

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

REPORT OF MADAGASCAR FOR THE 62ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF *CROCODYLUS NILOTICUS*

The attached documents have been submitted by Madagascar in relation to agenda item 25 on *Ranching operations in Madagascar**.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*



REPOBLIKAN'I MADAGASIKARA

Fitiavana - Tanindrazana - Fandrosoana

Antananarivo, le

12 JUIL 2012

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET
DES FORETS

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTION GENERALE DES FORETS

DIRECTION DE LA VALORISATION
DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES

SERVICE DE LA GESTION
DE LA FAUNE ET DE LA FLORE

Le Directeur Général des Forêts
Organe de Gestion CITES Madagascar

à

Monsieur Le Secrétaire Général de la CITES
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N° 511 -12/MEF/SG/DGF/DVRN/SGFF

Objet : Rapport sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations sur la gestion du crocodile à Madagascar

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

J'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer le rapport sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations émises par le groupe de travail lors de la 60^{ème} session du Comité permanent au Qatar en Mars 2010. C'est notre deuxième rapport après la date prévue pour l'ouverture du commerce en fin Septembre 2010. Nous souhaiterions vivement un dénouement à cette situation car un moratoire n'est pas une solution pour la gestion du crocodile à Madagascar.

Bien que la date butoir de soumission des documents à la 62^{ème} session du Comité permanent est largement dépassée, nous demandons toujours de mettre notre rapport sur le site car nous pensons que la version anglaise est facilement accessible pour la plupart des participants.

Comptant sur votre compréhension, je vous prie de recevoir, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'expression de mes salutations les meilleures.



RABEMANANTSOA Jean Claude
Directeur Principal des Eaux et Forêts



REPOBLIKAN'I MADAGASIKARA
Fitiavana - Tanindrazana - Fandrosoana

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

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RESSOURCES NATURELLES

SERVICE DE GESTION DE LA FAUNE ET
DE LA FLORE

NOTE INSTRUCTION

N^o466-12/MEF/SG/DGF/DVRN/SGFF

Objet : Taille d'exploitabilité commerciale des crocodiles à Madagascar

En application de la Stratégie nationale de gestion des crocodiles à Madagascar, les tailles d'exploitation aux fins commerciales des peaux de crocodile sont les suivantes :

- largeur ventrale : entre 20cm et 50cm
- largeur dorsale : entre 27cm et 70cm
- longueur : entre 1m et 2,50m

Ces limites sont adoptées pour assurer la gestion durable des crocodiles en permettant aux jeunes de se développer et aux reproducteurs de pérenniser la survie de l'espèce.

Chaque DREF est chargée de la diffusion et le contrôle de l'application de cette note.

En cas de manquement aux obligations édictées dans cette note, il sera fait application des dispositions de la réglementation en vigueur, allant de la saisie des produits délictueux jusqu'à l'emprisonnement du délinquant.

Antananarivo, le 28 JUIN 2012

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES FORETS

J. Claude

RABEMANANTSOA Jean Claude
Ingénieur Principal des Eaux et Forêts

REPORT OF MADAGASCAR FOR THE 62nd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT of *Crocodylus niloticus*

BACKGROUND

Since the moratorium (originally scheduled for 01 April to 30 September 2010 but remained far) decided by the Standing Committee at its 60th meeting in Doha (March 2010), the export of skins or derived from specimens of Madagascar Crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus* was suspended by CITES. Madagascar has already begun, since the moratorium, the priority activities identified by the Working Group in document F60-SumRec and a related report has been sent to the CITES Secretariat in October 7th, 2010.

