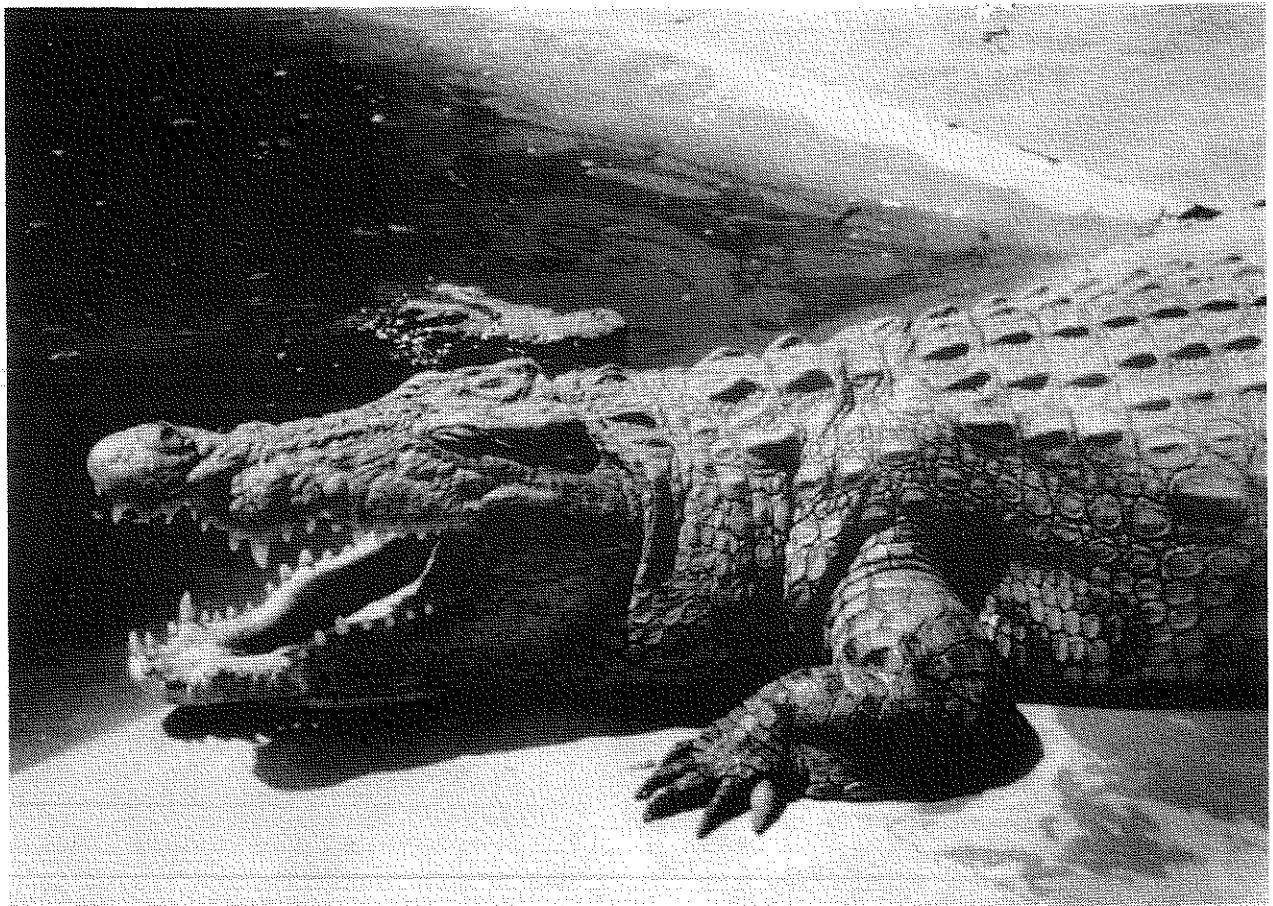


CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 No. 3 ■ JULY 1992 - SEPTEMBER 1992



IUCN World Conservation Union ■ Species Survival Commission

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IUCN--The World Conservation Union
Species Survival Commission

Prof. Harry Messel, Chairman
IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group
School of Physics
University of Sydney
Sydney NSW 2006
Australia

EDITORIAL OFFICE:

Prof. F. Wayne King, Deputy Chairman
Dr. James Perran Ross, Executive Officer
Florida Museum of Natural History
Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

COVER PHOTO: Nile crocodile,
Crocodylus niloticus, breeding male of
approximately 3.5m in breeding enclosure at
Umi River Crocodile Farm, Zimbabwe.

PATRONS

The following Patrons of the CSG have contributed more than U.S. \$500.00 during the past 12 months. The funds donated have been deposited with University of Florida Foundation, Inc., and are used to support the CSG program:

Japan JLIA- Japan Leather & Leather Goods Industries Association, CITES Promotion Committee, All Japan Reptile Skin and Leather Association, Tokyo, Japan.

Mainland Holdings Ltd., Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Philippe Roggwiler, Tanneries des Cuirs d'Indochine et de Madagascar, Paris, France.

Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

American Alligator Farmers Association, Plant City, Florida, U.S.A.

Ken Ogiso, Stock Kojima, Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. John G. Mahler, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

Asociacion Colombiana de Zoocriaderos, Bogotá, Colombia.

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Utai Youngprapakorn, Samutprakan Crocodile Farm, Samutprakan, Thailand.

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Zachary Casey, Pelts and Skins Export Co., Covington, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Sergio Trachter, Triton Imports Inc., El Paso, Texas, U.S.A.

Crocodile Farmers Association of Indonesia, Jayapura, Indonesia.

Paul H. Slade, Nell and Hermon Slade Trust, Mona Vale, Australia.

F. Wayne King, Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.

Kurt Preiss, Reptilia Inc., Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

A. Handoko, Salim Group, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Crocodile Management Association of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand.

IUCN-World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland.

Prof. Harry Messel, Sydney, Australia.

Wayne Sagrera, Vermilion Gator Farms, Abbeville, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Robert and Ellen Young, Thonotosassa, Florida, U.S.A.

Terry Cullen, Cullen Vivarium, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

David B. Haire, III, American Tanning & Leather Co., Griffin, Georgia, U.S.A.

Gabriel & Miguel Rey, Hacienda el Molino Ltda., Bogotá, Colombia.

Anonymous, Florida, U.S.A.

GUEST EDITORIAL

TRADE GROUP REPORT. Much has transpired in world trade in crocodilian skins, but most noticeable is the effect of world recession and tighter finances that have brought on a "survival strategy" when discussing marketing. Information that used to be passed around freely is now very guarded. Very few price reports have been forwarded recently to either the Trade Group or to the NEWSLETTER, which lacked a Trade section in the last issue, indicating this situation. However, the Trade Group of CSG remains active and has increased by five new members from strategic areas. In the last year I have visited buyers and tanners during three visits in Europe, three in the far east and numerous trips around Africa, from which this analysis is derived.

In Europe traditional buyers are operating at very low levels and in some cases trying to convert old stock and not purchasing any new materials. Many tanners were holding large stocks acquired at high 1989/90 prices, which must now be sold at current low prices, causing severe financial problems. In the far east there is a small but steady level of purchasing by some buyers. Again many buyers have been caught with expensive stock bought at old high prices which must now be sold at a loss. Hide quality and size have become very significant factors in the trade. On some occasions whole

consignments of skins have been returned to farmers when they are not of uniform high quality. These problems were not experienced during trading in 1989 and 1990 when buyers showed a tolerance for some level of lower quality skins. Most crocodilian skin producing areas are reporting some "dumping" of skins at very low prices, generally as a result of desperate farmers trying to meet cash flow and financial commitments. The CITES ban on Italy, although justifiable, will only further aggravate the situation as skins traditionally consumed by that country will have to find markets in other limited market areas.

I believe that the situation will become more difficult. Over supply of raw materials in a diminishing tanning/finished-leather environment will force many farmers world wide out of business. This may not be a disadvantage to the industry, but rather advantageous to those established, well managed operations that have long term goals. I believe that the farmers should look inwardly to solve some of these problems. Domestic tanning and manufacturing is now an important consumer of a significant percentage of skins in the producing countries. New tanneries are reportedly being developed in Australia, Louisiana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Singapore and other areas, and they should be encouraged. The very large production of alligator skins in the USA, in relation to their diminished tanning and manufacturing capabilities remains a significant problem. Efforts are being made by state assistance, farming groups and industrialists to build tanneries, open and increase manufacture, and educate consumers and these efforts should be encouraged and supported.

These events are of significance to the conservation work of the CSG. Traders and tanners remain the largest single group of financial supporters of the CSG. The continued financing of the CSG is at risk as traders "tighten their belts" through these difficult times. Changes in the structure of the skin producing sector will also affect the CSG strategies for promoting sustainable use as a conservation tool.

To summarize, the immediate future will see farmers going out of business, reptile skin tanneries opening outside of Europe and Japan, and manufacturers changing to less expensive leathers that are less controversial and less regulated by CITES. Education on the conservation value of sustainable utilization of

crocodilians is even more important than ever before and may dictate the failure or continuation of this industry. -- Kevin van Jaarsveldt, *CSG Vice Chairman for Trade, P.O. Box 129, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.*

MEETINGS

The 11th Working Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group was successfully held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, between 3 and 7 August 1992. Over 160 registered participants and additional spouses, companions and friends gathered at the spectacular Elephant Hills Hotel to share information, hear presentations, catch up on old friends and generally move crocodilian conservation forward. Forty scientific presentations and an additional 12 posters formed the formal meeting fare. Workshops on 'Trade and conservation' and 'Veterinary issues' and 'Hide grading and treatment' were very heavily attended and a CSG Steering Committee working group began the complex process of reviewing the CITES regulations for crocodiles. The meeting was notable for the very intense interest, and wholehearted participation, from African crocodile farmers.

The standard of presentations was uniformly high but special mention is due to Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn's exciting report on Siamese crocodile populations in Cambodia and Dr. Chris Foggin's very lucid exposition on crocodile diseases. Dr. Mark Ferguson continued his tradition of presenting effortless summaries of the most recent advances in crocodilian physiology. The keynote addresses, by Jon Hutton on Conservation of Crocodiles in Africa, Grahame Webb on the North Australian Crocodile Management Program and Mark Staton on the Common Interests of Conservation and Commerce, were all outstanding and provided a valuable core of direction for the presentations and discussion. The prize for most macabre presentation goes to Howard Hunt for his slides of the King vulture at Cox lagoon (Belize)- and the corpse it was feeding on. The Proceedings of the 11th Working Meeting are being produced in Zimbabwe under Jon Hutton's direction and will be complete within a couple of months. Registered participants will receive a copy and additional copies will be available for purchase from CSG. Watch the NEWSLETTER for notification of 11th Proceedings availability.

The Working Meeting was preceded by two days of CSG Steering Committee Meetings in which many members participated. The very complex and detailed issues covered are reported in full in the Minutes that follow this report.

On the less formal side, the meeting hosts, Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe (CFAZ), ably led by their President, Mr. Strath Brown, provided a series of well attended social events where delegates relaxed from the rigors of scientific debate to sample local beverages and crocodile snacks. The venue of the meeting provided sweeping views of the Zambezi river and the plume of mist from the Falls. Additional entertainment was provided by the troops of baboons and warthogs that frequented the hotel grounds, providing natural hazards for golfers and company for early morning walkers. Impala and a single waterbuck were also seen although a large electrified fence prevented the entry of larger and more aggressive game.

