

IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC GROUP

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BULLETIN

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News from Kew

We recently had news from Gren Lucas, Secretary of Threatened Plants Committee, that they are planning to launch the TPC Botanic Gardens Conservation Co-ordinating Body. All the botanic gardens have been circulated asking them to join. Among other things, gardens will be circulated with a list of species threatened in the wild to find out which species are in cultivation and where; the results will be published. It is hoped that this will provide a really useful service for botanic gardens, and so avoid further depletion of wild stocks. Later it is hoped the Body will develop other roles and activities: for instance a Botanic Gardens Conservation Yearbook, along the lines of the International Zoo Yearbook, has been suggested. For further details please write to: Gren Lucas, Threatened Plants Committee, IUCN, c/o Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

Malaysian Primate Export Ban

It has been rumoured that the Malaysian government will soon place a ban on the export of nonhuman primates for at least two years. The Malaysian newspaper article reproduced overleaf also indicates that this will be the case. No official reason for the impending ban has been given yet, but rumour has it that, in addition to the considerations mentioned in the newspaper article, it is partly related to negative publicity in the Malaysian press about radiation research in the United States by the military. Malaysia is one of the suppliers of cynomolgus monkeys (Macaca fascicularis) which some research workers are using in place of rhesus monkeys (M. mulatta), export of which was banned by the Indian government some time ago.

Kuala Lumpur, Thursday

The government is taking steps to ban the export of the long-tailed macaque or crab-eating monkey for two to three years.

The Director-General of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia, Encik Mohamad Khan bin Momin Khan, said here yesterday that the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry had approved the proposal for the ban which his department had submitted in October last year.

He said his department was now drafting the law which would be ready in a couple of months.

"It is high time that we give the protected species a break," he said. "Since 1955 when the macaque was made a reserved animal, these monkeys have been captured and exported ceaselessly."

Encik Mohamad said Thailand had banned the export of all primates since March, 1976. India banned the export of the rhesus monkeys in early 1978 and Bangladesh did the same in early 1979.

"We suspected that with the ban by other countries, importers would concentrate on Malaysia."

"Our fears were proved right when the export of monkeys increased tremendously last year compared with the previous two years. In 1977, 6,200 local monkeys were exported while in 1978 the figure was 15,400."

The department did not have exact figures of the macaque population in Peninsular Malaysia, he added. "The macaques are prolific breeders, but there is always the possibility that they will become an endangered species if their export remains uncurtailed."

Encik Mohamad said the Wildlife Department would study the situation from time to time and would prolong the ban if necessary. He added that the department had enough wildlife rangers to enforce the ban.

At present, the Wildlife Department in the various states issues licences for the capture of between 20 and 100 macaques, said Encik Mohamad. He also refuted a recent report that indiscriminate deforestation would destroy the monkeys' habitat.

(Taken from the Straits Times, February 15, 1979)

Black Stinkwood in Danger

The black stinkwood, Ocotea bullata, is one of only two trees that are specially protected by law in Natal, South Africa. However, protection exists only on paper. Today you can go from one Natal forest to another and not find an undamaged stinkwood tree. In the most inaccessible kloofs, up on high ledges - wherever there are stinkwoods, there are signs that the bark gatherers have been busy.

Keith Cooper, the Wildlife Society's Director of Conservation in Natal, says that at the present rate of exploitation it will be hard to find a black stinkwood anywhere in Natal in five years time. For the past six months he has been doing an intensive survey of the privately-owned forests in Natal, exploring them one by one. When he first noticed the mutilated stinkwoods he assumed the problem existed only in the area in which he was then working. However as his survey extended over the province, he found the situation repeated everywhere.

Keith Cooper did rough counts of damaged trees in the Darhle, Karkloof, Boston, Impendhle, Creighton and Harding areas. His findings indicated that about 95% of all trees observed had been attacked and varying amounts of bark removed. Of this 95% about 40% had been completely ring-barked and were therefore doomed. According to him several trees that appeared to have been ringbarked four or five years ago had rotted through and fallen down. Although there were many signs of the stinkwoods coppicing, the forests showed virtually no signs of juvenile stinkwood trees.

