

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

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Quotas for species in Appendix I

LEOPARD

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. This report covers the use of export quotas for *Panthera pardus* (leopard) under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.14. At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Harare, 1997), the system used for reporting on the use of quotas was amended to provide that skins should be marked with tags including the calendar year in which the animals were removed from the wild.

Marking of skins exported under quota

3. In paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 10.14 the Conference of the Parties recommends that the Management Authority of a State of import allow the import of leopard skins in accordance with this Resolution only if: each skin has 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 in which the animal was taken in the wild; and the same information as is on the tag is given on the export document. The Secretariat is not aware that any problems have been experienced with this recommendation.
4. The Secretariat has continued to assist in procuring tags for countries that have requested this service. The Secretariat requests Parties, however, to arrange to make payment for tags directly to the authorized suppliers.

Reported exports

5. In paragraph e) of Resolution Conf. 10.14, the Conference of the Parties recommends that each State that permits exports of leopard skins in terms of this Resolution should submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March of each year, a special report on the number of trophies and skins so exported during the previous year. Resolution Conf. 10.14 also directs the Secretariat to recommend to the Parties to suspend imports of leopard hunting trophies and skins from any country granted annual export quotas that has not met the reporting requirement in accordance with recommendation e) of this Resolution, but only after checking with the range State concerned that the special report has not been submitted.
6. At the time of writing (November 1999), the Secretariat is in the process of compiling a new database and register of special reports with the aim of facilitating the retrieval of information and the monitoring of quota management. It is apparent, however, that most of the relevant Management Authorities seldom report before the deadline established in Resolution Conf. 10.14 and usually only after several reminders have been sent by the Secretariat.
7. Furthermore, the Secretariat is concerned that the intended purpose of the reporting system has not been fully achieved, and that exporting Parties regard the reporting requirement as a burden rather than a reflection of the type of quota control administration that each Party should apply in order to manage exports based on such quotas. The nature of some reports submitted may not adequately

reflect the level of quota management in some of the exporting countries, and the Secretariat considers that the entire process should be reformed and standardized. The format of reports submitted as well the amount of information provided vary considerably amongst Parties. This makes follow-up work by the Secretariat impossible, or at best cumbersome. When comparing the data in special reports to recorded exports and imports in annual reports submitted by Parties, it is very clear that the 'special reports on **exports**' refer in almost every instance to the allocation of individual specimens within a quota at national level rather than actual exports. This is presumed to be a reflection of the way that Parties actually use their national quotas, i.e. that databases are compiled at the time of issuing a tag for, or granting permission to hunt, one or more leopards under the annual quota rather than at the time of issuing an export permit for such items. The current level of offtake is generally much lower than the quota level, however, which means that this approach may be sufficient at current levels of trade.

8. The table at the end of this report is an updated version of the table presented at the 10th meeting in document Doc. 10.42.1 including the data provided in the special reports for 1997 and 1998. The table also includes data that have been extracted from the annual reports of the countries concerned or from the CITES database of annual report statistics maintained by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). This information is presented for reference only and to provide an opportunity to Parties to review the information and submit corrections where applicable. A detailed reconciliation of special report data and annual report data cannot be done until more detailed information about each transaction is available, and the problem of non-submission of annual and special reports by several Parties concerned has been solved.
9. Other than indicating a general level of trade in leopard skins and hunting trophies within the limits of quotas approved by the Conference of the Parties, the data in the table below are of little use. There is currently insufficient discrimination between e.g. skulls, hunting trophies and skins which may potentially be derived from the same leopard and separately exported and reported. Because exports can take place in a year some time after the removal from the wild, as provided for in Resolution Conf. 10.14, the trade data prior to 1997 are of little value as reported exports frequently consisted of specimens derived from different quota years. Concerning future trade, the Secretariat will not be able to monitor the use of annual quotas effectively unless information about tags, which must from 1997 onwards include the year of removal from the wild, is included in special reports, and preferably also in annual reports. This will be the only mechanism to differentiate between specimens exported in the year of removal from the wild and those derived from quotas in different years.
10. The Conference of the Parties should consider that the current level of trade (estimated from the recorded imports and exports for 1997) represents about 900 leopards per year from eight countries (out of a combined annual quota of 2285 for 11 countries). Quota management for this trade requires the tracking of export permits, import permits, quota numbers and tag numbers all represented by multiple-digit reference numbers, as well as other information such as the country of import, consignee, etc. The Secretariat is concerned that some Parties may not be equipped to manage such information efficiently and will accordingly not be able to benefit from the quota management process.
11. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the primary beneficiaries of trade control systems such as the leopard export monitoring system, should be the relevant range States. It doubts, however, that the current system benefits all Parties concerned. The Secretariat has accordingly written to all the Management Authorities of these Parties to request their views on possible improvements to the reporting system established in Resolution 10.14, and on how this system could be made of greater relevance and utility.
12. Depending on the responses, the Secretariat may wish to propose formal amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.14 to the Conference of the Parties concerning a standard report format, the reduction of quotas to a level more compatible with actual trade and other matters. The Secretariat considers it unfortunate that a standard report format (as for example provided in document Doc. 10.42.1) was not included in Resolution Conf. 10.14 and may wish to propose the adoption of such a standard.
13. Resolution Conf. 10.14 directs the Secretariat to recommend to the Parties to suspend imports of leopard trophies and skins from any country that has not met the reporting requirement, after

checking with the range State concerned that the report has not been submitted. The Secretariat accordingly recommended in Notification to the Parties No. 1999/99 that imports of leopard trophies and skins from Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe be suspended until further notice. The Secretariat is concerned that this action, taken in compliance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.14, may, however, not be an effective solution to the problem. All range States are urged to submit any outstanding reports without further delay and to commit to comply with the reporting requirement for future years. The Secretariat is nevertheless grateful that outstanding reports, including copies of reports that may have been transmitted previously, were promptly received from the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe after the issuance of Notification to the Parties No. 1999/99. The recommendations to suspend the import of hunting trophies and skins from these countries were accordingly withdrawn on 31 January 2000 (Notifications to the Parties No. 2000/006-008).

Reported exports of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies and skins

Country [quota]	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	Special reports	Annual reports								
Botswana [130] ¹	41	42	68	25	32	36	85	45	95	92
Central African Republic [40]	19	19	8	7	no report	18	15	14	14	no report
Ethiopia [500]	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	no report	no report
Kenya [80]	0	2	0	0	0	no report	no report	0	no report	0
Malawi [50] ²	6	6	8	7	1	0	0	no report	1	no report
Mozambique [60]	15	4	23	14	18	26	55	29	73	63
Namibia [100]	49	(41)	30	(46)	21	30	74	40	62	67
South Africa [75] ³	28	108	55	88	31	(73)	62	59	23	51
United Republic of Tanzania [250]	185	275	175	223	250	307	264	281	250	no report
Zambia [500]	44	43	38	38	47	(66)	110	(57)	81	68
Zimbabwe [500]	382	(142)	311	287	235	(374)	116	(347)	102	149

no report means the report in question was not submitted

() figures in brackets are imports reported from the relevant country in the CITES annual reports database maintained by WCMC

¹ quota increased in 1995 from 100 to 130

² quota increased in 1995 from 20 to 50

³ quota increased in 1995 from 50 to 75