AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II of *Hyaena brunnea*.

B. PROPOONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

   11. Class: Mammalia
   12. Order: Carnivora
   13. Family: Hyaenidae
   14. Species: *Hyaena brunnea* (Thunberg, 1820)

   15. Common Names:
       - English: Brown hyena
       - French: Hyène brune
       - Spanish: Hiena dorada, Hiena parda
       - German: Braune Hyâne Schabrackenhyäne Strandwolf


2. Biological Data

   21. Distribution: *Hyaena brunnea* are confined to southern Africa and occur in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, the extreme west and southwest of Zimbabwe, southwestern Mozambique and into southwestern Angola. Within South Africa, their distribution has been considerably reduced in the Cape Province, particularly in the south, where they formerly occurred around Table Bay (Smithers, 1983). In the Transvaal (Robinson, 1991) and Orange Free State they still are widely distributed and even occur in areas in close proximity to cities.

   They occur in a number of protected areas, e.g.

   Botswana:

   - Central Kalahari Game Reserve: 5,180,000 ha
   - Gemsbok National Park: 2,480,000 ha
   - Khutse Game Reserve: 259,000 ha
   - Mabuasehube Game Reserve: 179,200 ha
   - Makgadikgadi Pans Game Reserve: 414,400 ha
   - Nxai Pan National Park: 259,000 ha
Namibia:

- Etosha National Park: 2,227,000 ha
- Khaudom Game Reserve: 384,000 ha
- Mahango Game Reserve: 30,000 ha
- Namib-Naukluft Park: 2,401,000 ha
- Skeleton Coast Park: 1,639,000 ha
- Sperrgebiet: > 5,000,000 ha
- Waterberg Plateau Park: 40,500 ha
- Tourism concessions in the northern Namib desert (de facto conservation areas): ca. 3,000,000 ha

South Africa:

- Kalahari Gemsbok National Park: 959,103 ha
- Kransberg National Park: 41,000 ha
- Kruger National Park: 1,948,528 ha
- Richtersveld National Park: 162,445 ha
- Pilanesberg National Park: 55,000 ha
- Doornkloof Nature Reserve: 10,000 ha
- Molopo Nature Reserve: 23,876 ha
- Rolfontein Nature Reserve: 6,200 ha
- Italia Game Reserve: 30,000 ha
- Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve: 22,211 ha
- Hans Merensky Nature Reserve: 5,288 ha
- Langjan Nature Reserve: 4,450 ha
- Loskop Dam Nature Reserve: 14,800 ha
- Nylsvlei Nature Reserve: 3,121 ha
- Ohrigstad Dam Nature Reserve: 2,563 ha
- Rustenburg Nature Reserve: 4,257 ha
- Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve: 13,337 ha
- at least 7 other TPA Reserves: > 40,000 ha
- Mabula Game Farm: 8,000 ha

Zimbabwe:

- Hwange National Park: 1,465,100 ha
- Kazuma Pan National Park: 31,300 ha
- Matetsi Safari Area: 295,500 ha
- Matobo National Park: 43,600 ha
- Tuli Safari Area: 

22. Population

221. **Wild Population:** The species lives at low densities. In the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, the territories of each clan of 1-10 adults and subadults have a size of 306 km² on average (Mills, 1990). Population estimates are scarce. In Namibia, Berry (1991) estimates the population to be about 300, with half in protected areas and half on farmland. In Transvaal, the species is rated "rare" (Carr, 1988). Botswana may harbour the only large population of this species (Anon., 1972).

222. **Captive Population:** The brown hyena is not a particularly attractive species for zoos. In 1992, there were only 28 (16.12) brown hyenas kapt by zoos reporting to the International Zoo Yearbook (Olney & Ellis, 1993), 15 (8.7) of which were captive bred.
The International Studbook listed 37 (21.16) specimens on 31.12.1992. In 1993, the studbook was discontinued.

23. **Habitat:** The brown hyaena is mainly associated with the dry south west and with areas having under 650 mm rain per annum, even occurring in the Namib desert where they forage on the beaches (Smithers, 1983). As shown under 21. above, a considerable part of the habitat is protected as National Parks or Game Reserves. The recent creation of large private conservancies e.g. in Namibia, Zimbabwe or in the Transvaal lowveld will ensure that additional large tracts of land will remain suitable habitat and will almost certainly be beneficial to the future development of brown hyaena populations.