It is not hard to find the reason why black stinkwood is a special target for herbalists. Any African knows that the bark is one of the most sought-after medicines, renowned for its powerful healing properties, as well as its ability to repel lightning. Some Africans always carry a piece of the bark in their pockets as a lucky charm to ward off evil or ill health.

A handful of fragments of bark are sold for about £1, although both salesmen and customers appear to know that the trade is illegal. Keith Cooper estimates that a ten-metre high tree with a diameter of about 33 cm would be worth £500 for its bark alone. As always it is the retailer rather than the collector who is making the big money. He heard of one case where a man paid £2 for a small piece of bark and sold it for £60. Yet it is usually the collector, not the retailer who gets caught.

Putting an end to the bark-gathering trade seems to be almost impossible. The forests where stinkwoods occur are often small patches tucked away in lonely places, and a forest offers perfect cover for illegal collectors. Because the bark is in such demand, and highly-priced, bark gatherers will continue to hunt in all suitable stinkwood localities, ringbarking and killing off more and more trees. Is there no way a specially protected tree can be protected?

NB: Although the herbalist has no further use for the stinkwood once it is stripped of its bark, the landowners stand to make a profit from the timber of the doomed trees, if they can get the authority to do so. Stinkwood is one of the world's most highly-prized timbers, and cabinetmakers will pay almost anything for the wood, which is very difficult to obtain.

Taken from African Wildlife, Volume 33.

(Any reader with knowledge of stinkwood or its products in trade outside South Africa, please send details to TRAFFIC.)

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE SKINS OF THE SALTWATER CROCODILE

(Crocodylus porosus)

by Tim Inskipp

As a result of the meeting of the parties to CITES in Costa Rica, the saltwater crocodile was transferred to Appendix I, with the exception of the Papua New Guinea populations which are believed to be well managed. However France, Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland have entered reservations, and will not be implementing the decision.

TRAFFIC was asked by the Secretariat of CITES to gather and analyse any data available on the trade in this species. The present summary is taken from that data.

Although occurring in many countries of S E Asia and islands to the east, this species is only exported from a few - being protected or very rare in the others. The countries known to have exported skins very recently are (from west to east) Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Caroline Islands (US Trust Territory of Pacific), Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands (from King et al, 1979 - Review of the Status of the Saltwater or Estuarine Crocodile Crocodylus porosus). Unfortunately for the survival of this species the skin is 'unsurpassed for leather, which has led to very extensive hunting and, where several species are present, Crocodylus porosus is actively sought out.' (R. Honegger, 1975 - IUCN Red Data Book Vol. 3.)

THAILAND

Nearly extinct in the wild but there are farms which rear this species from eggs and young obtained from other countries, whilst some are bred at one farm.

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS (NB: Other species of crocodiles, e.g. C. siamensis are also involved in these statistics).

EXPORTS 1976

Crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| 216 | 79 463 | Japan |
| 853 | 51 053 | Singapore |
| 16 100 | 4 159 544 | France |
| 8 | 1 043 | Fed.Rep. of Germany |
| 183 | 61 125 | USA |
| 17 360 | 4 352 208 | |

Untanned crocodile leather

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 593 | 770 175 | Japan |
| 72 | 29 951 | Taiwan |
| 1 | 2 038 | Italy |
| 162 | 466 159 | UK |
| 828 | 1 268 323 | |

Tanned crocodile leather

| | | |
|----|---------|----|
| 53 | 171 354 | UK |
|----|---------|----|

THAILAND (Continued)EXPORTS 1977 (Jan-Oct)

Crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 98 | 17 352 | Singapore |
| 360 | 19 560 | Taiwan |
| 12 780 | 4 791 085 | France |
| 17 | 16 972 | Fed. Rep. of Germany |
| 264 | 218 828 | USA |
| 13 519 | 5 063 797 | |

IMPORTS (from countries exporting the species)1976

Tanned crocodile leather

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 510 | 435 111 | Singapore |

1977

Tanned crocodile leather

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 414 | 732 722 | Singapore |

Untanned crocodile leather

| Wt. (kg) | Value (baht) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 332 | 260 095 | Singapore |

MALAYSIA

A few crocodiles are raised in farms in Sabah and some hides from wild adults are exported from Sarawak. Essentially extinct in Peninsular Malaysia.