In the National Park nearby the meeting venue, participants were able to take brief time out from the meeting to go on game drives and bush walks, and reported seeing examples of much of the larger African fauna, including elephants, giraffe, buffalo, and yes, even wild crocodiles. Prize for the most enterprising wildlife observations go to Marinus Hoogmoed and his wife who report that the elephant that chased them was only a little slower than two fleet footed Dutch observers.

An international group of participants took time out from the meeting to play the inaugural CSG International Invitational Golf Tournament. The local Zimbabwe team took advantage of their familiarity with the course, crocodiles in the water traps, a drought desiccated fairway and the intricacies of reversed Coriolis effects, gravitational anomalies of the Rift valley and the high altitude to narrowly snatch victory from their Japanese, US, and South African competition. A rematch under more standard conditions is planned.

Special mention must be made of the outstanding contributions made by Ms. Caroline Peel and her team who took care of thousands of details to ensure smooth running of the meeting logistics. They did everything from sorting out visa problems and re-arranging hotel assignments to assisting temporarily impaired participants get back to their hotels after they were overcome by the generous Zimbabwe hospitality at the socials. Caroline, Maureen,

Gail, Christine, Jan, Pauline, Thank you!

The CSG thanks with great sincerity the Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe, President Strath Brown, Jon Hutton, Kevin van Jaarsveldt, and their organizing committee for providing an outstanding meeting. An invitation has been received from the Crocodile Management Association of Thailand to hold the 12th Working Meeting there in 1994.

QUOTABLE QUOTES, VIC FALLS 1992.

"You wouldn't go to sell Rolls Royces driving a volkswagen would you? How can you sell crocodile skin products with a cowhide briefcase?"...

H. Messel exhorting the commercial sector to promote sustainably derived crocodilian products.

"Caroline Help!" ...
Numerous participants.

"Why is it when Kevin plays his competitors he plays 3 under par but when he plays his buyers he develops a terrible left slice?"...

Anonymous.

"Because I am seventy one, and I have done my share of difficult surveys, and I am leaving the difficult ones to you young guys"...

H. Messel responding to a question about his surveys of crocodiles in the South Pacific



Steering Committee of the CSG in session, 1 August 1992, Victoria Falls. Around the table from the bottom; M. Pani, O. Menghi, G. Hemley, O. Behra, J. Hutton, K. van Jaarsveldt, R. Jenkins, H. Messel, P. Ross, G. Webb.— T. Kataoka photo.

CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP MINUTES, STEERING COMMITTEE AUGUST 1-2, & AUGUST 6, 1992

Participants: H. Messel (Chairman), P. Ross, J. Hutton, T. Yamanaka, D. Jelden, G. Webb, G. Hemley, D. David, T. Joanen, K. van Jaarsveldt, S. Edwards, O. Menghi, V. Lance, M. Ferguson. Observers: N. Ishii, Y. Takehara, D. Blake, V. Onions, J. Shield, P. Wilkinson, B. Ortiz, M. Rodriguez, D. Ashley, M. Rey, R. Elsey, J. Cox, A. Abercrombie, K. Rice, E. Asanza, H. Jenkins, K. Ogiso, M. Kataoka, E. Severre, S. Ranot, A. Leivano, Y. Raharajo, M. Hoogmoed, M. Pani, J. Smith, E. Fernandez.

CSG Business, report on members. The Executive Officer reported that 350 individuals had been nominated and sent the Chairman's invitation to be a member of the CSG and positive response had been received from 224. The names of non-responding nominees had been sent to Vice Chairmen for follow-up, but in the meantime they would be considered members. The Group also maintained contact with 59 institutions and individuals who receive the NEWSLETTER and other materials as "courtesy members" and 300 individuals who receive the NEWSLETTER in return for subscribing either a donation or their news. The Chairman noted that under present hard times the voluntary contributions of members of their effort and time was vital to the Group's function and expressed his thanks to them all.

2) **CSG Business, financial report.** The Executive Officer presented a report of revenue and expenses for the period 1 January- 16 July 1992. The Group began the year with a balance of \$19,858.60 and had received revenues totalling \$50,680.36. Expenses for the year to date were \$52,846.05 leaving a current balance of \$17,692.91. It was noted that several major expenses such as the Executive Officer's salary and travel to the Kyoto CITES meeting and the Zimbabwe Working meeting had been met in this period and that expenses were more or less in

line with the budget for the year. Revenues were lagging and several anticipated donors had not yet made a contribution this year. The very generous donation received from the Japan JLIA "CITES Promotion Committee" and Japanese Reptile Skins Tanners and Traders was acknowledged. Mr. Y. Takehara, representing both the Associations, explained that the Japanese industry had collected donations from 18 member businesses and collected a total US \$12,000 and that JLIA had donated an additional \$10,000. \$20,000 had already been transferred to CSG and Mr. Takehara presented the remaining \$2,000 to the Chairman. Mr. Takehara explained that making a donation through the association expressed the appreciation of Japan and of the whole industry for the valuable work of the CSG and was preferable for the industry as it removed any implication that individual members or companies were seeking special influence. On behalf of CSG the Chairman thanked Mr. Takehara for this very valuable support for the conservation work of the CSG.

In response to questions the Exec. Officer explained several particular expenses and it was agreed that in future special revenues received for specified projects would be clearly indicated as such, and not mixed with general revenue and expense. A small working group consisting of K. van Jaarsveldt, N. Ishii, V. Lance, D. Ashley and S. Edwards, was asked to review the CSG support base and recommend future funding options and activities.

3) **11th Working Meeting** organization and workshops. The Chairman expressed his great pleasure at being in Zimbabwe for the 11th Working Meeting and on behalf of the Steering Committee expressed his thanks to the organizers of the meeting. CFAZ, Mr. Strath Brown, Jon Hutton, Kevin van Jaarsveldt and the very capable logistics staff led by Caroline Peal were particularly thanked for their special efforts to make the meeting a success for CSG. Jon Hutton and P. Ross outlined the meeting program. A special working group chaired by Ginette Hemley and comprised of Obdulio Menghi, Dietrich Jelden, Jon Hutton, Hank Jenkins, Stephen Edwards, Grahame Webb, Noburu Ishii and Kevin van Jaarsveldt was asked to begin the complex process of recommending revisions to CITES regarding crocodilian trade. This is to be an ongoing working group tasked at this meeting to develop procedure for necessary

revisions for report to next Steering Committee meeting. A Workshop on Trade Effects on Conservation chaired by K. van Jaarsveldt assisted by Perran Ross was asked to address trade issues and to report back to 11th Working Meeting.

4) **Model Management Plan.** Dennis David reported that field work was complete and a draft was being reviewed by G. Webb, J. Hutton, and Bill Magnusson. Questions were raised, and discussion followed on the whether the current draft was too detailed and idealistic to be valuable in concrete application. The reviewers were asked to resolve the philosophical basis of the Model Management Plan and recommend revisions as necessary. The revised draft is to be prepared for submission to the funder (WWF/TRAFFIC) and Steering Committee by Jan. 1993. Final review by the Steering Committee and approval by the Chairman will be completed at the Darwin Regional Meeting in March 1993.

5) **IUCN Draft Document on Sustainable Use of Wild species.** A draft representing the present progress on this issue by the SU Specialist Group had been offered to the CSG for review. Serious problems were identified with this draft. It appeared to have exceeded its mandate and become an impossibly detailed document with almost no relevance or applicability to the realities of sustainable use programs. It was noted, for example, that by excluding species regarded as "vermin" that many crocodile species under sustainable use management would be excluded from the guidelines. Extensive discussion followed on the process of generating this document and the responsibility of CSG and its members to continue to provide input to this process even though the results were not yet satisfactory. It was eventually agreed that a letter would be drafted to the joint chairs of the SU group, with a copy to the Director General of IUCN, and the Chairman of the SCC, expressing the CSG position.

6) **Publications.** DIRECTORY OF CROCODILIAN FARMS AND FARM TECHNIQUES MANUAL. The DIRECTORY, compiled by Richard Luxmoore and the attached FARMING MANUAL prepared by G. Webb and J. Hutton was complete and being printed. A proof copy was presented for inspection. The Directory can be ordered

directly from IUCN Publications Unit, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK and CSG members receive a discount price of £10. Grahame Webb reported that the FARM MANUAL had also been translated into Spanish and made available for CSG to distribute directly. Xerox copies will be available from the Gainesville office for US \$20.00. The CITES publication of Jon Hutton's STATUS OF THE NILE CROCODILE, was presented and can be obtained from the CITES Secretariat, P.O. Box 78, Lausanne 9, Switzerland, for US \$37.

7) **Cruelty on crocodile farms.** Dietrich Jelden reported on events in Europe suggesting that animal rights activists were concerned about problems of humane treatment in crocodile farms and ranches. Publicity materials and press articles containing absurdly erroneous allegations were presented. The Group recognized that this constitutes a serious issue and that misinformation and politically motivated publicity on alleged cruelty must be addressed directly. It was noted that the CSG concern on this issue dated back to prior to 1989 and that a workshop on humane treatment had been conducted at the 10th Working Meeting in Gainesville (1990). The model management Plan and the Manual on Ranching and Farming techniques both address practical aspects of humane treatment of crocodilians. Jon Hutton reported his discussion of the issue with the RSPCA in England and tabled a discussion document that very clearly reviewed this issue. Representatives from crocodilian captive breeding facilities around the world reported on their techniques and a recent survey of producers in the USA was reported. It is clear that a majority of producers use the most humane techniques available and many countries such as Australia, already have a code of conduct for humane treatment. After discussion it was agreed that the CSG should clearly articulate its policy and recommendations and a group, including veterinarians in the CSG, was delegated to prepare a draft for adoption by the Steering Committee.

8) **Universal Crocodile Tagging.** The background and current status of this vital issue was described. Following the adoption of CITES Resolution 8.14 in Kyoto and the CITES Animals Committee request to CSG for assistance, materials had been forwarded to the Chairman

of Animals Committee advising on practical aspects of implementing Universal Tagging. The Animals Committee had reviewed this information at its meeting in Harare July 21-26 and produced a draft resolution from the Animals Committee which was offered to the CSG for review. Extensive discussion followed on the ramifications of implementing Universal Tagging. Issues of concern included the inclusion of barcoding on tags, size of tags and design features of approved tags that would meet the needs of CITES, management authorities and industry, chemical resistance of tags, funding for tracking mechanisms and the crucial issue of tagging stockpiled skins during a transition to the new Universal Tagging system. Detailed inputs were received from many participants and eventually a sub-committee comprising of Hank Jenkins, D. Jelden, G. Hemley and J. Smith were asked to review and revise the draft Animals Committee document and present recommendations for alterations back for the approval of the Steering Committee and recommendation by CSG back to the CITES Animals Committee.

