## AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

## Other Proposals

## A. <u>PROPOSAL</u>

Transfer of the South African population of <u>Crocodylus</u> <u>niloticus</u> from Appendix I to Appendix II.

## B. <u>PROPONENT</u>

The Republic of South Africa.

## C. <u>SUPPORTING STATEMENT</u>

- 1. <u>Taxonomy</u>
  - 11. Class: Reptilia
  - 12. Order: Crocodylia
  - 13. Family: Crocodylidae
  - 14. Species: <u>Crocodylus niloticus</u>
  - 15: Common Names: English: Nile Crocodile French: crocodile du Nil Spanish: Cocodrilo del Nilo Afrikaans: Nyl Krokodil

## 16. Code Numbers: A-306.002.001.006

## 2. Biological Data

21. <u>Distribution</u>: The Nile crocodile in South Africa was formerly extensively distributed in all eastward flowing rivers from the Limpopo in the north (Transvaal) to the mouth of the Keiskamma River (some 76 km west of East London, Cape Province) in the south. Westward distribution in these rivers being restricted by climatic conditions.

Current distribution is still in the eastward flowing rivers from the Limpopo in the north (Transvaal) to the Tugela River in the south (Natal). Westward distribution is restricted by climatic conditions as well as human pressure. Major and fully protected populations occur in the Kruger National Park (Transvaal), Ndumu Game Reserve and Lake St. Lucia (Natal).

- 22. <u>Population</u>: The crocodile population of South Africa can be broken up into the following groups:
  - i) The Transvaal population
  - ii) The Kruger National Park population
  - iii) The Natal population

Here it should be noted that crocodiles have never occurred naturally in the Orange Free State and no longer occur naturally in the Cape Province.

## <u>Transvaal</u>

N. Jacobsen (1984) estimated the Transvaal population at some 1000 crocodiles. This was based on aerial surveys of the major rivers of the Transvaal over a three year period 1979-1981. A total of 2256 km of river was flown and a total of 602 crocodiles counted (see Table one). The population is probably a lot higher as the counts were done in the dry season when rivers were low. Crocodiles would have at this time of the year moved down stream to better water and into their traditional breeding areas. Most of the rivers flow into the Kruger National Park which was not covered in the survey.

During the years 1988/89 a further survey was carried out by N. Jacobsen (1991) and a total of 896 crocodiles were counted, and increase of 48,8%. This survey was encouraging because it indicated an increasing population despite human pressures on the crocodile habitat. From the 1991 report the Transvaal population is probably nearer 1500 that 1000 given by Jacobsen.

#### Kruger National Park

The crocodile population of the Kruger National park is estimated at c 3500. Table two reflects 2453 crocodiles from counts in respect of the rivers only flowing through the Park and not the dams and water holes within the Park. It also does not take into account juvenile crocodiles that would not be seen from the air. The counts were also made in conjunction with a hippopotamus count. Apart from migration up the rivers into the Transvaal and down the rivers into Mozambique the population is fully protected and there are no plans to utilize it.

<u>Natal</u>

Blake (1989) estimated the Natal crocodile at some 4500. This population can be broken up into three major groups. The Ndumu Game Reserve with a population of some 1250 crocodiles, the St. Lucia Lake system with some 1500 crocodiles and other areas some 1750 crocodiles (see Table three).

23. <u>Habitat</u>: The Nile crocodile occurs in rivers, lakes, swamps and estuaries of South Africa which are climatically suited to their distribution. Some habitat has been lost to crocodiles due to human pressures and extensive land use resulting in silting up of some rivers. However their habitat is fully protected in the Kruger National Park and most of north-eastern Natal from the Mozambique border to the Umfolozi River in the south, this area being in the main nature reserves falling under the protection of the Bureau of Natural Resources (Kwazulu) and the Natal Parks Board.

## 3. Trade Data

- 31. National Utilization:
  - i) <u>Transvaal</u>: While the Transvaal has a policy of non-utilization, problem crocodiles are either relocated or provided to crocodile farms as breeding

1

stock. This is especially the case where rivers run through or are adjacent to tribal areas.

