AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

**Other Proposals**

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Hippopotamus amphibius* in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

Belgium, Benin and France.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia

12. Order: Artiodactyla

13. Family: Hippopotamidae

14. Species: *Hippopotamus amphibius*

15. Common Names:
English: Common hippopotamus
French: Hippopotame commun
Spanish: Hipopótamo anfibio
German: Nilepferd
Dutch: Nijlpaard

16. Code Numbers: ISIS: A-119.003.002.001

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Two thousand years ago, the common hippopotamus was distributed throughout Africa, wherever freshwater rivers, lakes and swamps and grass for food were available. It was found not only in the tropical forests, but from the Nile delta to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, and in many parts of the Sahel and the southern Sahara. Over the past two centuries, the hippopotamus has disappeared from northern Africa, from the Nile north of the Blue Nile and the White Nile, and from virtually all of South Africa (Grzimek, 1990). Its habitat has been severely curtailed and deteriorated as a result of the intensification of human activities on the African continent, including the development of waterways, the establishment of villages, irrigation and overgrazing.

Current data show that, while hippopotamus populations appear to have declined seriously in number, they are still relatively well represented across the continent, and many enjoy relative safety in protected areas and national parks (Eltringham, 1993 and IUCN Directory of Afrotropical Protected Areas, 1987).

The species is very poorly represented in western Africa, where the population is fragmented into a large number of small groups. Virtually all of its members are found in eastern and southern Africa (see Figure 1). Defining the range of the hippopotamus is no easy task, however, because, while the species is primarily sedentary, normally ranging over a radius of perhaps ten kilometres from its daytime resting point, some animals occasionally wander

Figure 1: Approximate current distribution of *Hippopotamus amphibius*


*Areas studied on the basis of sources: S K Eltringham, 1993, and Report of the US/CITES Scientific Task Force, 1990*

*Where no previous sources are available: source IUCN, 1987*

long distances and the available population data often express relative densities (Klingel, 1991 & Kingdon, 1982).

The common hippopotamus is currently found, in varying numbers, in the following countries: South Africa, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Chad, Togo, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

22. Population

221. General Information: Hippopotamus communities are organized on a matriarchal basis. Male-female relations are purely sexual in nature. After mating, the two sexes again go their separate ways, the female returning to the nursery and the male to his isolation (Verheyen, 1954). Young may be born at any time of the year, and births are uniparous (Ansell, 1960). Hippos have few natural enemies. Occasionally, hyenas, lions, leopards or crocodiles attack young hippos. Diseases such as anthrax are known to occur but little is known of their effects. While some authors believe that the mortality rate is relatively low (Bere, 1959), a recent aerial survey of hippo populations on the plains south of Lake Edward in Zaire would appear to indicate a loss of 15 to 25% as a result of an anthrax epidemic (Verschuren, 1993). Human activities, including hunting and destruction of habitat, however, are the primary factors affecting the size of the hippopotamus populations.

The average size of the groups of hippopotami observed in western Africa varies from 15 to 35 individuals. In Nigeria, groups of hippopotami generally consist of 2 to 5 individuals, with a maximum of 13, as in the Yankari Game Reserve (Happold, 1987). Larger groups of 50 to 100 individuals are frequently observed in eastern Africa (Happold, 1987).

222. Estimation of continental population (see Table 1): According to Eltringham's 1989 survey of the countries within the range of the hippopotamus, the total African population of this species is estimated at approximately 160,000, which is probably a cautious assessment. Ten of the 34 countries consulted by Eltringham in 1989 believed their hippo populations to be in decline, 6 considered them stable and only one felt they were growing (Zambia); the other countries did not report directly on the status of their populations (Eltringham, 1993). It is important, however, to note the difficulty involved in establishing a reliable and accurate estimate of the hippopotamus population in all the states within their range. Populations common to two or three neighbouring countries may easily be counted several times, as in the case of the hippos of Lake Malawi (which may be attributed to Malawi as well as the United Republic of Tanzania and Mozambique) and those living in border rivers (Senegal, Ubangi, Zaire, Aouk, Zambezi, etc.). Moreover, the hippopotamus populations of some west African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic and Chad, appear to be poorly known and underestimated (Pfeiffer, pers. comm., 1994). Most of the hippopotamus populations throughout the entire African continent appear, however, to be in decline at the present time, or stable at best.

The smallest populations generally appear to be declining the most rapidly, particularly in western Africa. Uganda and Zaire, however, two countries in eastern Africa with some of the largest hippopotamus populations in the continent, are also experiencing serious declines.

Table 1. Estimated number, conservation status, degree of protection and existence of hunting for hippopotamus meat and skin in Africa, by country of origin. After Eltringham, 1993, with input from other sources (references in text)

| Country | Number | Status | Protection | Meat | Skin |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Western Africa | 9500 | | | | |
| Benin | 300 | – | P | + | |
| Burkina Faso | <1000 | – | T | + | |
| Cameroon | ? | ? | T | | |
| Central African Republic | >3000 | – | T | + | + |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1000 | – | P | | |
| Gabon | ? | –? | T | + | |
| Gambia | 50-100 | –? | T | | |
| Ghana | 50-100 | –? | T | + | |
| Guinea | 1000 | – | T | | |
| Guinea-Bissau | 1000 | –? | T | + | |
| Equatorial Guinea | ? | ? | T | | |
| Liberia | 0? | | T | | |
| Mali | <200 | ? | ? | ? | |
| Mauritania | 0? | | | | |
| Niger | 200 | – | T | + | |
| Nigeria | 200 | – | P | + | |
| Senegal | 5-700 | | T | | |
| Sierra Leone | <200 | – | T | + | + |
| Chad | 400 | ? | ? | | |
| Togo | 100s | 0? | T | | |
| Eastern Africa (including central Africa) | 80,000 | | | | |
| Burundi | <1000 | ? | T | | + |
| Congo | ? | – | T | | |
| Ethiopia | 10,000s | 0 | T | + | |
| Kenya | 1000s | 0 | T | | |
| Uganda | 7000 | – | T | + | |
| Rwanda | <1000 | ? | ? | + | |
| Somalia | ? | – | ? | + | + |
| Sudan | 10,000s | ? | T | + | |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 20,000 | 0 | T | + | |

| Country | Number | Status | Protection | Meat | Skin |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zaire | >30,000 | – | P | + | + |
| Southern Africa | 81,600 | | | | |
| South Africa | 5300 | 0 | T | | |
| Angola | 2100 | ? | T | ? | |
| Botswana | 500-1500 | – | T | + | + |
| Malawi | 7000-8000 | 0 | T | | |
| Mozambique | 16-20,500 | – | P | ? | |
| Namibia | 500-550 | – | T | | |
| Swaziland | ? | ? | ? | | |
| Zambia | 40,000 | +? | P | + | + |
| Zimbabwe | 6900 | 0 | P | | + |

***Legend***
*Current status: ? = unknown; – = declining; 0 = stable; + = growing*
*Protection: ? = unknown; T = total protection; P = partial protection*
*Hunting for meat or skin: + = hunting observed*

223. Estimated population by region (Eltringham, 1993, based on figures collected in 1989)

In western Africa, the common hippopotamus appears to be becoming rare and may disappear from some of the countries within this range in the near future. The population is estimated at 7000 animals, or 4.4% of the figure for Africa as a whole. According to Pfeiffer (pers. comm., 1994), the true figure may in fact be considerably higher. Most of the populations in this region are believed to be in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire and throughout Senegal, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau (Pfeiffer, pers. comm., 1994 and Eltringham, 1993).

In less than 50 years, the hippopotamus has disappeared from a number of countries in western Africa (Mauritania and Liberia) or is found only in small numbers, rarely exceeding a few dozen individuals (Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Togo, etc.). It is believed, however, that a genetically viable population requires approximately 500 individuals. If so, the small populations found throughout western Africa are extremely vulnerable. Of the 20 countries in the hippo's range within this region, 12 have declining populations and none has a growing population.

The common hippopotamus is better represented in central and eastern Africa, with an estimated total population of 70,000, including 30,000 in Zaire. Some populations, however, are showing a somewhat disturbing trend. Outside the national parks, the species has become rare in Zaire over the past 20 years and has recently been subject to heavy poaching even within protected areas (Mankoto Ma Mbaelele, pers. comm., 1994). The population of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda's largest park, was approximately 14,000 in the 1950s. A survey performed in the 1970s estimated the number at 11,000; however, after heavy poaching during the Amin regime, only 2200 remained in 1989 (Kayanja, 1989).

