

Doc. 8.46
AddendumAMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX I AND II OF THE CONVENTION ENGLISH ONLYA. PROPOSAL

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II of the Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) populations of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, subject to quotas on Appendix II.

B. PROPOSONENTS

Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT1. Taxonomy

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|------------------|---|
| 11. Class | Mammalia |
| 12. Order | Carnivora |
| 13. Family | Felidae |
| 14. Species | <u>Acinonyx jubatus</u> (Schreber, 1775) |
| 15. Common Names | English : Cheetah
French : Guepard
German : Gepard
Portugese : Guepardo
Spanish : Guepardo, Chita |
| 16. Code Numbers | CITES A-112-007.003.001
ISIS 5301412007003001001 |

2. Biological Data :21. Distribution

Historical : Cheetah were once widely distributed in Africa and Asia, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula and Asia Minor, India and Pakistan to the southern states of the former Soviet Union (1)

Current : Asia : Cheetah are still found in the northern parts of the Arabian Peninsula (2), in Iraq, Iran and east of the Caspian Sea to Afganistan and Pakinstan. (3)

Northern Africa : Cheetah have been recorded from southeastern Algeria, on the borders of Algeria with Mali, in northwestern Niger and in Libya, although small in numbers. (1,2)

Sub-Saharan Africa : Cheetah are still found in small and isolated populations in the Sahel and Sudan areas, southwestern Mauritania to Tchad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya (1,2)

Southern Africa : The cheetah is concentrated primarily in the west and southern countries of this region. The are widespread, but low in numbers in Zambia, excluding the Zambezi Valley and parts of the eastern province, while restricted to reserves in the central and northern provinces in Malawi. (2)

In Zimbabwe, cheetah occur widely, except in the the northeast. In Botswana widely distributed, except in the settled areas of the east and found commonly in the central and northern parts as well as in the mountainous regions in the south of Namibia. (2,4,5,6)

22. Population (estimates and trends)

Estimation of cheetah numbers in the southern African region have always been extremely difficult, as reflected in the wide ranges quoted in the literature (1,5,6,11 & 12)

Only two intensive surveys of cheetah numbers have been attempted to date for Zimbabwe (4) and in Namibia (6). In Zimbabwe a questionnaire survey and personal interviews with landowners estimated the numbers to be 500, with subsequent estimates up to 1000. Results from a Namibian research project in 1985 where a number of animals were collared, homeranges calculated at 800 - 1200km and cheetah densities of 1 per 20 km - indicated estimates of 2000 - 3000 cheetah for that period.

Estimates for Botswana range from 1000 - 2500 cheetah, with Malawi and Zambian populations at approximately 1000. (5)

Trends : There appears to be a downward trend in cheetah numbers in all the proponent countries.

- In Namibia, historical records (7) show cheetah to have been widespread throughout the country, but rare until the early 1970's. From about 1970 - 1982 there appears to have been a large increase in numbers, proportionately related to the large increases in wild game populations on farmland for the same period. In 1982 a widespread outbreak of Rabies caused a sharp decline in game populations which resulted in large numbers of cheetah killed on farmland due to stock depredation. (6,8,9,10,11 & 12). The cheetah numbers appears to continue to decline on farmland where the cheetah is viewed as the major threat to livestock. Cheetah numbers in Zimbabwe are reported to be increasing, but with an increasing larger number of animals killed on farms in protection of livestock. (4,5).

23. Habitat (Trends)

Although studies from east Africa reported cheetah habitat to be open grass plains, these areas are avoided by cheetah in Namibia in preference to thicker bush savanna areas with additional shelter and cover (10).

The single most important factor of cheetah habitat in these areas is the fact that in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe less than 10 - 15% of the estimated cheetah population occur within formally protected conservation areas. The bulk of the population are found on farmland (both commercial and communal) where the cheetah is one of the major predators of livestock. (4,5,6) These large tracts of inhabited land support the bulk of the wildlife of these countries and are free of the natural enemies of cheetah.

In all the proponent countries cheetah habitat is being threatened by human population growth rates and farming practices.

3. Trade Data :

31. National Utilization

Cheetah are killed in all the proponent countries in defence of livestock.

