

Captive breeding

Facts about captive breeding and artificial propagation



International trade in CITES-listed species reported as **captive bred or artificially propagated** has increased, accounting for over half of all trade in 2000-2012.

Technological developments make it easier to produce specimens that are bred in captivity or artificially propagated.

The trend is expected to continue, particularly if demand remains the same or increases, as supplies from the wild become more difficult to obtain.

Captive breeding and artificial propagation :

- Can take time to reach maximum production
- Not possible at a commercial scale for all species
- Often requires expertise and infrastructure costs
- For specimens of CITES-listed species, the text of the Convention provides an exemption to the normal permit requirements where the specimens concerned are “bred in captivity” (for animals) or “artificially propagated” (for plants). The definition of these terms appear in Resolutions Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) and 11.11 (Rev. CoP15)
- Not always easy to determine if a specimen is really bred in captivity or artificially propagated, and there may be fraud involving specimens from the wild, which are reported as “bred in captivity” or “artificially propagated” in order to avoid the controls on trade
- The Secretariat is reviewing current challenges and concerns to support Parties on these issues.



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Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Background studies on the extent and nature of international trade in specimens bred in captivity or artificially propagated, on ways to more effectively share information on captive-breeding and ranching operations, and evaluating the utility of captive-breeding databases
- ✓ Guide to the use of the different codes needed on CITES permits and certificates, which help CITES authorities know what checks to carry out on facilities captive breeding or artificially propagating CITES-listed species
- ✓ Guidance on the actual inspection of facilities claiming to captive-breed CITES specimens with step-by-step instructions for detecting fraud

- Guide “Application of CITES Source Codes”:
<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/E-SC66-41-01-Annex4-ALL.pdf>
- Guidance for inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities:
<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/E-SC66-41-01-Annex3.pdf>

Looking into the future...

The next steps in the cooperation are to promulgate the guide and guidance through hands-on training in key countries that are breeding and artificially propagating significant quantities of specimens of CITES-listed species. In this way, national officials from CITES Management Authority and other agencies can be trained, with implementation of the Convention being improved. Refinements can be made to the guide and guidance over time with the benefit of field experience.



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