- ii) <u>Natal</u>: As in the Transvaal problem crocodiles are captured and either relocated or supplied to crocodile farmers as breeding stock. Natal also has a utilization policy in respect of egg collection from the wild. Collection is limited to "doomed" nests and is only carried out by the staff of the Natal Parks Board. A "doomed" nest is defined as a nest which, due to a number of factors is unlikely to be successful (see Appendix one).
- iii) <u>Interprovincial</u>: It should be noted that movement of crocodiles, crocodile parts and derivatives between the Provinces of South Africa are subject to import-export permits.
- 32. Legal International Trade: While the first crocodile farm was established in 1968, international trade has been limited to date (1640 skins in 1988 and 4569 skins in 1989). The reason for this apparent low skin production is that most farms were only established in the early 1980's. These farms had limited access to breeding stock and therefore bought up farm-produced hatchlings for rearing as future breeding stock.

Import of both adult and juvenile stock have been made from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. It should be noted these imports were done under valid CITES export permits from the exporting country.

33. <u>Illegal Trade</u>: On the international side no known illegal trade is taking place. Such trade, if it did take place, would be extremely limited due to small crocodile populations in South Africa and the protection afforded them.

A limited amount of poaching is known to take place in South Africa to supply the traditional healers market within South Africa with crocodile parts and derivatives. With stricter law enforcement, a value on the crocodile in the wild and the supply of parts and derivatives to the trade by crocodile farms, poaching and the illegal trade should fall away.

- 34. <u>Potential Trade Threats</u>:
  - 341. <u>Live Specimens</u>: As stated previously all live trade is subject to CITES permits being issued in both importing and exporting countries. Therefore no trade threat is foreseen.
  - 342. <u>Parts and Derivatives</u>: Again all import/exports are subject to CITES certificates and no trade threat is foreseen.

## 4. <u>Protection Status</u>

- 41. <u>National</u>: In terms of the legislation of the Provinces of South Africa crocodiles are afforded the status of protected game. They may only be hunted or captured under permit issued by the relevant conservation authority.
- 42. <u>International</u>: The Nile crocodile is widely distributed throughout Africa in suitable habitat. Since 1983 thirteen African states have transferred their

populations from Appendix I to Appendix II in order to utilize their crocodile population. This has led to enhanced protection of the Nile crocodile throughout Africa and internationally through stricter control on import/export especially as prior to transfer a large number of these countries had reservations in respect of crocodile as did some of the major importing countries.

It can safely be said therefore that internationally the Nile crocodile has been afforded greater protection status that in the past.

## 43. Additional Protection Needs: None considered necessary.

## 5. Information on Similar Species

Only the Nile crocodile occurs naturally in South Africa.

## 6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The general consensus of the African states, has been that the Nile crocodile was placed in Appendix I without consultation of the states concerned and should have been placed under Appendix II because while the species is vulnerable it was not endangered. Thirteen states have therefore had their populations transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.

## 7. Additional Remarks

- 71. <u>Transfer</u>: The Natal Parks Board with support of the other conservation bodies in South Africa strongly believes that it remains necessary to re-evaluate the current policy and to this end it is submitted that the transfer of the South African population of the Nile crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II will help to ensure that the objectives of all conservation authorities are achieved, that the interest of future generations are taken into account and ensure the survival of the Nile crocodile in the wild.
- 72. <u>Farming</u>: The first crocodile farm was started in South Africa in 1968. There are today currently 39 crocodile farms in South Africa (see appendix two). Adult stock for these farms has originated as follows:
  - i) Problem crocodiles caught by the various conservation bodies and supplied to the farms.
  - ii) Adult crocodiles imported from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.
  - iii) Immature stock imported from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.
  - iv) Immature stock obtained from other farmers in South Africa and from the Natal Parks Board.
  - v) Adult stock reared from the immature stock obtained by importation or obtained within South Africa [subparagraphs iii) and iv) above].

Those farms that have reached the stage of export of skins have been registered with the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland. More recently Natal has applied for all eight farms within the province to be registered.

73. <u>Utilization</u>: The proposed transfer is not based on a ranching proposal. The Natal Parks Board does however have a limited utilization policy in respect of crocodile eggs. As stated in Section 31. this utilization is based on eggs obtained from "doomed" nests. These are nests which are identified as having little chance of hatching or the hatchlings would have no chance of survival (see Appendix two).

This utilization was implemented in the 1988/89 season with a collection of 7 nests, 15 nests in 1989/90 season and 13 in the 1990/91 season. In each of these seasons c. 90 hatchlings have been retained at the St. Lucia Crocodile Centre for exhibit and rearing. The balance have been sold to crocodile farms on condition that these or a corresponding number are reared for future breeding stock.

