

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

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Regular and special reports

Appendix-I species subject to export quotas

Leopard

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.14 ON QUOTAS  
FOR LEOPARD HUNTING TROPHIES AND SKINS FOR PERSONAL USE

Introduction

1. This report on the use of export quotas for whole skins and nearly whole skins of *Panthera pardus* (leopard) has been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.14.

Marking of skins exported under quota

2. In paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 10.14, the Conference of the Parties recommends that:

*the Management Authority of the State of import permit 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 – for example ZW 6/500 1997 indicating that Zimbabwe is the State of export and that the specimen is the sixth specimen taken in the wild in Zimbabwe out of its quota of 500 for 1997 – and if 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.

3. 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

4. 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 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.*

5. Resolution Conf. 10.14 also:

*DIRECTS the Secretariat to recommend to the Parties to suspend imports of leopard trophies and skins from any country granted annual quotas that has not met the reporting requirement in*

*accordance with recommendation e) of this Resolution, but only after first checking with the range State concerned that the special report has not been submitted.*

On 24 June 2002, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2002/038 recommending such a suspension in light of Malawi and Zambia's failure to submit reports. The recommendation for a suspension regarding Zambia was subsequently withdrawn (in Notification to the Parties No. 2002/050) after it submitted the required report.

6. The Secretariat notes with concern that most of the relevant Management Authorities seldom report before the deadline established in Resolution Conf. 10.14 and usually only after reminders have been sent by the Secretariat.
7. The table at the end of this report includes the data provided in the special reports received for 1999, 2000 and 2001. This information is presented for reference and to provide an opportunity to Parties to submit corrections where applicable.
8. The Conference of the Parties should note that the current level of trade, estimated from the recorded exports for these years, represents about 700 leopards per year from nine countries (out of a combined annual quota of 2085 for 11 countries). None of the countries concerned have exceeded their quotas.

#### Conclusion

9. No evidence has been seen by the Secretariat to suggest that quotas are being exceeded and it has seen no evidence to suggest the tagging system is being abused or that there is any significant illegal trade in leopard parts from Africa. There seems little justification for requiring a special report relating to leopard trophies and skins and the Secretariat believes such data should simply be incorporated into the annual reports that Parties are obliged to submit in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

#### Recommendations

10. In light of the above information and remarks, the Secretariat recommends, as a minimum, that paragraph e) under RECOMMENDS be deleted and also the whole paragraph under DIRECTS. However, the Secretariat believes the Conference of the Parties should also consider the repeal of this Resolution in its entirety. It believes that sustainable quotas for hunting purposes can be established under existing national voluntary quotas and publicized by the Secretariat in the normal manner. There seems no evidence to indicate that a tagging system is required to deter illegal trade or that such a system is proving necessary in distinguishing legally traded skins from illegally traded skins.

#### **Reported exports of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) whole skins and nearly whole skins**

<b>Party [quota]</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Botswana [130]	115	124	54
Central African Republic [40]	11	22	26
Ethiopia [500]	0	0	0
Kenya [80]	1	0	0
Malawi [50]	0	no report	no report
Mozambique [60]	42	51	26
Namibia [100]	45	61	55
South Africa [75]	15	37	35
United Republic of Tanzania [250]	259 (includes 23 specimens collected in previous years)	248	260 (includes 16 specimens collected in previous years)
Zambia [300]	76	55	10
Zimbabwe [500]	131	185	275