9) **Sudan Tagging.** Dietrich Jelden reported on his recent mission to inspect and tag the stockpile of skins in the Sudan to allow their export [see NEWSLETTER 11(1)]. Dietrich described a desperate mission where, accompanied by armed military escorts and working through intense heat, sand storms and bureaucracy in Sudan, he was able to account for all the skins in the stockpile (8,000) including two skins overlooked by earlier inspectors, and tag them. After staunchly persisting in this difficult task in the face of numerous difficulties, he was able to safely leave the country. The skins have now been exported to Egypt where they are expected to be for domestic use as no mechanism exists to issue re-export documents for them. The Chairman of CSG, and Obdulio Menghi on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, commended Dietrich for an outstanding job under very difficult circumstances. An enquiry was made as to whether novel and film rights to this exciting mission could be sold to support the CSG.

10) **Darwin Regional Meeting,** Grahame Webb reported on progress in organizing the second regional meeting of the CSG in Darwin, Australia, in March 1993. The Northern Territory Government and Conservation

Commission have committed significant advance funding totalling approximately Aus. \$50,000 to organize the conference. Announcements have been circulated and a tentative agenda developed. After discussion it was agreed that the focus of the meeting should be regional crocodilian conservation issues. The desirability of bringing designated delegates from each country to ensure wide representation was noted. It was proposed that an approach be made from the Northern Territory Govt. to the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, International Seminar Support Scheme, for travel funds for participants. This was to be done by G. Webb and H. Jenkins in the CSG Chairman's name who would keep him advised of progress. Grahame Webb's energetic work to advance the regional meeting was acknowledged and thanked by the chairman.

11) Population Viability and Habitat Analysis. Perran Ross presented a brief overview of the PVA process as a tool to bring managers and experts together to plan and assess priorities for highly endangered species. The suitability of several crocodilian species for such analysis was considered. While the process might have merit for evaluating conservation priorities for small crocodilian populations a balance is required between orderly long term planning and the need for emergency responses to critical problems. As an example the Chairman proposed that PVA would be a wasted effort for the Philippine crocodile which was faced with an immediate crisis. The Cuban crocodile, in contrast, might be a suitable candidate for PVA following the gathering of information in the survey that will be conducted shortly.

12) Problems of CFI crocodile farm in Palawan, Philippines. Professor Messel described the problem that has arisen at CFI since the visit of the CSG review team last March, which had made extensive recommendations for enhancing CFI's conservation effectiveness. Following the change in government in the Philippines it was likely that the staff might be changed, disrupting the progress already made there. The new government was renegotiating the aid support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which provides the bulk of CFI's operating funds. The Philippine authorities were expressing difficulty in providing their portion of the expenses for the project in the face of

competing demands from other higher priority projects. Without the funds from a counterpart organization in the Philippines, JICA is unable to provide its matching funds and a complete closure of the project due to lack of funds and personnel is imminent. Intense discussion about possible solutions to this dilemma were held. Objectives of a solution must include maintaining the population of Philippine crocodiles at CFI and the maintaining of credible and diplomatically acceptable positions by the Japanese and Philippine governments. Options were considered including: i) removal of all stock from the farm to overseas locations to preserve the stock, ii) outside funding to support CFI, iii) recruitment of an alternative Philippine counterpart organization and, iv) high level diplomatic intervention. After discussion it was agreed that CSG draft a statement expressing its concern about the situation, and offering assistance, to the Philippine and Japanese governments, for approval by the Steering Committee.

13) Surveys in progress and planned.

Vanuatu. The survey of *Crocodylus porosus* in Vanuatu will be conducted by Professor Messel and Professor King starting in August 1992. This survey is fully funded with support from the Nagao Foundation, Japan, The Hermon Slade Trust, Australia, and Conservation International, USA.

Paraguay. Profs. Messel and King will accompany Obdulio Menghi of CITES to survey and review caiman status and management in Paraguay, 11-27 October 92, funded by Horiuchi Trading Co., Japan. Mr. Takehara will also be present. This work will complement phase 1 of the CITES survey in Paraguay conducted by Dr. Norman Scott.

Panama. A CITES survey of caiman resources in Panama has been planned for Feb. 1992 by Professor King. Funding through CITES has been pledged by Bodiopelli Co. of Italy. A memorandum of understanding has been completed with the Panama Government and final approval of funding and dates is expected.

Nicaragua. A CITES survey of caiman in Nicaragua will be conducted and coordinated by Perran Ross. A memorandum of understanding

with the Nicaraguan authorities is signed, funds have been provided by CITES, NORAD and private donors, and the survey is planned to start 15 Jan. 1993. Steve Edwards reported on the complementary activities of the IUCN regional office which is developing sustainable use programs in the Los Guatuchos region of southern Nicaragua and adjacent Caño Negro of Costa Rica. The survey results will be available to IUCN and joint training of survey staff is planned.

Cuba. A CITES survey of the Zapata swamp in Cuba to assess the status of *C. rhombifer* in the wild is in an advanced stage of planning. A proposal, developed by P. Ross in consultation with Cuban authorities, is being modified to match the available funding. CITES has partial financial support available and the survey tentatively starts September 1992 if complete funding can be arranged.

Argentina. A CITES survey of caiman in northern Argentina is complete and the consultant's report received by CSG for review. The report, with reviewers comments will be passed back to CITES Animals Committee who will generate final CITES recommendations. In discussion the added time and bureaucracy involved in this revised CITES system was questioned. It was noted that this new process will ensure adequate review and ensure high standards for consultant reports and provide a mechanism to allow ongoing interaction and assistance between CITES and CITES Parties to improve implementation of recommendations.

Brazil. Field work in Brazil was completed in 1988 as part of phase 1 of the CITES surveys of southern South America. However, the analysis of samples electrophoretically for genetic variation in caiman was incomplete and the consultant's report had not yet been received. Obdulio Menghi reported that the CITES Secretariat had communicated with the consultant on numerous occasions asking for the report, without success, and had passed the matter to the Chairman of the Animals Committee for resolution. The Chairman of the CITES Animals Committee asked CSG for assistance to resolve this matter. After discussion of the background to this problem, the Chairman of CSG agreed to telephone the consultant to ascertain what the problem was and

to recommend further action based on information received from the consultant.

14) **Honduras situation.** Obdulio Menghi reported that the CITES survey of Honduras was completed last year and recommendations on caiman management submitted. Following further discussions between the CITES Secretariat and Honduras authorities a revised program based on an annual quota of 5,000 caiman harvested from the wild was agreed. Obdulio reported that recent information had been received suggesting that the quota had been unilaterally increased to 10,000 and that a significant quantity of *Crocodylus acutus* were being taken along with caiman. Apparently the Honduras Management Authority was unable to adequately control harvest or trade but continued to issue caiman hunting licences. Dr. Menghi had opened discussions with the President of Honduras to intervene and correct the situation. The Group was also reminded that the proposal to register the Clal Crocodile Farm as a captive breeding facility for *C. acutus* was withdrawn prior to the Kyoto CITES meeting and that CSG had agreed to assist the Honduras authorities and the farm to prepare a more acceptable proposal for later submission. Mr. Shlomi Ranot of Clal Crocodile Farms gave a very pessimistic assessment of management capacity and controls in Honduras and expressed concern that both caiman and crocodiles would suffer if no changes were made. He offered Clal Croc. Farms assistance to try and work to conserve crocodilians in Honduras, including an offer to release crocodiles from his farm into sanctuary areas to rebuild populations. Extensive discussion followed on the nature of the conservation and management problems in Honduras and the best CSG response to them. It was recognized that the problems of caiman harvest and trade, the problem of *acutus* harvest and the problem of farm registration, while related, constituted separate problems. The problems were further compounded by the apparent weakness of the Honduran Management Authority and the lack of definitive information. A multifaceted approach was recommended. The CSG with CITES, assisted by Mr. Ranot, would attempt to send an inspector to Honduras to assess the caiman harvest and the illegal harvest of crocodiles. Mr. Ranot offered to pay the costs of such an inspection visit. The Executive Officer was

delegated to conduct the inspection for CSG and CITES. The problem of increases in the caiman harvest and export were referred to the Animals Committee of CITES to address under the terms of the Kyoto resolution (Conf. Res. 8.9) on trade in Appendix II species, with the recommendation that the Animals Committee call on the Honduras Government to comply with the recommendations for crocodilian management within the 90 day period specified by Res. 8.9. To facilitate this action the CSG agreed to draft and send a letter to the Honduras Management Authority enquiring about the allegations concerning crocodilian management problems. The Group also agreed to continue to discuss with Mr. Ranot, actions that the farm might take to receive CSG recommendation of its proposal to CITES for registration. The Chairman closed the discussion with the observation that problems of this sort were most unfortunate examples of the development of trade based on unsustainable management practice that brought the CSG's policy of using Sustainable Use as a conservation tool into disrepute. This made CSG intervention to address this problem mandatory.

15) **Colombia.** Obdulio Menghi presented the recent history of very rapid development of caiman ranching and farming in Colombia, noting that the conservation aims of CITES were not being addressed by the present system. Between 100 and 140 caiman farms had been licensed although only about 30 or 40 of these were actually in production. CITES was now working with the Colombian authorities to verify the authenticity of all Colombian export documents but could not be responsible for matching the descriptions of materials on documents to actual shipment contents. Anomalies had been noted in Europe between documents and shipments, that suggest that Colombian documents were being used to ship illegal skins from other locations in Latin America. There was a strong suspicion that some Colombian farms were being used as a conduit for skins from wild caiman and the status of the wild population remained completely unstudied and unknown. Grahame Webb described information received during his recent workshop in Colombia and gave a careful evaluation of the problems currently experienced. The fundamental issue is that the Colombian program is based on closed cycle farming which the CSG does not believe has

conservation merit. While technical advances have been admirable the program fails to meet many criteria of conservation benefit. The marginal economics of any but the most efficient and cost conscious caiman farms places a further constraint on the system.

As discussion progressed the difficulty of constantly responding to crises was brought out. Some frustration was expressed by Steering Committee members over the difficulties presented by these complex issues. Kevin van Jaarsveldt suggested that the Group needed to regain perspective on its goals and procedures. He proposed that management proposals should not be brought by individuals but by National Authorities, and that CSG should review such proposals within the brief of its conservation principles. The CSG must retain the option of independently verifying information received. Should projects diverge substantially from the formats and procedures recommended and approved by CSG then approval of such projects should be withdrawn.

Steve Edwards informed the Group that IUCN had been approached by the Colombian Government to evaluate the captive breeding program and that in view of the concerns expressed at the meeting, would invite CSG representation at any review undertaken, although they lacked funds to meet any costs involved.

Mr. Bernardo Ortiz, head of the Colombian Management authority, responded, outlining the justification for the present policy and accepting the deficiencies in concept and implementation that were being experienced. He acknowledged the depth of present problems and asked the CSG for help. Some concern was expressed by other Colombian representatives present that these issues were not raised at the CSG meeting in Santa Marta last November. Extensive debate followed on the nature of problems in Colombia and potential solutions. Mr. Ortiz expressed the sincere commitment of his agency, supported by representatives of the industry, to take advice from the CSG and transmit this advice to the highest levels and attempt to improve the system. After broad discussion it was agreed that a letter would be drafted detailing CSG concerns and recommendations to the Colombian authorities. The Chairman noted that problems such as these and those of Honduras could be minimized if countries would consult with CSG prior to determining their management policy. He voiced

appreciation for the willingness of the Colombian farmers and management authority to work with CSG to resolve the problem and re-affirmed CSG's intention to continue to advise and assist, and not just criticize.