- 74. <u>Collection of Eggs</u>: The collection and incubation of the eggs is only carried out by the Natal Parks Board staff stationed at the St. Lucia Crocodile Centre.
- 75. <u>Quota (In respect of utilization only)</u>: In order to allow hatchlings from Natal Parks Board utilization programme to be raised for skin, a quota of one thousand (1000) skins per annum is sought. This quota is based on collection of 35 nests per annum. The actual number collected annually will in all probability be a lot lower due to collection being restricted to doomed nests only (see sections 31. and 73.).

It should be noted that the quota requested is in respect of skins from utilization only and that no limit is sought in respect of skins obtained from farming operations.

76. <u>Restocking</u>: While the need for restocking is under constant review there are no current proposals for restocking in Natal or the Transvaal.

Restocking has taken place in the past both in Natal and the Transvaal. In Natal between 1967 and 1976 a total of 486 juvenile crocodiles were released into the Lake St. Lucia system.

In the Transvaal limited restocking has taken place, mostly crocodiles being released into private dams. The translocation of problem crocodiles into other areas has also taken place.

As a result of holding back some 90 hatchlings each year the St. Lucia Crocodile Centre has an annual supply of 50 - 80 three year old which can be utilized for restocking purposes. If not required these crocodiles are sold to farmers as future breeding stock. The sale price precludes them being utilized for skin.

77. <u>Marking</u>: The Nile Crocodile Farmers Association which represents the majority of the farmers in South Africa have accepted a uniform tagging system. The Transvaal farmers are already using the tag.

The tag to be utilized is the Poly-Lok tag produced by S.J. Brooke Company, New Jersey, America. This tag locks on to the skin and remains in place throughout tanning. It has space for up to seven digits and the name of the farm.

Each farm will be responsible for the supply of its own tags, each of the four provinces will have to hold a register of numbers which will relate to the tags. These numbers will be utilized for the issue of CITES export tags.

- 78. <u>Register</u>: Each of the four provinces issuing CITES permits in respect of skins or live crocodiles for export will keep a register. This register will reflect the tag numbers in respect of tags utilized for export.
- 79. <u>Research</u>: Each of the conservation bodies monitors its crocodile populations on a regular basis. Natal has since the early sixties not only monitored its population but in 1966 set up a Crocodile Research Centre at Ndumu Game Reserve. This was subsequently moved to Lake St. Lucia where its acts nor only as a Research Centre but also as an Interpretative Centre for crocodiles. From this Centre all crocodile farming in Natal is monitored and advice and assistance given.
- 710. <u>Policy</u>: Both the Natal Parks Board and the Bureau of Natural Resources (Kwazulu) have clear cut policies in respect of their crocodile populations. That for the Natal Parks Board is included as Appendix three.
- 711. <u>Rational for the Proposal</u>: South Africa has a small but stable crocodile population that is well protected in certain areas and whose future is guaranteed.

While the population as a whole can be classified as vulnerable it is not endangered and the conservation authorities of South Africa have the interest, expertise and staff to ensure its survival.

While there is a proposal for utilization this is only on a limited scale and will only effect the St. Lucia population. It will however place a value on that population in the wild. It will also provide an annual supply of crocodiles which can be utilized for restocking purposes.

On the trade side the retention of the Nile crocodile on Appendix I has proved a stumbling block to exporters who have had their exports held up by some countries, albeit that the farms were registered with the CITES Secretariat and the skins exported were farmed skins.

The Natal Parks Board with the support of all other conservation authorities of the Republic of South Africa, acting through the Department of Environmental Affairs considers that the South African population of the Nile crocodile should be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.

