

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

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Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 22 April to 3 May 1985

Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II

Proposals Submitted Pursuant to Resolution on Ranching

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM INDONESIA

In response to a request from the Secretariat and subsequent to distribution of document Doc. 5.44 (with Notification to the Parties No. 341 dated 15 March 1985), the Secretariat has received from Indonesia the attached comments and additional information concerning the proposal to transfer the Indonesian population of Crocodylus porosus from Appendix I to Appendix II.

## DIREKTORAT JENDERAL PERLINDUNGAN HUTAN DAN PELESTARIAN ALAM

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JAKARTA / BOGOR Tgl. 11 Maret 1985.

Kepada Yth.

Nomor : 354 /VI- sek / PA / 1985

Salinan : 1 EX

Tembusan :

The Secretariat of CITES  
6 rue du Saupas  
Case Postale 78  
CH-1000 Lausanne 9,  
Switzerland.

Bogor, February 1985.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter 221D/CH/da dated 5 February 1985 concerning C. porosus we would like to comment as follows :

1. The latest survey on crocodile in Irian Jaya was conducted by joint-operation between Department of Forestry and WAF/IUCN/USAID and WALHI (IICC). Until recently the survey report is not yet been accomplished. Such report will be published in a formal report.
2. Accordingly any comment on "the result of the survey" by any person only could be considered as a personal opinion or other interest which should not be considered as the survey report.
3. We would like to get more details on "the result of the survey" which stated that skins of C. porosus make up only about 5% of the total harvested. If such statement is true, we will be more aware on the importance of the acceptance of our proposal, which should not be considered from a very narrow angle. We realize that some countries are interested in crocodile ranching due to its commercial potential. But we could not accept that such considerations or commitments will affect other country proposal.
4. We would like to confirm that the exclusion of estuarine crocodile status of Indonesian population from Appendix I to Appendix II will support crocodile conservation programme. It is merely a measure of protection. We will not lift the protected status before any significant change on its population. We would like to carry out it in order to enable our country to honour both national and international duties.

We hope it will be of some information for you and enclosed please find an additional information on our proposal on estuarine crocodile.



General of Forest  
Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation

*Rubini A.*  
Rubini Atzawi djaja.

CC : 1. Sekretaris Direktorat Jenderal  
Perlindungan Hutan dan Pelestarian Alam,  
Bogor.

### Population

An estimation based on data obtained during nocturnal crocodile counting in only 4 (four) main crocodile habitats in Irian Jaya, by R. Whitaker between the end of 1984 until January 1985, give a rough figure on estuarine crocodile population in Irian Jaya : 5,000 to 10,000. Such data should be examined further, since local government recently complained that there were evidences in which many people were reported being killed by crocodile.

### Production Activity

During 1980 - 1984, 572 of rearing products were already skinned for commercial and 63 of rearing products were released into their wild habitat. Both slaughtering and releasing of the rearing product are the obligations of each crocodile ranchers and the executions are always under the supervision of wildlife officers.

Tagging system will be applied both for live ranched crocodiles and their skin products. While recent protected status will not be lifted in order to encourage the ranching programme to maintain the wild population.

The only permitted harvest is the licenced captures of crocodile for re-stocking purposes. For the year of 1985 it is proposed to issue capture licences for about 2,000 babies crocodile from Irian Jaya.

### Crocodile Ranching programme.

#### Short term (one year - 1986)

- a) Stock of crocodile skin from wild hunting will be processed domestically before further uses.
- b) Optimizing the capacity of existing rearing farms including restocking with baby crocodiles.
- c) Facilitating the export of ranching products.
- d) Encouraging involvement of rural people in crocodile farming through procedure simplification and extension.
- e) Stimulating development of crocodile skin industries by encouraging existing private reptile skin industries.
- f) Involving crocodile farmers in the population management programme f.i. through permitting only the catch of baby crocodiles of definite size and release of certain percentage of their rearing products.

Mid-term (until 1988).

- a) Inducing crocodile farm from rearing to breeding by incentives f.i. allowed harvest of breeding products.
- b) Optimize crocodile farms (both in quality and quantity).
- c) Developing an integrated rural crocodile utilization system (catch-farmers-procession and trade).
- d) Total ban over wild crocodile hunting except for farm restocking.
- e) Habitat and population management f.i. through management and extension of conservation areas.

Long term

- a) Developing crocodile farms into full breeding farms.
- b) Developing crocodile skin industries and the only permitted crocodile products for export are processed skins.
- c) Total ban over direct harvest from the wild except for wildlife management.
- d) Crocodile population and habitat management both inside and outside the conservation areas.