16) **Thailand.** A Report on progress in crocodilian management and conservation was presented by Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn, President of the Crocodile Management Association of Thailand (CMAT). He reported that legislation implementing CITES was approved by Parliament and was now complete. A CSG review committee will visit Thailand 2-4 November 1992 to evaluate progress. The committee will consist of the Chairman and Jaques Berney of CITES, R. Luxmoore and D. Jelden. Additional participants may be representatives from Traffic Asia and Papua New Guinea. In the meantime CMAT had initiated collaboration with surrounding countries regarding crocodile management and trade and a field visit to Cambodia had revealed a very large farming industry with an estimated 6,000 captive Siamese crocodiles there. Indications of remnant wild populations of Siamese crocodile in both Thailand and Cambodia had also been received. A formal survey in the wild was planned for 1993 in conjunction with the Royal National Park Service and the Wildlife Conservation Department at Kasertart University. CMAT was evaluating the problem of hybridization between *siamensis* and *porosus* with a DNA genetic analysis and a trainee had been sent to the United States. It was intended that any crocodiles restocked to the wild would be tested for genetic purity before release. The program of microchip marking of all captive stock was well advanced. 10,000 animals have been marked and a new microchip scanner with waterproof design had been developed. A restocking program for *C. porosus* at Phuket was still in the process of negotiation and concerns over danger to humans was still to be resolved.

17) **Venue of the next (12th) Working Meeting of CSG.** Invitations were received from Thailand, in March 1992, and from Colombia in July. The Steering Committee agreed to confirm their earlier acceptance of the invitation from Thailand and the Exec. Officer was instructed to write to Colombia, thanking them for the invitation but declining. The Chairman thanked

Dr. Ratanakorn and asked him to coordinate with the Executive Officer to make preliminary preparations for the meeting. The smooth operation of the Zimbabwe meeting had been greatly facilitated by the regular communication maintained between CSG and the organizers. The Chairman also firmly specified that the CSG Working Meeting was not be run as a profit making venture for a private company. It was understood that professional assistance was sometimes necessary to organize a meeting of this size but it was preferable to obtain any such services on an at cost basis. Costs needed to be kept as low as possible to allow the participation of the less affluent members of CSG, students, members from developing countries, and the CSG Executive Officer. The Chairman asked Dr. Ratanakorn to undertake to organize the meeting on this basis and he agreed. A preliminary date and venue for the meeting were to be decided in consultation with the CSG taking into account the dates of the next meeting of the parties to CITES (October 1994), the deadlines for submission of proposals to CITES and other competing dates.

18) **Indonesia.** A report on progress of management and conservation in Indonesia was presented by Hank Jenkins on behalf of PHPA representative Mr. Widodo Ramono, who was unable to be present. Hank explained that depressed skin sales have limited the funds available to carry out management actions. However, the Crocodile Management Task Force was meeting weekly and had 3 support staff. Major advances had been made in instituting the crocodile management scheme recommended by CSG but some specific questions had arisen which the task force addressed to the CSG. A problem in lack of uniformity in completion of farm stock reports was identified and some caution in interpretation of the farm stock data expressed. A need was identified for tags for local and domestic transfer of skins and advice sought on whether the CITES tag or an additional tag should be used. After discussion the CSG recommended tagging skins once at source with CITES tags and using this tag for all transactions both domestic and international. The advisability of developing a point of sale product tag was questioned and the Group suggested that Indonesia concentrate on getting whole skins tagged, and other tagging could be developed later. The issue of discrepant

maximum skin sizes between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea was addressed and it was strongly recommended that Indonesia work with the Papua New Guinea authorities to quickly bring skin sizes into concurrence in the two countries. The unique system of extracting operating funds for the Task Force from sale of confiscated skins back to their owners was described, and while it seemed a strange system to most present the meeting was assured that such practice was normal and effective in Indonesia. Mr. Yono Raharajo added comments on behalf of the Indonesian Crocodile Producers Association. He said that Indonesia had made a good faith effort to fulfill its commitments to CITES and the CSG and would continue to do so. To date, only 600 skins had been exported this year. The lack of skin sales had placed some constraints on the program but nevertheless the skin stock report was completed and available to TRAFFIC, WCMC and the CITES Secretariat. The CSG Review committee will visit and evaluate progress beginning in Jakarta starting 5 Nov. 92, immediately following the review in Thailand. Stephen Edwards reported that IUCN had undertaken a contract to assist the Indonesian government to deal with the EC ban on Indonesian wildlife imports. The CSG review of crocodiles in Indonesia undertaken by G. Webb and H. Jenkins was one component of this and a study of the wild bird trade by Jorgen Thomsen and Edwards was another. A joint workshop on wildlife trade issues was planned for 1993 and Steve invited the participation and input from CSG.

Ginette Hemley noted that the continuation of the present Indonesian export quota was contingent upon Indonesia meeting its commitments and that little concrete progress appeared to have been made. Dietrich Jelden questioned whether significant improvement in the problem of illegal exports had been made. Decisions on these points would be made by the review committee after its visit. The Chairman noted that lack of funds would not be an acceptable reason for failing to meet the specified conditions imposed by CSG and CITES on Indonesia as conditions of continued trade under quota. It was the responsibility of the Indonesian Government and the Indonesian crocodile industry to make the necessary funds available.

19) ACSUG - Asian Conservation and

Sustainable Management Group. Mr. Y. Takehara reported on the progress made in organizing ACSUG since its inception at Kyoto in March, and announced that the first general meeting would be held in Bangkok, 1 Nov. 92. Drafts of the bylaws, membership agreements and letter of invitation to member associations was presented. Professor Messel once again applauded the formation of this new association of wildlife trade associations and predicted that ACSUG would become a valuable ally of the CSG in promoting conservation through sustainable use.

20) **Madagascar.** Olivier Behra reported on extremely discouraging state of progress on crocodilian conservation and management in Madagascar. Continuing problems of lack of control or management responsibility, the very negative opinion of the public, the volume of hunting for domestic sale and continuing illegal export to Mauritius were cited. One faint glimmer of optimism was a report of one local community which had undertaken the protection of crocodile nests in response to Olivier's conservation and sustainable use message. Madagascar now represents a dilemma for the CSG and CITES as an economic incentive to encourage conservation is very much needed but ranching cannot be initiated while Madagascar continues to be a source of international illegal trade. CITES intends to conduct a seminar in Madagascar to assist the implementation of CITES controls. Obdulio Menghi was asked to convey the concern of the CSG on this issue. After discussion it was recommended that TRAFFIC USA be asked to find funding to allow Olivier to undertake additional fact finding work in Madagascar and the problem of illegal trade was referred to the CITES Animals Committee with a recommendation that they pursue it under the provisions of Conf. 8.9.

20) **Dominican Republic.** A letter from Dr. Sixto Inchaustegui reported that a recent survey of Lago Enriquillo had turned up very few crocodiles or nests. The unexpected sudden decline of the Lago Enriquillo *C. acutus* population was suspected to be due to illegal hunting and export of skins via Haiti. The Group expressed great regret at the apparent decline of this well studied and important population and some dismay and frustration that such an event could occur. After discussion it was agreed to

draft a letter calling on the President and Management Authority to take whatever action necessary to prevent any further decline of this population, although such action may already be too late.

21) **Guatemala.** The Chairman transmitted a report from Mr. Enrique Fernandez on the present status of crocodiles in Guatemala. Mr. Fernandez had collected crocodiles from the wild and brought them to his farm for several years in a private program to conserve these animals from extinction. Although his activities have proceeded without government support or approval, Mr. Fernandez feels the uncontrolled persecution of crocodiles in Guatemala makes his program the only feasible option for crocodile conservation there. Obdulio Menghi reported that CITES had received a request to conduct a survey in Guatemala but no funds were available. Obdulio confirmed Mr. Fernandez's report of the unstable political and social situation in Guatemala that made conservation action or management very difficult. The meeting expressed concern over this situation but found it difficult to propose any concrete action until the situation stabilized in Guatemala.

22) **Steering Committee members.** Concern at absence of representatives from Latin America was noted, given the number and severity of crocodilian issues there. The great difficulty of obtaining travel funds and the rejection of a request to Singapore to provide funds for Latin American delegates to this meeting was noted. Mr. M. Rey of Colombia forcefully expressed the feeling of many Latin Americans present that they were not receiving adequate representation or fair consideration of Latin American problems. After discussion the Chairman expressed his intention to review Steering Committee members and consider improving representation from areas that needed it.

23) **Nile crocodile trade to USA.** Mr. Strath Brown Chairman of Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe asked about the status of the process to remove the Nile crocodile from the US Endangered Species List. This action would bring the US into line with CITES and allow imports of Nile crocodile to the US market. Ginette Hemley reported that the process was well advanced and strongly supported. Draft regulations would be published for public

comment and delisting was expected within some months although an exact timetable could not be given. Don Ashley reported the support his organization had given to the delisting. Hank Jenkins noted that Australia is in an identical situation with regard to Australian *C. porosus* imports to the US and that the US ban on *Caiman yacare* was also being reviewed. CSG had offered extensive support for all these US delisting actions. The importance of the CSG continuing to support these initiatives as they proceed through the complex US system was emphasized. Ginette Hemley undertook to advise the Executive Officer when additional comment was needed and a response would be coordinated among members.

24) **Palau crocodile farm.** Prof. Harry Messel reported on developments in Palau since he and Professor King had made recommendations for crocodilian conservation there last year. The US Fish and Wildlife Service had taken an unfortunately narrow view of the potential of the existing crocodile farm as a source for conservation education and restocking. USFWS were insisting that the stock on the farm was collected without US authorization, (although local government approval had been received). The office of the President of Palau had become involved in the issue and complex negotiations were underway coordinated by The Nature Conservancy. Prof. Messel and Prof. King will continue to represent CSG on this issue and attempt to keep the primary objective of conservation of Palau's crocodiles as the primary focus of the issue.

25) **Surveys in Central Africa.** Obdulio Menghi reported that Olivier Behra had now been recruited to conduct crocodilian surveys in Central Africa, moving this long delayed CITES project into operational mode. The status of crocodilians in Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon will be evaluated.

26) **Italy trade ban.** A detailed report was received from the CITES Secretariat on history, background and present status of the wildlife trade ban in Italy. Since the recommendation of a ban on Italy was made by the CITES Standing Committee in June an intensive series of discussions between the Secretariat and Italian authorities had been initiated. Italy had responded to the CITES censure by imposing a

unilateral moratorium on imports of wildlife products. Some progress has been made by Italian authorities in establishing the necessary laws to implement the convention. However, confusion about responsibilities of various Ministries involved, and some obstruction by middle level ministry staff, in defiance of ministerial orders, was impeding progress. The direct intervention of the new Minister of Environment, Mr. Carlo Ripa di Meana, appeared to clearing these blocks and several very concrete advances have been made. The number of official ports of entry for wildlife has been reduced from 38 to 12 and the Forestry and Agricultural Inspection Service has been authorized to coordinate with Customs to inspect and verify wildlife imports. The CITES Secretariat is working energetically with Italian authorities to assist them to meet the requirements placed by the CITES Standing Committee for the lifting of the ban, however, until these conditions are met the ban remains in place. A special training seminar for customs at the 12 designated entry ports is planned and Prof. Wayne King of CSG will be invited to assist.