3. **Trade Data**

31. **National Utilization:** There may be some utilization of the species in local cultures for medicinal purposes and in witchcraft, but this is on a very small scale.

32. **Legal International Trade:** From 1986 to 1988, a total of 5 live specimens and 8 skins / trophies (personal or household effects) have been recorded in international trade.

33. **Illegal Trade:** There is no known illegal trade in the species.

34. **Potential Trade Threats:**

341. **Live Specimens:** There is no known potential for trade in live specimens other than the insignificant zoo trade. The number of zoos keeping the species is decreasing.

342. **Parts and Derivatives:** There is no known potential for commercial trade in brown hyaena parts or derivatives.

4. **Protection Status**

41. **National:** The new Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act of Botswana lists the brown hyaena in Schedule 6 as a "protected game animal" which may be taken only under a permit issued by the Director of Wildlife and National Parks. In Namibia it is also a "protected game species". In Zimbabwe, brown hyaena are accorded no special protection status at present, but it is intended to list them on the schedule of Specially Protected Species in the near future. This means that permits would not normally be issued for their exploitation. The species is protected in Angola and Mozambique (IUCN-ELC, 1988).

42. **International:** The species has been listed in Appendix I of the Convention since 01/07/75.

43. **Additional Protection Needs:** Where brown hyaena occur in farming areas they have been considered a threat to stock and killed, and have also been killed by control activities aimed at the spotted hyaena (Crocuta crocuta) and at the lion (Panthera leo). Additional protection efforts should therefore aim at changing the attitude of farmers towards the species and at enlarging wildlife areas (National Parks, Game Reserves, private conservancies) which are to small to hold a permanent population.

5. **Information on Similar Species**

- The only other species of the genus, the striped hyaena (Hyaena hyaena) is not listed on CITES appendices.
6. Comments from Countries of Origin

South Africa: The Transvaal Management Authority stated, in March 1994, that recent surveys on 20 of the Transvaal Provincial Reserves (20 out of 45) have indicated that the brown hyaena is well represented in 15 of these reserves, that the species is not subject to trade, and thus could be removed from CITES Appendices or transferred to Appendix II. After having received positive comments and additional input from the Namibian, South African and Zimbabwean representatives at the 31st Standing Committee meeting, the draft supporting statement was sent to the proponents of the COP8 proposal and to South Africa. In response, Namibia decided to co-sponsor the proposal. By 31 May, South Africa and Botswana both had agreed to the proposal, the Botswana authorities stressing, however, that their preference would be to have the species delisted.

7. Additional Remarks

As the taxon has been listed in Appendix I prior to the adoption of the Berne Criteria, Resolution Conf. 2.23 on Special Criteria for the Deletion of Species and other Taxa applies.

At COP 8, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a proposal for the deletion of *Hyaena brunnea* from Appendix I, stating that the original listing was made before the adoption of the Berne Criteria, and that it appeared unnecessary to list the species in Appendix I since there is no evidence to suggest that it is endangered or that potential trade is likely to threaten its survival. In the "Analyses of Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices" (IUCN, 1992), the reviewers concurred with the conclusions of the proponents. In Committee I, the delegations of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania were concerned about the quality of the data in the supporting statement. The former delegation, however, supported a transfer of the species to Appendix II, and this was recommended as a formal amendment to the proposal by Portugal, on behalf of the countries of the EC. The delegations of Switzerland and the United States of America and the observers from TRAFFIC and IUCN felt that the original proposal met the criteria for its acceptance, referring particularly to Resolution Conf. 2.23. The Chairman called on a vote on whether the proposal should be amended to the transfer of the species to Appendix II and, as there was not a two-thirds majority in favour, a vote ensued on the original proposal, which was rejected (Com.I 8.10).

While the proponents are still of the view that the species does not qualify for inclusion in any of the CITES Appendices, they propose at this stage only a transfer from Appendix I to Appendix II, taking into account views expressed by other Parties at COP8.

8. References