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICSEXPORTS 1976

Raw Crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (Malaysian \$) | Destination |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 4 113(46.6% from Sabah) | 94 185 | Singapore |

Undressed snake and crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (Malaysian \$) | Destination |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 202 | 3 225 | Singapore |
| 342 | 5 269 | Fed. Rep. of Germany |
| 754 | 9 971 | Italy |
| 1 298 | 18 465 | |

MALAYSIA (Continued)IMPORTS 1976 (from countries exporting the species)

Raw Crocodile Skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (Malaysian \$) | Destination |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 23 | 250 | Borneo |
| 157 (all imported by Sabah) | 2 120 | Philippines |
| | | |
| Dressed snake and crocodile skins | | |
| 142 | 180 | Singapore |

SINGAPORE

No longer a breeding resident in the wild but many rearing farms rear this and other species obtained from surrounding countries.

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS (NB: Other species of crocodiles are also involved in these statistics.)

EXPORT 1976

Unworked Crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 78 | 6 100 | Hong Kong |
| 10 905 | 934 178 | Japan |
| 72 | 700 | Malaysia (Malaya) |
| 10 | 705 | Thailand |
| 4 000 | 96 220 | Belgium |
| 84 496 | 6 470 416 | France |
| 775 | 108 691 | Fed. Rep. of Germany |
| 6 356 | 436 173 | Italy |
| 1 200 | 64 666 | UK |
| 37 520 | 3 889 735 | |

EXPORT 1977

Unworked Crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 67 353 | 9 626 823 | France |
| 1 020 | 195 666 | Fed. Rep. of Germany |
| 93 | 46 397 | Hong Kong |
| 1 055 | 141 300 | Italy |
| 18 453 | 2 100 253 | Japan |
| 108 | 14 394 | Thailand |
| 283 | 22 325 | UK |
| 88 364 | 12 147 158 | |

EXPORT 1978

Unworked crocodile skins

| Wt. (kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 50 037 | 7 527 134 | France |
| 18 | 13 493 | Hong Kong |
| 13 718 | 1 984 505 | Japan |
| 63 773 | 9 525 132 | |

SINGAPORE (continued)

EXPORT 1978

Undressed snake and crocodile leather

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 102 | 17 981 | Japan |
| 400 | 56 696 | Switzerland |
| 22 | 4 117 | Thailand |
| 524 | 78 794 | |

Dressed snake and crocodile leather

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| 8 | 870 | Belgium |
| 1 333 | 706 554 | Hong Kong |
| 34 | 2 896 | Japan |
| 52 | 1 464 | Peninsular Malaysia |
| 12 | 1 907 | Taiwan |
| 1 311 | 163 911 | Thailand |
| 170 | 50 260 | USA |
| 2 920 | 927 862 | |

IMPORT (From countries exporting the species)

1976

Undressed Crocodile skins

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|------------------|
| 27 953 | 940 502 | Papua New Guinea |
| 4 331 | 92 580 | Malaya) |
| 1 552 | 48 476 | Sabah) Malaysia |
| 679 | 26 844 | Sarawak) |

1977

Undressed crocodile skins

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|------------------|
| 158 | 4 470 | Thailand |
| 15 524 | 744 567 | Papua New Guinea |
| 1 800 | 43 200 | Malaya) |
| 1 166 | 43 151 | Sabah) Malaysia |
| 1 031 | 26 006 | Sarawak) |

Dressed snake and crocodile leather

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 19 | 2 100 | Thailand |

1978

Undressed crocodile skins

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|------------------|
| 17 585 | 1 459 060 | Papua New Guinea |
| 481 | 18 730 | Malaya) |
| 1 981 | 174 350 | Sabah) Malaysia |
| 623 | 28 567 | Sarawak) |
| 350 | 5 260 | Philippines |
| 10 | 815 | Oceania |

Dressed snake and crocodile leather

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (S \$) | Destination |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 242 | 5 920 | Thailand |

INDONESIA

There are still a fair number of wild individuals in Irian Jaya and Sumatra and there are rearing farms on these islands and Java, Kalimantan, Mentawi Islands.