# TABLE ONE

# Surveys of Crocodile Populations Transvaal 1979 - 81 and 1988 - 89

Size Class								
-	1979 -	- 1981	Survey					
<lm< th=""><th>1-2m</th><th>2-3m</th><th>3m+</th><th>Not</th><th>Total</th><th>Total</th></lm<>	1-2m	2-3m	3m+	Not	Total	Total		
				Fixed	19181	88/89		
0	0	0	0	5	5	8		
8	5	3	0	7	23	4		
1	0	0	0	1	2	0		
21	43	13	0	49	126	63 <i>°</i>		
45	21	2	0`	14	82			
0	2	• 3	1	0	6)	76		
0	3	3	2	0	8)	-		
1	4	0	0	10	15	0**		
		•		•				
7	14	18	2	7	48	76		
2	3	2	3	1	11	16		
2	5	0	0	0	7	16		
28	12	10	1	3	54	77		
0	1	0	0	0	1	58		
23	29	11	0	3	66 )			
					j	382		
28	17	6	0	0	51	)		
14	10	1	0	0	25	43		
0	1	1	0	0	2	0		
0	0	0	0	2	2	0		
7	9	20	2	5	43	32		
5	2	7	2	2	18	12		
1	6	0	0	0	7	5		
193	187	100	13	109	602	868		
•	•	•	-	•	-	0		
	-		-	-	•	3		
•	•	•	•	-	•	24		
	•	-	*			1		
193	187	100	13	109	602	896		
	<1m 0 8 1 21 45 0 0 1 7 2 2 8 0 2 3 2 8 1 4 0 0 2 3 2 8 1 4 0 0 2 3 2 8 1 1 1 5 0 0 1 7 2 2 8 1 1 1 4 5 0 0 1 7 2 2 8 1 1 1 4 5 0 0 1 1 7 2 2 8 0 2 3 2 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Size Ch 1979 - 1981 <1m $1-2m$ $2-3m0 0 08 5 31 0 021 43 1345 21 20 2 30 3 31 4 07 14 182 3 22 5 028 12 100 1 023 29 1128 17 614 10 10 1 10 0 07 9 205 2 71 6 0193 187 100$	Size Class $1979 - 1981$ Survey         <1m	Size Class         1979 - 1981 Survey         <1m $1-2m$ $2-3m$ $3m +$ Not         Fixed       0       0       0       5         8       5       3       0       7         1       0       0       0       1         21       43 <sup>-1</sup> 13       0       49         45       21       2       0 <sup>-1</sup> 14         0       2       3       1       0         0       3       3       2       0         1       4       0       0       10         7       14       18       2       7         2       3       2       0       0       0         1       4       0       0       10       0         28       17       6       0       0         28       17       6       0       0         28       17       6       0       0         28       17       6       0       0         193       187       100       13       109         -       -       <	Size Class         1979 - 1981 Survey $< 1m$ 1 - 2 m       Total         0       0       0         0       0       0         21       43       10       0       2         1       0       0       2         21       43       0       1         1       0       0         21       43       1         0       2       3       1         1       0       0       1         0       2       3       1         1       4       0         1       1       1         1       1       1         1       1       1       1         1 <th 10"<="" colspan="2" td="" tho<=""></th>		

Poorly Surveyed

as Not Surveyed

## TABLE TWO

# NUMBER OF CROCODILES KRUGER NATIONAL PARK - 1989

## MAIN RIVERS ONLY

	Ш	SH	LE	OL	SA	Q	TOTAL
VERY BIG	4	4	13	કા	18	12	102
BIG	2 5	26	190	298	· 47	66	652
MEDIUM	98	58	150	220	42.	52	620
SMALL	54	56	159	107	28	46	450
UNCLASSIFIED	154	23	204	248	•	-	629
TOTA	AL 335	167	716	924	135	176	2453

ш	LUVUVHU/LIMPOPO COMPLEX	•	112 km
SH	SHINGWEDZI RIVER		99 kom
IE	LETABA RIVER	•	98 km
a	OLIFANTS	•	108 km
SA	SABIE	•	106 km
CR	CROCODILE RIVER	•	115 km

	CROCO	DILE COU	<u>ABLE THRI</u> INTS IN P	<u>CE</u> Jatai, 109	R5 _ 100N		
AREA	1985	1986	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	1989	1990	<u>ESTIMATED</u> POPULATION
St Lucia Lake	545	286 a	851 b	579	743	833	1500
Ndume Game Reserve	515	503	296 с	505 d	420	732	1250
Umfolozi Rivers	99	128	122	135	NC	NC	338
Illuhluwe Rivers	37	33	41	95	NC	NC	238
Lake sibaya	-	•	<b>e</b> ,	96	57	104	240
Mzingazi Lake	÷	1	б	5	3 е	NC	15
Pongolapoort Dam Upper Pongola River	-	-		121	NC	NC	303
Lower Pongola River	-	-	-	23	NC	NC	58
Other areas - Estimat	es only - No	t counted				INTOL	<u>500</u> 4442
a) Cou b) Cou	int Eastern S int followin <mark>g</mark>	Shores only drought - no	o available w	ater adjacent	to Lake		

