

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



Sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Bangkok (Thailand), 2 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

RANCHING OPERATIONS IN MADAGASCAR

The attached document has been submitted by Madagascar.*

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REPUBLIKAN'I MADAGASIKARA
Fitilavana - Tanindrazana - Fandroscana



REPORT OF MADAGASCAR FOR THE 63rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE 60th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CITES ON THE CROCODILE INDUSTRY IN MADAGASCAR

CONTEXT

During the meeting of the Working Group on Ranching Operations in Madagascar, a side meeting of the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, Switzerland), from 23 to 27 July 2012, Madagascar submitted a report on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the 60th meeting of the Committee in Doha on crocodile management. This report had been submitted to the CITES Secretariat as an information document (SC62 Inf. 5). The Working Group met to discuss the report and the majority of members [France, Germany, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Japan, the Secretariat and the United States of America] felt that Madagascar had not provided enough information to justify the recommended lifting of the trade suspension.

Following the recommendations issued by that meeting, the CITES Management Authority of Madagascar is submitting the current document as a formal report to the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee.

CURRENT SITUATION

As a result of the current situation in Madagascar, although the CITES Management Authority is having difficulty monitoring the situation effectively as recommended by the Working Group, some activities have been fully implemented (recommendation 1 on the assessment, update, adoption and implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Management of Crocodiles in Madagascar, and recommendation 7 on the update of databases on crocodile management; confirmed by the CITES Secretariat in document SC62 Com. 5) and some activities, such as the developing a registry of artisans and the development of a record book for each actor, have been started but the Management Authority does not have sufficient resources to complete these activities. Therefore, it is trying to find funding to assist in the implementation of the recommendations. Currently, the Management Authority of Madagascar, the scientific authority and the CITES Secretariat are working together to develop and implement a project aimed at improving management through better and more efficient monitoring of the crocodile industry in Madagascar. This project is being finalized for signature and the release of funding would make it possible to support Madagascar in the carrying out of activities that it sees as important to resolve the issues related to management and effective implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group.

Moreover, another project by an NGO entitled Label CBD Consulting, which will last three years and is funded by Darwin Initiatives and aims to improve conservation and local living conditions through the better use of crocodiles and access to benefit sharing is in progress and will be implemented from 2013. This global project concerns four countries: Indonesia, Madagascar, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Viet Nam.

Report on ranches

Following recommendation 3 (doc. SC60), on the control of ranches, it should be noted that:

1- Current situation of ranches as a result of the moratorium on crocodiles

- The Domaine Saint Christophe company located in Mahajanga which was going to start its activities has been closed since 2011 as a result of a budgetary deficit.
- Of the two ranches that are still active, namely REPTTEL-CROCFARM and Crocoranching II, the sanctions imposed in 2006 have made Crocoranching II unable to export R source animals that come from ranches and no new provision has been introduced.
- In 2011, REPTTEL-CROCFARM issued a request to release newborn crocodiles raised in C source captivity into its private lake at Vohema-Antsiranana because of a budget deficit following the moratorium as the company can no longer meet the costs of feeding the animals. As of 2012, the company is no longer able to continue its activities in its centre and has been suspended. As of 1 July 2012, all of the company's activities are managed by a new company named SERCA SARL. The CITES Management Authority of Madagascar was informed of the transfer of activities and was provided with all of the documentation pertaining to it.

2- Stock record book for ranches (recommendation 3)

Following the letter from CITES in 2007 which recommended the need to have a record book, the Management Authority of Madagascar notified the ranches of the need. Therefore, with regard to movements in the breeding centres, the only ranch that was active has already introduced a registration system in order to present its stock movements in its quarterly and annual reports (recommendation 3i and 3ii).

However, for monitoring of newborns, the Management Authority informs the Committee that the data on scale cutting of newborns at birth are still not available for the following reasons:

- The training provided by the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) was certainly important, but lacked in time and means, the Malagasy Government (Management Authority, Control, Customs, Scientific Authority) was not able to carry out sufficient practical training to improve implementation of this system (the CSG carried out a half-day practical training session on the measuring system, skin identification, scale cutting of newborns, which seems to us to be highly insufficient).
- Since the moratorium, the Management Authority no longer issues permits for egg collection in the wild for ranches and therefore there are no longer source R newborns (recommendations 3i, 4i, 6).

Situation of handicraft industry (recommendation 4i, 4ii, doc SC 60)

With regard to handicrafts, a call for declaration of interests was issued in 2010 followed by an in the field inventory and a list of actors is available, containing their sales outlets and addresses (list and addresses are attached in a Microsoft Excel file). This list of active artisans (December 2011) shows:

- Number of hunters/collectors: 9
- Number of tanners : 2
- Number of clothiers : 59
- Number of retailers : 53

Following the visits to the artisans in the Antananarivo region and in the large communities of Tamatave and Mahajanga, the General Directorate of Forestry and the Management Authority, with the assistance of experts and the Scientific Authority, have created a stock record for each actor in the industry (recommendation 4). This stock record complies with standards and responds to the need for a database of actors to be available for artisans which summarizes the traceability of crocodile skin from hunting to sale. Using this data it has been possible to introduce a database in Microsoft Office Access. After this first control measure, and because of the current crisis, the Ministry is having budgetary difficulties and is struggling to effectively implement inspections of artisans' stock (recommendation 5).