In Namibia the cheetah is viewed as single most important predator of livestock on both commercial and communal farms. Livestock losses to cheetah are reported to be between 10 - 15% for small stock (sheep and goats) and 3 - 5% for cattle farming (6). Cheetah are mainly caught in cage-traps and then shot. In Namibia farmers have to report cheetah shot in defence of livestock within 10 days. Table I presents data on the number of cheetah shot annually as predators of livestock in Namibia since 1980.

TABLE I: NATIONAL UTILIZATION OF CHEETAH IN NAMIBIA: 1980 - 1991

YEAR	SHOT IN PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK	TROPHY HUNTED	LIVE EXPORT	TOTAL
1980	623	0	139	762
1981	669	0	58	727
1982	850	0	40	890
1983	721	12	124	857
1984	646	7	61	714
1985	537	21	113	671
1986	318	17	67	402
1987	317	12	87	416
1988	272	20	82	374
1989	271	32	67	370
1990	301	29	69	399
1991	145	40	51	236

Trophy hunting and export of live cheetah have been encouraged in Namibia in an attempt to curb the number of cheetah shot as predators of livestock, and to change the attitude of the farmers toward the cheetah from a: "kill at all cost" to one where cheetah would be tolerated and accepted. By providing some form of financial return for the losses caused, farmers are now encouraged to utilize the cheetah on a sustainable basis, rather than implement total eradication.

32. Legal International Trade :

Namibia has been the largest exporter of live cheetah and skins (13).

(See Table I for a summary of permits issued for the period 1980 - 1991). The export of live cheetah has only been permitted within the CITES requirements to internationally recognized zoos and breeding centres - as the only alternative solution to those cheetah captured as predators or livestock on farmland. Namibia only allows the sale of cheetah skins within the country for local personal use, while only skins obtained as trophies may be exported.

33. Illegal Trade :

Present levels of illegal trade in live cheetah and skins are minimal with a few single skins exported in luggage by tourists as souvenirs.

34. Potential Trade Threats :

341. Live Specimens

In all the proponent countries live specimens may only be exported under CITES regulations in accordance with Article III.

342. Parts and derivatives

Cheetah skins are bought for decorative purposes in private homes and are not in demand by any of the fur dealers for the manufacturing of any garments.

4. Protection Status :

41. National :

In Botswana, Namibia and Zambia the cheetah is a protected animal and may only be killed in defence of livestock which must be reported within ten days in Namibia. In Zimbabwe the cheetah is classified as "controlled game" and in Malawi "dangerous game" which may be shot in defence of livestock, in Malawi the burden of proving this lies at the accused.

42. International Status :

Cheetah is listed on Appendix I on CITES. Namibia entered CITES with a reservation on the cheetah on 18 November 1990.

43. Additional Protection Status :

It is vitally important to state very clearly that no further national or international protection laws will or can have any effect on the actual conservation status of this species on farmland in southern Africa. It is impossible to control or prevent the killing of cheetah in defence of livestock on the vast tracts of farmland of especially Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Farmers experiencing livestock losses to cheetah are not interested in any illegal market, only in preventing direct financial loss of income.

All National Parks in southern Africa with high numbers of lion, hyaena and other large predators support low and limited numbers of cheetah.

One of the only solutions of conserving a healthy free roaming cheetah population on farmland - is to give the farmer the opportunity of receiving direct financial gain and compensation for losses incurred, encouraging him to having cheetah on his land. This can only be established by allowing the trophy hunting and export of live specimens of those cheetah to be killed as livestock raiders on a strictly controlled quota system.

5. Information on similar species

The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is also spotted, but differences in anatomy and patterns are obvious.

It is far easier to distinguish cheetah from the rest of the spotted cats than to distinguish any other member of that group.

6. Comments from countries of origin

Comments have not been obtained from all countries where cheetah occur.

7. Additional Remarks

The cheetah population in southern Africa, and especially in Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana is not in danger of extinction.

The successful conservation of these populations, and the survival of cheetah on farmland cannot be assisted or improved by the Appendix I listing of this species since the survival of this species depends on the commercial and rural farmer to whom the cheetah poses a direct financial threat.