Southern Africa has approximately 80,000 hippopotami. The populations in this region are still relatively large, although they are in decline in Botswana and Namibia, which have the lowest numbers, and in Mozambique, as a result of the drought and continuing disturbances in this country. Populations are stable in South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe and apparently growing in Zambia, which has almost half the

hippopotamus population of the entire region. The status of the populations in Angola and Swaziland is not known with any certainty.

South Africa: The hippopotamus was once found along the Orange and the Vaal and throughout most of the Transvaal (Rautenbach, 1982 and Roberts, 1951). Most hippos are now concentrated in Kruger National Park. In Natal, they are limited to the northeastern part of the state, in approximately 8 reserves[1]. No specimens in the Orange Free State (Dir of the Department of Environment Affairs, 1990)[2]. The total population is estimated at 5300, with a slight decline in recent years as a result of severe droughts in the country and reduced habitat[3].

Angola: According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the hippopotamus is found throughout the country in 4 national parks and 4 reserves, and along the major rivers, including the Longa, the Cuando, the Kunene and the Zambezi[1].

Benin: Not widespread; the majority are found in W National Park, in the northern part of the country (Verschuren, 1988).

Botswana: Numerous populations are found in the north in the Okavango and its swamps (Smithers, 1968), in the Kwando, Linyani and Chobe network of rivers, along the Limpopo and perhaps near Ghanzi[1,2,4,5].

Burkina Faso: Not widespread; in W National Park[1]; in addition, a group of 720 individuals is reported on the Komoé along the Côte d'Ivoire border[4].

Burundi: Small numbers are found along the Rusizi, the Ruvubu and the Malagarazi, as well as along Lake Tanganyika (Dr Ntakimazi, Director of Research at Bujumbura, pers. comm., 1991).

Cameroon: Hippos are found in a number of national parks, including Bénoué and Korup (Ngog, 1988).

Congo: Locally common, in various reserves and national parks[2,4].

Côte d'Ivoire: The hippopotamus is believed to be present in small numbers in one reserve and three national parks, including Komoé[1]. According to Roth (letter, 1994), the species is present, but dispersed, in all the major rivers (Komoé, Bandama, Sassandra); the total population is estimated at approximately 1000 individuals.

Ethiopia: The species is present in a large number of locations along the Omo, the Awash and the Great Abbi River (Blue Nile). It is also found in large lakes, swamps and ponds (Yalder *et al.*, 1984)[2] and along the Webi, the Shebeli, the Ganale and the Setit[4].

Gabon: According to Eltringham, the species is abundant, although the US/CITES Scientific Task Force reports that the population is declining in the Ogooué, the Sette-Cama and the Nyanga (Directorate of Wildlife and Hunting, 1990)[6].

Gambia: The population, estimated at 50 to 100 individuals in small groups of 1 to 15, continues to decline. The species is considered endangered[6]. Not widespread; along the Gambia.

Ghana: The hippopotamus is considered extremely rare in Ghana; it is found in small numbers along the rivers, including the Black Volta and the Kulpawn, and perhaps along Lake Volta[7].

Guinea: Present in most of the rivers; population approximately 1000 animals.

Guinea-Bissau: Present only in the Bijagos Archipelago. This population is not believed to exceed 1000 individuals[2].

Equatorial Guinea: Along only a few rivers, including the Campo[4].

Kenya: A large population, estimated at approximately 2800 individuals, is found along the Mara (Karstad *et al.*, 1986). The other major sites are: Lake Victoria (1650), Lake Turkana (400), delta of the Nyando, Yale and Tana (850) (Dir of the Kenya Wildlife Service, 1990)[2] and Lake Naivasha (220)[4].

Liberia: Few, if any, hippos remain.

Malawi: At one time, hippos were common throughout the entire country (Ansell, 1988). In 1989, the total population was estimated at 6569[8], or 10,000, according to R H V Bell[4]. They are found in the southern part of Lake Malawi, in the Lower and Upper Shire and Lake Malombe[4]. The population is currently stable at approximately 7 to 8000 individuals[8].

Mali: Not widespread; only in Baule Loop National Park[1].

Mauritania: Very limited; may still be present in the Diaouling Strict Nature Reserve[1].

Mozambique: According to Kingdon (1982) and Smithers (1976), the hippopotamus was more common along lakes and rivers 20 years ago. Now it is found in Gorongoza National Park (3500), Mapute Game Reserve (50), Marromeu Reserve (300) and along the Zambezi (640). Declining in the remainder of the country. According to Tello[4], the total population for the entire country is believed to be approximately 16 to 20,500. The civil war and recent drought have reduced the populations in some parts of the country, while in others they have remained stable[9].

Namibia: Approximately 500 to 550 individuals have been observed in the country as a whole. The population is in decline[10]. Present only in the extreme northern part of the country.

Niger: Present only along the Niger. The number is estimated at 100-150 individuals (Director of Wildlife, Fishing and Pisciculture, 1990)[2].

Nigeria: More widespread in the past, along the Kainji, the Oli and the Bénoué (Happold, 1987). Currently found in several national parks and near Lake Chad.

Uganda: Present in aquatic habitats throughout the country. As a result of development projects, the population declined from 21,000 in 1959 (Bere, 1959) to 2172 in 1984[4]. Found primarily in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Central African Republic: Not widespread. The species is found through most of the northern part of the country, in ponds and in the Aouk and all its tributaries. The largest concentration, approximately 2000 to 2500 animals, is found in Saint-Floris National Park. The total population is estimated at 3000 individuals or more (Pfeiffer, pers. comm., 1994).

Rwanda: Particularly in Akagera National Park, where the total population was estimated in 1987 at approximately 1900. The numbers appear to have been stable over the past 20 years, except in the valley of the Akagera, where they have been severely reduced by poaching (Dejace & Vande Weghe, 1990). The impact of the past 4 years' disturbances on the hippopotamus population has not yet been determined.

Senegal: Approximately 500 to 700 specimens are found in the southeastern part of the country, along the Falémé[2], and in Niokolo-Koba National Park (Verschuren, 1986a).

Sierra Leone: Not widespread.

Somalia: Small groups have been observed along the Scebeli and the Juba[4].

Sudan: Present in the Sudd region, along the Nile, the Sobat and the Jur[2,4].

Swaziland: Observed only in Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary[1].

United Republic of Tanzania: According to Kingdon (1979), the hippopotamus was more common along rivers 15-20 years ago. It is still found in large numbers in various national parks and reserves and along lakes and rivers. The total population is estimated at approximately 20,000[4].

Chad: A few populations are reported near Lake Chad and in the southern part of the country[1,2,4]. According to Pfeiffer (pers. comm., 1994), the total population is estimated at 400 individuals.

Togo: Not widespread.

Zaire: Thirty years ago, the hippopotamus was much more common along rivers and lakes. However, several hundred individuals are still found in the Kasaï, Upper Lomami, Luvua, Lulua, Zaire (between Kindu and Kongolo), L'Uele, Fimi, Mangai and Lubilanji rivers and along Lake Tumba, etc.[11]. It is still present in the major national parks, particularly Virunga National Park (23,000 individuals, according to aerial surveys performed by Charles Mackie in 1989) (Blom & Masunda, 1989 and Carpaneto & Germi, 1989). In 1992 and 1993, however, intensive poaching by the armed forces as a result of the inter-ethnic disturbances in the region reduced the numbers of hippopotamuses in this area. Outside the protected areas, the species is generally in decline (Mankoto Ma Mbaelele, pers. comm., 1994).

Zambia: Common across the country, with large concentrations along the Luangwa (14,000 in 1983, according to Norton, 1988 and Tembo, 1987) and in various national parks. Zambia has a total hippo population of approximately 40,000 individuals[4].

Zimbabwe: Present throughout the country, along the Limpopo, the Zambezi, the Sabi and the Lundi. Population estimated at 6900[4].

23. Habitat: The hippopotamus is found in all types of permanent freshwater habitats, including ponds, rivers, lakes, waterholes with gently sloping banks surrounded by grazing areas (savanna with year-round waterways and ponds, forest-savanna mosaics, swampy areas within forests) (Pfeiffer, pers. comm., 1994). It avoids extremely dense swampy vegetation and fast-moving waterways with rocky outcroppings. The hippopotamus is found at altitudes of 2000 metres or more, and along the coasts at the mouths of waterways.

The common hippopotamus is amphibious, remaining in the water during the day and emerging at night to feed. Because its skin is extremely sensitive to the sun's rays, it must have year-round access to water. The body of water must be large enough to allow a dominant male to take possession of a territory, within which he tolerates a number of females and lone males (Klingel, 1991).