Marco Pani of TRAFFIC Italy gave additional background on the situation in Italy and proposed that CSG could be of great assistance to the Italian authorities if we would offer to assist in an inventory of existing skin stockpiles. Inventory of stockpiles is not a necessary CITES condition for lifting the ban but would be very valuable to ensure that future trade in Italy meets CITES requirements. The practical difficulties of conducting such an inventory were discussed at length. The number of skins is immense, estimates varied from 1 million to 5-6 million. Their locations are not fully known and are complicated by the fact that a large proportion have been brought into Italy without documentation to avoid local import duties. Skins of numerous species, many of them in pieces, are thought to be held in Italy. After discussion it was agreed that the CSG should offer its assistance and Marco Pani was asked to draft a letter, with the help of P. Ross to this effect. It was felt that it was only practical to inventory legal skins with documents and that while tagging the skins would be desirable (and mandatory for any re-export) that the tagging issue would have to be dealt with through CITES following procedures being developed by the CITES Animals Committee. Any assistance

from the CSG would have to be entirely at the expense of the Italian Government. Don Ashley noted that a timely resolution of the problem, and re-opening of the Italian market to trade was in the best interests of trade and conservation. Ramifications of the effects of the Italian ban on world trade and on conservation were deferred to discussion in the trade workshop, which was directed to produce recommendations for the CSG Steering Committee.

27) Vice Chairman for Trade, Mr. Kevin van Jaarsveldt, submitted a written report on his subgroups activities, which appears as the guest editorial for this issue.

The Steering Committee re-convened 6 August 1992 at 3.30 pm to consider additional business and the various draft resolutions and letters specified in their deliberations 1 & 2 August.

Support for delisting of the Nile crocodile in the US. Since the discussion on 2 August, information was received that the draft ruling had been released for public comment. Jon Hutton presented a draft of a letter to Mr. Charles Dane of the US Management Authority supporting the downlisting which was approved.

Dr. C. Dane, Office of the Scientific Authority
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, DC

Dear Dr. Dane:

Proposed Special Rule for Nile Crocodile Imports

At the 11th Working Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group (part of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union) just held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe between 3rd and 7th August, the Group was informed that the proposed special rule on the Nile crocodile had been published in the US Federal Register with a 45 day comment period.

As you are aware, the CSG has followed with interest the US Fish and Wildlife Service's review of the status of the Nile crocodile under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and fully supported the idea of downlisting of the species from Endangered to Threatened when the review document was published some time ago.

The CSG now wishes to be recorded as

strongly in favor of the proposed special rule for Nile crocodile imports. The rule is entirely justified by the status of the species and should be implemented as soon as possible. The current listing is increasingly having a negative effect on conservation programs for the Nile crocodile which are heavily dependent on returns from trade in products derived from the sustainable use of the species, particularly through ranching.

The measures taken by the parties to CITES to ensure that all crocodilian skins in trade are tagged will mean that there is little likelihood of any products made from illegal skins entering the USA. In any case, the TRAFFIC network informs us that there has been virtually no reported illegal trade in the species for some years. I hope these comments are of interest.

Emeritus Prof. H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

In response to a request from members of the Steering Committee a half hour break was immediately called to allow members to read the draft documents and discussion resumed at 4.03 pm.

The Chairman noted the extreme complexity and large volume of issues before the Steering Committee and declared that in future a mail box system would be established at meetings for Steering Committee members to allow them to receive and comment upon draft documents in advance.

Black Caiman studies in Ecuador. Mr. Tommy Hines reported that as part of ongoing investigations on the feasibility of sustainable use of caiman in Ecuador he would like to work in collaboration with Mr. Pablo Evans and Mr. Eduardo Asanza to begin preliminary investigations of husbandry on the black caiman. He asked if the CSG would object to about 100 hatchling black caiman being removed from the wild, with full approval and permits from Ecuadorian authorities, to begin this work. He emphasized that under no circumstances would commercial production be initiated without the full agreement of local authorities, CITES and the CSG. The present project was complementary to ongoing surveys to establish the status of black caiman in Ecuador. Eduardo Asanza stressed that all results of the project would be circulated to CSG, CITES and the Ecuadorean authorities. Tommy Hines

announced that a symposium on Sustainable Use was being planned for Ecuador. The chairman responded that involvement of local scientists was a fundamental principle of the CSG and vitally necessary for the success of projects. Under the circumstances described the proposals seemed reasonable and sound and should proceed.

IUCN Sustainable Use Guidelines. A letter drafted to Robert and Christine Prescott-Allen, co-chairmen of the Sustainable Use Specialist Group was discussed and approved.

Robert and Christine Prescott-Allen
IUCN/SSC Specialist Group on Sustainable Use of Wild Species
627 Aquarius Road, RR2
Victoria BC, Canada V9B 5B4

Dear Robert and Christine:

Thank you for forwarding the 2nd draft (15 July 1992) of "Criteria and Requirements for Sustainable Use of Wild Species". The document was tabled and discussed during the recent meeting of the Steering Committee of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1-2 August 1992).

As you are aware, crocodilians represent a group of animals for which understanding of sustainable use principles is most advanced. Our group has repeatedly tackled the philosophical issues and conservation principles involved, and more important, has had first hand experience at implementing programs in nations with widely varying socio-economic conditions and conservation resources. Indeed some members of CSG are members of your Specialist Group.

Our prime concern is that the current document, as written, is neither a policy nor a set of guidelines. It has drifted well away from the intent of Resolution 18.24 adopted by the General Assembly in Perth, calling for the Director General to develop guidelines for sustainable use of wildlife.

The central conservation problem today is not the development of elaborate and detailed policies to govern the tens of thousands of living plants and animals in the world that are used by people. In fact it is questionable whether any single set of guidelines can ever adequately address, for the purposes of management, such diversity. There may clearly be utility in

addressing this issue at a broad philosophical level, in the form of a policy that goes beyond "Caring for the Earth", but, it was certainly not the intent of Resolution 18.24.

Resolution 18.24 was drafted mainly with the conservation of wild animal species in mind. It recognized that sustainable use can and does create commercial incentives for protecting the habitats upon which the long term survival of those animals will depend. It equally recognized that the commercial use of animals is opposed by some IUCN members on moral grounds, and that risks of unsustainable use would always be present.

The intent of the requested guidelines was to provide a broad framework within which general concerns could be addressed if a reasonable risk of unsustainable use was apparent or of concern to the community.

It was considered significant by the CSG that crocodilians, which meet your criteria for pests, and are indeed considered so in many parts of the world, may be excluded from IUCN consideration under paragraph 2 of your draft.

When the guidelines are prepared, it is imperative that they be based on real sustainable use programs operating now, and not head toward some idealistic theoretical goal that no current programs could meet. Our immediate problems are here now. We do not have time to wait.

In conclusion, at this stage we suggest that the document should be revised to brief policy statement of about 5 pages. It needs to be high on practicalities and low on philosophical and esoteric issues that can be more appropriately addressed in other forums. It should avoid detailed descriptions of "application" advice which would be better addressed within the guidelines.

I recognize the effort that has gone into the draft to date and sympathize with the magnitude of the problem you have attempted to address. Resolution 18.24 was adopted so that sustainable use can be used as a conservation tool. The information "need" remains for practical guidelines to solve practical problems. Best wishes

Emeritus Prof. H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

Philippines CFI. The following statement on the Philippine situation was discussed and adopted

after minor editorial amendment. Mr. Y. Takehara proposed that this statement be transmitted in a letter to the Philippine and Japanese authorities as quickly as possible and this was agreed.

The CSG expresses its utmost concern and alarm over the present funding crisis faced by CFI and the likely negative impact on the highly endangered Philippine crocodile, *Crocodylus mindorensis*.

The Philippine crocodile is currently one of the most highly endangered crocodilians and the highest priority for action by the CSG and present developments place the last significant population (approximately 400) in immediate danger of extermination.

The crisis concerning the impending discontinuation of the project constitute an emergency situation and the CSG is prepared to do anything in its power to assist the resolution of this problem.

This issue requires high level consultation between the governments concerned and may merit the mobilization of world public and scientific concern to highlight the importance of CFI to the conservation of the endangered Philippine crocodile.

Cruelty in crocodile farms. The following statement was approved:

The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group re-affirms the necessity that humane methods be used in crocodilian farms and ranches in all instances.

The CSG has previously expressed its concern on this issue following a workshop at the 10th meeting of the CSG (1990). The results of which are incorporated in CSG publications.

The CSG urges the use of the most advanced methods for humane killing

of crocodilians and offers the following guidelines:

The CSG recommends that crocodiles be killed by immediate destruction of the brain by either 1) a properly placed bullet from a firearm of suitable calibre or 2) by a captive bolt firearm, or 3) by pithing the brain by inserting a rod proximally into the brain immediately after severance of the spinal column caudal to the brain. These recommendations have been developed in consultation with veterinarians in the CSG who have actively researched this issue.

The CSG recommends that all national and international Associations of crocodilian producers disseminate these recommendations and police their members to encourage compliance with these recommendations.

Promotion of Crocodilian Products. A draft of a resolution prepared in the Workshop on Trade was discussed and after amendments adopted.

Recognizing that economic incentives from sustainable use are essential to encourage the conservation of many species of crocodilians and their habitats, and

Recognizing the present depressed state of world trade in crocodilian skins and products seriously limits the generation of these incentives, and

Noting that some consumer resistance to sustainably derived crocodilian products reflects ignorance of the positive conservation benefits that accrue from legal trade,

Taking note of the importance of the crocodile production industry to indigenous local people, often providing their only cash income,

Further recognizing that producers, traders and manufacturers of crocodilian products can actively

promote conservation, sustainable use and legal trade,

The Crocodile Specialist Group calls upon the crocodilian product industry to actively promote those crocodilian products derived from legal, sustainable trade where the conservation benefits of this trade are unequivocally established.

The CSG further recommends that the industry act collectively and seek the professional advice of public relations experts to pursue a worldwide promotional program.

Conservation of *Crocodylus acutus* in the Dominican Republic. A draft letter to the President and Management Authority was presented and discussed. After amendments it was adopted for transmission to the President with copies to the Management Authority.

President of the Republic
Palacio Nacional
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Dear President Balaguer:

During the 11th Working Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of SSC/IUCN held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 1-7 August, 1992, the CSG Steering Committee was informed of the extremely alarming results of the recent survey of the crocodile population of Lago Enriquillo, D.R., in which it appears that there has been a serious decline in this important crocodile population.

We cannot overstate our alarm and dismay at this very serious situation. The population of crocodiles in Lago Enriquillo is a potentially valuable natural resource for the Dominican Republic and a population of international importance in the continued preservation of this endangered species. The apparent disappearance of the bulk of the population and the failure of reproduction this year constitute an international conservation crisis of the first magnitude. The possibility that this decline is the result of illegal hunting and export of the skins of these animals is of great concern.

