

This document has been submitted by South Africa.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SOUTH AFRICA'S LEOPARD PROPOSAL TO THE 13TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP) TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

TRADE INFORMATION

Analysis of data received from UNEP WCMC indicates that South Africa has not exceeded its quota of 75 except possibly in 1995. The number of skins and trophies exported from 1992 to 2002:

1992	43
1993	73
1994	63
1995	Between 60 (import data) and 85 (export data)
1996	60 (import data)
1997	60
1998	53
1999	49
2000	71
2001	71
2002	57

The analysis of trade data is complicated and open to misinterpretation. South Africa reports on the basis of permits issued and in certain circumstances permits are cancelled, but this may only be reflected in the following years report. Furthermore, re-exports and non-trophy specimens must not be taken into account. The incorporation of the above in the analysis might account for the discrepancy between the conclusions the Secretariat reached regarding the export data and the actual exports that took place.

QUOTA MANAGEMENT

South Africa manages the quota of 75 as an annual take-off/hunting quota. This means that no more than 75 leopard may be hunted in South Africa by international hunters/clients within one calendar year. The quota of 75 is allocated to the provincial conservation authorities on an annual basis based on the requirements of the different provinces. The provinces each have their own system of allocating their part of the quota to the hunting outfitters or farm owners.

A leopard must be tagged within 7 days after the hunt took place. The tag contains the information as required in Res. Conf. 10.14 (Rev.). It is a self-locking tag, which indicates the State of export (ZA), the number of the specimen in relation to the annual quota and the calendar year in which the animal was taken in the wild, e.g. ZA PAR 2002 000007 indicating the South Africa is the State of export and that the specimen is the 7th specimen taken in the wild in South Africa out of its quota of 75 for the year 2002. This tag remains on the animal until it is exported.

If a hunter was unsuccessful the hunt can be allocated to another person, but the hunt must take place within the same year. If the whole quota was not utilised it is NOT transferred to the next year.

The National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) administer the quota system and has submitted annual reports relating to the management of the leopard quota to the CITES Secretariat until 2002. The quota of 75 has not been exceeded according to these reports.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

High densities of leopard occur in the Limpopo province, where approximately two thirds ($\pm 75\ 000\text{km}^2$) of the total surface area can be considered as suitable leopard habitat. The Limpopo province in South Africa has an estimated 3 000 leopards. This province has the most suitable habitat for leopard and due to the conversion of cattle farms to game farms the available habitat has increased considerably. The North West, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal provinces also have suitable leopard habitat.

The Kruger National Park and the Kgalagadi National Park have healthy and stable leopard populations of more than 1 200 animals. The leopard populations in national parks are protected and no hunting or any other form of consumptive utilization is allowed in these parks. As mentioned in the proposal to CITES CoP 13, approximately 67 000km² of South Africa's surface area is under formal conservation, of which 52% is managed by South African National Parks. Leopards occur in most of these protected areas.

According to Martin & De Meulenaer (1988) South Africa contains the greatest number of vegetation types of any country in Africa and much of it is ideal leopard habitat. Martin & De Meulenaer's 95% confidence intervals for South Africa are as follows:

Predicted Population	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
23 472	12 910	42 954

According to cat specialists in South Africa, the population estimate is less than 10 000, as reflected in the data sheets of the Red Data Book of the Mammals of South Africa (Friedman & Daly, 2004).

A leopard population estimate of 10 000 was used by South Africa to determine the viable increase in the export quota. The export quota comprises 1.5% of the population and the removal of these animals from the wild on an annual basis will not have a detrimental impact on the survival of the species in the wild.

REFERENCES

Friedman Y. and Daly B, (editors) 2004. Red Data Book of the Mammals of South Africa: A Conservation Assessment: CBSG Southern Africa, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (SSC/IUCN), Endangered Wildlife Trust. South Africa.

Martin R.B and De Meulenaer T, 1988. Survey of the Status of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) In Sub-Saharan Africa. Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Enquiries:

Dr Pieter Botha or Ms Sonja Meintjes
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Private Bag X447
PRETORIA
0001

Tel: +27 (12) 310 3575 or 310 3545

Fax: +27 (12) 320 7026

E mail: pbotha@deat.gov.za or smeintjes@deat.gov.za