

TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Proposal #/ Proponent	Species covered by the proposal	Proposal	RECOMMENDATION
# 23 Colombia	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i> American Crocodile	Transfer of the population of the Bay of Cispata, municipality of San Antero, Department of Córdoba, Republic of Colombia, from Appendix I to Appendix II	<p>The American Crocodile <i>Crocodylus acutus</i> is widely distributed in the New World and was assessed by IUCN in 2012 as Vulnerable. In Colombia, it is found in several mangrove swamps and river deltas. The proposal applies to the population in Cispata Bay only, where conservation efforts for this species are underway; the proposal also states an intention to submit a ranching proposal to CITES CoP17.</p> <p>Around 14 km² of the mangroves in Cispata Bay mangroves are considered suitable habitat for <i>C. acutus</i>. Population surveys between 2003 and 2010 recorded between 67 and 122 animals, with no obvious trend, and a survey in 2011 recorded just over 200 individuals, with no indication of an increase in the number of nesting females, despite considerable management efforts. It would therefore appear that the population still meets the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.</p> <p>Adoption of the proposal would result in the split listing of Colombia's population of <i>Crocodylus acutus</i> and it is unclear whether precautionary measures regarding transfer of species from Appendix I to Appendix II as set out in Para A 2 of Annex 4 of <i>Resolution 9.24 (Rev CoP15)</i> have been met in this case. The species is in demand for trade, with export of skins of captive-bred <i>C. acutus</i> from Colombia recorded up to 2011. The proposal is not a ranching proposal, and no export quota or other special measure has been proposed. Management measures are set out in general terms in the supporting statement but enforcement controls, such as the tagging of skins for export, are not specified. It is thus not clear how skins from this source might be distinguished from those of other wild <i>C. acutus</i> in Colombia, which would remain in Appendix I. The basis for the suggested productivity of the population in supplying skins for export is not clear.</p> <p>Colombia is encouraged to consider the merits of submitting a ranching proposal for its entire population for CITES CoP17.</p> <p>REJECT</p>