The Secretariat of CITES is presently

developing plans for a survey of crocodiles in the Dominican Republic with you, and we would urge that this work be initiated as quickly as possible to assess the situation and provide recommendations to rectify it. We urge you also to take every measure within your power to investigate this matter, to pursue and prosecute any illegal activities that may have occurred, and to provide the resources and personnel to ensure that no further decline of this important crocodile population can occur. The Crocodile Specialist Group can offer all the resources at its disposal to assist this vital conservation task. The conservation of crocodilians is the primary task of the CSG and we cannot afford to lose the Dominican Republic population of the American crocodile. We are fully confident that you recognize the extreme severity of this situation and will take all the steps necessary to rectify it. Please count on us for full support.

Emeritus Prof. H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

CITES Consultant report on Brazilian caiman variation. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the consultant by telephone and received the following information. Many of the field samples submitted had been unsuitable for analysis. Additional field samples had been collected after the consultant had raised additional funds independently, the analysis was now underway and CITES Secretariat could expect a full report before the end of the year. The Chairman then passed further responsibility for follow up on the matter back to the CITES Secretariat and Animals Committee. Obdulio Menghi of CITES questioned why this information had not been provided to the Secretariat by the consultant before now and undertook to pursue the issue directly with the consultant and with the Animals Committee chairman.

Colombia. A draft letter was discussed and adopted.

Dr. Alfonso Lopez Caballero
Minister of Agriculture
Carrera 10 #20-30
Bogota, Colombia

Dear Minister:

At the 11th Meeting of the IUCN Crocodile

Specialist Group, held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (1-8 August 1992) crocodilian conservation management and utilization were discussed at length by the CSG Steering Committee. These discussions involved a delegation of people from Colombia (INDERENA, BANCOLDEX, farmers, researchers), representatives of the CITES Secretariat, CITES Animals Committee, TRAFFIC and experts on crocodilian conservation and management from around the world.

While recognizing the advances that have been made with Colombia's crocodile industry, the CSG is deeply concerned that the wild populations may be being overexploited to provide the industry with stock. The CSG could not support a utilization program based on unsustainable use of wild crocodilian populations, and could not recommend that CITES support international trade in skins derived from such a program.

The CSG is prepared to assist Colombia in its efforts to rectify these problems. However, little can be achieved unless the industry and Government make an unequivocal commitment to the conservation goals that must underpin programs for commercial use of wildlife. Specific areas of CSG concern are:

- 1) There has been no ceiling placed on the number of farms. Many appear to place a heavy demand on the wild for the establishment stock, and as new farms may be based on unrealistic production expectations, the incentive may be created to replenish stocks illegally when, and if, they fail to produce the expected number of hatchlings.

- 2) The establishment of a commercial crocodilian utilization program obliges the Government under CITES to monitor activities both within and outside the farms, yet INDERENA has not been given the extra resources to undertake such monitoring. Any wildlife program based on State control can be expected to fail if no extra resources are made available for it to fulfil its obligations.

- 3) Farming *Caiman crocodilus* through captive breeding is not a lucrative industry-- in fact the economics are marginal relative to other species. For it to be carried out profitably a high level of technical expertise needs to be available to all

farmers, and at present such expertise is not generally available. As a consequence many farms have little if any chance of being profitable. The consequences are serious. Significant Government investment in the industry could be lost, and farms unable to repay loans may turn to the wild population for the extra stocks they need.

4) The conservation benefit of captive breeding is low, whereas that from ranching is potentially high. Furthermore, in many countries the costs of producing crocodiles through ranching is much less than through captive breeding. No steps toward ranching appear to have been taken.

5) Notwithstanding constraints, including civil unrest, there appears to be no program aimed at monitoring wild populations. Harvests from the wild are themselves a potential monitoring tool and ranching programs open many avenues through which monitoring could be undertaken.

6) Although some farms privately fund research, at a national level there is no central research facility which can also serve as an information exchange center. Lack of technical expertise is constraining production on some farms and is thus contributing towards negative commercial viability.

7) The program through which *Crocodylus acutus* is collected from the wild and distributed to farms appears to result in many farms with few *acutus*. The concentration of the endangered *C. acutus* into central locations, where captive breeding can be proceeded with efficiently, and where numerous research programs could be undertaken, clearly desirable. It would also allow stock to be provided for raising. The San Marcos Center is clearly a contribution in this area, but how well is it achieving its goals?

8) There appears to be no program to address the very real conservation problems that may exist with Colombia's other crocodilians, particularly *Crocodylus intermedius* and *Melanosuchus niger*. The status of Colombia's endemic *Caiman c. apaporensis* remains unknown.

Recognizing these difficulties, it is suggested that:

1. No licenses be issued for new farms;

2. Government cease financing farms until commercial viability and appropriate technical expertise can be provided.

3. INDERENA be adequately staffed such that Colombia's management obligations nationally and internationally can be fulfilled. Under CITES there is a requirement for monitoring and enforcement.

4. The status of the crocodilian farming industry in Colombia be quantified and that through simplified reporting procedures and on-farm visits, basic inventories be carried out to establish the numbers of active farms and the composition of stocks held by them.

5. Monitoring programs be developed that address farm stocks, captive breeding, wild harvests and wild stocks such that the Government has an accurate view of all aspects of the industry. This will clearly benefit the international trading situation as importing countries increasingly want assurances that they are not contributing to unsustainable utilization programs.

6. INDERENA and the industry establish a means through which general research can be undertaken for the benefit of all people involved in the industry.

7. The projected restocking program be investigated and rationalized. On the one hand releases to the wild are behind schedule. On the other, there is no point in releasing to the wild if the program is only cosmetic and the released individuals do not survive.

8. Simple operational models be constructed so that individual farmers and Government can evaluate objectively the commercial basis of their operations and direct industry research at the most significant problems.

9. An effective enforcement strategy be developed such that realistic penalties can be applied for actions contrary to the management programs under national legislation.

10. INDERENA examine in detail the options available for ranching with a view to establishing ranching as a central program that adds to captive breeding and extends the conservation

value of the program as a whole.

11. The taking of wild stocks for establishment of farms cease in favour of using captive bred stocks from existing farms.

12. INDERENA approach the CITES Secretariat urgently with a request for support and assistance to undertake some field surveys of wild crocodilians within Colombia.

13. Some resources be allocated to Colombia's other crocodilian species, some of which may be critically endangered.

The CSG looks forward to Colombia's consideration of these issues and would like to emphasize its willingness to assist Colombia in its endeavors.

Emeritus Prof. H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

Honduras crocodilian conservation. The following letter was discussed and, with minor amendments, approved for transmission to the Management Authority.

Secretaria de Recursos Naturales,
Direccion General de Recursos Naturales
Renovables--RENARE
Apartado Postal 309
Tegucigalpa, DC, Honduras

Dear sir:

In 1989 the CSG, in conjunction with CITES, conducted a series of crocodilian surveys in Honduras and submitted detailed recommendations for the management, sustainable use and conservation of crocodilians. Subsequently, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, concrete measures for implementing these proposals were developed, including the development of infrastructure to manage crocodilians, limitations of quotas of wild caught *Caiman crocodilus* to 5,000 annually and complete protection of *Crocodylus acutus* pending the development of ranches and farms for this species.

We have recently learned, to our great concern, that these measures are not being implemented. We have been informed, specifically, that the quota for wild caught caiman

has been increased unilaterally by the management authority to 10,000 annually in spite of the CITES Secretariat's agreement with you. Furthermore, unacceptably large numbers of *Crocodylus acutus* are purportedly being taken incidentally to the *Caiman* harvest. Many of these *C. acutus* are alleged to be used in domestic manufacture of products which are sold for personal export to tourists in violation of both national law and CITES. These deviations from the recommended management plan for crocodilians place the Honduran program in great jeopardy as it is unlikely that your program is sustainable in its present form.

We would be grateful if you would let us know whether the problems we have been informed of are in fact the case, and if so, what actions you are taking to rectify them. We would like to be informed specifically: 1) what is the current annual quota for harvest and export of *Caiman crocodilus*, 2) What is the level of incidental take of *C. acutus* in this harvest, 3) what estimates of illegal domestic use and illegal export of *C. acutus* you can provide, and 4) what measures you are taking to develop the necessary infrastructure to manage crocodilians in Honduras. Based on your response the CSG is prepared to work with you and the CITES Secretariat to ensure the development of a sustainable crocodilian management program in Honduras.

Emeritus Prof. H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

Certification of Captive Breeding facilities for *C. acutus* in Honduras. A proposal for conditions that the CSG could recommend was tabled and discussed but rejected by the Steering Committee as being unnecessarily detailed and not an appropriate response. Extensive and repetitive discussion followed. Shlomi Ranot pointed out that continued refusal of the CSG to deal with this issue would lead to continuing depletion of crocodilians in Honduras. Grahame Webb noted that under present conditions in Honduras removal of crocodiles into captivity might be the best action for conservation, however, it was widely agreed that there was insufficient factual information to make any concrete recommendation at present. The Chairman refocused debate by asking what actions should be implemented now to conserve crocodilians in Honduras? Further discussion identified the

main problem as the ineffectiveness of the Management Authority and it was thought inadvisable to attempt any interim solutions that did not address this fundamental difficulty. It was finally decided to continue with recommendations agreed to earlier. The letter above would be sent, a field investigation of the caiman and crocodile harvest will be conducted with financial backing from Mr. Ranot. Mr. Ranot was further invited to continue discussion with CSG concerning registration of the farm, but this must eventually be in the form of a new proposal from the Management Authority. The Group agreed to review the issue again at its next meeting in Darwin with the new information available at that time.

Italy Trade ban. Following additional discussion and editorial amendments a letter was approved for transmission to the Ministers of Environment and Agriculture

Hon. Carlo Ripa di Meana
Minister of Environment
Piazza Venezia 11
00187 Roma, Italy

Dear Minister:

During the 11th Working Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of SSC/IUCN held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 1-7 August, 1992, the CSG Steering Committee discussed at length the implementation of CITES in Italy as it pertains to crocodilians. These discussions were prompted by the current sanctions recommended by the CITES Standing Committee.

The CSG, which is the primary scientific forum for crocodilian conservation, management and sustainable use around the world, has previously expressed its concerns about Italy's role in the international trade in crocodilian products and inadequate trade controls in Italy. We regret that current events have temporarily curtailed crocodilian trade in Italy but recognize, and support, the necessity for such action. We are therefore extremely pleased to have learned you are now initiating the necessary steps to comply fully with the requirements of the CITES Convention, which Italy ratified in 1979.

We have been informed that the CITES Secretariat has suggested that you conduct an inventory of reptilian skins. The CSG would like to offer its support and assistance to you. Our

group includes experienced international experts in the identification of crocodilians who could assist you should the Italian government decide to conduct an inventory of crocodilian skins. If this is the case, we invite you to reply to us with an estimate of the time and personnel that might be required. We would be prepared to mobilize our members to assist you on the basis that all costs and necessary expenses would be covered by you.

