

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

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

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Kenya.

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: A-306.002.001.006

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The Nile crocodile occurs in all major rivers and inland lakes all over Kenya. It also occurs in almost all man-made hydro-electric dams.
22. Population: Large and manageable populations are still very prominent in the following rivers and lakes in Kenya:

<u>Lake/River</u>	<u>Estimated minimum population</u>
Lake Turkana	- 25,000
Lake Baringo	- 200
Lake Kamnarok	- 100
River Tana	- 15,000
River Sabaki	- 2,000
River Tsavo	- 100
River Dauwa	- 3,000
River Ewaso-Nyiro	- 3,000
River Mara	- 400
River Turkwell	- 350
River Kerio	- 300
River Ramisi	- 150

Significant populations in Lake Victoria, Lake Chale, Lake Jipe and Lorian Swamp. Masinga and Kindaruma dams carry an impressive population size. Total minimum population is 49,600. This figure does not include hatchlings and young. We believe that we have a population in excess of 100,000 crocodiles.

23. Habitat: The Nile crocodile in Kenya inhabits freshwater rivers and lakes as well as waters of low salinity. The species is found mainly in the marshy areas along the river/lake shores.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The species has enjoyed a period of no commercial exploitation in Kenya since 1977 when the Government banned all forms of utilization of wildlife and its derivatives.

There is, however, an occasional but negligible subsistence utilization of meat by the local people along Tana River and Lake Turkana when the animals are killed on control work by the Management Authority.

32. Legal International Trade: Although Kenya has a quota of 150 animals for commercial trade granted pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21, we have not so far sold any skins or live animals internationally. International trade has not taken place since the ban on hunting.

33. Illegal Trade: None at all.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: We have had no potential trade threats to our Nile crocodile populations and we do not envisage any in the near future. The present population level allows for a commercial harvest of up to ten percent without harming the animals in their recruitment.

342. Parts and Derivatives: None at all.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is protected in Kenya in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act, Cap - 376 of the laws of Kenya. No person is allowed to kill or collect eggs or hatchlings from any part of its habitat without also being in possession of a permit issued under that Act. All crocodiles resident in water bodies running through National Parks and Reserves are fully protected from any kind of harvest.

42. International: Currently, the Kenyan population of the Nile crocodile is listed under Appendix II of CITES subject to a commercial trade export quota which we now consider too low and are requesting a higher quota as will be seen later.

43. Additional Protection Needs: We feel that the current protection measures afforded the Nile crocodile in Kenya are sufficiently enforced although we will continue to monitor the situation from time to time particularly once we start exporting specimens.

5. Information on Similar Species

None.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None since this is a request to amend the Kenya quota upwards.

7. Additional Remarks

As said earlier, the population of the Nile crocodile in Kenya is not only very healthy but also very stable. This species has recently attracted the attention of many people wishing to carry on ranching/farming operations. We have, since the last ten years, had two operations fully registered in the country as crocodile farms. These, and many pending requests, have clearly demonstrated that the Kenyan crocodile is not only to be regarded as a dreadful reptile but that it can also add to the national economy if well managed both in the wild and in controlled environments for commercial purposes.

In furthering our crocodile conservation objectives, we have allowed Messrs. Mamba Village - Kenya Crocodile Farm Ltd. and Baobab Farm Ltd., both situated along the Kenya Coast near the town of Mombasa, to collect mature crocodiles and eggs for breeding operations with a view to marketing skins and live animals. Both operations have so far demonstrated high standards of crocodile ranching although they are registered as farms.

Acknowledging that pursuant to Resolution Conf. 5.21 it is allowed to trade in the Nile crocodile to the maximum of 150 skins or live animals as its had not completed its national survey of the population status, and informing now that this survey has been completed by its Scientific Authority; confident that the operations on ranching in Kenya are yet further evidence of the importance it attached to the conservation of this species; Kenya wishes that an annual quota of 5,000 skins and live specimens be approved.

This quota will account for specimens collected from the wild and those from the two farms which are in character ranched specimens.

We believe that this quota will not in any way further endanger the Kenyan crocodile population as the harvest off-take will be less than 10% considering that the populations size is certainly more than indicated above.

8. Marking system

The marking of live animals and derivatives will be in accordance with the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties by way of tags. NO unmarked specimens will be allowed to enter international trade.

9. References

National Survey of the Nile Crocodile in Kenya by Mr. M.L. Modha,
Chief Biologist, Wildlife Conservation and Management
Department, Nairobi, (Official report) 1983 to 1985.

Mamba Village - Kenya Crocodile Farm (Ltd.)
P.O. Box 85723, Mombasa Kenya.
Breeding and Ranching operation - 1984 to date.

Baobab Farm (Ltd.)
P.O. Box 90202
Mombasa, Kenya
Breeding and Ranching operation - 1975 to date.

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