In 1978, 4,259 skins of C. porosus were legally exported from Indonesia. This was only 2.2 per cent of the total reptile skin exports (196,123), the small amount of trade being due to the scarcity of crocodiles (D. Mossman 1979 - Report on the Animal Trade in Indonesia 1978 as based on PPA Animal Transport Permits). The species is on the Indonesian endangered list and remains unprotected, despite proposals for the protection put forward in 1977. Trade has increased since 1975 but remains lower than the 1973 level. Most of the skins come from Sumatra, and some from Kalimantan. The reptile skin exports went to Japan (40%), Singapore (40%) and France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy (19%).

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS 1975-1978 of CROCODYLUS SPP. (from Mossman 1979)

(Mainly C. porosus but also C. siamensis and C. novaeguineae)

1975 335

1976 4623

1977 5198

1978 5537

COMPARISON OF EXPORTS OF C. POROSUS WITH LEGAL (PPA) PERMITS WITH THOSE ACTUALLY COUNTED (from Mossman 1979)

Skins: 1457 licenced but 2302 recorded
Live : 4080 " " 3085 "

ANALYSIS OF CROCODYLUS POROSUS EXPORTED UNDER LICENCE IN 1978 (from Mossman 1979)

| Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year totals |
|---------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-------------|
| Wt(kgs) | 50 | 530 | 215 | 200 | 900 | 200 | 500 | ? | 150 | 357 | 550 | 150 | 2902 |
| No | 100 | 800 | 323 | 150 | | 150* | 650 | ? | 285 | 400 | 101 | 400 | 4259+ |
| Ave | 4 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 1.33 | | 1.33 | 0.76 | | 0.52 | 0.89 | 5.4 | 0.37 | 0.68 |

Weights range between 370 gms and 5.4 kgs.

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS (NB: These statistics also include Crocodylus n. novaeguineae and C. siamensis)

CROCODILE SKIN EXPORTS

1976

| PIECES | Wt.(Kg) | Value (US \$) | Destination |
|--------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| 50 | 160 | 122 | Thailand |
| 23 784 | 35 356 | 434 933 | Singapore |
| 26 | 30 | 52 | Netherlands |
| 350 | 1 100 | 21 791 | Belgium |
| 3 988 | 550 | 11 702 | Italy |
| 28 198 | 37 196* | 468 600 | |

* 30% from Sumatra, 4% from Kalimantan, 9% from Java, 57% from Irian Jaya.

INDONESIA (Continued)CROCODILE SKIN EXPORTS

1977

| PIECES | Wt. (Kg) | Value (US \$) | Destination |
|--------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| 47 405 | 65 229 | 1 075 245 | Singapore |
| 4 629 | 13 500 | 349 806 | Belgium |
| 52 034 | 78 729 * | 1 425 051 | |

* 2% from Sumatra, 3% from Kalimantan, 2% from Java, 93% from Irian Jaya

CROCODILE SKIN EXPORTS

1978

| PIECES | Wt. (Kg) | Value (US \$) | Destination |
|--------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| 25 885 | 55 126 | 1 166 872 | Singapore |
| 1 944 | 1 800 | 86 828 | Belgium |
| 27 829 | 56 926 * | 1 253 700 | |

* 2% from Sumatra, 4% from Kalimantan, 5% from Java, 89% from Irian Jaya

PHILIPPINES

The species is still widely distributed in the islands and remains unprotected. No doubt some skins are exported but the only available statistics could also include C. novaeguineae mindorensis, various snakes and lizards, and perhaps other animals in the same tariff heading.