In closing, let me reiterate, on behalf of CSG, our great appreciation for the steps that you are now taking to implement the CITES convention in the spirit of its international conservation goals.

Professor Harry Messel, Chairman CSG.

A proposal from the Trade Workshop to add a paragraph on time limits for the re-entry of Italian skins into trade was discussed and rejected. It was felt that this level of detail lay more properly in the purview of the ongoing, and extremely delicate, negotiations between CITES and Italy and that CSG should not jeopardize valuable progress in this field.

A proposal forwarded from the Trade Workshop for a letter to the Italian leather industry calling on their cooperation in implementing CITES was discussed. A draft letter was tabled and, after extensive modification, was adopted to be sent to the four trade representative groups in Italy:

Unione Italiana Industria Conciaria (UNIC).
Associazione Nazionale Calzaturifici Italiani.
Assoc. Italiana Manifattura Pelli e Succedanei.
Assoc. Nazionale Commercianti Grossisti Pelli e Cuoi.

Gentlemen:

The 11th Working Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of SSC/IUCN was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 1-7 August, 1992. The meeting was attended by crocodile industry representatives from around the world, many of whom are members of the CSG. The current situation in Italy was discussed at length although, unfortunately, no industry representative from Italy was present.

The CSG recognizes the considerable effort being taken by the Italian government to further revise and improve the implementation of

CITES. This would clearly be enhanced with your industry's assistance.

Now, more than ever, those involved in the commercial use of crocodilians are combining with those interested in crocodilian conservation to achieve their mutual goals. The Italian skin and leather industry is one of the most important groups involved in the crocodilian trade in the world, but to date they have been only minimally involved in international efforts to promote sustainable use and legal trade. The CSG would welcome the participation of the Italian industry representatives in our group. In fact we see it as a vital form of involvement given the important role Italy plays in the industry.

The CSG firmly supports the sustainable use of crocodilians for commercial purposes because it provides a major incentive for their conservation in many countries. We invite you to join our efforts and look forward to your reply.

Professor Harry Messel, Chairman, CSG

Universal Tagging of Crocodilian Skins. A revised resolution prepared by the small working group was presented for approval by the CSG Steering Committee and forwarding to CITES Animals Committee. This document specifies the details of implementing the Universal tagging requirement and the CITES secretariat will call for Parties to nominate approved tag manufacturers

Implementation of Res. Conf. 8.14 on a Universal Tagging System for the Identification of Crocodilian Skins

RECOGNIZING that Res. Conf. 8.14 recommends the implementation by the Parties of a universal tagging system for crocodilian skins and parts within one year after the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Res. Conf. 8.14 directs the CITES Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, to develop a practical tracking system for monitoring tags used in trade;

NOTING that additional specifications on the design of tags to be used in the universal tagging system should assist the Secretariat and CITES parties in their efforts to track crocodilian skins in trade;

THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS

a) that as specified in Res. Conf. 8.14, all tags used in the universal tagging system must:

- i. be non-reusable and of a self locking design;
- ii. be heat resistant and inert to chemical and mechanical processing; and in addition, must:
- iii. be cold resistant to -40 degrees Fahrenheit;
- iv. have a minimum locked breaking strength of 150 lbs or 68 kg;
- v. be of sufficient size to be permanently stamped alphanumerically with the International Organization for Standardization two letter code for the country of origin, a unique serial identification number, a species code, and the year of production; and
- vi. be stamped with sufficient color contrast so as to be easily readable;

b) that such tags must be permanently attached to the crocodilian skin at or before the time of export;

c) that initially, only whole or substantially whole crocodilian skins, belly skins and flanks in raw or processed form shall be required to bear a tag;

d) that, no later than 15 March 1993, the CITES Secretariat shall establish and amend periodically thereafter, in consultation with the Animals Committee, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, and other experts, including industry representatives, as necessary, a list of approved companies capable of manufacturing tags that meet the minimum requirements specified in a) above. In producing such a list the Secretariat shall first notify the Parties of the minimum tag requirements and solicit their input on appropriate manufacturing companies;

e) that each tag manufacturing company approved by the Secretariat must first agree in writing to the Secretariat that it will: i) not duplicate any series of tags produced in accordance with Conf. Res 8.14; ii) sell such tags only to Management Authorities or government agencies of non-party states recognized by the Secretariat in accordance with Conf. Res 8.8 or to bodies approved by the Management Authorities; and iii) report directly and immediately to the Secretariat each order for tags fulfilled upon request by any Management Authority, recognized agency or body;

f) that no later than 1 April 1993 the Secretariat shall notify and distribute to the Parties the list of approved companies, and after receipt of such notification, each Management Authority or appropriate government agency with each Party shall purchase crocodilian skin tags only from companies approved by the Secretariat;

g) that no later than three months after this notification by the Secretariat, all Parties shall begin using the universal tagging system for all raw and processed skin exports and re-exports;

h) that, upon request by a Management Authority, the Secretariat shall purchase and distribute tags for crocodilian skins on the basis of full cost recovery;

i) that when ordering tags from approved companies, Management Authorities shall immediately inform the Secretariat of the details of each order placed;

j) that Parties which have purchased tags before the universal tagging system is in place shall inform the Secretariat of the number of such tags still in use and plans for phasing out their use;

k) that the Secretariat shall communicate this information to all the Parties;

REQUESTS

l) that, in order to effectively implement Res. Conf. 8.14 all re-exporting Parties possessing stocks of legally-acquired untagged crocodilian skins cooperate with the Secretariat to inventory such stocks, and that prior to re-export, such legally-acquired skins should be independently tagged by the relevant Management Authority in collaboration with the Secretariat, and that all such skins should bear non-reusable tags which are distinct from all other tags used to identify legal origin;

m) that the Secretariat notify the Parties of any such tags used for re-export of crocodilian skins;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS

n) that Management Authorities of exporting, re-exporting, and importing countries of tagged crocodilian skins submit to the Secretariat on a regular basis, preferably monthly, copies of all export permits and re-export certificates and accompanying documents for each shipment, and

that such permits, certificates and documents contain the information specified in Res. Conf. 8.14;

o) that, to the maximum extent possible and within existing resources, the Secretariat computerize the information contained in the document packages referred to in n) above, including tag numbers or tag number sequences;

URGES

a) the Secretariat to request Management Authorities to identify all facilities processing and/or tanning crocodilian skins under their jurisdictions and monitor these facilities to ensure compliance with the requirements of Res. Conf. 8.14 and these procedures, and where possible, to track the number of skins processed by these facilities;

b) the Secretariat, in its review of CITES resolutions, to identify areas of redundancy in crocodilian skin marking requirements, particularly with regard to Res. Conf. 5.16;

c) the Secretariat, in consultation with the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, review implementation of the universal crocodilian tagging system, including information and funding needs associated with the tracking and administering of tags, and report its findings to the Animals Committee in advance of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

d) all Parties and nongovernmental organizations to seek funding to enable the Secretariat to fully develop and implement an effective crocodilian skin trade tracking system;

e) manufacturers to explore the feasibility of developing a tag of suitably small size containing a standardized and durable bar coding identification system.

The chairman thanked the working group of J. Hutton, D. Jelden and H. Jenkins, and especially Ginette Hemley for her very able direction of the group. He noted that this issue was initiated by the CSG at the meeting in 1990 and that this document was bringing to a conclusion one of the most important recommendations the Group had made to control legal trade in crocodilian skins

India. Mr. Harry Andrews made a brief presentation on the situation of crocodilian conservation in the Indian subcontinent. Over 10,000 *C. palustris* were held in captive breeding facilities and captive breeding and restocking has completely broken down due to the reluctance of provincial authorities to allow any further restocking. Most facilities were now

destroying all eggs produced as there were no facilities to raise the hatchlings. The salt water crocodile was under severe pressure from habitat destruction and illegal poaching. *C. porosus* were alleged to be poached by Thai and Taiwanese fishermen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and illegally transported as either skins or live animals to those countries. The gharial continues to be critically endangered in Bangladesh and Pakistan and progress in India and Nepal, and in particular the success of restocking and protection programs was in some contention. The very great difficulties of communication and coordination in this region were cited. A proposal has been made to hold a regional meeting for the subcontinent in early 1993 to try and improve communications and gather information. A recent set of recommendations from the IUCN Indian Subcontinent Reptile and Amphibian Group is being forwarded to CSG.

Discussion ensued on the discrepancy between Mr. Andrews report and other information sent to CSG, particularly to the NEWSLETTER. A question was raised as to whether the NEWSLETTER information was current. It appears that CSG receives better information from India than representatives in India provide to each other. The possibility of Indian participants attending the Darwin Regional Meeting was discussed but it seems likely that financial constraints will prevent this. After discussion the Group acknowledged that the Indian region appeared to be having

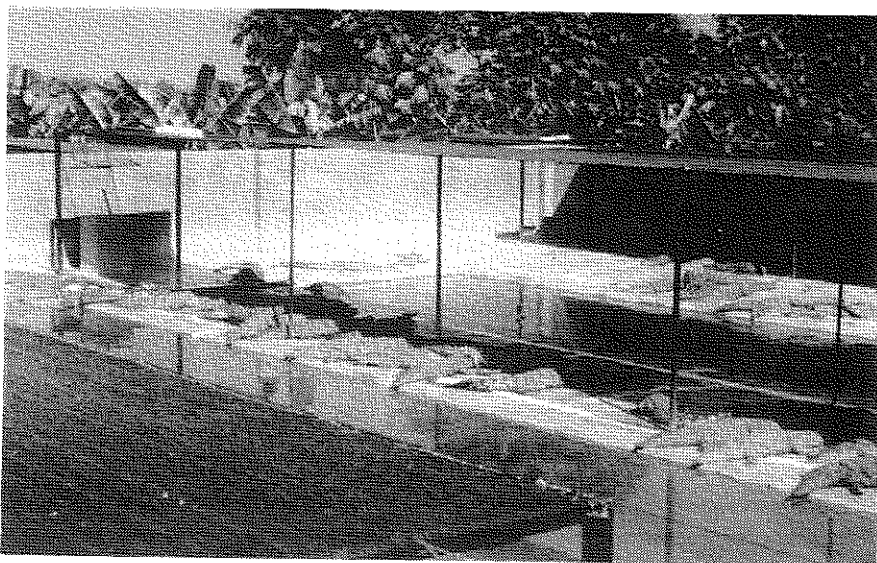


CSG members on post meeting safari. l to r- C. Koh, T. Yamanaka, N. Ishii, S. Brown, K. v. Jaarsveldt - P. Ross photo

problems and that additional information was necessary before any action could be taken. Mr. Andrews was encouraged to convene a Regional Meeting and pass the information received to CSG. It was further recommended that members of the CSG Steering Committee in transit to Asia for the Indonesian and Thailand Review Committees and the Darwin meeting attempt to stop over in India to assess the situation. It was also strongly recommended that representatives from the region attend the Darwin Regional Meeting.

12th Working Meeting of the CSG. The next Working Meeting will be held at Pattaya, Thailand, in the first week of May 1994. The chairman expressed thanks again to the Crocodile Management Association of Thailand for hosting the next meeting. An invitation for the following (13th Working Meeting) had already been received. Brazil and Argentina had transmitted a joint invitation through the CITES Secretariat for the CSG to hold the 13th Working Meeting at Iguazu Falls at the border of these two countries. The Chairman thanked Brazil and Argentina for this preliminary invitation, noting the great importance of the Latin American region for crocodilian conservation and the impending changes in crocodilian management and trade from the region.