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c) Count combined with hippo count - not accurate

d) Reserve now in hands of Kwazulu Government

e) Count aborted due to bad weather

NC Not counted

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## APPENDIX ONE

# <u>Criteria for the identification of "high risk" crocodile nest sites</u> from which doomed eggs may be removed.

- 1. High salinity of above 35ppt is measured in the lake adjacent to nest. At this salinity most prey items (fish etc.) move out of the system, also the young crocodiles are likely to suffer from desiccation. This condition does not apply if there is fresh water within 20m that they can move into.
- 2. There is no available protection from wave action within 50 m (vegetation, inlets etc). The female crocodile can possibly transport her young this distance to a suitable nursery site when they hatch.
- 3. The nest is so low that it will be flooded by a 10cm rise in groundwater level. The average nest depth is 40cm, therefore if the water level is within 50cm of the surface, the nest can be regarded as "high risk". The depth of the water table is to be measured in a hole dug close to the nest (within 0,5 m).
- 4. The nest is situated along a bank in a site where there is more than an 80% probability of being flooded. The probability is to be calculated from measured water levels.
- 5. The nest is situated where there is a constant daily threat by people in a manner that cannot be controlled by the NPB.
- 6. The nest is in soil is so impervious that the eggs will be saturated by heavy rain falls.
- 7. As well as the above, no crocodile egg collection will be permitted in the area demarcated as wilderness area. The wilderness ethic is such that any interference by man is to be minimized. This therefore precludes egg collecting.

#### NOTES:

These criteria can be assessed in November or December each year, but if conditions have ameliorated at the time of egg collection, the "high risk" status is no longer valid and egg collection should not take place. Similarly, if conditions have deteriorated, more nests may be placed in the "high risk" category.

There is a need for all these criteria to be considered for each nest, yet only one need to apply for the nest to be placed in the "high risk" category. These criteria are at present rough, research should be conducted to be able to refine them.

With the present lack of understanding of the population dynamics of the crocodiles, it is considered that additional ecological disruption could be caused by releasing lm long crocodiles into the system to try and compensate the effects of egg removals. We therefore advise against this action at this stage.

RH Taylor (R/SL), GW Forrest (CLS), WD Densham (CCN, H Bentley (WLS), DK Blake (WCC) & C Pullen (SR).

December 1988

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# South African Crocodile Farms and Breeding Stock Held As At November 1990

Name of Farm	<u>Owner/Manager</u>	Province	Association	<u>Known B</u> C. n	reeding_Stock iloticus
				Maie	Female
African Reptile Park	F.P. Sterzel	Cape	NCFA	See Palab	orwa Croc Farm
Altah Croc. Farm	A. Pretorius	Transvaal	NCFA	15	53
Archosauria Croc. Farm	Dr. J.H. Brown/J.R.Fincham	Natal	NCFA	0	0
Assagny Safari Park	A. Wilmans	Natal	NCFA	9	42
Cango Crodile Ranch	A. Eriksen	Cape	NCFA	6	47
Crocgrove Farm	D. Slogrove	Transvaal	NCFA	14	61
Crocodile Creek	P. Watson	Natal	NCFA	15	100
Crocworld	Crooks Bros	Natal	NCFA	19	112
Croc. Park	H. Sayer	Cape	NCFA	15	55
Crocovanga (Pty) Ltd.	A. Calcaterra	Transvaal	TCFA	Unkne	own
Diggies Croc. Ranch	L. de Jong	Cape	NCFA	5	18
Emfuleni Game & Croc Lodge	B. Torre	Transvaal	NCFA	30	200
Glenashby Crocodile Farm	Dr. I. Kirk	Cape	NCFA	6	38
Hughes Farms	A. Hughes	Transvaal	NA	0	0
Izintaba Crocodile Farm	J. Khulman	Transvaal	TCFA	Unku	own
Kenilworth Farm	D.K. Blake	Natal	NA	0	0
Kroonkrok	Dr. H. Penzhorn	Transvaal	NCFA	45	200
Kwena Gardens Paradise	T. Assa (Manager)	Transvaal	NCFA	<b>26</b>	116
Laughing Waters Pineries	J. Rousseau	Transvaal	NCFA	23	122
Lebowa Crocodile Ranch (Pty) Ltd.	J. de Kock (Manager)	Transvaal	NA	Unkn	own
Le Bonheur Farm	J. Prins	Cape	TCFA	110	583
Lomati Landgoed	P. Schoeman	Transvaal	TCFA	26	130
Manyane Game Lodge	J. Joubert	Transvaal	TCFA	35	55
Neos Landgoed	J.T.M. Schoeman	Transvaaal	NCFA	13	124
Palaborwa Crocodile Farm	F.P. Sterzel	Transvaal	NCFA	3	10
Reptile World	S. Farrell	Cape	NCFA	7	32
Riverbend Crocodile Farm	H. Kellv	Natal	NCFA	41	. 139
Seronera Crocodile Farm	J.V. Davies	Transvaal	NCFA	Unk	nown
Shongweni Crocodile Farms	N. Bristow	Natal	NCFA	4	15
Skurweberg Crocodile Farm	M. Perry	Transvaal	NCFA	0	0
St. Lucia Crocodile Centre	Natal Parks Board	Natal	NCFA	3	17
Stewart's Farm	G. Stewart	Natal	TCFA	7	10
Sutton Crocodile Farm	S.J.L. Roberts	Natal	NCFA	10	0
Tzaneen Crocodile Farm	M. Darazs	Transvaal	TCFA	7	25
Willer & Willers Crocodile Ranch	A. Willers	Transvaal	NCFA	0	0
The second second stands	*** ********	1 14119 4 441	116471	~	*

