

REPORT ON CROCODILE (*Crocodylus niloticus*) RANCHING IN MALAWI FOR 2008 AND 2009

Table 1: Malawi Crocodile Farming: Basic information as at January 2010

No.	Company name	Location	Enterprise type	No of crocs	Remarks
1	Nyika Crocodile Farm	Salima	Ranching	13,635	Doing very well
2	Shire Valley Crocodiles (Ngabu) Farm	Chikhwawa	Ranching	4,339	Doing well
3	Chiwale Crocodile Farm	Thyolo	Ranching	4,328	Low temperature area but doing well
4	Koma Croc Farm	Mangochi	Ranching	655	Poor feeding and care

Table 2a: Malawi Crocodile Farming Report for 2008-09: Breeding

Company name	No. Of breeders	Wild eggs collected	Wild eggs hatched	Farm eggs hatched	No. survived
Nyika Crocodile Farm 08	78	1,700	1,644	2,136	2,945
Nyika Crocodile Farm 09	78	1,300	1,100	-	1,100
Koma Croc Farm	69	0	0	499	<300

Table 2b: Malawi Crocodile Farming Report for 2008-09: Breeding

Shire-River Crocodiles (Ngabu)	Total Eggs collected	Total Eggs Hatched	Hatch % of Total eggs Collected	Neonatal mortalities	Neonatal mortality %	Post-Neonatal deaths	Overall Recovery (% of Tot eggs)	Overall stock on hand
2008	2544	2089	82.1%	193	9.2%	25	73.5 %	1871
2009	3232	2561	79.2%	93	3.6%	0	76 %	2468
							Stock	4339
Chiwale Croc Farm	Total Eggs collected	Total Eggs Hatched	Hatch % of Total eggs Collected	Neonatal mortalities	Neonatal mortality %	Post-Neonatal deaths	Overall Recovery (% of Tot eggs)	Overall stock on hand
2008	2212	1787	80.8 %	213	11.9%	29	70 %	1545
2009	2374	2022	85.2 %	39	1.9%	16	83 %	1967
							Stock	4328

Table 3: Skin exports

Company name	Exported 08	Exported 09	To export 2010	Efforts to croc conservation	Remarks
Nyika Crocodile Farm	1,500	1,503	1,000	200 crocs given for local community sensitisation	200 skins to be sold by company in place of live crocs to fund community sensitisation campaigns
Shire Valley Crocodiles (Ngabu) Farm	0	0	0	215 crocs given for local community sensitisation	First export will be in 2011
Chiwale Crocodile Farm	0	0	0	215 crocs given for local community sensitisation	First export will be in 2011
Koma Croc Farm	0	0	0	None	Not progressing

NOTES:

Nyika Crocodile Farm is doing very well. They have not exported skins for a long time because their buyers want bigger size skins. Ngabu and Chiwale Farms are progressing well. They experienced high mortalities of hatchlings in 2008 due to very cold winter weather. This has improved since. The two farms will start exporting in 2011 when the oldest stocks will be over three years. Koma Croc Farm has been doing poorly ever since. They would show some progress especially in feeding, for a few months and condition fall afterwards. The Department is trying to see if they can combine with another company to properly manage the stock.

Regarding release of live young crocodiles to the wild, communities are very much against it. It has therefore been resolved that farmers should give 5% of their surviving crocodiles from wild eggs to National Parks and Wildlife (converted into money at average skin value) for sensitisation campaigns in crocodile areas, especially where people are in the habit of destroying crocodile eggs. The programme will start towards end of this year (2010).

All crocodile farms have been authorised to capture 30 per year each adult live crocodiles for five years, so that they do not depend on wild eggs after the period. This is a long term management toolkit in crocodile conservation. Meanwhile, each farm has a five year permit (starting 2009) to collect 5,000 eggs from the wild.