

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

Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Kyoto (Japan), 2 to 13 March 1992

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

EXPORTS OF LEOPARD HUNTING TROPHIES AND SKINS

Report from the Secretariat

1. During its seventh meeting (Lausanne, 1989), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 7.7 on Quotas for Leopard Hunting Trophies and Skins for Personal Use. Except for an increased quota for Botswana and a new allocation approved for South Africa, the Resolution was fairly similar to Resolution Conf. 6.9 adopted at the sixth meeting (Ottawa, 1987).

Resolution Conf. 7.7, 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	100
Central African Republic	40
Ethiopia	500
Kenya	80
Malawi	20
Mozambique	60
South Africa	50
United Republic of Tanzania	250
Zambia	300
Zimbabwe	500

2. According to Resolution Conf. 7.7, 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 tag orders for states requesting them on condition that arrears for previous orders were settled, and against a prepayment or an undertaking to meet the cost as soon as an invoice was received.
3. States that export leopard specimens in compliance with the Resolution are to report the number of skins exported annually to the Secretariat, which then is to submit a report to each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Secretariat sent circular letters reminding the interested States of their approved quotas for 1990 and 1991 and also of the reporting requirements.

The following information is based on the special reports for 1989, 1990 and the first half of 1991 submitted by the States for which leopard specimen quotas have been agreed, and on the 1989 and 1990 trade statistics compiled from annual reports.

Botswana (quota 100) - The Secretariat received the 1989 Annual Report from Botswana on 20 September 1991, in which it indicated that it permitted the export of 44 skins (includes 8 for personal effects) in 1989 and 33 skins (includes 5 for personal effects) in 1990.

Botswana submitted to the Secretariat a special report for 1989, 1990 and the first half of 1991 on 20 August 1991 in which it reported to have permitted the exports of 44 skins in 1989, 51 skins in 1990 and eight (8) skins in the first half of 1991 under various descriptions (skins, skins and skulls, rugmounts etc.). The purpose of the export of most specimens was indicated as "personal" and for most specimens "hunting trophy" or "personal effect" was mentioned under "Remarks".

The information provided in the 1990 Annual Report does not, therefore, agree with that provided in the special report for that year. The inconsistency may be attributed to skins not exported before the end of 1990.

Botswana ordered 80 tags for 1989 and 100 tags each for 1990 and 1991 through the Secretariat.

Central African Republic (quota 40) - The Secretariat received the 1989 Annual Report on 5 June 1990 and the 1988 Report (an improved version of one sent with the 1989 report) on 20 November 1990. The 1990 Annual Report has not yet been received. It appears that 16 skins were exported in 1988 and 20 skins in 1989.

From the special report on 1990 quota utilization, the Central African Republic reported that only 23 leopards were hunted and exported during the 1989/90 hunting season.

The Central African Republic ordered 40 tags each for 1989 and 1990 through the Secretariat. Its request for 1991 tags was made only in September that year and included an order for 1992 quota tags.

Ethiopia (quota 500) - Ethiopia has not submitted an Annual Report for 1990. According to its special report, received in January 1991, Ethiopia exported only three (3) skins in 1990.

Ethiopia submitted to the Secretariat a special report for 1991, received on 6 January 1992, in which it indicated that four (4) leopards were hunted but only two (2) skins were exported that year.

Ethiopia ordered 500 tags and 25 tags for 1990 and 1991, respectively, through the Secretariat.

Kenya (quota 80) - The Annual Reports for 1989, 1990 and the first half of 1991 showed no leopard trophy exports. One skin was exported in 1990 as a personal effect. No leopard skin tags were ordered through the Secretariat during the reporting period.

Malawi (quota 20) - Malawi submitted a special report covering 1989, 1990 and the first half of 1991 on 6 September 1991 indicating that 19 skins and 1 skull were exported in 1989, 18 skins in 1990 and 10 skins up to June 1991. However, only one skin and one skull are reported as exports in the 1989 Annual Report.

Malawi ordered 20 tags each year for 1989, 1990 and 1991, through the Secretariat.

Mozambique (quota 60) - The Secretariat has not received Annual Reports for 1989 and 1990. However, Mozambique regularly sends to the Secretariat copies of export permits which it issues. Some of those issued in 1990 and 1991 for leopard trophies did not indicate skin tag numbers. The Secretariat queried this omission and in a telefaxed letter of 11 September 1991 it was informed that:

- six skins were exported in 1989 but tag-number allocations were not shown on two of the export documents;
- in 1990, nine permits (one for two skins) were issued but no tag numbers were indicated; and
- in 1991, up to September, four permits had been issued (all in January/February). Only one of the permits mentioned a tag number, that of a 1988 quota.

The Management Authority was not able to locate the skins, which it assumed to have left the country. It also confirmed that it had not located import permits issued by importing countries for these trophies.

In May 1991, the Head of the Wildlife Department was involved in a fatal road accident. It was this official who had controlled the issuance of export permits and skin tags. His replacement has not been able to assist further.

