Assessment of Specimens Bred in Captivity for CITES Permits and Certificates

The Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989 (TIES Act) implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in New Zealand. Certain requirements apply to the trade of CITES specimens that are bred in captivty.

Summary Statement

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is New Zealand's CITES Management Authority (NZCMA). The NZCMA is responsible for assessing applications under the TIES Act to facilitate legal trade in CITES specimens.

The NZCMA will assess applications to trade specimens "bred in captivity" in accordance with New Zealand's international obligations and relevant internationally agreed guidance. This includes relevant CITES Resolutions which set out the accepted criteria for determining whether a specimen qualifies as bred in captivity for the purposes of CITES.

Where the NZCMA is not satisfied that a specimen has been bred in captivity in accordance with this criteria, the specimen will not be treated as being bred in captivity for the purposes of CITES. In those circumstances, any application to trade the specimen must be assessed under the relevant provisions of the TIES Act that apply to specimens that are not bred in captivity.

If a permit or certificate is granted, the NZCMA will assign the appropriate CITES source code in accordance with the Convention and relevant CITES Resolutions.

Legal and statutory context

When assessing applications to trade specimens bred in captivity, the NZCMA is guided by relevant CITES Resolutions which sets out the internationally accepted criteria for determining whether a specimen qualifies as being bred in captivity for the purposes of CITES.

Relevant regulatory processes

Anyone seeking a CITES permit or certificate must submit an application to DOC.

Information provided by applicants will be considered alongside other relevant information when assessing applications and determining the correct permit or certificate and the appropriate source code.

Relation to DOC outcomes

DOC's work is guided by our strategy, which outlines our purpose and outcomes.

This position is aligned with the DOC outcomes of 'Improved performance of the conservation regulatory system'.