Because of seasonal declines in water level, the animals are concentrated in a limited number of accessible ponds (Karstad, 1986). After sunset and throughout the night, the hippopotamus emerges from the water to graze. Because the hippo requires constant access to pasture (grass and fallen fruit) within several kilometres of its aquatic territory, its habitat is closely restricted to permanent sources of water. During the dry season, hippos in Zaire's Virunga National Park have been observed feeding on aquatic vegetation as well (Mugangu & Hunter, 1992). During the rainy season, hippos also move to temporary swamps, or even areas of semi-aquatic vegetation. Their habitat is thus larger than during the dry season.

Numerous authors have discussed and disputed this mammal's impact on the environment. Most have based their arguments on isolated, rather than long-term, observations. Some authors believe that large numbers lead to overgrazing and thus the deterioration of the hippo's own habitat. As a result, selective hunting operations have been performed, in the parks of Uganda, for example, where approximately 7000 hippopotami were eliminated in

1989; today, these operations appear to have been unjustified. The hippopotamus habitat in Zaire's Virunga Park, which holds some 20,000 members of this species, does not appear to have suffered any damage (Verschuren, 1986a). When the population density is high, the reproduction rate appears to decline until the number of animals ceases to increase, but establishes a balance with the environment (Grzimek, 1990).

The hippopotamus eats the grass so short as it grazes that grass fires are unable to spread, or even to occur. Shrubs thus develop and spread more readily, providing food and shelter for other species. At the same time, other large mammals, including warthogs and some antelopes, find it difficult to compete for food (Lock, 1967, Laws *et al.*, 1975 and Oliver and Laurie, 1974 in Verschuren, 1993).

Rivers and lakes are often fertilized by hippopotamus feces, which are deposited in the water. The mass of microorganisms provides food for fish, birds and man, the final link in the food chain. The hippopotamus thus plays a vital role in the ecology of African aquatic habitats (Grzimek, 1990). Pfeiffer, a fisherman himself (pers. comm., 1994), notes that Central African fishermen prefer to fish near hippos, despite the danger which they pose, because of the large fish found in their vicinity.

One of the most serious threats to the hippopotamus is clearly the reduction of its pasturing areas: in fact, its grazing lands are constantly shrinking as a result of the expansion of rice and grain farming, encroachment by domestic animals and rural development, the corollaries of demographic growth. Its aquatic habitat appears to be relatively safe for the time being because of the large number of lakes, marshes and rivers. This situation could deteriorate, however, in the near future (pollution, development of waterways and banks, draining, irrigation, etc.).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization

Bush meat, skins, bones, teeth and other products: The hippopotamus is hunted for its meat and/or skin in many of the countries within its range, particularly in western and eastern Africa (see Table 1). The adult hippopotamus, weighing approximately 1400 kg, represents an enormous and readily accepted source of protein throughout Africa, except in Muslim communities. Its skin is used to produce various objects, including whips, ropes, protective coverings or even shoes (Eltringham, 1993). However, the hippopotamus is not generally hunted for its meat when other game species are available, in part because it may require several hours to remove a dead animal from the water. Nonetheless, the hippo is an easy target, with numerous individuals concentrated in clearly defined bodies of water (Eltringham, 1993).

The hippopotamus was intensively hunted, however, during Africa's colonial period. In fact, territorial Administrators were authorized to issue hunting permits in times of famine or to provide food on various worksites (roads, logging, railways, etc.). For example, along the borders of Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park, the park's excess hippopotamus population provided 3000 tonnes of meat annually. The meat was considered inferior and was sold very cheaply, although it is lean and equivalent in quality to beef (Grzimek, 1990). Schouteden (1945) describes the massacre of thousands of hippopotami for meat in Chari, in the Central African Republic, and in Zaire. More recently (1991), large-scale controlled slaughtering operations have been proposed at Kilombero in southern United Republic of Tanzania near the Selous, but have not been carried out (Rosser, pers. comm., 1993).

Other management plans of varying intensity for the wild hippopotamus populations have been considered, in particular the use of hippopotami in fish breeding projects (the hippopotamus fertilizes rivers and lakes with its feces) (Ansell, 1960 and Kingdon, 1982) and systematic hunting of these animals in areas set aside to provide meat for Zaire's crocodile farms (De Meulenaer, pers. comm., 1994).

In addition, various hippopotamus products, including the fat, skin and gall bladder, are used in traditional African medicine (Osborn and Helmy, 1980 and Jacobson, letter, 1994).

32. Legal International Trade: The hippopotamus has been included in Appendix III to the Washington Convention (CITES) since 1975 and the parties to CITES are thus required to submit annual reports of all trade in specimens of this species with other states (see Article VIII of the Convention). This requirement is rarely observed, however; some countries prepare no annual reports and many others systematically fail to report the figures for trade in Appendix III species. The available data thus provide an extremely fragmentary view of the situation.

The sources consulted for our analysis of the international trade in hippopotamus specimens include the comparative tables of the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), based on the annual reports of the parties to CITES for 1985 to 1992 (1992 very incomplete) and recent commercial data (including customs statistics from certain Asian countries and information provided by various CITES Management Authorities).

The different types of hippopotamus specimens found on the international market according to the annual CITES reports include teeth, bones and objects made of bone, feet, unprocessed skins, pieces of skin and objects made of skin (whips, wallets, belts, shoes, bags, etc.), skulls, tails, ivory sculptures and carvings, trophies, tusks and live specimens.

The hippopotamus is of interest on the international market primarily because of the ivory of its teeth, particularly the canines and incisors.

321. Trade in Hippopotamus Teeth: Archeological research has recently revealed approximately fifty hippopotamus teeth along the Niger in Mali. This discovery suggests that the medieval ivory industry in Spain and North Africa in the 13th and 14th centuries did not rely solely on elephant tusks, as has been generally assumed, but used hippopotamus ivory as well (The Independent, 1994).

The international trade in hippopotamus teeth has continued to the present. Between 1950 and 1954, for example, 12,500 kg of hippopotamus teeth were officially exported from the eastern Nile region.

Since the ban on the international trade in ivory from the African elephant, *Loxodonota africana*, went into effect with the inclusion of this species in CITES Appendix I in January 1990, exports of hippopotamus ivory from Africa appear to have grown, but the trade figures for recent years (1992, 1993 and 1994) are incomplete at best. The evolution is illustrated in Tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2. Exports of ivory teeth and tusks of the common hippopotamus from African to non-African countries, 1985 to 1992. Annual reports, CITES, WCMC 1993; Communications CITES Management Authority for Belgium; TRAFFIC Europe (Note that some transactions are expressed in terms of the number of teeth and tusks and others by weight)

| | Year | Number teeth and tusks | Weight (kg) teeth and tusks |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1985 | 153 | 0.3 |
| | 1986 | 172 | 1 |
| | 1987 | 381 | 38.5 |
| | 1988 | 1239 | 1545.5 |
| | 1989 | 1803 | 395.7 |
| | 1990 | 835 | 5.2 |
| | 1991 | 951 | 42 |
| incomplete | 1992 | 8663 | 15 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| incomplete | 1993 | 2737 | 1200 |
| incomplete | 1994 | | 613 |

***Notes:***

1. *Annual reports, CITES Management Authority for Belgium, 1992: import of 8663 teeth (3675 kg) from the United Republic of Tanzania and re-export of 4933 teeth (2200 kg) from the United Republic of Tanzania to Hong Kong*
2. *Communication, CITES Management Authority for Belgium, 1993: import of 2737 teeth (1463 kg) from the United Republic of Tanzania; import of 1200 kg from the United Republic of Tanzania*
3. *TRAFFIC Europe 1994: 613 kg from the United Republic of Tanzania to Hong Kong via the United Kingdom*

Table 3. Imports of "other ivory" from African countries to Hong Kong and Japan, 1984 to 1992. Customs statistics, Hong Kong and Japan. (Note that the customs classification "other ivory" refers to unprocessed ivory from sources other than elephants; in the case of African exports, this is primarily hippopotamus ivory)

| Year | Hong Kong Weight (kg) | Japan Weight (kg) | Total (kg) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1984 | – | 2457 | 2457 |
| 1985 | 1900 | 1992 | 3892 |
| 1986 | 1177 | 2206 | 3383 |
| 1987 | – | 150 | 150 |
| 1988 | 300 | 220 | 520 |
| 1989 | 7850 | 1235 | 9085 |
| 1990 | 1696 | 5432 | 7128 |
| 1991 | 8392 | 4867 | 13,259 |
| 1992 | 6810 | 1938 | 8748 |

