

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

MOVEMENT OF SAMPLE CROCODILIAN SKINS

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.

Introduction

2. Several Parties have had success with ranching and captive breeding programmes for several species of crocodilians, many of which were included in Appendix I. Ranching of crocodilians on the basis of controlled collection of eggs or hatchlings can be potentially a valuable and positive conservation tool. In addition, breeding species in captivity for commercial purposes in their places of origin can be an economic alternative to domestic livestock production and can thus provide an incentive for rural populations in those places to develop an interest in their conservation.
3. The Parties recognize that the continued success of these ranching and captive-breeding programmes is dependent on economic incentives for the sustainable use of crocodilians. Parties with successful programmes for the conservation of crocodilians rely on international trade to provide such incentives. The resolution adopted on universal tagging of crocodilian skins has proven to be a valuable tool in monitoring the trade in crocodilian skins.
4. As the number of skins available in legal trade increases as a result of successful ranching and captive-breeding programmes, there is a need to expand current markets and develop new markets for the skins and the products made from them. To do this, many skins are exhibited at international trade shows. Some exhibitors have experienced difficulties and/or delays in obtaining export, re-export, and/or import permits or certificates for their sample skins.
5. In order to provide incentives that would encourage continued conservation efforts, the draft decision presented in the Annex to this document directs the Secretariat, in co-ordination with the Animals Committee and the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, to review the situation and determine whether streamlined procedures could be developed for trade in tagged crocodilian skins that are to be exhibited as samples at trade shows and returned to the country issuing the export or re-export documents.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat agrees with many of the points made in the introductory text but questions whether the difficulties and/or delays described, in obtaining permits and certificates, warrant the establishment of a separate procedure for this form of cross-border movement of specimens.
- B. As an alternative, the Secretariat suggests that it might be simpler for any interested Party to submit a draft resolution to address this issue, perhaps based upon the text and recommendations of Resolution Conf. 10.20, which relates to frequent cross-border movements.
- C. In addition, it should be noted that, in Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev.), the Conference decided, "that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding." The current document however does not contain the required information.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Movement of sample crocodilian skins

DIRECTS the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee and the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, to:

- a) review the ways in which Parties could streamline procedures for issuing export or re-export documents for crocodilian skins that are tagged, in accordance with the resolution on the universal tagging system for the identification of crocodilian skins, that will be used as samples for display at trade shows and will be returned to the country issuing the export or re-export documents; and
- b) prepare a proposal for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding the amendment of relevant resolutions in effect and/or draft a new resolution.