

**Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II**  
**PROPOSALS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION ON RANCHING**

## Submitted Proposals

1. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph d) of Resolution Conf. 3.15, Ecuador, Indonesia, Madagascar and South Africa, Parties to the Convention, submitted proposals for amendment pursuant to the Resolution on "Ranching". These proposals are as follows:

- Ecuador: Transfer of its population of *Melanosuchus niger* from Appendix I to Appendix II
- Indonesia: Maintenance of its population of *Crocodylus porosus* in Appendix II
- Madagascar: Maintenance of its population of *Crocodylus niloticus* in Appendix II
- South Africa: Maintenance of its population of *Crocodylus niloticus* in Appendix II

The proposals were accompanied by supporting statements<sup>1</sup>.

2. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 3.15, recommendation d), the Secretariat communicated the proposals to IUCN, which, in co-operation with TRAFFIC and WCMC, has agreed to undertake a thorough review of amendment proposals, to obtain appropriate scientific and technical advice. The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group analyzed the proposals and sent comments direct to the proponent countries with copies to the Secretariat.
3. The amendment proposals were sent by the Secretariat to all the Parties, in accordance with the provisions of Article XV of the Convention, through the Notification to contracting or signatory States of 4 July 1994 [see document Doc. 9.47 (Rev.) Annex 1].
4. It is worthwhile to note that the Parties that have submitted a proposal on *Crocodylus niloticus* or *Crocodylus porosus* pursuant to Resolution Conf. 3.15 have had their populations listed in Appendix II for several years, but subject to annual export quotas (see also document Doc. 9.27).
5. When the recommendations below from the Secretariat were drafted, the final report from IUCN/TRAFFIC/WCMC had not yet been received and the Secretariat, therefore, was not in a position to use it.

Recommendations from the Secretariat

6. Firstly, the Secretariat would like to note that its recommendations are provisional and may change on the basis of information from various sources, in particular Parties and IUCN/TRAFFIC/WCMC (see item 2. above).
7. Proposal from Ecuador. The supporting statement provided by Ecuador is well documented but does not cover the whole range of the species in Ecuador. The proposal indicates that further work needs to be done in the future to complete the data available. The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group wrote to the authorities of Ecuador to get some clarification but expressed also its support for the ranching of this species. The Secretariat has not seen any reaction from the authorities of

Ecuador to the letter of CSG. Pending clarification from Ecuador, the Secretariat however supports the proposal and recommends that it be approved by the Conference of the Parties.

8. Proposal from Indonesia. Serious criticisms have been made regarding Indonesia and the way it is implementing CITES. The case has been submitted to the Standing Committee, which has made strict recommendations (see also document Doc. 9.22). The criticisms apply also to the trade in crocodile specimens and are therefore relevant to the consideration of the proposal. Recently, it appears that significant progress has been made following the changes that took place in the Management Authority and thanks to the co-operation of various institutions. The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group was one of these and it wrote to Indonesia about the proposal. The Secretariat is, however, not aware of any reaction to the letter of CSG.

The Secretariat accepts that the conditions in Indonesia regarding crocodiles, in particular in Irian Jaya, are not really comparable to those in other countries and that this should be taken into consideration. Therefore, special precautions must be taken to prevent abuses of any special regime accepted for Indonesia. In particular, the crocodile management plan, which has been under preparation for a rather long time, must be finalized and implemented.

In its recommendations regarding the proposal submitted by Indonesia for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Kyoto, 1992), the Secretariat wrote "that a rejection of the proposal, thus the transfer of the Indonesian population back to Appendix I, might be worse, for the conservation of the species, than the acceptance of the proposal." The Secretariat believes that this is still true. The transfer to Appendix I will not prevent the local consumption of crocodiles of the species in question, it would probably stimulate the illegal export of skins to Papua New Guinea, which is almost impossible to control, and it would favour the captive-breeding of the species, an activity that has been recognized within CITES as not favourable to the conservation of crocodilians in the wild. Consequently, the Secretariat recommends that the proposal be approved by the Conference of the Parties or that another solution, such as a permanent quota system, be accepted. However, and until an appropriate management plan has been approved and is being implemented, Indonesia should suspend the export of wild-taken and ranching specimens.

9. Proposal from Madagascar. Madagascar, for the third time, is submitting a ranching proposal. In the opinion of the Secretariat, this one is better prepared than the previous ones and is probably as good as some others that were accepted in the past by the Conference of the Parties. The conditions in the country have not considerably changed, except that the market conditions have also had effect on the industry. There are still operators willing to continue their activities following CITES rules and if the proposal is rejected and the species transferred back to Appendix I these activities will have to stop or be turned to captive breeding (see above remark). The problem of the small local leather industry has not been solved and this industry seems to be still supplied by the illegal collection of wild animals. Whether this has a detrimental effect on the

<sup>1</sup> As indicated in the "Foreword", these supporting documents are not reproduced in those Proceedings. (Note from the Secretariat.)

conservation of the species is not known. However, the problem could and should be solved, possibly through the supply of skins from ranching or captive-breeding operations.

In conclusion, the Secretariat recommends, as it did for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, that the Malagasy proposal be approved, considering also that this could prevent the crocodile from becoming again considered a "pest" species in Madagascar, as it was a few years ago.

10. Proposal from South Africa. As was suggested to it at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, South Africa has submitted a ranching proposal for the maintenance of its population of the Nile crocodile in Appendix II. The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group wrote to South Africa about the proposal and the Management Authority of South Africa sent a revised version of its proposal to the Secretariat. The Secretariat is satisfied with the proposal and recommends that it be approved by the Conference of the Parties.

11. Comments from the Parties. None was provided.