

CoP17 Prop. 22 [Mexico] Delete the zero quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes from the Appendix II listing of the population in Mexico of Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii*

There are no explicit guidelines in Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) for assessing removal of a zero quota for wild specimens from an Appendix II listed species. However, such removal may be seen as analogous to a transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II.

Mexico's population of Morelet's Crocodile *Crocodylus moreletii* is not small and has continued to increase since its transfer to Appendix II, from an estimated 54,000 in 2010 to ca.100,000. The species is present throughout its natural range in Mexico. Mexico's population of *C. moreletii* therefore does not appear meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

The intent of the listing only to harvest eggs from the wild population in the coming years could be taken as meeting the requirement for a precautionary measure as set out in Annex 4 of Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16). Management measures and enforcement controls proposed appear to be sufficient to ensure that such harvest will not have an adverse impact on the population. Mexico should be encouraged to provide further information on the ranching protocol under development.

ACCEPT