The transfer of the Cheetah in the proposing countries to Appendix II, subject to an export quota will, in accordance with Articles II and III enhance the survival of this species in the wild.

It is under the provisions of Conf. 7.14 that the proponents of this proposal seek the transfer of the cheetah populations in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Appendix II, subject to annual export quotas. The paragraphs of this resolution are dealt with individually below :

- a) As has been argued in this proposal, based on two surveys in Namibia and Zimbabwe, the controlled export of live animals and hunting trophies are prerequisites for the survival of this species in the wild on farmland;
- b) The cheetah is non-migratory and can be adequately managed by each of the proponent countries;
- c) The fact that the last, large, free-roaming cheetah populations left in the world are found on non-protected areas of intensively managed commercial and communal farmland, gives ample evidence of these countries' ability to manage these populations;
- d) Controls on trade in the exporting countries are sufficiently rigorous to ensure that other species are not affected: it will furthermore also require the assistance of importing Parties to ensure that these same controls are maintained after the specimens have been exported ;
- e) Cheetah skins exported will continue to be tagged in accordance with Resolution Conf. 5.16 and a uniform marking system for live animals will be implemented once recommended by the Animals Committee.

- f) The requirements of Management and Scientific Authorities defined in paragraph 7 (b) and 7 (c) of the Convention have been observed with all records of live species and skins to date ;
- g) Annual reports will continue to be submitted as required under paragraph 7 of Article VIII of the Convention.
- h) Namibia, the only proponent with a reservation on cheetah, will withdraw this reservation within six months of receiving an annual export quota for live specimens and hunting trophies.

The following will apply with regard to the fourth part of this resolution :

- a) The transfer is effective for a period of two intervals between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties after which the species will be returned to Appendix I if a full proposal according to the Berne Criteria (or any other criteria which may replace them) has not been approved by the Parties ;
- b) Quotas should be established, confirmed, or changed only by the Conference of Parties (the proposed quotas for the proponents of this proposal are included as Annex I)
- c) This paragraph relating to erodillians is not applicable ;
- d) It is noted that, where Parties with approved quotas have no intention to seek an alteration of the quotas, no supporting statement is required at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties provided reporting requirements have been met ;
- e) The provisions of this paragraph are addressed in Annex I ;
- f) The reporting requirements on the information required by the Secretariat annually are noted.

8. References :

1. Meyers, N. 1975 The Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in Africa. IUCN Monograph 4, Morges, Switzerland.
2. Smithers, R.H.N. 1983. The mammals of the southern African Subregion. Univ. of Pretoria, Pretoria, R.S.A.
3. Mowli, M. 1985. Cheetah in Iran. *Cat News* 3:17
4. Wilson, V. 1987. Distribution and Status of Cheetah in Zimbabwe. Unpublished report of the National Parks Advisory Board.
5. Stuart, C and V. Wilson. 1988. The Cats of Southern Africa. Chipangali Wildlife Trust, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
6. Morsbach, D. 1984, 1985, 1986 Die Gedrag Ekologie en Beweging van die Jagluiperd op plaasgebiede in SWA/Namibie. Annual Progress reports for the Directorate of Nature Conservation and Recreation Resorts.

ANNEX_I

SUBMISSION OF QUOTAS FOR CHEETAH

pursuant to Resolution Conf. 7.14

<u>STATE</u>	<u>QUOTA</u>
Botswana	100
Malawi	10
Namibia	150
Zambia	50
Zimbabwe	50

NOTES: Conf. 7.14 part II(e) requires the following to be indicated in the supporting statement :

- i) the proposed total annual wild harvest, including the offtake from cropping, trophy hunting and ranching ;

The above quotas include both sport hunting and live animals, caught as problem animals, to be exported. None of the proponents of this proposal intend to harvest cheetah for their skins. There will thus be no cropping or ranching.

- ii) the proposed number and type of wild-collected specimens to be exported.

All animals on the quota will be wild-collected specimens. Parts and derivatives to be exported will include the skins and parts of skeletons.

- iii) the proposed number and type of captive-born specimens.

It is not envisaged that any of the proponents are intending to breed cheetah in captivity for purposes of exporting either live specimens or parts and derivatives.

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