



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2016/017

Geneva, 15 March 2016

CONCERNING:

COLOMBIA

Trade of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins

This notification is published at the request of Colombia in relation to their declaration regarding trade of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins, which was noted by the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Report from Colombia on *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*

This document was prepared by the Government of Colombia for the purpose of meeting commitments 1, 5, and 6 of the declaration made by Colombia relative to *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* at the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.

Background

In Colombia, the harvesting of crocodylian species for trade during the 19th century had a great impact on natural populations, with the result that many of them came close to extinction. Against this background, and in the framework of the National Code on Natural Resources (Decree Law 2811 of 1974), Colombia responded by establishing closed seasons to prohibit hunting of the species, and this contributed positively to the recovery of the wild populations.

Subsequently, Colombia **adopted Law 17 of 1981** in order to implement the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**, thereby undertaking to control the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and their derivatives. In the mid-eighties, with the CITES framework in place, and in the face of the demand for crocodile skins on the international market, Colombia decided to establish a harvesting model for *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* based on closed-cycle captive-breeding farms (the whole production cycle takes place in a controlled environment, and wild populations are only used for parental stock, or when individuals are required to avoid deleterious endogamy), following the initial recommendation of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Further, the legal framework that protects and regulates the environmental sector, and specifically, the use and harvesting of wild fauna in Colombia, has changed, in line with the development, evolution, and needs of both the State and the sector.

Thus, captive breeding is a fairly recent activity in Colombia given that it started just over thirty years ago, within the framework of **Decree 1608 of 1978 (Regulation implementing the National Code on Natural Resources, with regard to wild fauna), and under the management of the main environmental authority at that time, the National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources and Environment (INDERENA).**

The Ministry for Environment (currently, the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development) was created and designated as the CITES Management Authority in Colombia under Law 99 – the Environmental Framework Law, which was enacted in 1993. Based on this Law, *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* farms were obliged to obtain an administrative authorization from the environmental authorities, i.e., an environmental licence, which serves as an environmental management, control, and monitoring tool.

As a result of these measures, farms have implemented major technological developments in order to produce high quality skins and compete in traditional markets. At the same time, a related industry has emerged, comprised of tanneries, which have also attained a high level of technification and quality for their products, and have made their way into the global market for major brands and stores, and trading companies specializing in all products of the supply chain. These establishments are also regulated by Law 99, and by Decree 1608 of 1978, and are, therefore, subject to control and monitoring by regional environmental authorities.

The evolution of the captive breeding programme for *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* in Colombia has been monitored by the CITES Convention, and by the CSG – SSC – IUCN, by sending missions in 1994, led by the then Chair of the CITES Animals Committee, and in 2004, led by the Chair of the CSG. The outcome and recommendations from these missions were documented, and in most cases, adopted and implemented by the CITES Management Authority on behalf of the Government of Colombia. Further, since 2011, within the CITES framework and based on document SC61 Doc. 27, the Parties have been reviewing the issue of trade in specimens declared as captive-bred or ranched. The main outcome of this review was a draft resolution to deal with CITES compliance-related issues in the case of specimens declared as captive bred or ranched. This draft resolution will be submitted to the 17th Conference of the Parties for consideration and adoption.

In January 2016, the CSG – SSC – IUCN prepared a document on the trade in brown caiman skins from Colombia that was submitted as document SC66 Inf. 20 by the European Union during the last meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, and which led to bilateral discussions between the European Union Member States and Colombia. As a result of these bilateral meetings, Colombia made its "Declaration on *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*".

In its Declaration, Colombia undertook to report on the specific measures currently in place to regulate and control exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins, and now submits the present document for the purpose of meeting commitments 1, 5, and 6 of the aforementioned declaration.

1. By 28th February 2016, Colombia will inform the Parties about the regulations and mechanisms that allow Colombia's CITES Management Authority to monitor and control exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* specimens, focusing especially on procedures that ensure compliance with regulations relative to skin cutting.