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICSUNDRESSED REPTILE AND AQUATIC ANIMAL SKINS

1976 EXPORTS

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (\$) | Destination |
|----------|------------|-------------------------|
| 517 | 20 666 | UK |
| 280 | 7 731 | Federal Rep. of Germany |
| 17 366 | 222 627 | Japan |
| 111 | 986 | Okinawa (Japan) |
| 190 | 4 800 | Hawaii (US) |
| 18 464 | 256 810 | |

1977 EXPORTS

| Wt. (Kg) | Value (\$) | Destination |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| 34 | 1 707 | France |
| 2 650 | 2 650 | Taiwan |
| 16 199 | 285 270 | Japan |
| 18 883 | 289 627 | |

CAROLINE ISLANDS

Unprotected. In 1975 a hunter was licenced to hunt crocodiles because they were considered a menace to the local people. 300 were killed and the hides exported to Japan.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Some wild adults are still hunted and there are many rearing farms.
Most of the export trade in crocodile skins relates to C. n. novaeguineae
- 79.7% in 1976, 81.5% in 1977.

CITES STATISTICS

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C. porosus

1976 (11 March - 31 July)

| No. | Destination |
|------|-------------|
| 2306 | Singapore |
| 363 | France |
| 13 | USA |
| 2682 | |

(Total export 1976: 5342 belly skins)
Report of IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, 4th Working Meeting, Madras, 1978

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C. porosus

| 1977 | Destination |
|-------|--|
| 3 236 | Singapore |
| 1 295 | Japan |
| 1 098 | France (+ 46 <u>Crocodylus</u> sp.) |
| 275 | USA |
| 106 | Italy |
| 77 | UK |
| 1 | Australia |
| 6 089 | Total (Madras report figure: 6062 belly skins) |

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C. porosus

1978

| No | Destination |
|-------|-------------|
| 3 935 | Singapore |
| 3 666 | France |
| 1 459 | Japan |
| 19 | UK |

EXPORT OF OTHER SKINS OF C. porosus

1978

| No | Destination |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | Australia + 1 <u>Crocodylus</u> sp. |
| 1 | UK |
| 1 | USA |

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C.n.novaeguineae

1976 (11 March - 31 July)

| No. | Destination |
|-------|-------------|
| 5 327 | Singapore |
| 207 | France |
| 17 | USA |
| 10 | Japan |
| 5 561 | |

(Total export 1976: 20929 belly skins)

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C.n.novaeguineae

| 1977 | Destination |
|----------|---|
| 12 392 | Singapore |
| 7 041 | Japan |
| 6 488+34 | France |
| 361 | USA |
| 45 | Italy |
| 466 | UK |
| 1 | Australia |
| 26 828 | (Madras report figure: 26793 belly skins) |

EXPORT OF SALTED SKINS OF C.n. novaeguineae

1978

| No. | Destination |
|--------|-------------|
| 13 661 | Singapore |
| 13 547 | France |
| 6 292 | Japan |
| 82 | UK |

EXPORT OF OTHER SKINS OF C.n. novaeguineae

1978

| No | Destination |
|----|-------------|
| 2 | Australia |
| 1 | Fiji |
| 1 | UK |

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Unprotected. Occasional specimens are taken and go to German tanners.

OTHER GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS

HONG KONG

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS

IMPORTS (From countries exporting the species)

REPTILE LEATHER (NB: This category could include other species of crocodile and many other reptiles as well).

| | Wt.(Kg.) | Value (HK \$) | Country of Export |
|------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1976 | 77 4268 | 27 230 2 300 130 | Thailand Singapore |
| 1977 | 18 2910 | 1 600 2 150 504 | Thailand Singapore |
| 1978 | 2468 157 | 1 510 405 55 955 | Singapore Philippines |

JAPAN

GOVERNMENT TRADE STATISTICS (NB: These figures also refer to other species of crocodile, e.g. C. novaeguineae and C. siamensis)

