eliminate illegal trade
7. Concern that there are not enough incentives for CBO's to apply for registration	Provide incentives to CBO's such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster processing time of permit applications • MA can provide the CBO with a formal certificate of approval as an internationally registered breeding facility • Possibly reduced export permit fees

Suggested Summary for Chairman's Report to the CoP

1. Most of the problems limiting wider use of the registration procedure rest with CBO's (captive breeding operations) not submitting applications, and much less with problems of rejected applications.
2. The AC recommends not to amend Resolution Conf. 12.10 at this time.
3. The AC recommends that the Secretariat issue a Notification to the Parties recommending that they:
 - a) work with CBO's to facilitate preparing application for registration
 - b) provide incentives to registered CBO's to encourage them to register their operation.
 - c) ensure that all trade in Appendix I species is in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 and Resolution Conf. 5.10.