

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Maintenance of the Tanzanian population of Crocodylus niloticus in Appendix II, subject to an annual export quota.

B. PROPONENT

The United Republic of Tanzania.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Reptilia
12. Order: Crocodylia
13. Family: Crocodylidae
14. Species: Crocodylus niloticus
15. Common Names: English: Nile crocodile  
French: crocodile du Nil  
Spanish: Cocodrilo del Nilo
16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Historically and at present the Nile crocodile occurs abundantly in the perennial rivers and fresh water lakes of the country. Table 1 (a) shows a list of the major rivers and their approximate lengths and Table 1 (b) is a list of the lakes and their approximate lengths of shoreline. The major rivers have an approximate total length of 4,064 km and the lakes have a total length of 2,780 km of shoreline.

TABLE 1 (a) Major rivers of the United Republic of Tanzania and their approximate lengths (all containing the Nile crocodile)

	<u>River</u>	<u>Approximate length in Km.</u>
1.	Ruvuma	688
2.	Ruaha	515
3.	Malagarasi	440
4.	Kagera	395
5.	Pangani	364
6.	Rungwa	310
7.	Ugata	242
8.	Rufiji	290
9.	Moyowosi	210
10.	Grumet	210
11.	Ruvu	170
12.	Mara	144
13.	Kizigo	86
	Total approximate length	4,064 km.

(b): Major lakes of the United Republic of Tanzania and their approximate lengths of shorelines (all containing the Nile crocodile)

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Approximate Shoreline in Km.</u>
1. Victoria	1,436 (Tanzania side only)
2. Tanganyika	598 (Tanzania side only)
3. Nyasa	320 (Tanzania side only)
4. Rukwa	366
5. Burigi	60

Total approximate length of shoreline 2,780 Km.

22. Population: Although no proper census has been undertaken in all Tanzanian rivers and lakes, there is every indication to suggest that the Nile crocodile population in the United Republic of Tanzania is quite healthy. A recent count of crocodiles in lake Rukwa and its inlet rivers of Momba, Kafu and Songwe by Prof. Hirji (1984-85 and 1986) revealed a population of 10,000 animals in the lake. Also an estimate of crocodile populations by the same investigator in Ruaha and Rufiji Rivers indicated a population of 8,000 animals.

Qualitative observations by Wildlife staff and tourist hunters around the major rivers and lakes together with the increase of incidence of crocodile attack to humans and livestock around the watering sites indicate that the crocodile population in the country is healthy. All in all, the crocodile population in the whole country is estimated to be over 40,000 animals.

23. Habitat: For the past 25 years the Nile crocodile habitats in the United Republic of Tanzania have not deteriorated. The major rivers and lakes are perennial and most rivers flow through National Parks and Game Reserves where complete protection of all species, the crocodile inclusive, is provided. There is great potential in the country for creation of new habitats for the crocodile. For example, along the Great Ruaha River, at Mtera, a water reservoir of 650 km<sup>2</sup> has been constructed to store water for a hydropower project at Kidatu further downstream.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Crocodiles are never hunted for meat in the United Republic of Tanzania. Locally, crocodiles are killed during defence of human lives and property and the trophies obtained are either kept in government godowns or are exported out of the country on personal effects basis.

In 1981, a crocodile farm was opened in Boko area in the north of Dar es Salaam and a small stock of about 500 crocodile eggs was collected from Rufiji River. The crocodile farm never progressed and in 1984 the farm was abandoned after harvesting 19 crocodile skins.

32. Legal International Trade: Large scale commercial hunting of crocodiles was stopped 15 years ago when it was realised that the population of crocodiles reached an extermination point. However, the system allowed small scale crocodile hunting by tourists with licences. The number of crocodile trophies exported as hunted trophies for the years 1982-84 is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Hunted crocodile trophies exported between 1982 and 1984.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Trophy</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
1982	full skin	3
1983	full skin	6
1984	full skin	6

Source: Tanzanian CITES Annual Reports

In 1983 a consignment of 19 crocodile skins was harvested from the farm and exported to Singapore.