On this point, given the progression in the production and marketing of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* specimens in Colombia, we will refer to the different stages of the skin production chain, which is currently comprised of captive-breeding farms, tanneries, manufacturers, and commercial traders. Each of these establishments has its own regulatory framework, and specific control and monitoring procedures to ensure traceability of the origin of skins and the sequence of the aforementioned production chain, and to guarantee that skin exports comply with national laws and the provisions of the CITES Convention.

- Regulations and procedures for controlling and monitoring skin production on captive-breeding farms
- Environmental Licence and other instruments for managing and controlling environmental impacts.

Following the enactment of Law 99 of 1993, the establishment and operation of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* captive-breeding farms (referred to in our national laws as "breeding zoos") require an environmental licence, which is an authorization granted by the competent environmental authorities, based on an environmental impact assessment, for projects, works, or activities that, as defined by law or regulations, might cause serious degradation of renewable natural resources, or significantly or notably modify the landscape. On the one hand, any such authorization subjects the beneficiary thereof to comply with the requirements, terms, conditions, and obligations established therein with regard to prevention, mitigation, correction, compensation, and management of the environmental effects of the authorized activity; second, it obliges the issuing authority to monitor and control compliance with the requirements, terms, conditions, and obligations imposed under the licence (Sections 49, 50, and 51 of Law 99 of 1993).

The relevance of the licence in ensuring compliance of the State's obligation to protect natural resources is emphasized in subparagraph 2 of Article 57 of the aforementioned Law on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), which defines the scope and content of an EIA as follows: "*An environmental impact assessment shall contain information about the project location, and about the abiotic, biotic, and socioeconomic elements of the environment that might suffer degradation as a result of the works or activity in question, in respect of which a licence has been requested, and shall also contain an assessment of potential impacts. Further, it shall include the design of plans for the prevention, mitigation, correction, and compensation of impacts, and an environmental management plan for the work or activity*".

Subsequently, Title VIII of Law 99 was regulated by means of different decrees. Decree 1076 of 2015, which is currently in force, defines the scope of the environmental management plan, and makes part of the EIA a requisite for obtaining an environmental licence by providing that: "**Environmental Management Plan: A detailed set of measures and activities, resulting from an environmental assessment, that are designed to prevent, mitigate, correct, or compensate the duly identified environmental impacts and consequences caused by the implementation of a project, work, or activity. It includes oversight, monitoring, contingency, and decommissioning plans, depending on the type of project, work, or activity**". As shown above, environmental regulations clearly determine that the EIA required to obtain the relevant licence for a project, work, or activity is subject to the aforementioned environmental management and control instrument that implicitly includes impact prevention, mitigation, correction, and compensation plans, and also an environmental management plan.

The use, harvesting, and/or alteration of renewable natural resources should be clearly identified in the respective EIA, and the Environmental Licence implicitly grants all necessary permits, authorizations, and/or concessions for the use, harvesting, and/or alteration of the renewable natural resources across the lifespan of the project, work, or activity.

Thus, in the framework of the environmental licence, breeding zoos should hold a water concession permit, as provided by Article 88 of Decree Law 2811 of 1974, and Articles 28, 30, and 36 of Decree 1541 of 1978, as well as a waste disposal permit, as provided by Decree 1594 of 1984, and Article 41 of Decree 3930 of 2010.

It is clear, therefore, that the duties associated with an environmental authority's obligation to evaluate, control, and monitor zoo-breeding activities, and to supervise the use of water, soil, air, and other natural resources, are carried out through the granting of environmental licences; accordingly, it is important to bear in mind that under current national legislation, the State has established certain mechanisms to ensure that zoo-breeding is conducted in an environmentally-sustainable manner.

From 2014 onward, the issue of Decree 2041 of 2014, currently consolidated in Decree 1076 of 2015, which regulates Law 99 of 1993 on matters relating to environmental licences, established that the competent environmental authority to grant, control, and monitor environmental licences for breeding facilities for CITES-listed species is ANLA, the National Authority for Environmental Permitting, which is the general agency designated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to grant and monitor environmental licences on its behalf.