IMPORTS (From countries exporting the species)

UNTANNED CROCODILE SKINS

1976

| Wt.(Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 7 619 | 73 258 | Singapore |
| 664 | 6 192 | Philippines |
| 5 439 | 64 598 | Indonesia |
| 337 | 1 508 | Papua New Guinea |
| 255 | 1 246 | Solomon Islands |
| 2 500 | 9 684 | Thailand |

CROCODILE LEATHER

1976

| Wt.(Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 540 | 11 754 | Singapore |

UNTANNED CROCODILE SKINS

1977

| Wt.(Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 6 782 | 111 309 | Singapore |
| 260 | 2 481 | Malaysia |
| 353 | 1 517 | Philippines |
| 9 373 | 110 942 | Indonesia |
| 5 839 | 95 916 | Papua New Guinea |
| 181 | 1 295 | Solomon Islands. |

CROCODILE LEATHER

1978

| Wt.(Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 165 | 3 633 | Singapore |

JAPAN (Continued)

UNTANNED CROCODILE SKINS

1978

| Wt. (Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2 475 | 41 458 | Singapore |
| 264 | 1 365 | Philippines |
| 5 731 | 85 980 | Indonesia |
| 9 635 | 121 873 | Papua New Guinea |
| 4 576 | 23 737 | Thailand |

CROCODILE LEATHER

1978

| Wt. (Kg.) | Value (1000 yen) | Country of Export |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| 110 | 2 544 | Singapore |

OTHER CITES STATISTICS FOR TRADE IN C. POROSUS

UNITED KINGDOM

1976 Nil

1977 IMPORTS:

12 skins from France (origin Papua New Guinea)

1978 IMPORTS: (provisional figures)

39 skins from France (origin Asia)

24 " " " (" Singapore)

50 " " Papua New Guinea

1979 (Jan-Mar, provisional figures)

IMPORTS:

256 pieces of skin Austria (origin Singapore)

14 kgs skin from Denmark (origin Singapore)

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

1976 IMPORTS:

1063 skins from France

79 " " France (Singapore)

1977 IMPORTS:

3545 skins from France

2605 skins from Italy

367 skins from Singapore.

1977 RE-EXPORTS: 7 skins to Switzerland (origin Singapore)

1978 IMPORTS: 3522 skins, 132 bags, 70 flanks, 754 small leather items

1978 RE-EXPORTS: 57 bags, 13 suitcases, 47 small leather items

SWITZERLAND

1976 IMPORTS:

666 skins from France + 955 C. novaeguineae/porosus

1977 IMPORTS:

2490 skins from France

170 Italy

63 refused entry

1978 IMPORTS:

2036 skins from France

104 skins from Italy

RE-EXPORTS:

995 watch straps to Denmark

260

Norway

116 w.

36 "

straps to Sweden

" USA

OTHER CITES STATISTICS FOR TRADE IN C. POROSUS (Continued)

USA

1977 (May 23 - Dec 31)

IMPORTS:

204 skins from Papua New Guinea

AUSTRALIA

1977 IMPORTS: Nil

EXPORTS: Nil

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As with most other forms of wildlife trade that we have investigated, there are large discrepancies between the various figures. For instance Indonesia does not record any exports of crocodile skins to Japan in 1976, 1977 and 1978, yet Japan records the import of untanned crocodile skins from Indonesia of 5439, 9373 and 5731 kg. respectively.

Comparisons of the CITES data from different countries also indicates some unrecorded trade. The UK and Australia do not list the import of the skins exported to them by Papua New Guinea in 1977.

Unfortunately, at present we have no data concerning the average weights of the skins of this species involved in trade. Any help would be appreciated.

Clearly environmental pressure groups need to exert their influence to improve the enforcement of existing controls in many countries, and government agencies involved with CITES need to be more vigilant in checking licences. It would also seem desirable for the exporting countries to establish direct links with the consumers so that the skins are not routed through 'launderers'.

