

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

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Ottawa (Canada), 12 to 24 July 1987

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Trade in Leopard Skins

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON LEOPARD QUOTAS

1. During its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 5.13 on Trade in Leopard Skins (see document Doc. 6.28 Annex 2). Except for increased quotas for three of the seven leopard quota Parties, the Resolution is virtually identical to Resolution Conf. 4.13 adopted at the fourth meeting (Gaborone, 1983).

Resolution Conf. 5.13 a) recommends that the following states export not more than the indicated number of leopard skins in any one calendar year:

<u>State</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Botswana	80
Kenya	80
Malawi	20
Mozambique	60
United Republic of Tanzania	250
Zambia	300
Zimbabwe	350

2. Under Resolution Conf. 5.13, recommendation c), skins exported should have a self-locking tag attached, which indicates the state of export, the number of the specimen in relation to the annual quota and the calendar year to which the quota applies. The Secretariat arranged for a consolidated bulk order of 1987 tags for leopard quota countries requesting them.
3. States that export leopard skins in terms of the Resolution are to report the number of skins so exported annually to the Secretariat, which is to submit a report to each biennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following information is based on reports for 1985 and 1986 submitted by the leopard quota states and 1985 trade statistics compiled by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU) as of the time this document was drafted, as well as the report to the Secretariat "Survey of the Status of the Leopard (Panthera pardus) in Sub-Saharan Africa" by R. B. Martin and T. De Meulenaer.

Botswana (Quota 80) - The Secretariat did not receive a report for 1986 from Botswana and the 1985 Annual Report showed 99 leopard skins exported in 1985 as trade or personal items. The Martin and De Meulenaer Report estimates that about 160 skins may be exported annually from animals killed as hunting trophies or for livestock protection and that the 1986 quota of 80 skins was used. Botswana purchased 80 tags for 1987 through the Secretariat consolidated order, but it is not known what kind of tags were used in prior years.

Kenya (Quota 80) - Kenya reported that it has a stock of 282 skins on hand. Five leopard skins were exported in 1985 and another five skins in 1986, all of these being for official government presentations. It is not known what kind of tags were used.

Malawi (Quota 20) - Malawi reported that five leopard skins had been exported in 1985 and another five skins in 1986. Malawi purchased 50 tags through the Secretariat for 1987, and it is not known what kind of tags were used in prior years.

Mozambique (Quota 60) - In an Annual Report for 1985 and 1986, Mozambique declared no leopard skins exported in 1985 and one exported in 1986. Sixty tags were ordered through the Secretariat for 1987 and it is not known what type of tag was used in prior years.

United Republic of Tanzania (Quota 250) - The Annual Report for 1985 showed 61 leopard skins exported, and the export of 191 skins is reported for 1986. Martin and De Meulenaer report that 114 leopard skins were exported as hunting trophies in 1986 and that Burundi traders reported that they are receiving significant numbers of skins from the United Republic of Tanzania, which claims not to have exported any to that country. Through a special project funded by the International Foundation for Game Conservation, 250 tags were provided by the Secretariat in 1986. For 1987, 250 tags were acquired, also through the Secretariat. The Government reported that tags in use for years prior to 1986 were not satisfactory due to faulty locking.

Zambia (Quota 300) - Zambia reported 228 skins exported in 1985 and 205 in 1986. For 1987, 300 tags were acquired through the Secretariat. In 1986, Zambia used metallic tags provided by a company from the Federal Republic of Germany.

Zimbabwe (Quota 350) - Zimbabwe reported the export of 158 leopard skins in 1985 and 171 in 1986.

PROBLEMS

4. The Secretariat is aware of several instances where skins were exported without an import permit first having been issued, and one instance where the skin was not marked with a suitable tag. One state, Botswana, did not report on exports for 1986. In addition, Botswana's total exports in 1985 exceeded the quota by about 25%. Furthermore, some of these exports were apparently fully commercial, e.g. single export permits issued for 18 skins to South Africa (which reported that 15 of these were imported) and 15 skins to Gabon. Thus, it appears that these actions are contrary to recommendation b) of Resolution Conf. 5.13 and probably also to Article III of the Convention. It is unfortunate that the Party singled out by Martin and De Meulenaer as having one of the most sensible and most successful leopard conservation policies/programmes appears to be the only quota Party to have contravened the agreed procedures.

CONCLUSIONS

5. Six of the seven leopard quota states did not export up to the number of skins allowable. However, with arrangements in place for an annual consolidated purchase of tags and the quota states now familiar with the conditions and procedures involved, there is no reason why the system should not operate well.

Resolution Conf. 5.13 recommends that the whole Resolution be reviewed at the sixth meeting, and document Doc. 6.26, Report on the Status of the Leopard in Sub-Saharan Africa, provides material of importance to this review and to the long term status of the species in the appendices.