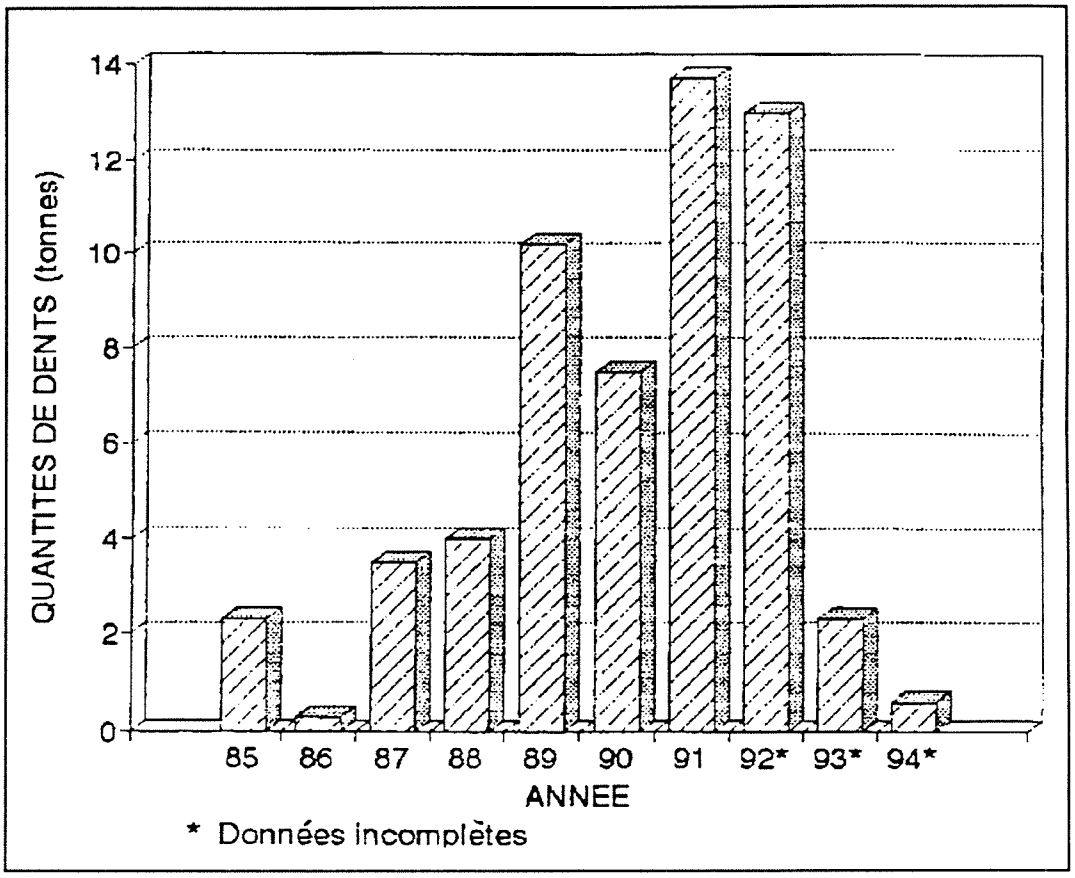
It should be noted that there is virtually no overlap between the data given in Table 2 and those in Table 3, since neither Japan nor Hong Kong include imports of Appendix III specimens in their annual CITES reports. If the average weight of a hippopotamus tooth is estimated at 0.4 kg, the quantities of unprocessed teeth reported in the two tables represent estimated minimum African exports totalling approximately 2300 kg for 1985, 300 kg for 1986, 3500 kg for 1987, 4000 kg for 1988, 10,200 kg for 1989, 7500 kg for 1990, 13,700 kg for 1991, 13,000 for 1992, 2300 kg for 1993 and 600 kg for 1994, although the data for recent years are very incomplete (see Figure 2).

According to available commercial data, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia are among the principal African exporters of unprocessed hippopotamus teeth. This fact appears to be confirmed by more recent data relating to applications to import these specimens to the United Kingdom for 1992 and 1993 (a total of 54 teeth for these 2 years), primarily from the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. France, Belgium, South Africa, Japan and the United States are among the largest importers of these specimens (the first three countries re-exporting most of the imported teeth), while Hong Kong serves not only as an ivory processing centre but also as a country of transit for unprocessed teeth (according to CITES data, 224 teeth were re-exported from this country in 1988, 1688 in 1990, 1232 in 1991 and 3868 in 1992, the primary destination being the United States.)

The principal exporter of unprocessed teeth from Africa appears at the present time to be the United Republic of Tanzania. Available data suggest that this country

shipped at least 5 tonnes in 1990, 7 tonnes in 1991, 3.5 tonnes in 1992 and 2.5 tonnes in 1993. According to the CITES Management Authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania, recent 1993 shipments to Belgium (a total of 2737 teeth, weighing 1463 kg) consisted of teeth from old government stocks. The Tanzanian authorities also point out that hunting licences for hippopotami are issued each year to residents, and that the teeth from these animals may appear on the international market. An anthrax epidemic was apparently reported in one of the country's major basins in June 1993. Although this disease can cause a relatively high mortality rate, only a few deaths in this region had been reported by September 1993 (Rosser, pers. comm., 1993).

Figure 2. Minimum estimated African exports of unprocessed hippopotamus teeth, in tonnes




322. Trade in Hippopotamus Trophies: According to WCMC data, the number of hippopotamus trophies shipped from Africa increased substantially in 1991 (see Table 4).

Tableau 4. Number of trophies exported from Africa to non-African countries, 1985 to 1991. Annual Reports, CITES, WCMC, 1993

| | Year | Number of trophies |
|---|---|---|
| | 1985 | 173 |
| | 1986 | 57 |
| | 1987 | 147 |
| | 1988 | 103 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1989 | 109 |
| | 1990 | 142 |
| | 1991 | 514 + 268 kg |
| incomplete | 1992 | 0 |

In 1992, data given in the CITES annual report for Spain refer to the import of 635 "trofeos" from the United Republic of Tanzania (203), Zambia (221), Zimbabwe (210) and South Africa (1). These transactions may refer to teeth rather than hunting trophies. In 1991, according to the WCMC, Spain reported imports of 400 trophies from the United Republic of Tanzania (237), South Africa (12), Zambia (130) and Zimbabwe (21), a large proportion of all African exports of trophies for that year. The data regarding applications to import hippopotamus trophies to the United Kingdom for 1992 and 1993 mention 4 and 58 trophies respectively (apparently from only 1 and 3 individuals), primarily from the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

323. Trade in Skins: The WCMC data for all the years considered (1985 to 1992) mention exports of hippopotamus skins or pieces of skins from a number of African countries (South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe) to non-African countries, in varying and in some cases significant quantities (for example, in 1989, South Africa exported 616 sq ft of skin and 1722 skins; in 1990, Zimbabwe exported 3275 sq ft of skin and 524 $m^2$ of skin and in 1991, 315 $m^2$ of skin and 72 kg of skin). Similarly, the data regarding applications to import hippopotamus specimens to the United Kingdom mention shipments of some 1180 skins (or pieces of skin) and 1548 sq ft of skin from Zimbabwe in 1992 and 1000 sq ft of skin from Zambia in 1993. Note that the different units of measurement used to report the trade in skins prevent any very precise estimate of the quantities involved.

It should be noted that a number of large transactions involving skins have taken place between countries in southern Africa (for example, 1126 kg from Zambia to Botswana in 1988; 293 skins from Zimbabwe to South Africa in 1989; 7000 kg from Malawi to Botswana in 1991).

324. Trade in Live Specimens: All cases involving live specimens transported for various reasons, for which the origin is known, relate to ranched animals. WCMC statistics for 1985 to 1981 indicate the shipment of 70 hippos, the majority, or 76%, for commercial purposes, and
- 14% for zoos
- 5% for circuses
- 5% for miscellaneous purposes: scientific, ranching, introduction or reintroduction.

33. Illegal Trade: In a number of African countries (Zaire, Rwanda, Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, etc.), poaching supplies the local market with hippopotamus meat, skin and other derivatives. This appears to be a relatively common practice; in some countries, the hippopotamus is subject to poaching even in national parks and natural reserves. This local trade does not appear, however, to be particularly intense (Eltringham, 1993, etc.).

On the international level, many of the transactions involving exports of hippopotamus teeth from African countries to Japan and Hong Kong reported in the customs statistics of these two countries (see Table 3) do not appear in the annual CITES reports; as a result, it is impossible to determine whether or not these shipments were covered by valid CITES documents (certificate of origin as required by the Convention) and hence whether or not the exchanges involved were legal. A number of dubious transactions have been documented, however, over the past 3 years:

- In April,1991, the CITES Management Authority of France reported an application for transit through France of 5 tonnes of hippo teeth, which, according to the CITES documentation submitted, were being shipped from Burundi to Japan. The 11 to

12,000 teeth in this shipment had been confiscated from private individuals in Burundi in recent years. France refused to allow these teeth to be imported into the country and expressed doubt as to their legal origin.

