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

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

Report of the Working Group

CONTROL OF CAPTIVE BREEDING, RANCHING AND WILD
HARVEST PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR APPENDIX-II SPECIES

Members of the working group

Regional representatives: Africa (Mr Chidziya, Chair) and Europe (Ms Rodics);

Observers from Parties: Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, South Africa and the United States; and

Observers from international and non-governmental organizations: IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Species Survival Network and Pro Wildlife; and

The CITES Secretariat.

Terms of Reference

a)   Review the suggestions made in document AC20 Inf. 15 and 18; and

b)   Determine whether the Working Group should proceed working on this issue and formulate final recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

Summary of the discussions and recommendations

1.   The WG upholds the major recommendations that it reached in AC19, that the existing source codes (C, F, D, R, W) should be maintained in order to remain simple, practical and clear.

2.   The WG notes that source codes are often not used correctly or consistently. The WG recommends the following uses for the source codes:

a)   The code C should be used only for: *Animals bred in captivity in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.), as well as parts and derivatives thereof, exported under the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 5 (specimens of species included in Appendix I that have been bred in captivity for non-commercial purposes and specimens of species included in Appendices II and III).*

b)   With regard to the code R, the WG recommends that Resolution Conf. 11.16 be amended to include operations other than those linked to a down-listing from Appendix I to Appendix II. The WG recommends the following definition of "Ranching" be included in the amended Resolution Conf. 11.16, and also in

Resolution Conf. 12.3: Ranching is defined as the rearing in a controlled environment of specimens, such as eggs or hatchlings, of life stages which suffer high mortality rates in the wild, that are taken from the wild through controlled collection under a management plan that provides for sustainable use of the species. There was not full consensus in the WG on this issue, as some felt that the R code should be used <u>only</u> for those species down-listed from Appendix-I to Appendix II

c) The code F should be defined in Resolution Conf. 12.3 and used for animal specimens resulting from the exchange of gametes under captive conditions or propagated asexually in captivity (F1 or subsequent generations) that do not fulfill the definition of 'bred in captivity' in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.).

d) The code D should be used as defined in Resolution Conf. 12.3 i.e: *Appendix-I animals bred in captivity for commercial purposes and Appendix-I plants artificially propagated for commercial purposes, as well as parts and derivatives thereof, exported under the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4.*

e) The WG recommends that source code I be renamed to Y, because there is a large potential for confusion when code I is used, since both source code and Appendix appear together in one box on the permits. In this case the I source code can be mistook for I for Appendix I. Some participants expressed concerns to the suggested changes because of the cost implications.

f) By default, W will be used for wild specimens of animals, and should refer to those from any source other than those mentioned above (source codes O and U have not yet been discussed).

3. The WG was made aware that the Plants Committee has looked at the issue of source codes too. The WG recommends that although animal and plant production systems are often quite different, they can also have similarities and overlaps. The WG recommends the formation of a joint working group at CoP 13 tasked with examining the documents that have been developed, that list and define different production systems for animals and plants and determine the appropriate source codes for each.

4. In order to improve implementation of source codes by both importing and exporting Parties, this information should eventually be disseminated as guidelines for production systems and the appropriate source code for each. These materials should also include a description of elements that should be considered in making non-detriment findings within each production system. In addition, the information must stress that Parties be reminded that source codes are not a substitute for non-detriment findings.