

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Proposals Concerning Export Quotas

INTRODUCTION

The population of crocodile in Somalia's two rivers is not known exactly, but a recent aerial survey of the Jubba River carried out by Resource Management and Research indicated a population in 1987 of 45,000 to 150,000. Other studies by the JESS Project supported this picture, and predation by crocodile on people and livestock is reported to be a major problem in the Jubba River (see Watson, R.M. and Nimmo J.M. Resource and Land Use Surveys of the Jubba Valley, Somalia: September 1986 to December 1987, Ministry of National Planning and Jubba Valley Development, Mogadishu, and Deshmukh, I., Terrestrial Ecology and Development in the Juba Valley, Ubaa Environmental and Socioeconomic Studies, Ministry of National Planning and Jubba Valley Development, Mogadishu).

There are no recent surveys of the Shabelle River, but reports of heavy predation on livestock and persons are received through out the dry season.

The Somali Government has to effect control of the crocodile population to protect people and their livestock, and proposes to put out a control programme to the private sector for the killing of 2,000 adult crocodiles per year for the next five years. The proposal and supporting information is set out below.

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of the population of Somalia of Crocodylus niloticus from Appendix I to Appendix II, subject to an export quota of 2,000 skins per year in 1990 to 1993.

The request is principally brought about because of the severe predation now being experienced by the inhabitants of the Jubba and Shabelle Valleys. If the Wildlife Department does not perform control and monitoring of the present problem other agencies and even individuals will take the initiative. The Fisheries Ministry has already killed many crocodiles to protect swamp fishermen, and the skins have been wasted. This request is for 2,000 skins for five years, to be prepared from adult crocodile to be shot on the Jubba River close to the centre of the population, experiencing the worst predation. During the course of this control programme the situation will be monitored to determine whether further control is required.

B. PROPONENT

The Somali Democratic Republic.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

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| 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: The Nile crocodile is confined to the two permanent rivers, the Shabelle and Jubba which flow through the South of Somalia. Both rivers are in heavily settled and used valleys, and there are numerous development programmes going on aimed at increasing the agricultural use of the valley.

At present the species is protected from hunting completely, although there are no effective conservation areas containing populations of crocodile. There is a proposal to create a Shabelle Swamp National Park which would offer protection for some of the present population. The Baardheere Dam Reservoir which will be created by the Baardheere Dam may be designated a National Park for crocodile and hippopotamus, although no firm decision has yet been reached.

22. Population: Watson and Nimmo (1987) estimated the Jubba River to support 45 to 150,000 crocodiles. Watson (pers. comm.) considers the Shabelle River and swamps have a population of 30 to 70,000 crocodiles. There are no estimates of recruitment, but it seems the population has been increasing steeply over the last 15 years.

23. Habitat: It is only a matter of time before the banks of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers are densely populated by farmers. The only habitat which will then be safe for the crocodile will be the Shabelle Swamp National Park (if it is created), the Baardheere Reservoir (if it is designated as a protection area) and two small Forest Reserves in the middle Jubba (which will probably be too small for effective crocodile protection). The Wildlife Department will be actively promoting the creation of reserves, but the task will be made much easier if it is seen to be attempting a successful control of crocodiles in the agricultural areas.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: There is no national utilization, nor will any develop as a result of the proposed control programme.
32. Legal International Trade: Since Somalia has banned wildlife hunting under the Law No. 65 of 1971 there has been no international trade.
33. Illegal Trade: There has been no evidence of illegal trade in crocodile skins from Somalia. The proposed control programme will be carried out by a single selected private sector operator, making control of trading activities straightforward.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Trade in live specimens is prohibited and is not expected to develop as no change in this legislation is proposed.
342. Parts and Derivatives: There is no likely threat in respect of the sale of parts and derivatives. The sale of skins produced in the control programme will be strictly controlled, with the Wildlife Department checking and tagging all skins produced.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The Nile crocodile is protected under the Fauna and Forestry Conservation Law No. 15 of 26 January 1989, and there is a complete prohibition of hunting or killing it. Capture, rearing and the collection of eggs is also prohibited under the same law. The Government intends to make a dispensation for the killing of crocodiles for control purposes, and will issue this licence to the private organization carrying out the control.
42. International: Trade in Nile crocodile parts and derivatives will be in accordance with the CITES regulations.
43. Additional Protection Needs: There is the need for a protection area for the Nile crocodile. The Government is moving towards the creation of a Shabelle Swamp National Park, and considering the future status of the Baardheere Reservoir.

5. Information on Similar Species

Only the Nile crocodile (Crocodylus niloticus) occurs in Somalia.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The Somali population is continuous with an Ethiopian population in the same two river systems. It is not known how much migration there is between Somalia and Ethiopia.

7. Marketing, Registration and Control of Crocodile Products

Initially Somalia will export all its crocodile skins raw, for tanning elsewhere. Skins will be tagged, and given serial numbers SO/ /89. All shipments of raw skins will be accompanied by appropriate CITES certificates and permits.

7. Additional Remarks

Nil.

8. References

Watson, R.M. and J.M. Nimmo, 1987. Resource and Land Use Surveys of the Jubba Valley. Ministry of National Planning and Jubba Valley Development, Mogadishu.

Deshmukh, I., 1988. Terrestrial Ecology and Development in the Jubba Valley. Uba Environmental and Socioeconomic Studies. Ministry of National Planning and Jubba Valley Development, Mogadishu.

