

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

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Lausanne (Switzerland), 9 to 20 October 1989

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Trade in Leopard Skins

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON LEOPARD QUOTAS

1. During its sixth meeting (Ottawa, 1987), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 6.9 on Trade in Leopard Skins (see document Doc. 7.28 Annex 1). Except for increased quotas for Zimbabwe and new allocations for Central African Republic and Ethiopia, the Resolution was virtually identical to Resolution Conf. 5.13 adopted at the fifth meeting (Buenos Aires, 1985).

Resolution Conf. 6.9, paragraph 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
Central African Republic	40
Ethiopia	500
Kenya	80
Malawi	20
Mozambique	60
United Republic of Tanzania	250
Zambia	300
Zimbabwe	500

2. Under Resolution Conf. 6.9, 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 bulk order of 1988 - 89 tags for many of the 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 1987 and 1988 submitted by the leopard quota states and 1987 trade statistics compiled from Annual Reports.

Botswana (quota 80) - The Secretariat received the 1987 Annual Report from Botswana on 17 August 1989, but has not yet received the 1988 report. From the 1987 report, the following information appears:

- a) Botswana has exported specimens representing 74 animals under various descriptions (skins, skins and skulls, rugmounts, etc.).
- b) The purpose of export of most specimens is indicated as "personal" and for most specimens "hunting trophy" or "personal effect" is mentioned under "Remarks". However, the purpose of export of 7 specimens is not indicated and no "Remarks" are made, and the purpose of export of 34 other specimens is indicated as "trade". This appears to be contrary to Resolution Conf. 6.9.
- c) Although most shipments are for one specimen or two specimens of the same animal (skin and skull), three shipments have been made for 14, 4 and 5 specimens respectively (purpose: "trade"). This is in total contradiction of Resolution Conf. 6.9.

In June 1989, the Secretariat received a copy of a Botswana export permit for 10 rugmounts, destined for the United Kingdom. The Secretariat recommended that the permit be rejected, and wrote to Botswana on 23 June 1989. It did not received any reply.

Botswana purchased 80 tags each for 1987 and 1988 through the Secretariat.

Central African Republic (quota 40) - The Secretariat received the 1987 Annual Report in November 1988. No leopard skins were reported as exported during that year. The Central African Republic ordered 40 tags for 1988 through the Secretariat.

Ethiopia (quota 500) - Ethiopia was not a Party to the Convention when Resolution Conf. 6.9 was adopted but was allocated a quota of 500. Early in 1989, Ethiopia acceded to CITES. The Secretariat did not receive a report.

Kenya (quota 80) - The 1987 Annual Report showed that 10 skins were exported that year.

Malawi (quota 20) - It appears from its 1987 Annual Report that Malawi exported 13 leopard skins in 1987. It must be noted, however, that three times 2 skins have been exported under the same permit. Malawi purchased 20 tags through the Secretariat each year for 1987 and 1988.

Mozambique (quota 60) - The Secretariat did not receive annual reports for 1987 and 1988. From the copies of export permits received from Mozambique, it appears that only 5 skins were exported in 1988. Mozambique ordered 60 tags each year for 1987 and 1988 through the Secretariat.

United Republic of Tanzania (quota 250) - The Annual Report for 1987 showed 118 leopard skins exported. The United Republic of Tanzania ordered 250 tags each year for 1987 and 1988.

Zambia (quota 300) - No annual reports have been received from Zambia since 1985. The Secretariat has also learnt from copies of export permits submitted by importing countries, that Zambia has issued several export permits for two skins, contrary to Resolution Conf. 6.9. The Zambian Management Authority has been alerted.

The order of 300 tags was made each year for 1987 and 1988.

Zimbabwe (quota 500) - Zimbabwe reported the export of 258 leopard skins in 1988. Zimbabwe has submitted its 1987 Annual Report in the form of a computer diskette. The Secretariat did not receive a printout of the report.

#### PROBLEMS

4. In some cases, the requirements of Resolution Conf. 6.9 have not been met. For example, Botswana exported 10 skins to one company in the United Kingdom without prior issuance of an import document, and they were confiscated by the authority. Other shipments for commercial purposes were also authorized by Botswana. The Secretariat recommends that quota states fully comply with the Resolution. The following cases were drawn to the Secretariat's attention:

- Issuance of export permits prior to import permits being granted.
- No submission of reports to the Secretariat.
- Export of two skins or more to one owner in one calendar year.

In addition, the delay in sending tags from a manufacturer to each state has caused inconvenience for governments. The tag orders should be made well in advance so as to avoid such problems.

#### CONCLUSION

5. Despite the problems above, the Secretariat feels that there have been no significant abuses of Resolution Conf. 6.9 except the cases in which Botswana was involved.