In November 2011, during a visit to Madagascar by the Secretariat of CITES representative Mrs. Marceil Yeater, Chief on Legal Affairs & trade policy, the problem of crocodile sector, concern about the consequence of the suspension were discussed a financial support's project that CITES can provide to Madagascar to complete and effectively manage the crocodile. In addition, Mrs. Marceil Yeater shared us the comments and recommendations made by the CSG on the report made by Madagascar at the end of the moratorium. The Management Authority of Madagascar draws the attention of the Standing Committee that is not officially seized the letter from CSG, Madagascar could not effectively respond to the remarks of the CSG which delayed the response in the correspondence.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This document prepared by Madagascar for the Standing Committee of CITES reports the activities already undertaken since the moratorium as recommended by the working group established at the 60th session.

a- A Strategy and a Management Plan of crocodiles was developed by Madagascar in 2004 but was not implemented. Following a recommendation 1, the Management Authority with the help of specialists in crocodile and Scientific Authority Fauna has revised and updated the strategy with new scientific data to fully identify the sector upstream to downstream. With CSG's remarks, the finalized and validated document is implemented.

b- The size limit of crocodile skin has been discussed and validated during a meeting of the National Committee of crocodile. However, method used by vendors and researchers is not the same. Considering the length of crocodile, the size of pelts sold is between 20 and 50 cm for the ventral width and between 27 and 70 cm for the dorsal width, which corresponds to the size of individual between 1 and 2.5 m in total length (nose basis to tail). Depending on the size limits used as described in SPGCM, attached is an instruction note from the Department of Forests for its implementation (recommendation 2, 8).

This note is the final outcome of discussions on exploitable sizes and all 22 regions of the country through the Regional Directors of Environment and Forests are notified.

c- Concerning the information on the ranches, the third company "Domaine Saint Christophe" located in Mahajanga that would begin operations is closed since 2011 because of budget deficit. Two ranches are still in activity for the breeding the companies Reptel-CROCFARM and

Crocoranching II. Following the sanctions in 2006, the company Crocoranching II was no longer authorized to export animals from R source from the ranch.

Following the letter from CITES in 2007 which recommended the need to maintain a professional register complying, the Management Authority of Madagascar notified the ranches for its implementation. Thus, regarding changes in the breeding center, the only ranch in activities has already implemented the registry system to present the movement of stock in the quarterly and annual reports (recommendation 3i, 3ii). But the case for monitoring of newborns, the Management Authority informs the Committee that data on cropping scales of newborns at birth are not yet implemented for the following reasons:

- The training provided by the CSG is important, but due to time constraints, the Malagasy administration (MA, Control, Douane, SA) could not do a sufficient practical training for better implementation of this system (CSG has made a practical training of half a day for the measurement method, identification of skin, cropping scales of newborns, that is really insufficient).
- Since the moratorium, the MA has no longer issue permits for egg collection in the wild for ranches, and therefore there is no longer newborn of R source (recommendation 3i, 4i, 6).
- In 2011, the company Reptel-CROCFARM, has issued a request for release newborns of crocodiles bred in captivity as a C source in its private lake at Vohemar - Antsiranana because of budget deficit following the moratorium because it no longer able to provide the costs of animal feeding. (A copy of the demand with the authorizations and related reports are attached to this document).

d- Concerning handicrafts, a call for expressions of interest was made in 2010 followed by a census field census, a list of stakeholders are available with their sales outlet and address. Currently, following the SPGCM, the MA with the help of the SA is currently studying a reliable and useful database, not only for the valorisation of the sector but mainly on data from the wild population. Thus, a register of stock conform and meet norms and needs of a database for each stakeholder is dispatched to the artisans (recommendation 4). An assessment on the status of the sector is expected in the midterm of SPGCM.

e- Concerning the monitoring of products in the local market, the Ministry has a difficulty on the budget to implement effectively the inspections of stocks held by the artisans due to current crisis. In addition, cessation of export of our crocodile products handcrafted may encourage illegal exploitation because it is difficult, especially in the current situation, to do a rigorous monitoring.

f- The database on man-crocodile conflict is currently updated

g- Concerning the export quota of skins from ranching, the reopening of export is a condition for determining the quota and will be the subject of a later letter

In conclusion, cessation of export by maintaining the moratorium does not allow us to well manage the sector, instead it will relaunch illegal exploitation and destroying the wild population of crocodile and will not win rebates or fee for the local community and The State. CITES plans to assist Madagascar in the management of the sector that is really important to us and we sincerely hope the lifting of this moratorium during the Standing Committee meeting in July 2012.