– Environmental licence - control and monitoring procedures

With regard to the control and monitoring of environmental licences issued to *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* farms, the National Authority for Environmental Permitting should comply with the provisions of Decree 1075 of 2015, and the relevant Manual for Environmental Monitoring of Projects, based on which it duly:

1. Verifies the effectiveness and efficacy of the management measures implemented relative to the environmental management plan, the control and monitoring programme, the contingency plan, and also the plan for dismantlement and decommissioning, and the 1% investment plan, where applicable.
2. Monitors and demands compliance with all terms, obligations, and conditions under the environmental licence or environmental management plan.
3. Verifies the situation of the biotic, abiotic, and socioeconomic environments, and of natural resources during project development.
4. Reviews the cumulative impacts derived from the projects, works, or activities covered by the environmental licence, and located within the same area, based on any pertinent studies it has required from the licence holder, and imposes any environmental restrictions it considers convenient in respect of a project in order to reduce the environmental impact in that area.
5. Verifies compliance with the environmental permits, concessions, or authorizations to use and/or exploit the renewable natural resources, as authorized by the environmental licence.
6. Verifies compliance with any environmental regulations applicable to a project, work, or activity.
7. Verifies the facts, and the environmental measures implemented to correct any environmental contingencies that might have occurred.
8. Imposes additional environmental measures to prevent, mitigate, or correct any environmental impacts that were not contemplated in the environmental assessments for the project.

The environmental authority's functions also include other activities such as visiting the site where the project is being developed, making requirements, imposing environmental obligations, technically verifying or testing the results of monitoring by the beneficiaries of environmental licences or environmental management plans.

In this context, when determining the production capacity and the number of specimens to be harvested annually, the National Authority for Environmental Permitting should consider and evaluate the criteria established in Articles 3, 4, and 5 of Resolution 1660 of 2005, mainly:

- Criterion 1. Biological and population-related aspects
- Criterion 2. Incubation efficiency
- Criterion 3. Operational and infrastructural aspects

When evaluating these criteria, special attention should be given to compliance with the specific regulatory aspects that enhance traceability of the specimens that are kept and bred at the breeding zoo:

- Verify that the specimens used as breeding stock are duly tagged with microchips, as provided by Resolutions 1172 of 2004, and 221 of 2005.
- Verify that all captive-bred individuals are marked, as provided by Resolution 923 of 2007, according to which, all such specimens should be marked at birth by excising the 10th caudal scute so that it does not regenerate and heals to form a scar that ensures traceability of the origin of the skins produced at zoo farms.

Lastly, the annual quantity –Ca– of specimens for harvesting is determined by means of the following formula, as provided by Article 5 of Resolution 1660 of 2005:

$$Ca_n = P_n \times (1 - Tm)$$

Where:

n: Year for which the quantity of specimens for harvesting is being calculated.

P_n: Annual production to be harvested.

Tm: Production mortality indicator.

Annual production **P_n** is calculated as follows:

$$P_n = Hr \times Ov \times Ft \times Te \times N_{15}$$

Where:

Hr: Total number of breeding females.

Ov: Oviposition indicator, which is calculated by dividing the total number of eggs collected by the total number of females (total # of eggs collected /# breeding females)

Ft: Fertility indicator, obtained by dividing the total number of eggs transferred to incubators (fertile) by the total number of eggs collected. (# of eggs transferred to incubators (fertile)/total # of eggs collected).

Te: Hatching indicator, obtained by dividing the number of eggs with hatched embryo by the total number of eggs transferred to incubators (# of eggs with hatched embryo/total # of eggs transferred to incubators).

N₁₅: Hatchling survival at fifteen (15) days after hatching, obtained by dividing the number of hatchlings surviving at fifteen (15) days by the number of hatched eggs (# of hatchlings surviving at 15 days /# of hatched eggs).

