

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

Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II

THE NILE CROCODILE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
-- AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE  
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. Introduction

As stipulated in our quota proposal submitted for discussion at the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, crocodiles poaching is non-existent. With the current nation-wide antipoaching campaign, crocodiles are assured of full protection. Other aspects pertaining to the crocodile range, protection, and harvesting have been addressed in our quota proposal.

The government has of late appointed a new administration for the Wildlife Division. The new administration has laid out better ways of foreseeing proper means of conservation and utilization of wildlife resources for the benefit of the present and future generations of the United Republic of Tanzania and the world at large.

2. Crocodile Conservation and Utilization Plans

2.1 Sport Hunting

Sport hunting has no detrimental effect to wildlife populations. Strict quotas are allocated to this effect. Hunting is allowed in game reserves, open areas and controlled areas. The United Republic of Tanzania has 17 game reserves. Crocodiles occur in almost all these areas. Crocodiles in national parks are fully protected. We request the Conference of the Parties to endorse a quota of 100 crocodiles for tourist hunting purposes.

2.2 Specimens for Ranching

Many Tanzanians have written ranching proposals and crocodile farms are in the making for 1990. A recent survey in the Selous Game Reserve, controlled and open areas around it, indicated an estimated 10,000 crocodiles (Games and Severre, 1989). The Selous Game Reserve and Lake Rukwa populations will provide about eggs for the crocodile farms. Collection of eggs will be supervised by officials of the Wildlife Division. The quality of the farms will be monitored frequently and expertise guidelines will be given to the ranch owners

from time to time. The idea is to promote foreign exchange earnings for the nation and to allow for multiplier effects (benefits) to other people in the country.

The United Republic of Tanzania requests a quota of 4000 specimens as from the middle of 1991, and 6000 specimens for 1992 from ranching.

### 2.3 Cropping in the Wild

A nationwide survey has hitherto not been possible. The present administration has a plan for such surveys. A certain amount of monetary proceeds from the current exports is now coming into the Division to partly facilitate the surveys.

Albeit the lack of a nationwide survey, previous surveys by Hirji (1986), Hutton and Katalihwa (1988), and reports from local people (around Lake Rukwa, Ifakara, Rufiji, Nyumba, Mungu Dam, Mtera Dam, etc.) and tourist hunters indicate that crocodile populations are in the increase in their areas of occurrence.

It is important that the incentive to put the local people on a platform for crocodile ranching and to better manage and utilize the wild crocodile continue, though at a level lower than our request for 3500 crocodiles until more thorough surveys and monitoring information is available. We have recently established more specific wild cropping guidelines than in the past including:

- i. Shooting of wild crocodiles is now supervised in the field by wildlife officials for the purpose of avoiding indiscriminating hunting for sizes.
- ii. The monetary proceeds from all the exports are monitored by officials of the Wildlife Division in collaboration with those of the Bank of Tanzania.
- iii. Reduced season length for the harvest.
- iv. Frequent surveys for each area of harvest as has been done by Hutton and Katalihwa and Games and Severre (1989).

It is evident that the United Republic of Tanzania has taken the necessary steps in the administration and utilization of wildlife resources and it requests an annual quota of 2000 crocodiles from the wild for two years.

The United Republic of Tanzania requests aid from donor organizations to help in conducting a nationwide crocodile survey and advising in crocodile ranching.

### 3. Literature Cited

Games, I. and Severre, E.L.M., 1989. A survey of crocodile densities in the Selous Game Reserve and adjacent game controlled areas, Tanzania, a report to the Director of Wildlife, Tanzania and the CITES Nile Crocodile Project.

Hirji, K.N., 1986. Counting Crocodiles in Lake Rukwa. Interim Report, Wildlife Division, Dar Es Salaam.

Hutton, J.M. and Katalihwa, M., 1988. The Status and Distribution of the Crocodile in the Region of the Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania: report to the Director of Wildlife, Tanzania.