- According to the CITES Management Authority of Zaire, military personnel were involved in intense poaching of hippopotami for meat and ivory in 1992 and late 1993 in the eastern part of the country, particularly Virunga National Park. In 1992, a certificate of legal possession for 10,000 hippopotamus teeth, illegally issued by a Zairian local authority in the vicinity of Virunga Park, was intercepted in Uganda. According to the documentation, the shipment was intended for Japan. Despite investigation by the CITES Management Authority for Zaire, the teeth have never been located. It is strongly suspected, however, that they may have been the product of poaching by military personnel in the park several months earlier. During the same year, 417 hippopotamus teeth en route to Uganda were seized by Zairian police (Mankoto Ma Mbaelele, pers. comm., 1994).

- In April 1994, an application to import 3725 kg of hippopotamus teeth was submitted to the CITES Management Authority of Belgium on the basis of a Burundian re-export certificate which referred to Tanzanian export permits. The Tanzanian authorities were alerted but denied any knowledge of the source of the shipment. Belgium refused to permit these teeth to be imported into the country.

It should also be noted that small objects of carved ivory (from African elephants and hippopotami) from Africa are regularly intercepted and confiscated by European customs officials when not covered by the CITES documentation required by the Convention and Community regulations (De Meulenaer, pers. comm., 1994).

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: No known threat.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Eltringham feels that hunting of the hippopotamus for meat, skin and trophies probably does not yet pose a serious threat to the survival of the species in the majority of its countries of origin, but expresses concern that it may become seriously endangered if its teeth are marketed as a substitute for elephant ivory, a fact which he did not consider confirmed at the end of 1992 (Eltringham, 1993).

Some interest appears to be developing, however, at least in part, in using hippopotamus ivory in place of elephant ivory. In early 1994, for example, a company located in Hong Kong and offering a complete range of objects made of hippopotamus ivory advertised this ivory as a substitute for elephant ivory, drawing its customers' attention in particular to the fact that hippopotamus teeth can be imported without restriction. The CITES Scientific Authority of the United Kingdom reports observing large numbers of objects made from carved hippopotamus teeth for sale in the shops during a recent trip to Hong Kong (D Morgan, pers. comm., 1994). Because of its nature and size, however, hippopotamus ivory offers more limited possibilities for use than that of the elephant.

4. Protection Status

41. National Level: In the majority of states within its range, the common hippopotamus is totally protected by law, or can be exploited only under strict control. Protection is total in South Africa[1], Angola[2], Botswana[1,2], Burkina Faso[2], Burundi[1], Cameroon[1], Congo[1,2], Equatorial Guinea[1,2], Gabon[1,2], Gambia[1,2], Ghana[1,2], Guinea[1], Guinea-Bissau[1,2], Ethiopia[1], Kenya[1], Liberia[2], Malawi[2], Namibia[1], Niger[1], Uganda[1], Central African Republic[1,2], Senegal[1,2], Sierra Leone[1], Sudan[1], United Republic of Tanzania[1] and Togo[1]. In Mozambique, hunting is permitted with a licence (Sansao, letter, 1994). It will be noted that the degree to which the legislation protecting the hippopotamus is applied varies widely from country to country, depending on the economic, political and social situation. In general, however, it appears to be declining across the entire African continent (Eltringham, 1993).

The legislation in most African countries permits the slaughter of "nuisance" animals in the event of serious conflicts between hippos and man. In fact, according to some sources, it is believed that more fatal accidents are caused by hippopotami than by lions, elephants and buffalos combined (Grzimek, 1990). Numerous situations give rise to possible conflicts between hippopotami and human beings. Fishermen, who often feel threatened by hippopotami, farmers seeing their crops damaged, and fish breeders or those responsible for irrigation projects are often obliged to kill these animals in self-defence. Each year, dozens of people are killed, although it should be noted that the hippo will rarely attack unless provoked (Kingdon, 1982). Killings to protect crops or human lives occur even in countries with very small hippo populations. In Gambia, which has a hippopotamus population of no more than 100 individuals, 10 have been reported killed in the past 10 years (Camara, letter, 1994). In Malawi, which has approximately 8000 hippopotami, 90 nuisance animals were eradicated in 1990 and 50 in 1991 (Dept of National Parks and Wildlife, letter, 1994).

42. International Level: The common hippopotamus was listed in CITES Appendix III by Ghana in 1975. Under the terms of Article V of the Convention, exports of hippopotamus specimens from Ghana since that time have required export permits, while exports of specimens from all other CITES member states within its range require certificates of origin.

The common hippopotamus has also been listed in Appendix C2 of (EEC) Council Regulation N° 3626/82 since January 1, 1984, and imports of specimens of this species into the Community are subject to stricter measures than those provided by the Convention. Commercial imports of hippopotamus specimens into the territory of the European Community require import permits, and, under the terms of section 10.1.b of Regulation 3626/82, are prohibited from the following countries of origin: Guinea, Rwanda and Togo, since December 14, 1989; Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, since November 6, 1990; Angola, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Chad, since January 16, 1991; and Burkina Faso, since May 14, 1992, because the conservation status of the hippopotamus is considered unsatisfactory by the Scientific Task Force, representing all the CITES Scientific Authorities of the European Community. These import restrictions are subject to revision, however, and may be lifted if the conservation status of the hippopotamus in any of these countries of origin is subsequently shown to have improved.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The common hippopotamus is particularly vulnerable because of its restricted habitat; the drying up of rivers during dry periods or loss of grazing land threaten the survival of this mammal. Since most specimens are concentrated in one or a few aquatic areas, the hippopotamus is a very easy species to hunt on a large scale. As a result, it is also easy to protect. The common hippopotamus has a significant impact on its environment and can be extremely dangerous, capable of injuring or killing human beings. For these reasons as well, rational management of the population is desirable.

5. Information on Similar Species

51. *Hexaprotodon liberiensis (Choeropsis liberiensis)* – Pygmy Hippopotamus: The pygmy hippopotamus is included on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Animals (1993), Appendix II of CITES and Appendix C2 of (EEC) Council Regulation N° 3626/82. While its distribution has not changed significantly over time, it has become much more fragmented. The species is found primarily in Liberia, although three neighbouring countries (Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire) contain small groups. It may also have been observed in Guinea-Bissau and the delta of the Niger in Nigeria. Its population is estimated at 2 to 3000 specimens in Côte d'Ivoire (Pfeiffer, pers. comm., 1994) and no more than several thousand in its entire range.

This species, which lives in closer proximity to forests, is subject to a number of threats: first of all, deforestation, particularly deforestation of the upland forests in Liberia, followed by the clearance of land, hunting for its meat, trophies and teeth, persecution by local populations and pollution by the petrochemical industry (Eltringham, 1993).

An analysis of WCMC statistics shows that the international trade centres primarily on live animals (77 specimens reported from 1985 to 1991, virtually all born in captivity). Only 5 specimens have been reported for their trophies or their teeth.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

South Africa: considers its population stable and adequately protected; prepared to support the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II to encourage conservation efforts in other countries of origin[3].

Benin: is a co-proponent of the proposal[12].

Botswana: no interest in including its hippopotamus population in Appendix II and claims to have inadequate information on the conservation status of this species in other countries. Nonetheless, if other states in the hippopotamus' range are prepared to support the proposal, Botswana would give objective consideration to inclusion in Appendix II at the next conference of the Parties[5].

Gambia: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II to improve control of the international trade in specimens and management and use of the species in its countries of origin[6].

Ghana: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II[7].

Guinea: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II[13].

Malawi: considers its population stable and not affected by trade; not in favour of the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II, which it considers premature; supports its continued inclusion in Appendix III[14].

Mozambique: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II and stresses the need for financial support from France and Belgium for improved management of its population[9].

Namibia: not opposed to the inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II; expresses concern regarding the status of its population[15].

Togo: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II[16].

Zaire: supports the proposed inclusion of the hippopotamus in Appendix II[17].