Mortality indicator **Tm** is calculated according to the following formula:

$$Mt/P_n$$

Where:

mt: Number of specimens, from among the annual production to be harvested, that died later than fifteen (15) days after hatching.

Paragraph 1. Whenever the competent environmental authority determines payment in economic resources or environmental services, as provided by Article 22 of Law 611 of 2000, replacement and recruitment shall have no value, and accordingly, the number of individuals to be harvested –Ca– shall be equal to the value obtained from the formula provided in the aforementioned article.

In order to ensure more effective control and monitoring by the National Authority for Environmental Permitting, since 2015, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Authority for Environmental Permitting, the Alexander von Humboldt Institute (the CITES Scientific Authority), and breeders' scientific advisors have been working together to adapt the system of criteria and indicators so that the production capacity of closed-cycle breeding farms can be evaluated more effectively. The adapted system will be ready by the end of March 2016

- Regulations and procedures for control and monitoring of establishments in the skin-production related industry.

In an attempt to bring added value to the marketing of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins, a production chain was developed, which, as has already been described, is comprised of tanneries engaged in skin processing, manufacturers producing leather goods, and trading companies specializing in marketing the products from this chain.

- Permits to install and operate establishments in related industries.

Installation and operation of the different types of establishment are subject to environmental regulations, and to control and monitoring by the regional environmental authorities.

- Tanneries and manufacturers

Setting up a tannery or a manufacturing company to process and transform *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins is subject to compliance with the following requirements, as provided in Article 74 of Decree 1608 of 1978:

1. Indication of the species or subspecies to which the specimens or products to be transformed or processed belong.
2. Type of transformation or process they will undergo, including taxidermy.
3. Methods or systems that will be used, specifying equipment and installations.
4. Location of the establishment where transformation or processing will take place.
5. Feasibility study - to include the production and operational plan, installed capacity, amount of investment, intended market for processed or transformed products, and the estimate from the supply source of raw material.
6. Name and identification of suppliers.
7. Destination of processed or transformed products, i.e., domestic market or export.

Further, given that tanning is an activity that has an impact on other resources, tanneries should hold a water concession, as provided by Article 88 of Decree Law 2811 of 1974, and Articles 28, 30, and 36 of Decree 1541 of 1978, and also a waste disposal permit, as provided by Decree 1594 of 1984, and Article 41 of Decree 3930 of 2010.

- Trading companies

Authorization to operate a trading company for products from the *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skin production chain is subject to compliance with the following requirements, as provided by Article 73 of Decree 1608 of 1978:

1. Name and location of the shop, store, establishment, or warehouse where it is intended to buy, sell, keep, or store specimens or products.

2. Name and identification of suppliers.
3. Indication of the species or subspecies to which the specimens or products stored, bought, or sold, belong.
4. State in which the skins are stored, purchased, or sold.
5. Destination of trade, i.e., whether the specimens or products are for the domestic market or for export.
- Control and monitoring procedures for the related industry

In order to be able to control and monitor the traceability of the origin of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins used by the establishments in the production chain of the related industry, such establishments should comply with the following obligations, as provided by Articles 83, 84, 85, and 86 of Decree 1608 de 1978, which compliance shall be verified by the regional environmental authorities:

Article 83. Natural or legal persons engaging in the commercial trade or processing, including taxidermy, of specimens or products of wild fauna shall keep a register in which, at least, the following data shall be recorded:

1. Date of the commercial transaction in which the specimens or products are bought or sold, or received for processing or taxidermy.
2. Quantity of specimens or products involved in the transaction, processing, or taxidermy, classified by species.
3. Name and identification of the supplier, buyer, or owner of the specimens or material involved in the processing or taxidermy.
4. Place of origin of the specimens or products.
5. Place of destination, specifying whether for domestic market or for export.
6. Number and date of the safe conduct pass for transporting acquired specimens or products.

Article 84. The persons referred to in this chapter shall allow inspection visits of their inventory, and shall produce the register referred to in the previous article, and any other documents they are required to produce by officers from the competent administrative agency.

