

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Proposals Concerning Export Quotas

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

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|-------------------|--|
| 11. Class: | Reptilia |
| 12. Order: | Crocodylia |
| 13. Family: | Crocodylidae |
| 14. Species: | <u>Crocodylus niloticus</u> |
| 15. Common Names: | English: Nile crocodile
French: crocodile du Nil
Spanish: Cocodrilo del Nilo |

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

Tanzania has two crocodile species namely, the Nile crocodile (Crocodylus niloticus) and the slender-snouted crocodile (Crocodylus cataphractus). The latter is uncommon and fully protected in Lake Tankanyka.

The Nile crocodile is abundant in the wild in Tanzania hence the need for its economic exploitation.

21. Distribution: The Nile crocodile has occurred and still occurs in great abundance in fresh water lakes and perennial rivers of the country. Table 1(a) shows the major rivers and their approximate lengths. The rivers have a total length of 4,064 km. Table 1(b) shows the lakes with their shoreline lengths totalling 2,780 km.
22. Population: Albeit that no proper survey to estimate the population size in the whole country has been carried out, there is strong evidence to show that Tanzania has a healthy crocodile population. Hirji (1986) surveyed Lake Rukwa and its inlets (Kafu, Momba, and Songwe Rivers) and came up with an estimate of 10,000 crocodiles.

Hirji (1986) has also come up with a population estimate of 8,000 crocodiles in Ruaha and Rufiji Rivers.

TABLE 1(a) THE LENGTH OF MAJOR RIVERS IN TANZANIA

<u>Name of River</u>	<u>Approximate Length (Km)</u>
Grumet.....	210
Kagera.....	395
Kizigo.....	86
Malagarasi.....	440
Mara.....	144
Moyowosi.....	210
Pangani.....	364
Ruaha.....	515
Rifi ji.....	290
Rungwa.....	310
Ruvu.....	170
Ruvuma.....	688
Ugalla.....	<u>242</u>
Total	<u>4,064</u>

TABLE 1(b) THE SHORELINE LENGTH OF MAJOR LAKES IN TANZANIA

<u>Name of Lake</u>	<u>Approximate shoreline length (Km)</u>
Burigi.....	60
Nyasa.....	320
Rukwa.....	366
Tanganyika.....	598
Victoria.....	<u>1,436</u>
Total	<u>2,780</u>

Telo *et al.*, (1984) has made an estimate of 74,000 crocodiles and has further confirmed that the Nile crocodile population in Tanzania is actually increasing steadily.

The tourist hunters and the wildlife staff accompanying them have reported an abundance of crocodiles in their areas of operation. The wildlife staff while on patrol in game areas have always reported that the population they see are very healthy both in the range of size and in numbers.

Crocodiles also occur outside Game Reserves and National Parks. In these areas it is common to receive reports that they are time and again posing danger to human life and that of his domestic animals. This is further evidence from the local people that there exists a healthy crocodile population in the country.

23. Habitat: The Nile crocodile habitat has been stable for the last 27 years: Most rivers flow through National Parks and Games Reserves while most lakes with crocodiles occur in the same protected areas. In these areas the habitat is stable since the flora and fauna therein are fully protected.

With the advent of the construction of large hydro-electric power dams to provide electricity for the country, there has sprung a potential for creating more protected areas for the crocodile.

Such is the case of the recently built Mtera Dam along the Great Ruaha River. The dam covers an area of 650 km².

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Crocodile hunting for meat is non-existent in Tanzania. However, crocodile are killed when defence for human life property is called for. The skins obtained from such operations are kept in safe custody and are often sold to individuals most of whom are foreigners. The foreigners take the skins out of the country as personal effects.

A crocodile hunting farm was put up in 1981 at Boko, North of Dar es Salaam. About 500 crocodile eggs were taken out of the Rufiji River and hatched on this farm. The farm did not fair very well due to meagre standards of expertise and was abandoned in 1984. Up to that time 19 crocodiles were harvested.

32. Legal International Trade: Large scale commercial hunting of crocodiles was banned 17 years ago on the assumption that the population was at the verge of extinction. Albeit this assumption, the tourist hunting industry was left to preside over hunting on a small scale. Table 2 shows the number of trophies exported during the years 1982-1984.

* Table 2 Crocodile Trophies Exported (1982 - 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: Annual Reports - CITES (Tanzania)

In 1983, 19 crocodiles were harvested from Boko Farm and the skins exported to Singapore.

The export quota system commenced in 1985. Crocodiles products exports are depicted in Table 3.

Table 3 Crocodile Trophies Exported during 1985 - 1988

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Trophy</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
1985	Full skin	207
1986	Full skin	477
1987	Full skin	1456
1988*	Full skin	1804

* Some skins from Tourist hunting are yet to be exported.

