

Consideration of Proposals for Amendment of Appendices I and II

PROPOSALS CONCERNING EXPORT QUOTAS FOR SPECIMENS OF SPECIES IN APPENDIX I OR II

Proposals submitted

1. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 9.21, paragraph a), Venezuela has submitted a proposal regarding a quota for *Panthera onca* (Prop. 10.15).
2. In accordance with paragraph D. of Annex 4 to Resolution Conf. 9.24, the United Republic of Tanzania has

requested that its population of *Crocodylus niloticus* be maintained in Appendix II subject to an annual export quota (Prop. 10.16).

3. The comments from the Parties and comments and recommendations from the Secretariat are included in the Annex to this document.

Doc. 10.88 Annex

Comments from the Parties and Comments and Recommendations from the Secretariat

Prop. 10.15: Venezuela: establishment of annual export quotas for hunting trophies of zero in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and of 20-30 thereafter of *Panthera onca*

Comments from the Secretariat

The information in the supporting statement is sufficient to allow the conclusion that an export quota of 20-30 specimens in the year 2000 will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. It is in particular noteworthy that these specimens will be nuisance animals (preying on livestock) that would be killed for this reason. It is also encouraging to note that the proponent intends to maintain a zero quota for the years until 2000 in order to further improve its mechanisms for the management of the species and the enforcement of the quota. In addition, the Secretariat recommends that the trophies be marked and that the Parties also implement paragraphs b) to d) of Resolution Conf. 8.10 (Rev.) for trade in specimens of these species under the quota mechanism.

However, the supporting statement leads to some confusion. Under "Potential effects of trade" it refers to the export of a very small number of hunted specimens, around 5 to 10 a year, although the proponent is asking for an export quota of 20-30 specimens after 1999. This discrepancy should be explained. If the proposal is accepted, Venezuela should regularly inform the Secretariat of the implementation of its management plan during the years for which there is a zero quota. The Secretariat and the Animals Committee should review the management plan and the information about its implementation and submit a report for consideration at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Secretariat's recommendation: **Accept.**

Comments from the Parties

Switzerland and Liechtenstein: Switzerland and Liechtenstein are of the view that the proposed quota is sustainable and will have hardly any impact on the population. It is suggested however that, upon inception of the trophy hunting, improved population monitoring should be established.

Prop. 10.16: United Republic of Tanzania: establishment of an annual export quota of 1000 skins plus 100 hunting trophies from wild animals for the years 1998-2000 of *Crocodylus niloticus*

Comments from the Secretariat

At the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 1992, the Nile crocodile population of the United Republic of Tanzania was included in Appendix II in

accordance with Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching. However, an export quota was established in the Appendices at the same time for wild-taken animals ["no more than 100 hunting trophies a year, 400 nuisance animals in 1992, 200 a year in 1993 and 1994, and 100 in 1995 and each following year"]. At the ninth meeting, in 1994, the export quota was revised ["no more than 1100 wild specimens (including 100 hunting trophies) in 1995 and 1996, and a number to be approved by the CITES Secretariat and the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group in 1997"]. At the time of writing (March 1997) no agreement on the quota for 1997 has been reached.

Resolution Conf. 8.22 (Additional Criteria for the Establishment of Captive-breeding Operations and for the Assessment of Ranching Proposals for Crocodilians) recommends that "any Party wishing to establish a long-term commercial harvest of wild adults satisfy the Berne Criteria (Resolution Conf. 1.2) for the transfer of its population to Appendix II". The Berne Criteria have since been replaced by the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24. Since the Tanzanian population of the Nile crocodile was transferred to Appendix II for ranching five years ago, a quota for the export of wild-taken crocodiles being set at that time, and the United Republic of Tanzania now wishes to have an export quota for a further three years, the Secretariat is concerned that the proposal reflects what is, or is becoming, a "long-term commercial harvest of wild adults" in the country.

The Secretariat suggests that, if the proposal is accepted in principle, the quotas for the years 1998 to 2000 should be agreed by the Tanzanian Government and the Secretariat, which should be advised by the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. However, it believes that if the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to allow the export of specimens from wild-taken adult crocodiles after the year 2000, it should make a proposal for consideration at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to retain the population in Appendix II in accordance with the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 on Criteria for Amendment of Appendices I and II.

Secretariat's recommendation: **Accept** with the following annotation:

Apart from ranched specimens, the United Republic of Tanzania will authorize the export in 1998, 1999 and 2000 of a number of wild-taken crocodiles to be agreed by the United Republic of Tanzania and the CITES Secretariat, following consultation with the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.