Article 85. Article 265, paragraph g, of Decree Law 2811 of 1974, prohibits the acquisition for commercial purposes of game products, the legal origin of which has not been confirmed.

Persons who obtain wild fauna specimens or products for marketing, processing, or transformation, including commercial or commissioned taxidermy, are obliged to require the suppliers or the owners of such material to provide a safe conduct pass certifying the legal origin thereof, under penalty of seizure, and notwithstanding any other applicable sanctions.

The persons referred to in the foregoing articles shall refrain from obtaining, marketing, processing, or taxidermizing specimens, products, or materials that are banned or prohibited, or which do not meet the characteristics or sizes as defined by law, and shall report any person attempting to sell, or hand over for storage, processing, or taxidermy, any such specimens, products, or materials.

Article 86. The holder of a permit to engage in commercial hunting or in related activities, including taxidermy, shall submit a report on such activities, and of the results thereof, during the course of, and on finalization of any such activities, in the form established by the relevant administrative agency.

Taking into consideration that for the development of the aforementioned production chain, it is necessary to transport the *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins between the different establishments, the instruments to support the control and monitoring of traceability of the skins include a unique safe-conduct pass for domestic transportation. The safe-conduct pass, which is regulated by Resolution 438 of 2001, is issued by the regional environmental authorities, and should accompany the skins or parts of skins being transported.

In this respect, within the framework of CITES Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. COP15), Colombia established a tagging system for identification of skins that are transported between establishments in the production chain.

Further, it is sometimes necessary to cut the skins before they enter the production chain. Resolution 2651 of 2015, which was adopted recently to ensure more effective traceability of origin, provides that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in its capacity as the CITES Management Authority, shall control and monitor any cutting of skins by verifying the origin and size of the skins prior to cutting, and by verifying and measuring the resulting skin parts after cutting, thus guaranteeing that the total size of the resulting skin parts is equal to that of the full skin from which they were obtained.

- Regulations and procedures for the control and monitoring of exports from the *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skin production chain.

When the CITES Convention came into force in Colombia, the export of specimens of CITES-listed species became subject to the provisions of the Convention.

Accordingly, under Law 99 of 1993, Article 23, and Decree 1401 of 1997, the Ministry of Environment (currently, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) was designated as the CITES Management Authority in Colombia, and the competent authority for the issue of the permits required by the Convention.

In this context, based on the annual harvest quotas established for each breeding zoo and on the procedure defined in Resolution 1263 of 2006, the CITES Management Authority issues CITES export permits, according to the guidelines for "Procedure for handling applications for CITES permits", which is identified by the Code P-M-INA-06 in MADSIG, the integrated management system used by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

CITES permit forms are printed on security paper, in compliance with the provisions of CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3; security stamps are obtained from the CITES Secretariat.

Colombia's supporting tools include a tagging system for identification of exported skins, in keeping with the requirements established in Resolution Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15). Tag production is regulated and controlled by the National Authority for Environmental Permitting, under Resolutions 1173 of 2004, and 2023 of 2007, and tags are allocated to establishments in the production chain of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins by the CITES Management Authority of Colombia, as provided by Resolution 1263 of 2006, and the aforementioned "Procedure for handling applications for CITES permits". Since 2010, as provided by Resolutions 1740 of 2010, modified by Resolution 644 of 2011, and more recently by Resolution 2652 of 2015, a mechanism implemented by the CITES Management Authority in Colombia to reinforce control and monitoring of skin traceability involves verification of all exports of skins, skin parts or fractions at the port of shipment, as authorized by Decree 1909 of 2000.

For several years now, the CITES Management Authority in Colombia has held workshops to provide capacity-building to support organizations, such as the National Tax and Customs Office, the Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Institute, and police forces, on the application of the CITES Convention in Colombia, and on issues relative to the trade of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*, e.g., recognition of skins, and Colombia's self-imposed measure to excise the 10th caudal scute of animals produced in captive-breeding farms.