When the Secretariat discovered the omissions on the copies of the export permits, it immediately alerted the relevant authorities of importing countries, advising them to detain the skins, pending a satisfactory explanation from Mozambique. The countries were Australia, Portugal, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of

America. Two permits were issued for Mexico, a non-Party at the time. Australia does not allow the importation of non pre-Convention trophies. South Africa confirmed that it had allowed importation by error. All importing countries confirmed that they had not issued an import permit and, except for South Africa, to have not received or recorded the importation of these specimens. The Secretariat later sent copies of the permits in question to facilitate an investigation into whether or not the specimens had already been imported. Results have not yet been received.

Mozambique ordered 60 tags for the 1989 quota through the Secretariat, and none for 1990 and 1991.

South Africa (quota 50) - South Africa has submitted both its 1989 and 1990 Annual Reports. A special report on its 1990 leopard trophy quota was received on 28 May 1991 which showed that 36 animals had been hunted but only 19 trophies had been exported during the course of that year.

South Africa does not order leopard skin tags through the Secretariat.

United Republic of Tanzania (quota 250) - The Annual Reports for 1989 and 1990 showed 30 leopard skins (21 skins from copies of permits) were exported in 1989 and 117 skins in 1990.

The United Republic of Tanzania ordered 250 tags each year for 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Zambia (quota 300) - Zambia has not submitted its Annual Reports for 1989 and 1990, despite a telex dated 22 August 1991 in which it promised to submit these reports before 15 September 1991. Reported imports for 1989 included 77 skins of which five (5) were seized on entry, and one (1) was reported as for commercial purposes. Reported imports for 1990 included two (2) skins as personal effects and 10 skin trophies.

Zambia has therefore not been complying with the reporting requirement of Resolution Conf. 7.7. It should be noted, however, that early in 1991 the Management Authority removed from office the official who had been handling CITES matters until then, and that his replacement was not familiar with CITES.

Zambia ordered 300 tags each for 1989, 1990 and 1991, through the Secretariat.

Zimbabwe (quota 500) - Zimbabwe has submitted its 1989 and 1990 Annual Reports on magnetic computer tape. The Annual Report for 1989 showed that 247 skins and 16 bodies were exported that year. At the time of finalizing the present report, data from the 1990 Annual Report, received on 2.1.92, had not yet been processed by WTMU. However, Zimbabwe sends copies to the Secretariat of export permits it issues. From these it appears that Zimbabwe exported 14 skins in 1990 and at least four (4) skins before September 1991.

In March 1991, Germany informed the Secretariat that in February 1990, one legally hunted leopard skin trophy (including a crocodile skin) entered that country without tags, and that Zimbabwe would send the missing tags directly if the Secretariat approved. The Secretariat gave its approval and at a later date even requested that the tags be sent directly to the Secretariat in Lausanne for delivery to Germany. Despite reminders, however, we have no evidence that the missing tags have been delivered.

Zimbabwe ordered 500 tags for its 1991 leopard trophy quota through the Secretariat.

PROBLEMS

4. In addition to allowing the export of trophy skins without tags and issuing export permits without the prior presentation of an import permit, Mozambique did not destroy or send to the Secretariat unused previous year's quota tags. These concerns have been communicated to the Management Authority of Mozambique, which has promised to ensure better compliance with the conditions governing trophy leopard quotas.

States with quotas have not been submitting to the Secretariat, on a regular basis, periodic reports on the utilization of their trophy leopard quotas, even when reminded on several occasions. Botswana, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Malawi and South Africa submitted their reports only at the request of the Secretariat.

In the Annual Reports, the indicated nature and purpose of leopard specimens exported is sometimes confusing, especially with regard to skins reported as personal effects (P) and skulls reported separately as hunting trophies (H) without a corresponding number of skins. The Zimbabwe Annual Report for 1989 mentioned exports of bodies, which the Secretariat has interpreted to mean stuffed whole specimens. The Secretariat has, therefore, taken account only of

the skins (hunting trophies, personal effects) and stuffed specimens (bodies) reported in the Annual Reports in arriving at the number of trophies exported by a particular range State.

Some States have more or less regularly sent to the Secretariat copies of export permits they have issued (Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

The Secretariat, therefore, urges the range States having an approved leopard trophy hunting quota to:

- i) ensure that export permits for leopard trophies are issued only after the prior presentation of an import permit, or a written attestation that an import permit will be granted, by the relevant authority of the country of importation. The Secretariat suggests that the number of the import permit, or the reference number and date of an attestation, be mentioned on the export document;
- ii) ensure that all hunting trophy skins are properly tagged and that the tag number is indicated on the export permit;
- iii) destroy unused skin tags at the end of the quota year and to inform the Secretariat accordingly or to send these to the Secretariat;
- iv) assist in removing any confusion that might arise from the interpretation of information provided in the Annual Reports, especially regarding the distinction between hunting trophies and personal effects; and
- v) regularly send copies of export permits to the Secretariat for monitoring purposes and verification of the authenticity of such documents to importing countries.

CONCLUSION

5. The non-submission, or not at all, of periodic reports, in a timely fashion, is contrary to the conditions under which the Conference of the Parties granted leopard trophy hunting quotas. The Conference of the Parties may therefore consider taking or instituting special measures which will ensure compliance to reporting requirements.

Mozambique co-operated with the Secretariat regarding the query on leopard skins it allowed to be exported without tags and has assured the Secretariat that it will be more vigilant in the future.

Except for the fore-going, the Secretariat feels that there have been no significant abuses of Resolution Conf. 7.7 which can have any detrimental effect on the wild populations of the species.