Name of Parm	Qwngr/Manager	Province	Association	Known Br C. n	eeding_Stock iloticus
				Male	Eemale
Unknown o Neos Estate	G.J. Pelzer S.J. Wessels Dr. G. von Berg P.H. Botha	Orange Free State Transvaal Transvaal Transvaal	NA NCFA NCFA NCFA	2 Unk 7 Unk	4 nown 43 nown

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NCFA TCFA NA	58 62 53	Nile Crocodile Farmers Association Transvaal Crocodile Farmers Association Not affiliated	28 7 _4 <u>39</u>	Total Farms	

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APPENDIX THREE

# NATAL PARKS BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: CROCODILIANS

POLICY FILE NO: 4-iv

DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL: 30 October 1987 BOARD MINUTE: 6 (a) (ii)

## REVISED:

## 1. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

It is generally accepted that the crocodile is:

- a) a key component in many aquatic ecosystems;
- b) a valuable natural asset as a source of high grade leather, if wisely exploited.
- c) a valuable tourist attraction, and is of immense scientific interest as the only surviving member of the long extinct Archosaurin group of reptiles.

It can be a problem animal and (under certain circumstances) conflicts with genuine human interests but is vulnerable and comparatively scarce in parts of Natal (and elsewhere in Africa) due to past over hunting and the modification of its essential habitats.

Natal still has large populations, the conservation of which is sensible, practical and profitable, provided that the resource is afforded adequate protection leading to proper scientific management.

## 2. <u>NATAL GENERAL</u>

- 2.1 Crocodiles will be protected throughout Natal with a view to nurturing optimum populations commensurate with the availability of suitable habitats. This protection will ensure that significant breeding sites are protected against undue human disturbance. In most recreational areas, crocodiles will be tolerated only in so far as their presence is compatible with the recreational activities permitted in the area.
- 2.2 Problem crocodiles in serious conflict with legitimate human interests will only be destroyed where it is not possible to capture and relocate them elsewhere. Mature crocodiles, and more especially large individuals, represent a considerable biological investment and their destruction under any circumstances will be discouraged. Where they become problem animals every effort will be made to capture them.

2.3 The conservation of wild population will be encouraged throughout Natal, where appropriate, but where necessary or desirable the exploitation of any significant wild populations in any waters in Natal will be regulated. These measures will apply especially to those waters having crocodile populations which are shared on a year round basis by one or more properties or land classes.

## 3. NATAL PARKS BOARD GENERAL

- 3.1 Crocodiles will be conserved in all appropriate Natal Parks Board areas and on all land and in any water for which the Board is directly responsible for the control of the wildlife as a resource. Conservation of wild populations as applied in this section shall be directed towards their long term survival and utilization.
- 3.2 The Board shall appoint an Officer to see to the conservation and management of crocodiles in Natal and the development of a viable crocodile industry.
- 3.3 The Natal Parks Board will strive to educate the public as to the biological and economic value of crocodiles and in so doing, aim to counteract the stigma the crocodile has in the mind of the public.
- 3.4 The Board will comply with international criteria suggested for the conservation and management of crocodiles where this does not conflict with specific local requirements and see to it that these standards are not lowered by other internationally interested parties. It will consider applications from appropriate foreign government agencies in Africa who require Nile crocodiles for restocking depleted areas of the species' former range.
- 3.5 As a management authority under the CITES Convention the Board will implement CITES regulations relating to crocodiles.

