

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STATUS OF LEOPARD AND LECHWE TO BE REVIEWED

The status of the leopard and the lechwe, an African antelope, both of which are now listed as threatened with extinction under an international wildlife treaty, will be reviewed by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to see if the species should be reclassified.

Both species are currently listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Appendix I is defined as including "all species threatened with extinction which are or may be affected by trade."

Safari Club International recently petitioned the Department of the Interior to propose reclassifying the leopard from Appendix I to Appendix II (species that may become threatened if trade is not regulated) and to delete the lechwe from Appendix I of the Convention. The Department concluded that the petition presented enough evidence to warrant a review of the status of the two species to learn whether changes in their Appendix listings should be proposed for consideration by other countries that are Parties to the Convention.

The notice of the status review was published in the May 1, 1978, Federal Register.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is now seeking the views of the governments of other countries in which these species occur. All interested persons are invited to submit any factual information, including publications and written reports, that pertains to this review. Such information should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Wildlife Permit Office, Washington, D.C. 20240, and should be received by June 30, 1978.

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