The crocodile trophies exported during the export quota system which has been running for the past two years are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Exports of crocodile trophies for 1985 and 1986.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Trophy</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
1985	full skins	207
1986	full skins	477

33. Illegal Trade: Although there were no licences issued for large scale commercial hunting of crocodiles for the past 15 years prior to the setting up of the 1985 export quota system, the existence of some illegal international trade of crocodiles specimens, especially with the neighbouring countries, cannot be ruled out.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Commercial trade in live specimens of crocodiles is completely non-existent in the United Republic of Tanzania.

342. Parts and Derivatives: The crocodiles will be hunted by tourists and licenced local businessmen. The control of exports will be effected through issuance of CITES export permits together with special tags and since hunting crocodiles proves to be difficult to the local people, there is not much incentive for illegal trade in the species.

#### 4. Protection Status

41. National: The Wildlife Conservation Act No. 12 of 1974 takes care of all wildlife species, the crocodile inclusive.

Except for the defence of human lives and property, the hunting of crocodiles is only done on licences. Controlled tourist hunting of crocodiles can be carried out in Game Reserves. However, hunting of crocodiles and other species is completely prohibited in all National Parks.

The trophies obtained are exported with export certificates issued in line with the Wildlife Conservation Act and the CITES export regulations.

42. International: The United Republic of Tanzania is an active Party state to CITES which places the Nile crocodile in Appendix II subject to specified export quotas. Most of Tanzania's trading partners are Party to CITES and a very high co-operation in the fight against illegal international trade in crocodile specimens is expected.

43. Additional Protection Needs: None necessary at the moment.

5. Information on Similar Species

The slender-nosed crocodile, Crocodylus cataphractus is rare in the United Republic of Tanzania and is known to occur so far only in Lake Tanganyika. The population status of this species is not known.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The United Republic of Tanzania is one of the African crocodile producing countries which, for the last two years, was allowed to trade in crocodile trophies under the quota system. There is a general consensus among the African producer nations that the crocodile should be maintained in Appendix II where it can be traded under a strict quota system. The right export quota system limits the chances of over-exploitation of the species.

7. Additional Remarks

71. Quota: The United Republic of Tanzania hereby proposes an annual export quota of 1,000 Nile crocodile skins. This quota will be subject to review from time to time as need arises.

72. Reservation: The United Republic of Tanzania has never deposited any reservations in regard to trade in crocodile specimens.

73. Marking System: The CITES crocodile tags have been in use for the last two years and were found to be easy to use, durable and efficient.

74. Rationale Behind the Request: An off-take of 1,000 crocodiles annually is equivalent to 2.5% of the whole crocodile population in United Republic of Tanzania and this is considered to be non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

8. References

Hirji, K., 1984-5 and 1986. Counting Crocodiles in Lake Rukwa, Interim Report, Wildlife Division, D'Salaam

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

A SPECIAL REPORT ON TRADE IN CROCODILE SPECIMENS  
UNDER THE EXPORT QUOTAS FOR 1985 AND 1986

A. EXPORTS FOR 1985

NAME OF SPECIES	APPENDIX NUMBER	TYPE OF TROPHY	QUANTITY	PURPOSE OF EXPORT	COUNTRY OF IMPORT	EXPORT PERMIT NO.
<u>Crocodylus niloticus</u>	II W	Full Skin	122	Trade	France	003344
" "	"	"	1	Hunted Trophy	Mexico	003940
" "	"	"	1	Hunted Trophy	France	003941
" "	"	"	1	Trade	Italy	004129
" "	"	"	1	Trade	"	004130
" "	"	"	1	Trade	"	004131
" "	"	"	1	Hunted Trophy	France	004183
" "	"	"	10	Trade	"	004221
" "	"	"	69	Trade	"	004383

NB: Total Exports 207 Full Skins

B. EXPORTS FOR 1986

NAME OF SPECIES	APPENDIX NUMBER	TYPE OF TROPHY	QUANTITY	PURPOSE OF EXPORT	COUNTRY OF IMPORT	EXPORT PERMIT NO.
<u>Crocodylus niloticus</u>	II	Full Skin	1	Hunted Trophy	U.S.A.	003579
" "	"	" "	200	Trade	France	004506
" "	"	" "	186	"	France	004690
" "	"	" "	90	"	U.K.	004836

NB: Total Exports 477 Full Skins