7. Additional Remarks

71. IUCN Action Plan for Study of the Status and Conservation of the Hippopotamus: In December 1993, the IUCN issued an action plan for the study of the status and conservation of the common hippopotamus, containing a series of recommendations regarding measures of priority importance in achieving this goal. These measures relate to a number of different levels and can be summarized as follows:

    a) continued monitoring of changes in African populations and surveys in those countries where no data currently exist (such as Angola), where the data are partial and incomplete (Congo, Cameroon and Gabon) and where they appear to be particularly unreliable (Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). In addition, the causes of the decline in hippopotamus populations, particularly in western Africa, should be analysed;

    b) conservation of the hippopotamus, taking into consideration the interests of native human populations, including assessment of the damage caused by these animals (number of human victims, cost of damage to crops), identification of appropriate protection zones, studies of man/hippopotamus relations and establishment of programmes for the rational integration of these animals in economic and rural activities;

    c) evaluation of possible strategies for management of the hippopotamus for its meat, skin and teeth, including studies on quotas and acceptable collection methods, potential markets for these products and the possible transmission of infectious diseases between hippopotami and livestock;

d) implementation of measures for effective control of the trade in hippopotamus products, including listing of the species in Appendix II of CITES and more detailed analysis of the world trade in teeth and ivory; and

e) development of education and training programmes on the management of hippopotamus populations.

72. The Hippopotamus and the IUCN's Proposed New Criteria for the Inclusion of Species in the CITES Appendices (Report to the CITES Standing Committee, March 17, 1993, and Preliminary Results of the Application of the Criteria to a Sample of Species, July 23, 1993): The working documents produced by the IUCN in 1993 assessed the status of the hippopotamus in terms of the CITES appendixes. It was concluded, on the basis of the IUCN's proposed criteria, that the hippopotamus should be included in CITES Appendix II in view of the fact that:

a) a continuous decline of the species has been established or is suspected (typically, a decline in numbers of up to 50% over the past 5 years or two generations, whichever is longer); and

b) the average number of specimens collected in the wild each year over a long period (typically more than 5 years) exceeds the sustainable maximum yield of the species, defined as the annual collection level beyond which exploitation produces an adverse effect on the population.

73. The Hippopotamus and the African and Asian Elephants: Both species of elephant are included in Appendix I of CITES, the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) since 1975 and the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) since 1990. Over the past five years, Asian markets have shown a growing interest in hippopotamus ivory. Because of the relatively close resemblance between elephant ivory and hippopotamus ivory, it is often difficult or even virtually impossible to distinguish them in the case of small carved or sculpted objects. The international trade in specimens identified as hippopotamus ivory appears to be subject to very little control at the present time, a fact which may create problems with respect to the general ban on the international trade in elephant specimens.

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[6] Camara A, Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management, Ministry of Natural Resources of Gambia, letter to the CITES Management Authority for Belgium, 1994.

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[13] National Directorate of Forests and Hunting, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Guinea, letter to the CITES Management Authority for France, 1994.

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[15] Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, letter to the CITES Management Authority for Belgium, 1994.

[16] Moumouni A K, Director of National Parks, Wildlife and Hunting Reserves, Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Tourism of Togo, letter to the CITES Management Authority for France, 1994.

[17] Ma Mbaelele M, CITES Scientific Authority, Zairian Institute for the Conservation of Nature, letter to the CITES Management Authority for Belgium, 1994.

E9-BE01.PRO

Au Dr. G. EVRARD,
Service Vétérinaire
Ministère de l'Agriculture,
1210, BRUSSELS
Manhattan Office Tower,
Avenue du Boulevard 21.
BRUXELLES -

Objet : Proposition d'amendement aux Annexes de la CITES.
Hippopotamus amphibius

Cher Docteur EVRARD,

J'ai pris connaissance du dossier de la Proposition d'amendement aux Annexes de la CITES, de l'espèce Hippopotamus amphibius que le Dr Tom De Meulenaer, Directeur de TRAFFIC Europe a bien voulu me remettre au cours de notre séance de travail de ce Mardi 07 Juin 1994, au siège du WWF-Belgium, pour avis et considérations.

En ma qualité d'Autorité Scientifique CITES ZAÏRE, ayant en charge le volet "Faune", je soutiens cette Proposition, dont un examen approprié des données scientifiques disponibles, démontre sans conteste, du déclin de l'espèce dans son aire de répartition en Afrique depuis quelques années. L'inscription en Annexe II, permettra un meilleur contrôle du trafic international du spécimen, et de sa sauvegarde, pour une utilisation rationnelle et durable.

Par ailleurs, cette Proposition cadre bien avec les recommandations de "Pigs, Peccaries and Hippos Action Plan, 1993" de la Commission de Survie des Espèces (SSC) de l'UICN - Union Mondiale pour la Nature

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l'Autorité Scientifique CITES ZAÏRE, suggérerait, pour plus d'efficacité, que cette Proposition soit appuyée d'une recommandation visant à financer une étude d'évaluation des populations, au niveau des Etats de l'Aire de répartition, de façon à établir l'état des lieux de l'espèce, pour sa gestion durable.

Me tenant toujours à votre entière disposition, je vous prie d'agréer, Cher Docteur EVRARD, l'expression de ma considération très distinguée.

MANKOTO MA MBAELELE,

PRESIDENT - DELEGUÉ GÉNÉRAL DE L'INSTITUT ZAÏROIS POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE (I.Z.C. ET AUTORITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE CITE DU ZAÏRE

C.C. :- Organe de Gestion CITES du ZAÏRE
- DR John KUNDAELI, Secrétariat CITES - GENÈVE
- Mr. Jacques BERNEY, Secrétaire Général Adjoint de la CITES à GENÈVE
- Dr Tom De MEULENAER, Directeur TRAFFIC EUROPE au WWF - BELGIUM
- Mr. Yves BOULPAEP, Directeur WWF - BELGIUM.
- Dr. George RABB, Chairman SSC / UICN

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

# MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Ref.No: N 14/8

PRIVATE BAG 13346
WINDHOEK.
Tel: 061-2842185
Fax: 061-229936

17 May 1994.

Dr. G. Evrard.
1210 Brussel
Manhattan Tower
BOLWERKLAAN 21 ( 6 e verd )

Dear Sir

I refer to your fax of 5 May 1994 regarding Hippopotamus amphibius.

In Namibia we are also concerned about the status of Hippo's and we do our utmost to protect these animals. Unfortunately we have a conflict situation between rural people living on the banks of our rivers and the Hippo's. However, as a Government we do not oppose the listing of Hippo's on CITES appendix II.

To answer your questions, I will deal with them in the same order as in your letter.

1. The number of Hippo's in Namibia are between 500 - 550 animals. This shows a downward trend.
2. There has been no change in hunting pressure on Hippo's in Namibia.
3. No specimens of Hippo's were exported from Namibia since 1990.
4. No, our Ministry is not aware of any illegal trade in Hippo specimens. Poaching is only to obtain meat.
5. All Hippo's in Namibia are proclaimed as specially protected animals - this is the highest degree of protection.

2/

I trust that these answers and information will assist you.

Yours faithfully

PERMANENT SECRETARY.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM.

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

# FAX

Date 26/05/94

Number of pages including cover sheet

| TO: | MIN OF AGRICULTURE<br>VETRINARY SERVICES<br>C.I.T.E.S Dept.<br>MANHATTAN OFFICE<br>TOWER, AVE du BOULEVARD 21<br>1210. BRUSSELS<br>BELGIUM<br>Attn: Dr. G EVRARD |
|---|---|
| Phone | 02-211-72-11 |
| Fax Phone | 02-211-72-16 |

| FROM: | MIN OF AGRICULTURE<br>NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE<br>C.I.T.E.S Dept.<br>P.O.Box 1406<br>Maputo<br>Mozambique |
|---|---|
| Phone | 258-1-460096 |
| Fax Phone | 258-1-460060 |

CC:

REMARKS: ☐ Urgent ☒ For your review ☒ Reply ASAP ☐ Please Comment

Dear Dr. Evrard,

Thank you for your fax of the 9th of May 1994. I will respond to your questions as best as possible.

1. Due to severe drought and civil war hippo populations declined in some parts of Mocambique.

2. However, in other areas they remained stable and in others they increased.

3. Certain sections of the Zambezi river, now have hippo poplations that are in danger of a natural population crash due to under-utilisation.

4. A number of hippo are shot each year in Mozambique primarily for crop raiding. However, people in the hippo ranges tend not to eat hippos as they are predominantly muslim. Hippo is considered to be pork meat in Mocambique wich would be like wild boar a species now extinct in much of Europe.

5. Poaching and commercial trade in hippo products has been difficult to monitor, but there is evidence of some external trade. However, most trade is internal with local people selling hippo products such as hide in the market. Hippo hide has been used

for centuries in Africa to make very strong ropes.

6. Mozambique has exported 15 hippo trophies.

7. Hippos are by law not allowed to be illegally killed in Mocambique. This means that this office must first issue a permit for any hippo to be hunted.

