

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

QUOTA REQUESTS

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

1. When the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 5.13 on Trade in Leopard Skins (Annex 2) at its fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985), it recommended that the whole Resolution be reviewed at the sixth meeting (see also document Doc. 6.27).
2. The document Doc. 6.26, Report on the Status of the Leopard in Sub-Saharan Africa should also be used to review Resolution Conf. 5.13.
3. In view of the contents of documents Doc. 6.26 and Doc. 6.27, the Secretariat feels that the most appropriate course of action would be for the Conference of the Parties to continue the operation of the system currently in use (Resolution Conf. 5.13) for a further two years, after which a more permanent solution should be agreed - either along similar lines to the current system or by transferring the species (at least the sub-Saharan African population) to Appendix II. Therefore, a draft resolution is attached as Annex 3.
4. The Central African Republic is the only Party without a leopard skin quota which has submitted a request for such a quota. Its request is attached to this document as Annex 1.

It appears from document Doc. 6.26 that the quota requested is very conservative and, therefore, the Secretariat recommends that it be accepted.

5. On its part, the Republic of Zimbabwe formally requested the Parties to approve that the Zimbabwe leopard skin quota be increased to 500. The Management Authority added that "It is estimated that Zimbabwe has a population of 12,000 and an offtake of 500 is sustainable".

It appears from document Doc. 6.26 that the population in Zimbabwe is probably more than 16,000 leopards, the potential harvest being 710. Therefore, the Secretariat recommends that the request be approved despite the fact that the request presented at the fifth meeting in Buenos Aires referred to a population of 38,000 animals (document Doc. 5.23 Annex 4, Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting, p. 416).

APPLICATION FOR AN ANNUAL EXPORT QUOTA  
FOR LEOPARD SKINS

A. APPLICATION

Annual quota of 40 skins.

B. APPLICANT

The Central African Republic.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

The range of Panthera pardus covers the North and South-East part of the country.

This is an area of wooded savannah and of gallery forest including 12 hunting sectors with an area of about 110,000 sq. km.

No systematic census of the leopard population has yet been made. However, bona fide information gathered from trackers and hunting guides confirms that the leopard population has reached a very high reproduction level, in view of the frequency with which tracks are encountered and, all of the near disappearance of baboons which are their main prey.

Regarding the problems created by leopards, they are mainly the mass killing of kids in the regions where they occur in large concentrations and aggression against old people and small children. These threats are mainly in the evening at nightfall. Every year, about thirty authorizations for control hunts are granted by the Ministère des eaux et forêts to the local authorities, in order to kill some leopards and thus prevent the actions of these cats which have a detrimental effect on the rural economy.

In addition, leopard hunting has been prohibited in Central African Republic for 26 years. Furthermore, the international measures which ban the wearing of leopard furcoats has favoured the proliferation of the species.

Leopard poaching is very limited in Central African Republic and it is rare to see an individual offering skins for sale to a tourist; the local handicraft industry does not appear to be interested in them.

Moreover, sport hunting constitutes a very important section of the Central African economy, thanks to the provision of foreign currencies by the activity.

Currently, the ban on hunting elephant in Central African Republic is penalizing the safari companies due to a very significant decrease in customers. This has also led to a reduction of the hunting fees, to the detriment of the state.

We estimate that an annual take of 40 leopards, only from sport hunting, can in no way affect the survival of the species as this would represent only 1% of the leopard population estimated in 11,000,000 ha. of zones let out to the safari companies.



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

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 22 April to 3 May 1985

**RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

Conf. 5.13

Trade in Leopard Skins

RECALLING that with the exception of the rare cases of exemptions granted under Article VII of the Convention, trade in Appendix I species is prohibited;

RECALLING that the leopard Panthera pardus is listed in Appendix I;

RECOGNIZING that the killing of specimens of leopard may be sanctioned by countries of export in defense of life and property and to enhance the survival of the species, and that the leopard is in no way endangered in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia or Zimbabwe;

RECOGNIZING that the said countries of export may trade in such dead specimens in accordance with Resolution Conf. 2.11 (San José, 1979) and may grant export permits in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article III of the Convention;

RECALLING that paragraph 3(c) of Article III of the Convention provides that import permits shall only be granted when a Management Authority of the state of import is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes, and that paragraph 2(a) of Article III of the Convention provides that export permits shall only be granted when a Scientific Authority of the state of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species;

RECOGNIZING the overwhelming desire of the Parties that the commercial market for leopard skins should not be reopened;

**THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**RECOMMENDS**

- a) that in reviewing applications for permits to import whole skins or nearly whole skins of leopard, in accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Article III of the Convention, the Scientific Authority of the state of import approve permits if it is satisfied that the skin being considered is from one of the following states which may not export more of the said skins in any one calendar year than the number shown under "quota" opposite the name of the state:

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

- b) that in reviewing applications for permits to import whole skins or nearly whole skins of Panthera pardus, in terms of paragraph 3(c) of Article III of the Convention, the Management Authority of the state of import may be satisfied that the said skins is not to be used for mainly commercial purposes if:
- i) a skin is acquired by the owner in the country of export and is being imported as a personal item that will not be sold in the country of import; and
  - ii) the owner imports no more than one skin in any calendar year;
- c) that the Management Authority of a state of import only permit the import of a leopard skin in accordance with this Resolution if the skin has 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 - for example ZW 6/350 1986 indicating that Zimbabwe is the state of export and that the specimen is the sixth specimen exported by Zimbabwe out of its quota of 350 for 1986;
- d) that in the case of whole or nearly whole leopard skins traded according to the terms of this Resolution, the words "has been granted" in paragraph 2(d) of Article III of the Convention be deemed to have been satisfied upon the written assurance of the Management Authority of the state of import that an import permit will be granted;
- e) that each state that exports leopard skins in terms of this Resolution report the number of skins so exported annually to the Secretariat and that the Secretariat submit a report to each biennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- f) that the states authorized to export leopard skins in terms of this Resolution and their quotas be subject to review by meetings of the Conference of the Parties taking into account, inter alia, existing stocks, and that the quotas may only be increased with the consent of the Conference of the Parties; and
- g) that the whole Resolution be reviewed at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so as to allow sufficient time for Parties to assess the merits of this Resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Trade in Leopard Skins

RECALLING that with the exception of the rare cases of exemptions granted under Article VII of the Convention, trade in Appendix I species is prohibited;

RECALLING that the leopard Panthera pardus is listed in Appendix I;

RECOGNIZING that the sub-Saharan population of the leopard is not endangered and that this population might be listed more appropriately in Appendix II;

RECOGNIZING also that the killing of specimens of leopard may be sanctioned by countries of export in defense of life and property and to enhance the survival of the species;

RECOGNIZING further that these countries of export may trade in such dead specimens in accordance with Resolution Conf. 2.11 (San José, 1979) and may grant export permits in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article III of the Convention;

RECALLING that paragraph 3(c) of Article III of the Convention provides that import permits shall only be granted when a Management Authority of the state of import is satisfied that the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes, and that paragraph 2(a) of Article III of the Convention provides that export permits shall only be granted when a Scientific Authority of the state of export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS

- a) that in reviewing applications for permits to import whole skins or nearly whole skins of leopard, in accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Article III of the Convention, the Scientific Authority of the state of import approve permits if it is satisfied that the skin being considered is from one of the following states which may not export more of the said skins in any one calendar year than the number shown under "quota" opposite the name of the state:

<u>State</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Botswana	
Central African Republic	
Kenya	
Malawi	
Mozambique	
United Republic of Tanzania	
Zambia	
Zimbabwe	
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- b) that in reviewing applications for permits to import whole skins or nearly whole skins of Panthera pardus, in terms of paragraph 3(c) of Article III of the Convention, the Management Authority of the state of import may be satisfied that the said skins is not to be used for mainly commercial purposes if:
- i) a skin is acquired by the owner in the country of export and is being imported as a personal item that will not be sold in the country of import; and
  - ii) the owner imports no more than one skin in any calendar year;
- c) that the Management Authority of a state of import only permit the import of a leopard skin in accordance with this Resolution if the skin has 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 - for example ZW 6/350 1986 indicating that Zimbabwe is the state of export and that the specimen is the sixth specimen exported by Zimbabwe out of its quota of 350 for 1986;
- d) that in the case of whole or nearly whole leopard skins traded according to the terms of this Resolution, the words "has been granted" in paragraph 2(d) of Article III of the Convention be deemed to have been satisfied upon the written assurance of the Management Authority of the state of import that an import permit will be granted;
- e) that each state that exports leopard skins in terms of this Resolution report the number of skins so exported annually to the Secretariat and that the Secretariat submit a report to each biennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- f) that, if a proposal to transfer the sub-Saharan population of the leopard to Appendix II is not approved (or submitted) at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the system adopted in this Resolution be continued indefinitely, with any increase in a quota or any new quota (i.e. for a state not previously having such) requiring the consent of the Conference of the Parties.

Alternative recommendation f):

- f) that, if a proposal to transfer the sub-Saharan population of the leopard to Appendix II is not approved (or submitted) at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the system adopted in this Resolution be continued indefinitely, with each state wishing to have an annual quota informing the Secretariat accordingly. The Secretariat will notify the Parties of all such quotas and any subsequent changes made by the states concerned.