### 4. UTILISATION AND HUNTING

- 4.1 The Board will not authorize the harvesting of wild crocodiles in Board areas unless they are satisfied that such removals are necessary for sound management purposes.
- 4.2 Any harvesting of wild laid eggs will be strictly controlled and in accordance with the criteria laid down in section 4.3
- 4.3 The harvesting of wild eggs in any area will be only by permit issued by the Chief Director in relation to a pre-determined quota or quotas for any given season(s).
- 4.4 The hunting of crocodiles for recreational purposes will not be permitted in Board areas, except in areas zoned for controlled hunting.

## 5. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Research on crocodiles will be according to the overall research policy of the Board. In addition to monitoring wild populations and investigating the species' biology, it will monitor the production, processing and marketing of the crocodile industry.

## 6. <u>COMMERCIAL CROCODILE FARMING</u>

- 6.1 Commercial crocodile farms will be encouraged, but their number will be limited where their activities are dependent upon the tourist trade.
- 6.2 The Board will lay down regulations for the establishment and running of commercial crocodile farms. Such commercial crocodile farms will operate by permit issued by the Chief Director which will be subject to conditions as laid down by the Board from time to time. Such farms will be required to:
  - 6.2.1 provide the Board with such information and statistics on their operations as it may require;
  - 6.2.2 participate in the interpretation of the value of crocodiles and of appropriate aspects of their biology to the general public.

## 7. <u>PROBLEM CROCODILES</u>

Any problem crocodile captured or destroyed will be dealt with as follows:

- 7.1 crocodiles captured by Board personnel, if not required for restocking by the Board, will be offered for sale to commercial crocodile farmers;
- 7.2 crocodiles destroyed by the Board personnel will be disposed of at the discretion of the Chief Director subject to Section 10.2;
- 7.3 the Chief Director may issue permits for the capture or destruction of crocodiles where they are a threat to human life and /or stock and Board personnel are unable to deal with the situation;
- 7.4 crocodiles destroyed or captured without a permit because they were a threat to human life and /or stock, must be surrendered to the Board;
- 7.5 all such crocodiles will be disposed of as in Section 8, or in the case of destroyed crocodiles at the discretion of the Chief Director subject to Section 10.2.

## 8. **DISPOSAL OF NILE CROCODILES**

Nile crocodiles from the Board areas, either wild or reared, when available for restocking or sale will be disposed of in the following ways:

- 8.1 stocking areas under the Board's control;
- 8.2 disposal to other nature conservation organizations in South Africa;
- 8.3 purchase by the Natal crocodile farmers subject to the criteria laid down in Section 10.1;
- 8.4 purchase by crocodile farmers and other agencies outside Natal subject to the criteria laid down in Section 10.1;
- 8.5 supply to other formal conservation authorities in Africa for restocking purposes as laid down in Section 3.4;
- 8.6 by such other means as the Board may decide.

## 9. INTERNATIONAL BREEDING BANK - NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES

- 9.1 The Board will offer facilities or facilitate the rearing of other crocodilian species in activity, with a view to safeguarding them from extinction.
- 9.2 In the case of hatchlings being available from the breeding bank already established at the St Lucia Crocodile Centre, they will be held or disposed of a follows:
  - 9.2.1 suitable numbers to be held for breeding and display at the St. Lucia Crocodile Centre;
  - 9.2.2 supply to other formal conservation authorities in Africa for restocking purposes;
  - 9.2.3, sold to other agencies or crocodile farms within Africa;
  - 9.2.4 offered in exchange for other species that the Board may consider holding for exhibit or breeding purposes.

## 10. <u>RETENTION</u>

10.1 Subject to 8.6 live Nile crocodiles will only be made available for retention in captivity when the Board is satisfied that the ultimate recipient is capable of caring for the animals both under proper scientifically and aesthetically acceptable conditions.

10.2 Permits for export or retention of crocodile skins will only be issued to persons who are managing and conserving the resources, who are registered with the Board and with whose operations the Board is satisfied, or to persons who have acquired skins from registered crocodile producers, or to persons who have acquired skins from the Board, or to licensed trophy hunters.

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