8. We were very pleased to receive your fax at this time and are touched that Belgium and France are concerned about our hippo population. Unfortunately due to war our survey opportunities have been limited. The same is is true of our law enforcement capacity which needs rebuilding. In order for us to do our surveys and start some field work we will require about $250 000. As you are very interested in hippo protection perhaps your organisation is in a position to assist. As we are about to prepare our work plan for hippo management we would appreciate a reply by the 10th of June.

It is with regrets that this office cannot authorise this country as a co - proponent as that would require Ministerial approval and be a further delay to our reply.

Sincerely,

Benito Sansão
Head of CITES Management DNFFB

P.O. BOX 30131
LILONGWE 3
MALAWI

REF. NO.2/67A.

24 May 1994

MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE
MANHATTAN OFFICE TOWER
INSPECTION VERTERINAIRE
SERVICE CITES
5E ETAGE, avenue du BOULEVARD 2,
1210 BRUXELLES
(ATT : DR G. EVRARD)

Dear Sir,

LISTING OF HIPPOPOTAMUS ON CITES APPENDIX
(Hippopotamus amphibius)

We thank you for your letter No. CITES/GE/044/94 of 9th May, 1994 on your intention to propose the listing of the common hippo on CITES appendix II.

The Malawi hippo population is healthy. It is not being adversely affected by any trade. Infact hippo is a protected species under the laws of Malawi. Hippo teeth are sold to our trophy dealers for them to fashion them in various figures/design. Any export of hippo trophies are always accompanied by CITES permits. Unfortunately, the market for hippo skin is very limited. There are only two organisations which purchase hippo skin in Southern Africa. Their consumption is very small.

There is only one problem that is affecting our common hippo population in Malawi. The hippo range is being reduced drastically . Malawi is a highly populated country. The majority of its people (95%+) live in rural areas practising subsistence farming - the principal land use. This practice has claimed very significance range for this animal. As a result there is very high crop damage by hippo. This results in shooting down of significant numbers of hippos to protect crops every year. In 1990 and 1991, we had to crop 90 and 50 hippos in the Southern Lower Shire River of Malawi to answer people's cry for crop raids by this animal.

We do not agree with your proposal to list the common hippo on appendix II. We would rather support CITES listing on appendix III. We think it is too early to put it on appendix II.

We look forward to meeting you in USA in November, 1994.

M.W. MATEMBA
CHIEF PARKS AND WILDLIFE OFFICER

## QUESTIONAIRE OF HIPPO

1. Malawi has a population of between 7,000 and 8,000 hippos (Hippopotamus amphibius). The last nationwide count for the hippo was carried out in 1989 and the estimate then was 6569.

2. There was no legal hunting of hippo in Malawi. Hippos are shot for crop protection. Some illegal hunting has been reported but it is insignificant and is basically for meat.

3. About 2 tons of hippo teeth and four tons of hippo skins has been sold. The majority of the skin is wasted as the market is limited.

4 Illegal trade has been recorded but it is very minor and totally insignificant.

5. Hippopotamus amphibius is a protected species in Malawi under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1992).

31 V 1994

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND WILDLIFE
POST OFFICE BOX M.239
ACCRA - GHANA

FAX # : (233 21) 666476

TO : DR. G. EVRARD

FAX : (02) 211 72 16

FROM : MR. G.A. PUNGUSE

FAX : (233 21) 666476

SUBJECT : APPENDIX II LISTING OF HIPPOTAMUS AMPHIBIUS

DATE : 18TH MAY, 1994

MESSAGE:

Thank you for your enquiry on the common Hippotamus. In 1976 at Berne, Ghana proposed CITES Appendix I listing of the species. The proposal was not accepted, but it was agreed that it could be in Appendix III with the hope that the issue would be re-visited in future. Ghana would even support a proposal to list it in Appendix I.

The species is very very rare in Ghana. Extremely few of the still exist in the Black Volta in Upper East Region, the Kulpawn river in the Northern Region, and hopefully in the out-reaches of the Volta Lake.

The species has been legally protected in Ghana for years. But poaching still goes on. There has been no legal trade in its products to our knowledge. It is poached mainly for meat. May I please re-emphasise that Ghana would like to be a proponant to the proposal even Appendix I listing, but Appendix II at the worst.

CHIEF GAME AND WILDLIFE OFFICER
( G.A. PUNGUSE )

/GAP/AA@/

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND WILDLIFE
POST OFFICE BOX M.239
ACCRA - GHANA

FAX # : (233 21) 666476

23.VI.1994

TO : DR. G. EVRARD

PAGE(S)
1

FAX # : (02) 211 73 19

FROM : MR. G.A. PUNGUSE

SUBJECT : APPENDIX II LISTING OF HIPPOPOTAMUS AMPHIBIUS

DATE : 22ND JUNE, 1994

MESSAGE:

I have just received draft Proposal on Hippopotamus amphibius in French. It is unfortunately too late to submit it to the CITES Secretariat as the date line is 10th June, 1994. On the other hand, the proposal will have to be translated into English. This will take some time. However, if you or any organisation has submitted the proposal, we assure you of our unreserved support.

CHIEF GAME AND WILDLIFE OFFICER
( G.A. PUNGUSE )

31.5.1994

Department of Wildlife
Conservation & Management
C/o ministry of Natural Resources
# 5 Marina Parade
Banjul
The Gambia

May 27, 1994

Fax: 229436

Ref: WCD/C/11

DR. G. EVRARD
Head of the Belgium CITES Management Authority
1210
Manhattan Office Tower (5eme etage)
Avenue du Boulevard 21
Fax (02) 211 72 16

RE: HIPPOPOTAMUS AMPHIBIOUS

Many thanks for your fax on the above subject matter. We very much share your concern about the threat to the hippo as a result of the increasing international trade in products (carvings, teeth etc.) from this species.

As you may probably have known the common hippo is protected under our national wildlife legislation (Banjul Declaration and the Wildlife Conservation Act, both of 1977). Consequently, we wouldn't hesitate to lend out support to your proposal to list the species in Appendix II of CITES, inorder to improve the monitoring and control of international trade in specimens thereof, and to enhance the management and utilisation of the species in the range states.

I will attempt to answer your questions as follows:-

1. Status of hippos in The Gambia - endangered Population trend - Continuing to reduce (between 50 - 100 hippos). Normal group size - 1 - 15 individuals.

2. From 1984 - 1994 ten hippos were killed (this is the figure we know of, other killings probably have not been reported).

It is interesting to note that the killing were in defense of property and life and not for any commercial purposes, though the meat is consumed locally.

There is no commercial hunting of hippos in The Gambia

3. None
4. No
5. Total protection as of 1977

Please feel free to touch base as and when considered necessary.

.....
Dr. A. Camara
Director

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE / DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

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Pretoriusstraat 315 Pretorius Street
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Posadres/Postal Address
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0001

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Faksno/Fax no
(012) 322-2682

Verwysing/Reference *A24/21/3/1/1/4/2*

Telefoon/Telephone *310-3702*

Navrae/Enquiries *IMV Jacobson*

*Head of the Belguim Management Authority*
*Ministerie de L'Agriculture*
*Manhatten Office tower*
*Inspection Veterinaire*
*Service CITES - 5e etage*
*Avenue du Boulevard 21*
*1210 - BRUXELLES*

*Dear Dr Evrard*

***Hippopotamus amphibius: YOUR C.I.T.E.S./GE/044/94 DATED 9 MAY 1994***

*In response to your letter in the above connection I wish to report as follows:*

1. ***Status:*** *The estimated population for South Africa is approximately 5300 animals. There has been a slight decline over the past few years, due to severe draughts and diminising habitat. 81,1% of the population is found in conservation areas.*

2. ***Hunting pressure:*** *Only the hunting of problem animals is allowed, which occurs very rarely. There is no hunting pressure on the species.*

3. ***Export:*** *No export has been recorded over the past three years.*

4. ***Illegal trade:*** *No illegal trade has been recorded. However, some small sale of hippopotamus fat in the traditional medicine trade was observed.*

5. ***Legal protection:*** *The hippopotamus is protected in all the provinces and hunting is only allowed in terms of permits issued by the provincial nature conservation agencies in terms of their respective ordinances.*

*It is evident that the hippo population in South Africa is stable and does not require stricter conservation measures. South Africa would, therefore, not be a co-proponent.*

*South Africa would, however, be prepared to support a proposal for the transfer of Hippopotamus amphibius to Appendix II for the purpose of enhancing the conservation efforts in other range states.*

*Yours sincerely*

*DIRECTOR GENERAL*
*Date: 94-05-26*

TELEPHONE: 371405
FAX: 312354
TELEGRAMS: GAME GABORONE
REFERENCE: WP\MAN\7\2 XXVII (40)

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE, NATIONAL PARKS
P.O. BOX 131
GABORONE

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR

31st May, 1994

Dr. E. Evrard,
Administration de L'Elevage et du
Service Veterinaire,
Ministere de L'Agriculture,
1210 Brussels,
Manhattan Office Tower,
Avenue du Boulevard 21.

