

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
9	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 9 [Egypt] Transfer of the Egyptian population from Appendix I to Appendix II.</p> <p>The most widely distributed crocodile species in Africa, occurring in almost all sub-Saharan countries, the Nile Crocodile <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> was included in Appendix I in 1975. It had virtually disappeared from Egypt by the 1950s, but the construction of the Aswan Dam and the subsequent creation of Lake Nasser led to a resurgence of the population, recently estimated as between 6000 and 30 000 individuals. The transfer to Appendix II is proposed to support a ranching programme based on periodic hatchling harvest, with an annual export quota of 750 skins from ranched individuals starting in 2013. Because the proposal involves ranching, it should comply with <i>Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14)</i> as well as with <i>Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14)</i>. Under the terms of the first of these, a ranching proposal should be submitted at least 330 days before the meeting at which it is to be considered, to allow appropriate consultation. This was not done in this case and it is possible therefore that the proposal will not be considered in its present form by the Conference of Parties at this meeting. Besides the question of submission timing, some measures required under <i>Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14)</i> are in place, but other conditions are yet to be fully met, most importantly the need to address a substantial level of illegal harvest. Although trade in ranched specimens is not proposed until 2013, by which time all necessary conditions may be met, it is premature to transfer the population for the purposes of ranching at this time. Egypt should be encouraged to consider submitting a proposal for the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties.</p>	REJECT