

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement issues

RANCHING OPERATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The population of the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) from Madagascar is included in Appendix II subject to the conditions outlined in the Resolution on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II* [now Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14)]. Global crocodile ranching programmes were reviewed at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee (Lima, July 2006), and Madagascar's compliance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.16 was discussed at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC54, Geneva, October 2006). In view of concerns that ranching could be used to disguise or launder skins of adult crocodiles harvested from the wild, and the perceived deficiencies in monitoring wild crocodile populations, inspecting ranching operations and controlling exports of crocodile skins, the Standing Committee endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to visit and examine the ranching operations for *C. niloticus* in Madagascar.
3. The Secretariat undertook a mission to Madagascar in late 2006. The mission confirmed that Madagascar did not fully comply with certain provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.16, and that the controls of the farming operations had been insufficient to prevent abuses. While several initiatives had been taken to improve the situation, the Secretariat's mission concluded that the existing Strategy and Management Plan for Crocodiles in Madagascar, drafted in 2004, should be updated and effectively implemented as soon as possible. It offered a number of suggestions to strengthen the Strategy and its implementation, and formulated specific recommendations on Madagascar's ranching programme. The summary findings of the mission were presented at the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC55, The Hague, The Netherlands, June 2007) in document SC55 Doc. 13, Annex 2.
4. Unfortunately, the Committee was unable to complete the consideration of all items in its agenda at that meeting and resolved to review document SC55 Doc. 13 through a postal procedure.
5. Subsequently, the Standing Committee discussed the issues that remained from the agenda and agreed to the following:
 - a) *to request Madagascar to put into effect the recommendations concerning ranching of the Nile crocodile Crocodylus niloticus in Madagascar and compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14) that are presented in Annex 1 to document SC55 Doc. 13;*
 - b) *to recommend that Madagascar, in implementing the annual-reporting recommendations of Resolution Conf.11.16 (Rev. CoP14), provide well-documented information on progress in implementing the recommendations in Annex 1 to document SC55 Doc. 13;*
 - c) *to review the reports of Madagascar at SC57 and SC58; and*

d) to recommend that Parties allow the import of specimens of C. niloticus from Madagascar only if they are part of an annual export quota published on the CITES website;

6. The above mentioned decisions of the Standing Committee were communicated to the Parties through Notification to the Parties No. 2008/004 of 28 January 2008.
7. In advance of the Standing Committee making its recommendations, Madagascar already sent a copy of a work plan for 2007-2010 to the Secretariat, summarizing the actions it planned to take in response to document SC55 Doc. 13. A copy of this work plan is attached as an Annex to the present document in the language in which it was submitted.
8. The work plan indicated that the report referred to in paragraph 5. c) above would be submitted in time for the present meeting. The Secretariat reminded the Management Authority of Madagascar about this in March 2008, but at the time of writing (15 May 2008) no further information has been received.
9. The Standing Committee is requested to:
 - a) evaluate the compliance of Madagascar with the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14) and the decisions in paragraph 5 of the present document.
 - b) make further recommendations, if necessary, based on this evaluation.