- Regulation and application of environmental sanctions

Law 99 of 1993, or Law 1333 of 2009 provides different, but nonetheless important options to allow environmental authorities to adopt decisions relative to environmental protection whenever a licence holder fails to fulfil the conditions established in any of the aforementioned environmental permits.

In contrast, as provided by Law 1333 of 21st July 2009, which established the environmental sanctioning procedure, the State holds sanctioning powers in environmental matters, and is therefore entitled to impose preventative measures, or punitive measures, in the case of infringement of the terms and conditions of an environmental authorization.

According to the provisions of Law 1333, any infringement of the regulations provided by Law 99 of 1993, and by any other applicable provision, and likewise, failure to comply with the terms and conditions contained in any administrative act of the environmental authorities, shall be considered an environmental infringement and a commission of environmental damage. In the case of breeding farms and the related industry, the possession of an environmental licence or permit to operate is an essential requirement, and any such licence or permit shall be issued, in accordance with certain qualitative and quantitative characteristics, by ANLA, the National Authority for Environmental Permitting, or by the Autonomous Regional Authorities, as the case may be. Failure to obtain the relevant authorization, or to comply with the terms and conditions thereof, shall be considered an environmental offence, and shall be investigated and sanctioned by the competent environmental authority responsible for issuing any such environmental permit, in accordance with the procedure established in the environmental sanctioning procedure, and with its obligation to impose sanctions, as provided by law, for infringements of the regulations for protection of the environment and management of renewable natural resources, and subject to any applicable regulations, to require restoration of any damage caused.

In short, the State has provided mechanisms within the legal system for inspection, monitoring, and control in order to prevent, mitigate, correct, compensate, and manage those activities that might cause serious degradation of environmental elements; the State is also entitled to demand compliance, based on its sanctioning powers.

Further, Law 1333 of 2009 provides the following consequences or penalties for infringements:

1. Day-fines of up to five thousand (5.000) current minimum legal monthly salaries.
 2. Temporary or permanent closure of the establishment, building, or service.
 3. Revocation or forfeiture of the environmental licence, authorization, concession, permit, or register.
 4. Demolition of the works at the infringer's expense.
 5. Final confiscation of specimens, alien wild species, products and subproducts, elements, means, or implements used in the commission of an offence.
 6. Restitution of specimens of wildlife species.
 7. Community work, as determined by the environmental authority.
- 5. Colombia shall clarify whether the laws for the time being in force in Colombia prohibit the export of skins over a certain size.**
- 6. If any such prohibition exists, Colombia shall clarify whether there are legal measures in place that allow illegally obtained skins to be seized and confiscated. If no such legal measures exist, Colombia shall adopt measures relative to skins that are larger than the maximum size established by Colombian laws, and shall ensure that any such skins shall remain under the control of the Colombian authorities. Any such measures can be adopted until 28th February 2016, and implemented prior to 31st May 2016.**

As previously mentioned, the establishment of breeding farms involving the management of species listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) currently requires an administrative authorization known as an environmental licence. As already mentioned, in the case of projects, works, or activities such as breeding farms, the licence requires certain necessary actions to mitigate, compensate, correct, and prevent any serious degradation of renewable natural resources or of the environment, or significant or notable alteration of the landscape that such projects, works, or activities might cause.

An environmental licence, therefore, is the instrument that prevents any such impact on *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* and ensures correct management of the species. This administrative authorization does not include any limitation on the size of skins for export under CITES permits, given that the measures adopted by Colombia ensure correct traceability of the origin of specimens.

As this document shows, at different times in the past, Colombia has developed, and subsequently adapted, regulations and techniques to respond to the need for control in this regard. Thus, even when the environmental licence did not cover the establishment of breeding farms that involved the management of species listed in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Colombia's guidelines and requirements for skin exports, which are no longer in force, already included maximum size limits.