33. Illegal Trade: A local market for crocodile skins does not exist. Illegal collection of the crocodile or sale of its products is very uncommon. Prior to the 1985 export quota system there were no licences issued for large scale commercial hunting of crocodiles.

The foregoing notwithstanding, some illegal international trade of the crocodile and its products, negligible as it might be, cannot be overlooked. In any event the effect of illegal trade on the crocodile population can safely be tamed negligible.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Commercial trade on live crocodile specimens does not exist in Tanzania.
342. Parts and Derivatives: Crocodiles are hunted and will be hunted by tourists hunters and local businessmen. Foreign investors in crocodile hunting and ranching will be allowed to work together with local companies.

CITES export certificates together with special tags are used in the control of exporting crocodile trophies. Crocodile hunting by the local people has proved difficult overtime. Therefore there are no incentives for illegal trade of the species.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The Wildlife Conservation Act. No. 12 of 1974 ensures the protection of all wildlife species including the crocodile.

Crocodile hunting is allowed to licensed parties only. However, some crocodile hunting is done in the course of defending human life and property. Tourist hunting of crocodile is conducted in Game Reserves, Controlled and Open Areas. Shooting of crocodile by licensed local businessmen is conducted in Controlled and Open Areas. Hunting, that of the crocodile inclusive, in all National Parks is prohibited. A crocodile or its parts and derivatives may be exported only on the strength of supporting documents and tags fully recognized and allowed by the CITES authorities.

42. International: Tanzania is an active Party State to CITES which places the Nile crocodile in Appendix II subject to specified export quotas. In any event, most of the countries which trade in crocodiles with Tanzania are Party to CITES. An extremely high level of co-operation aimed at curbing international illegal trade in crocodile trophies is expected of these countries.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Tanzania does not consider this a necessity at this time.

5. Information on Similar Species

The slender-nosed Crocodile (Crocodilus cataphractus) occurs in Tanzania and is confined to Lake Tanganyika. This species is said to be rare albeit that its population status is not known.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Tanzania is one of the many African countries which produces crocodiles and hence its trophies.

At the Brussels CITES seminar held in June 1984, many African countries requested for a downgrading of the Nile crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II. The countries which voiced the request

including the United Republic of Tanzania are: Botswana, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Malawi presented a proposal requesting the downgrading to be on a quota system for 9 African countries. This proposal was accepted.

In the last four years Tanzania was allowed to trade in crocodile trophies under a quota system. The quota system avoids the chances of over-exploitation of the species.

It is evident that there is a general concensus among the African crocodile producing countries that the Nile crocodile should be in Appendix II to facilitate trade albeit under a strict quota system.

7. Additional Remarks

71. Quota: Tanzania hereby proposes an annual export quota of 3,500 Nile crocodiles for 1990 and 1991 and of 5,500 for 1992 on the form of live specimens and mostly skins. The latter is subject to review at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
72. Reservation: Tanzania has not deposited any reservations in regard to trade in crocodile specimens.
73. Marking System: Tanzania has been using the CITES crocodile tags for the last four years. The tags have been found to be durable and easy to use.
74. Rationale Behind the Request: Tanzania is now exporting the Nile crocodile products on a quota system. The quota of 2,000 Nile crocodile per year serves to meet the needs of the tourist hunting industry and those of the local businessmen (shooting of crocodiles in the wild).

Tanzania has vast areas of fresh water which harbour very healthy populations of the Nile crocodile. It is believed that the populations have a good age structure and hence growing in numbers overtime.

The Nile crocodile is not subjected to predation that might affect population growth. It is also not subjected to any pressure from poaching. Disease has not been known to pose threat on the population. The habitats have not been known to change over time. It is for these reasons that we believe that the Nile crocodile populations are growing in their areas of occurrence.

Crocodiles have killed people and threatened fish populations in Lake Rukwa hence the need for Hirji's 1985 and 1986 studies. These detrimental effects of crocodiles to human life and property in the country are common most probably due to their increase in numbers.

Tanzania believes that the natural resources endowed to it must be conserved for the use of the present and future generations. Utilization is an integral part of that belief. Tanzania promises to undertake trade in crocodiles on a sustainable basis to get needed foreign exchange for its continued protection.

The crocodiles that will be shot will not exceed 2.5 m in length for purpose of avoiding disruption of the population/age pyramid, ensuring continual reproduction and recruitment and hence population growth.

Tanzania is now encouraging crocodile farming with the aim of doing away with shooting of crocodiles in the wild. A proposal to get quotas from crocodile farms will be presented in the near future in accordance to CITES regulations.

8. References

Hirji, K.N., 1986. Counting Crocodiles in Lake Rukwa: Interim report, Wildlife Division Dar es Salaam.

Luxmoore et al., 1985. A Dictionary of Crocodile Farming. IUCN.

Tello, J.L., 1984. CITES Nile Crocodile Survey. In CITES - Working Documents and Appendices 1987 pp 67-83.

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