CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
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Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 20-24 April 2009

REVIEW OF SOURCE CODE R AND REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 11.16 (REV. COP14)
(AGENDA ITEM 8)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairs: The representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr Marcel Calvar Agrelo and Mr Jose Alberto Alvarez Lemus) and the Netherlands;

AC member: Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);

Parties: Canada, China, France, Germany, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society of the United States, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Pro Wildlife and Species Management Specialists.

Mandate

Regarding agenda item 8.1: *Review of the use of source code 'R'*, the Working Group had the following mandate:

a)   Discuss the following options for the use of source code R related to animals:

   i)   Delete source code R completely. 'Ranched' specimens should be exported as wild with a proper NDF;

   ii)  Maintain source code R only for crocodilian and sea turtle species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II, in conformity with Resolutions Conf. 9.20 and Conf. 11.16; or

   iii) Use source code R for animal species of Appendix II and develop criteria for the use of this source code; and

b)   Propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code R, as directed by Decision 14.52 to the Committee.

Regarding agenda item 8.2: *Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14)*, the Working Group had the following mandate:

a)  Consider the following suggestions by the Secretariat:

    i)  Repeal (most parts of) Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14) and Resolution Conf. 9.20 (Rev.) as they are rendered purposeless by paragraphs A.2. b) and c) in Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14); or

    ii) Simplify the conditions for making an amendment proposal to revise the two ranching Resolutions in order to bring them on a par with the provisions in paragraphs A. 2. b) and c) in Annex 4 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), thereby removing any disincentive to follow this approach; and

b)  Advise the Committee whether to propose revisions to the Resolution for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

1.  The group does not recommend deleting source code R completely. Rather, the working group recommends the use of source code R for Appendix II species, subject to use of a better definition of ranching, as well as down-listed populations under Resolution Conf. 11.16 and its predecessors.

2.  The group felt there was a need for a more precise definition of ranching. Accordingly, the group recommends adopting the following definition (derived from the definition used by the Crocodile Specialist Group): *Ranching means the rearing in a controlled environment of specimens which have been taken as eggs or juveniles from the wild where they would have a very low probability of surviving to adulthood.*

3.  Even though the group agreed that this definition better defined ranching, the group felt strongly that there was a need for better guidance to the Parties on the use of this source code (given that its application has been the subject of confusion in the past). The group felt that this guidance might best be dealt with by production of a manual and recommends to the Committee a draft decision, directed to the Secretariat, which might provide such guidance on the use of source code R (and other source codes), namely: *Contingent upon the availability of external funds, the Secretariat shall contract an appropriate expert to prepare a guide to advise the Parties on the appropriate use of source codes.*

4.  With respect to the revision of Resolution Conf. 11.16, the group recommends that:

    a)  all proposals for the down-listing of populations from Appendix I to Appendix II, whether for ranching or not, should be done under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14);

    b)  the core elements of Resolution Conf. 9.20 and 11.16 should be retained to inform consideration of precautionary measures under Annex 4 A.2.d of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14);

    c)  such elements, which should be in line with other provisions in Annex 4 A.2 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), should be incorporated in an Annex to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14);

    d)  accordingly, Resolution Conf. 9.20 and 11.16 could be repealed in their entirety.

5.  The group recommends that the Secretariat assess, in consultation with the Animals Committee, and report to CoP15 any implications of the approach suggested in recommendation 4 for populations previously down-listed for ranching under Resolution Conf. 11.16 and its predecessors.

6.  These recommendations are the view of the majority of the working group.