These artisans are grouped into different categories (classified by the Ministry of Industrialisation and Handicraft), including exporter artisans that are developers, artisans that have studied their craft and artisans

that carry out manual labour to process the material into a useful product or a piece of art either by providing processing or maintenance work. The regularization of these artisans requires a study to be carried out by the Ministries involved in order to decide upon the type of agreement taking into account the fact that Malagasy artisans are grouped into different actors and work at different levels.

Efforts are currently being made by the Ministry of Promotion of Handicrafts to promote the trade. Moreover, for 2012, the abovementioned Ministry is endeavouring to develop a national policy on handicrafts to enable better application of the regulations already in force.

The CITES Management Authority of Madagascar reports that actions to regularize the activities of artisans are in place but are sectoral in nature; a combined effort is needed, particularly in the crocodile industry. Therefore it was considered important to incorporate this process into the SSFA CITES – Madagascar project in order to study the implementation of crocodile-related platform or another type of interdepartmental collaboration to enable effective management of the industry.

With the halting of export of crocodile products and other products made from precious woods, the artisan industry, on which many people are dependent, is in difficulties. In addition, this moratorium increases illegal exploitation of our natural resources.

Viewpoint on the crocodile industry in Madagascar

1- SSFA CITES – Madagascar project,

The aim of this project is to improve the crocodile management system in Madagascar while satisfying the priority activities agreed by the Standing Committee and its Working Group (France, Germany, the IUCN/GSC, Japan, Madagascar, the Secretariat, the United States of America, and two representatives of the leather industry of Japan) in order to bring about the reopening of the crocodile trade. Therefore, the Management Authority, with the help of its experts and the Scientific Authority, will carry out an evaluation and work to improve this industry, which uses products that come from *Crocodylus niloticus* in Madagascar.

The planned activities within the scope of this project are on the one hand to monitor the wild population through the implementation of a methodology which is accepted by all actors in the industry and which will be repeated in the years to come and the establishment of a local monitoring committee and, on the other, to regularize the different actors in the value chain and then to enable long-term monitoring and control of all industry-related activities.

2- Viewpoint on the Darwin Initiative project for local communities and the monitoring of the wild population

The aims of this project are, on the one hand to strengthen conservation initiative through the integration of management of demand issues in order to optimize long-term results and, on the other hand, to connect these initiatives to market actors through effective communication regarding the value of biodiversity and the role the actors could play in its conservation.

The main result of this project will be to improve the long-term subsistence methods of local communities through funds generated from the market with economic incentives for the sustainable use and conservation of the species.

The production of relevant information on conservation and biodiversity and the socio-economic impacts of trade in crocodile hide will make it possible to improve the capacity of actors in the industry. This is in order to create direct links with local communities and those responsible for species management and management of habitats. Thanks to these links, the stakeholders will be able to participate actively in the promotion of biodiversity while maintaining conservation at a certain level.

In terms of design, a new consideration of the uses of hide will create opportunities for local communities to add value and increase their participation at the heart of global value chains.

This project should help Madagascar to fulfil its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES, including tangible measures to achieve the Aichi Targets (particularly targets 1 to 5 and 12, 14, 18 and 19).

The results of this project will be presented at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be examined by the Parties to those conventions.

3- System to sustain activities arising from the industry

In accordance with the SPGCM, a source of revenue will be generated through the use of crocodile products for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. These resources will be used by the CITES Management Authority of Madagascar to implement effective monitoring and control activities (both scheduled and unscheduled) of different actors in accordance with recommendations 3, 4 and 5 and of the wild crocodile population.

Therefore, the opening of trade in crocodile products would not only provide resources to the State but would also boost economic activities for local communities and actors that are dependent on the industry.

Cases of import and re-export (from recommendation SC62 Com. 5):

Madagascar wishes to inform the Secretariat that it is currently in the process of compiling documents to answer the questions arising from the comparative study of trade in the Nile crocodile between Madagascar and other Parties in order to provide clarification. As the report arrived on 18 December 2012, the Management Authority is not able to provide a response by 2 January 2013. This response will be the subject of another report that Madagascar will submit to the Secretariat in due course, prior to the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee.

In conclusion, stopping export by maintaining this moratorium will not enable us to manage the industry; on the contrary it will boost illegal exploitation and destroy the wild crocodile population and will not enable local communities to reap the benefits. Madagascar is relying heavily on the abovementioned efforts to revive the crocodile industry in our country. The CITES Management Authority requests the Working Group to reconsider the case of Madagascar in order to revive its economy.