Dear Dr Evrard,

Thank you for your letter, dated 9th May, 1994 and referenced CITES\GE\044\94.

In terms of the information you seek, then we do not know the exact population of hippo in Botswana, since we rely on aerial surveys for monitoring our wildlife populations. However hippo are common in the habitat in which they occur i.e. the Okavango, Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe Water Systems. They are fully protected i.e., they are not hunted in Botswana. Furthermore there is no evidence of any serious illegal offtake. We have exported no hippo specimens since 1990.

For Botswana, then there is no need to have its population on Appendix II, and for this reason we would not be interested in becoming a proponent. We do not have enough information on other range states to know whether an Appendix II listing is justified. However if other range states support such a listing, then Botswana would be willing to consider such a proposal in an objective manner at the 9th Conference of the Parties.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

N.D. Hunter
DIRECTOR\DWNP

MINISTERE DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU TOURISME

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DIRECTION DES PARCS NATIONAUX, DES
RESERVES DE FAUNE ET DE CHASSES

N° 166 /DPNRFC.-

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
Travail-Liberté-Patrie

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LOME, le 05 MAI 1994

LE DIRECTEUR DES PARCS NATIONAUX, DES
RESERVES DE FAUNE ET DE CHASSES
Tél. 21-40-28 ; 21-46-04
B.P. 355 LOME
FAX : (00228) 21-40-29

SECRETARIAT DE LA CHASSE
- 6 MAI 1994

A

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR DE L'ORGANE DE GESTION
DE LA CONVENTION DE WASHINGTON
20, AVENUE DE SEGUR 75302 PARIS 07 SP
Tél. (1) 42 19 20 21 - Télécopieur (1)
42 19 19 77

Monsieur le Directeur,

Nous accusons réception de votre correspondance du 22 Avril 1994 par laquelle vous demandez notre avis sur la proposition d'inscription à l'annexe II de l'espèce Hippopotamius amphibius et des renseignements sur l'état et l'évolution des populations existant sur le territoire togolais.

Au Togo cette espèce animale a toujours bénéficié d'une protection intégrale et connait actuellement une évolution progressive. Son inscription à l'annexe II envisagée par les Organes de Gestion de la France et de la Belgique reçoit un avis favorable de la part de l'Organe de Gestion du Togo.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression de notre considération distinguée.

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE
LE DIRECTEUR
DES PARCS NATIONAUX
DES RESERVES DE FAUNE ET DE CHASSES

A. K. MOUMOUNI

MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DES RESSOURCES ANIMALES

DIRECTION NATIONALE
DES FORETS ET CHASSE

N° 0333 / DNFC

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE
Travail - Justice - Solidarité

Conakry, le 19 MAI 1994

LE DIRECTEUR NATIONAL

Objet :
statut de
l'Hippopotamius amphibius.-

A Monsieur le DIRECTEUR de la Nature
et des Paysages
Convention de Washington
20, avenue de Ségur
75302 PARIS 7 SP

Monsieur le DIRECTEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de me référer à votre lettre réf. AB/SS/hippopo du 22 avril 1994 pour vous faire connaître que l'organe de gestion de Guinée marque son accord pour l'inscription à l'annexe II de l'espèce Hippopotame amphibius que vous envisagez de proposer.

Quant aux renseignements sur l'état de l'évolution des populations existantes dans notre pays, je n'en dispose pas pour le moment.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le DIRECTEUR, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

LE DIRECTEUR NATIONAL p.i.

SAGNAH SATENIN

REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN

*MINISTERE DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL*

DIRECTION DES FORETS ET DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES

B. P. 393 — TEL. 33-06-62

N° 054 /DFRN

COTONOU, LE 27 MAI 1994.-

LE DIRECTEUR DES FORETS ET DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES

A MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR DE LA NATURE ET DES PAYSAGES
(ATT. : M. BONNEAU)
20, AVENUE DE SEGUR
75302 PARIS 07 SP
FAX : (331) 42 19 19 81.

F R A N C E

(_) B J E T : a/s Statut de l'hippopotame H. amphibius.

REFERENCE : V/L-AB/SS hippopo
DU 22 - 04 - 94.

MONSIEUR LE DIRECTEUR,

Faisant suite à votre lettre citée en référence et relative à l'objet sus-visé, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je n'ai aucune objection à l'idée de déposer une proposition d'inscription à l'annexe I de l'espèce Hippopotames amphibius.

Je saisis l'occasion pour vous informer également que dans le souci d'assurer la survie de cette espèce le Bénin a déjà inscrit l'hippopotame amphibie à l'annexe II de ses textes nationaux d'application de la Convention.

A défaut de données récentes fiables, nous ne sommes pas encore en mesure de vous fournir des renseignements sur l'état et l'évolution des populations de cette espèce au Bénin.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération distinguée./-

Barthélémy OCHOUN.-

COPIE : SECRETARIAT CITES

28.VI.1994

REF NE RP 92.

Dr.G.Evrad
1210 Bruxelles
Manhattan Office Tower (5eme etage )
Avenue du Boulevard 21

15 JUN 1994

Dear Sir ,

We have received your letter dated 09/05/1994 and sent under the reference number CITES/GE/044/94 concerning the proposal of including Hippopotamus amphibius under Appendix II of C.I.T.E.S. In answer to the questions you have asked ,our answer is as follows :

1. Concerning the status of hippos in Ethiopia

These species are widely distributed in Ethiopia .According to literature (Yalden ,Largen and Kock,1984 )Hippos are distributed in many rivers ,lakes ,swamps and pools of the country .The approximate attitudinal range of their distribution is from 200 - 2000 m.a.s.l. The major Ethiopian holds of the species appears to be the Omo ,Awash ,and Blue Nile Rivers ,but it occurs also in most of the larger lakes and has isolated populations in many smaller swamps and pools Their numerical status requires investigation .

2. Change In Hunting Pressure

In Ethiopia most of the population is either Christian or Muslim by religion . Due to religious reasons , neither of them eat hippo meat . But some tribes who follow other lines of beliefs such as Woitoes who live around Lake Tana ,and others who inhabit around Boye Swamp and rivers around the South Western part of the country eat hippo meat. At times hippos are also killed by local people for their skins out of which whips are prepared to be used by horse or mule rider Most of the problems facing hippos is habitat destruction due to increase of population around aquatic habitats for the purpose of agriculture .Thus hippos are getting deprived of grazing areas .

3 . Export Of Hirpo Specimens

Before Ethiopia banned sport hunting in August ,1993 , hippos were also part of the huntable game species menu . Since 1990 the number of hippos which were hunted by both tourist as well as resident hunters was 28 .Majority or 68% of them were hunted by tourists and their trophies were exported . The total weight of hippo teeth which were exported by legal dealers in the form of worked curios were about 16.950 kgs. since 1990 .

4 . Concerning illegal trade on hippo specimens ,some hippo teeth and whips are confiscated along with other wildlife products .

But this is not really in large number and is almost negligible

5 . Concerning the legal status of hippo :

Since hippos are widely distributed in Ethiopia , they are not protected species . Due to religious taboos , its flesh is not eaten by the majority of the population of Ethiopia .The greatest threat of this species is habitat destruction which is shrinking its grazing ground whenever such habitats are overpopulated and demand for cultivable land is required nearer to water banks .

Though hippos are widely distributed in Ethiopia and are not heavily poached for their meat , the conflict between them and the inhabitants gets higher during the crop harvest seasons So there is a possibility that they might face danger ,at least in the long run .And with the ban of elephants' ivory , people might use hippo teeth as alternative working materials Therefore , inorder to set safety margin to the survival of the species , it would be wise to include hippos under Appendix II of C.I.T.E.S. listing and thus regulate its international trade .

I hope this answers your questions .Though we had to answer you earlier ,we ask apology and hope that it would be of value having the answer anyway .
Concerning the reference used ,please refer the following :

Yalden D.W.,Largen M.J.,&Kock D: 1984 .Catalogue of mammals of Ethiopia .5.Artiodactyla.Monit.Zool.Ital.N.S.Supl. 19(4) : 70 - 73 ,152 .

Regards ,

ፋሲል ተክሌ
Fassil Tekle
A/HEAD WILDLIFE UTILIZATION
ANTIPOACHING DIVISION