The lifting of the restriction on skin sizes was based on the inclusion of special measures in the environmental licence, and on the implementation, in 2007, of the obligation to cut the 10th caudal scute of newborn hatchlings on captive-breeding farms, and further, on Decree 2041 of 2014, consolidating Decree 1076, which established that when setting the annual harvest quotas for breeding zoos, the environmental authorities should specify the number of animals larger than 125 cm to be harvested.

Nonetheless, as previously mentioned, Colombia did restrict the size of skins for export at some time in the past, by means of Resolution 767 of 2002¹, and other resolutions that led to notifications being sent to the Parties, e.g. Notifications 742/1993², and 2002/031³.

¹ *The Resolution prohibited exportation of the following products: Skins (whole skins, flanks, bellies, strips, chalecos, etc.), that are a different size to that shown on the safe-conduct pass authorizing their transport; scraps, bits, or pieces of skin; flanks longer than eighty-six (86) centimetres, if processed, and sixty-three (63) centimetres, if raw; tails longer than sixty (60) centimetres (with no signs of trimming); tails showing signs of trimming, and missing caudal scutes.*

This Resolution required regional environmental authorities to take administrative action to delete from inventories any skins or products that are found to show one or more of the following conditions: different size, specifications and/or characteristics to that shown on the safe-conduct pass authorizing their transport; poorly preserved skins; tails showing signs of trimming, and missing caudal scutes; flanks for export that are longer than eighty-six (86) centimetres, if processed, and sixty-three (63) centimetres, if raw; tails longer than sixty (60) centimetres (with no signs of trimming), and are intended for export.

² *This imposed limitations on maximum size of skins and skin pieces, as follows:*

Salted whole skins:

At least 80% of skins with a maximum length of 1m20; up to 20% of skins with a maximum length of 1m25.

Tanned skins:

At least 80% of skins with a maximum length of 1m25; up to 20% of skins with a maximum length of 1m30.

Salted flanks:

At least 80% of flanks with a maximum length of 61 cm; up to 20% of flanks with a maximum length of 63 cm.

Tanned flanks:

At least 80% of flanks with a maximum length of 80 cm; up to 20% of flanks with a maximum length of 86 cm.

Lengths shown refer to large flanks, i.e., flanks including throat skin. No lengths have been established for flanks that do not include throat skin, and are therefore shorter.

The significant difference between the lengths for salted and tanned flanks is due to the variation in moisture levels, the way in which the flanks are cut, and the changes in shape caused by the tanning process.

Salted or tanned tails:

Maximum length 60 cm.

Salted bellies:

Maximum length 45 cm.

Tanned bellies:

Maximum length 50 cm.

³ *Here, again, the following size limits were established for crocodylian skins or parts thereof that can be exported from Colombia.*

As previously stated, the controls currently in place in Colombia do not include any limitation on skin sizes. However, they require possession of an environmental licence, compliance with the obligation to remove the 10th caudal scute in newborn hatchlings on farms, control and monitoring of skin cutting, and monitoring and control of exports at port of shipment by the Colombian CITES Management Authority. This led to Notification to the Parties No. 2015/064, according to which a requirement for export is that all whole skins at any stage of processing have a genuine scar button that is a result of excision of the 10th caudal scute. Further, prior to export, finished skin parts or segments shall have been controlled and monitored prior to cutting in order to verify traceability of the scar button, thus guaranteeing that the skins were produced on captive-breeding farms, regardless of skin size.

Whole skins

Salted: maximum length 125 cm; 80% of skins to be no longer than 120 cm

Tanned: maximum length 130 cm; 80% of skins to be no longer than 125 cm

b) Flanks

Salted: maximum length 63 cm, 80% of skins to be no longer than 60 cm

Tanned: maximum length 86 cm, 80% of skins to be no longer than 80 cm

These sizes are applicable to whole flanks, i.e., including throat skin. The marked difference between the sizes for salted or tanned flanks is due to the variation in moisture levels, the way in which the flanks are cut, and the changes in shape caused by the tanning process.

c) Tails

Salted or tanned: maximum length 60 cm

d) Bellies

Salted: maximum length 45 cm

Tanned: maximum length 50 cm