

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 Crocodilian Quota Species

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON CROCODILIAN QUOTAS

1. Resolution Conf. 5.21, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Buenos Aires, 1985), requests that the Secretariat compile data on trade in specimens of species subject to quotas and report to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Resolution recommends that range states assigned a quota under the terms of the Resolution meet their reporting requirements under Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention in a timely fashion.
2. Also at the fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted amendment proposals to transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, subject to specified annual export quotas, the populations of Crocodylus niloticus and Crocodylus porosus of the following states:

<u>Crocodylus niloticus</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Crocodylus porosus</u>	<u>Quota</u>
Botswana*	2,000	Indonesia	2,000
Cameroon	20		
Congo	1,000		
Kenya	150		
Madagascar	1,000		
Malawi	500		
Mozambique	1,000		
Sudan	5,000		
United Republic of Tanzania	1,000		
Zambia	2,000		

* The quota for Botswana resulted from amendment of Appendices I and II adopted by the postal procedure, and the amendment entered into force on 3 January 1987.

Quotas shown are for 1985, 1986 and 1987 with those for 1987 subject to review by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

3. Recognizing the importance of marking of specimens in the control of trade, the Secretariat proposed that, pending recommendations from TEC, all skins to be exported could be marked with self-locking plastic tags bearing a unique serial number. The quota Parties agreed to this and to central distribution of standardized tags through the Secretariat. As a result of financial assistance from the Commission of the European Communities, the Secretariat was able to arrange the provision of such tags to each Party having a quota. Unfortunately, the supplier failed to meet the delivery data for the first batch of tags and those for 1985 were not dispatched to the Parties until the end of September of that year. Subsequent deliveries were more timely.
4. The following information is based on Annual Reports for 1985 and Special Reports for 1985 and 1986 submitted to the Secretariat by the quota states, and from 1985 trade statistics compiled by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU) as of the time this document was drafted:

a) Crocodylus niloticus

Botswana (Quota 2,000) - As stated in 2. above, 1987 is the first quota year for Botswana. Its 1985 Annual Report shows 203 specimens exported and WTMU statistics show 651 specimens exported in 1985. Botswana has stated that its exports prior to the effective date of its 1987 quota were on the basis of its Reservation with respect to the Appendix I listing of Crocodylus niloticus.

Cameroon (Quota 20) - The Cameroon Annual Report for 1985 shows one skin exported. No information is available for 1986.

Congo (Quota 1,000) - For 1985 Congo reported that no specimens were exported, and for 1986 reported that 454 skins were exported. A forged Congo export permit to France for 150 skins was discovered and stopped. The tag numbers shown on the permit (1,500 to 1,650) indicated a quota greater than the 1987 Congo quota, leading the French authorities to question its validity.

Kenya (Quota 150) - Kenya reported that no skins were exported in either 1985 or 1986.

Madagascar (Quota 1,000) - Madagascar reported to the Secretariat that it did not export against the 1985 quota but exported 1,000 skins in 1986. WTMU statistics show that 152 specimens were exported in 1985, possibly from the registered captive breeding operation.

Malawi (Quota 500) - Malawi reported 285 skins exported against its quota in 1985 and 500 skins exported in 1986. The amendment proposal submitted to the Secretariat by Malawi stated that 298 skins had been exported in 1985.

Mozambique (Quota 1,000) - Mozambique reported a total of two skins exported for 1985 and 1986.

Sudan (Quota 5,000) - Sudan reported the export of 4,215 skins in 1985 and 2,370 skins in 1986.

United Republic of Tanzania (Quota 1,000) - The United Republic of Tanzania reported 207 skins exported in 1985 and 647 skins exported in 1986.

Zambia (Quota 2,000) - Zambia reported 2,000 skins exported against the 1985 quota and 1,998 against the 1986 quota.

b) Crocodylus porosus

Indonesia (Quota 2,000) - The 1985 Annual Report shows 1,094 skins exported and Indonesia reported that 686 skins were exported in 1986.

PROBLEMS

5. Although Resolution Conf. 5.21 requires that quota states must meet their annual reporting requirements, the deadline for submission of 1986 annual reports is not until 31 October 1987, well after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Consequently, the Secretariat requested a special report of exports for 1985 and 1986. Some states did not submit the information and, as a result, the Secretariat report is not complete with respect to 1986 exports. Kenya, Sudan and Zambia have not satisfied criterion d) in Resolution Conf. 5.21 concerning submission of Annual Reports (see document Doc. 6.18).
6. Some misunderstanding has arisen with respect to which specimens are included in quotas and which, if any, are excluded from quotas. The Secretariat has attempted to clarify this and has explained that all specimens removed from the wild fall within the numerical limit of the quota for that Party. Thus, "ranching" specimens taken as eggs or hatchlings from the wild must be included within the quota. However, specimens bred in captivity in accordance with Resolution Conf. 2.12 by an operation registered with the Secretariat under Resolution Conf. 4.15 may be exported in unlimited numbers and should not be included in the quota (see document Doc. 6.48 Annex 1 for additional discussion on this subject).
7. The Secretariat arranged for consolidated bulk tag orders, but the supplier failed to meet the delivery date for 1985 tags. They were not sent until the end of September causing considerable delay to some exporters and the states involved.

The supply of tags in 1985 and 1986 was funded by the EEC in the framework of a Secretariat project. However, the cost of the tags for 1987 must be borne by the quota states.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

8. In 1985 only Zambia exported up to its quota amount, and in 1986 three states exported up to their quota amounts. The quota states have acted in accordance with the conditions recommended in Resolution Conf. 5.21 for the most part. They are now familiar with the procedures that should be followed in order to comply with them, and with some minor adjustments there is no reason why the system should not work well. At the time this report was finalized most of the quota states were attending a workshop on the Nile crocodile which should lead to more efficient operation of the system and better protection for the species. It is hoped that the workshop summary and recommendations will be available to the Parties at Ottawa.

The Secretariat recommendations on "Proposals Concerning Export Quotas", document Doc. 6.48 Annex 1, contains additional information that is relevant to this document.