The meeting closed its deliberations at 6.15 pm.



Grow out pens at Binga Crocodile Farm, Zimbabwe, 1.5 -- 2m *C. niloticus* are 2-3 years old.

AREA REPORTS



EASTERN ASIA & OCEANIA

Philippines:

CFI PROJECT CONTINUED. Following the discussions at the CSG Steering Committee meeting, and the letter despatched to the relevant authorities (page 7 above) the following very gratifying response was received:

We are pleased to inform you that an agreement has been reached between the Philippine Government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) for the 2-year extension of the Crocodile Farming Institute Project for 1993-94. Relative to this the DENR has included in its budgetary proposal the amount P 7.2 M as Philippine Government counterpart for the operations of CFI. This amount, however, is still subject to approval by the Philippine Congress.

Our office, the CITES Management

Authority of the Philippines, is also doing its part to assist the Crocodiles Farming Project. We are currently preparing a proposal for the registration of the Project with CITES as an accredited farm so that commercial utilization of progenies can be allowed. We have also recommended the proclamation of Lake Manguao as a crocodile sanctuary to further strengthen our

crocodile conservation program.

Very Truly yours,

Samuel R. Peñafiel, *Director, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, DENR, Republic of the Philippines.*

Vanuatu:

SURVEY AND RECOVERY PLAN. Vanuatu, an independent nation of over 300 small islands stretching south east of New Guinea (formerly the New Hebrides), represents the easternmost range extension of the *Crocodylus porosus*. A report published in 1989 by M. Chambers and D. Esrom of the Ministry of Lands, Vanuatu, suggested that the crocodiles were seriously depleted, the remaining population was too small for self sustained breeding, and the natural extinction of this population should be allowed to proceed (See NEWSLETTER 10(2):5 for background). This conclusion was challenged by the CSG and in August 1992, Professor Harry Messel, Chairman of the CSG, accompanied by Prof. Wayne King, Mr. Paul Slade and Vanuatan residents Mr. Ernest Bani and Mr. Aaron Hanghangkon, conducted a preliminary survey of northern Banks Island group, thought to be the last area where crocodiles occurred. The survey was supported by the Hermon Slade Foundation, Australia, Conservation International of the USA and the Nagao Foundation of Japan. The survey sighted a single 14-16 foot crocodile in the course of examining four short creeks totalling 5.45 km of habitat that comprise the majority of habitat

Steering Committee of the Crocodile Specialist Group

For further information on the CSG and its programs, on crocodile conservation, biology, management, farming, ranching, or trade, contact the appropriate officer on the Steering Committee:

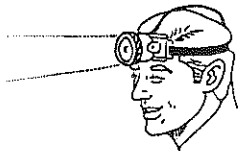
- Chairman:** Prof. Harry Messel, School of Physics, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. Tel: (61) 2 692 3383 Fax: (61) 2 660 2903. **Deputy Chairman:** Prof. F. Wayne King, and **Executive Officer,** Dr. J. Perran Ross, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA. Tel: (1) 904 392 1721 Fax: (1) 904 392 9367.
- Africa:** Vice Chairman: Dr. Jon Hutton, 16 Cambridge Ave., Highlands, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel: (263) 4 739 163 Fax: (263) 4 708 554. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Olivier Behra, c/o BIODÉV, Lot VX, 18, Andrefandrova, Antananarivo, Madagascar. Tel: (261) 2 28651 Fax: (261) 2 28651
- Eastern Asia, Australia and Oceania:** Vice Chairman: Dr. Grahame J.W. Webb, P.O. Box 38151, Winnellie, NT 5789, Australia. Tel: (61) 89 892 355 Fax: (61) 89 470 678. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Brian Vernon, Mainland Holdings Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 196, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Tel: (675) 42 6503 Fax: (675) 42 6172. **Dr. Robert Jenkins,** Australian National Parks & Wildlife, GPO Box 636, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia. Tel: (616) 250 0270 Fax: (616) 250 0274. **Koh Chon Ton,** Heng Long Leather Co., 50 Defu Lane 7, Singapore 1953. Tel: (65) 282 2622 Fax: (65) 284 8209. **Dr. Yono C. Raharjo,** Research Institute for Animal Production, Balai Penelitian Ternak, P.O. Box 123, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. Tel & Fax: (622) 513 21548. **Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn,** Wildlife Research Laboratory, Dept. of Zoology, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Bangkok 10900, Thailand. Tel: (662) 579 1022 Fax: (662) 247 9236.
- Western Asia:** Vice Chairman: Romulus Whitaker, Madras Crocodile Bank, Post Bag No. 4, Mamallapuram 603 104 Tamil Nadu, India. Fax: (91) 44 491 0910. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Dr. Lala A.K. Singh, Project Tiger, Simlipal Tiger Reserve, Khairi-Jashipur, Orissa, India 757091. **Harry Andrews,** Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Post Bag No. 4, Mamallapuram 603 104 Tamil Nadu, India. Fax: (91) 44 491 0910.
- Europe:** Vice Chairman: Dr. Dietrich Jelden, Ernährung und Forstwirtschaft, Artenschutz, Ref 28, - Wissenschaftliche Behörde-Mallwitzstr. 1-3, 5300 Bonn 2, Germany Tel: (49) 228 954 3435 Fax: (49) 228 954 3470.
- Latin America and the Caribbean:** Vice Chairman: Juan Villalba-Macias, TRAFFIC (Sudamerica), Carlos Roxlo 1496/301, Montevideo, Uruguay. Tel: & Fax: (598) 2 493 384. **Aida Luz Aquino-Shuster,** Oficina de CITES-PY, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Victor Haedo 741, Ed. Arasa I, 7mo. piso. Asuncion, Paraguay. Tel: (595) 21 443444 Fax: (595) 21 491 238. **Bernardo Ortiz von Halle,** Jefe Div. Fauna Terrestre, INDERENA, Caratera 10 No. 20-30, Bogota, Colombia. Tel: (571) 283 3009 Fax: (571) 283 3458. **Sergio Trachter,** Techno Caiman Ltda., Quadra 5, Casa 15, Jardim Petropolis, Cuiaba, MS Brazil. Tel: (65) 322 6866 Fax: (65) 627 1042. **Lic. Alvarao J. Velasco B.,** PROFAUNA, Ed. Camejo, Entrada Oeste, Mezzanina, Centro Simon Bolivar, Caracas 1010, Venezuela. Fax: (582) 545 3912
- North America:** Vice Chairman: Ted Joanen, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Rt. 1, Box 20-B, Grand Chenier, LA 70643, USA Tel: (1) 318 538 2165 Fax: (1) 318 491 2595. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Dennis David, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission Research Lab, 4005 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA Tel: (1) 904 336 2230 Fax: (1) 904 376 5359.
- Science:** Vice Chairman: Prof. Mark W. J. Ferguson, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, Coupland III Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom. Tel: (44) 61 275 6775. Fax: (44) 61 275 6776. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Dr. Valentine A. Lance, San Diego Zoo, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112, USA Tel: (1) 619 557 3944 Fax: (1) 619 231 0249.
- Trade:** Vice Chairman: Kevin van Jaarsveldt, P.O. Box 129, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. Tel: (263) 31 2751 Fax: (263) 31 2782. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Philippe Roggwiller, Tanneries des Cuirs d'Indochine et de *Continued over:-* Madagascar, 59 Rue du Faubourg, St. Martin, Steering Committee continued. 75010 Paris, France. Tel: (33) 1 4203 2680 Fax: (33) 1 4238 3855. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Toshio Yamanaka, President, Yamatoshi Hikaku Company Ltd., 12-50, Ueno-Kouen, Taito-Ku, Tokyo 110, JAPAN. Tel: (813) 3 824 1571 Fax: (813) 3 823 1972.
- Trade Monitoring:** Vice Chairman: Ginette Hemley, TRAFFIC USA, 1250 24th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, USA Tel: (1) 202 778 9605 Fax: (1) 202 775 8287. **Deputy Vice Chairman:** Richard Luxmoore, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219C Huntington Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, U.K. Tel: (44) 223 277 314 Fax: (44) 223 277 136. **Marco Pani,** TRAFFIC Europe, C/O WWF Italy, Via Salaria 290, 00199 Rome, Italy. Tel: (396) 841 1721 Fax: (396) 841 3132.
- IUCN:** Species Survival Commission Chairman: Dr. George Rabb, Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, IL 60513, USA Tel: (1) 708 485 0263 Fax: (1) 708 485 3532. **Program Director, Sustainable Use of Wildlife:** Dr. Stephen Edwards, IUCN-US, 1400 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036, USA Tel: (1) 202 797 5454 Fax: (1) 202 797 5461
- CITES Observers:** Dr. Obdulio Menghi, Scientific Coordinator & Jaques Berney, Deputy Secretary General, CITES Secretariat, Case Postale 78, CH-1000 Lausanne 9, Switzerland. Tel: (41) 21 200 081 Fax: (41) 21 200 084.

available. The survey thus confirmed that crocodiles are not yet extinct but are perilously depleted and may no longer constitute a breeding population.

After discussions with local landowners, and with the vital support of the Goodwill Training Center, and its director, Father Luke Titinsom Dini, a plan has been developed to assist local people to replenish and conserve local natural resources (including crocodiles) and manage the area on a sustainable basis, as a conservation region. The plan involves restocking local species that are used by the residents, including coconut crabs, lobsters (*Panulirus*), green snails, trochus, giant clams and crocodiles. Private funding for this local conservation initiative has been pledged by the Hermon Slade Foundation, Conservation International and several individuals including Professor Messel, Professor King, Mr. A. Harmano and Mr. N. Ishii. The rapid survey, prompt financing and wholehearted involvement of local leaders and government has enabled the almost immediate establishment of this model small scale program for conservation.

-- *Extracted from the survey report by Professor H. Messel, University of Sydney and Bond University, Queensland, Australia and Professor F. Wayne King, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.*

PERSONALS



Longtime CSG member, Professor Angel C. Alcalá, former President of Silliman University,

Philippines, was recently presented with the prestigious RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD for public service. Alcalá was elected for this award in recognition 'of his pioneering scientific leadership in rehabilitating coral reefs of the Philippines and in sustaining for Filipinos the natural abundance of their country's marine life.' The Magsaysay Award, often termed 'Southeast Asia's Nobel Prize', was presented to Professor Alcalá by Fidel Ramos, President of the Philippines, on 31 August 1992 and is accompanied by a substantial monetary tribute, some of which has already been used to improve juvenile Philippine crocodile housing at Silliman University.

Earlier in August, Professor Alcalá was

invited by President Ramos to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and was sworn in in September.

Media coverage of Professor Alcalá during August was extensive and it was noted that most television and newspaper articles mentioned his success in breeding Philippine endangered species in captivity, particularly *Crocodylus mindorensis*. The Chairman and members of the CSG congratulate Professor Alcalá on these well deserved honors and look forward to working with him, in his capacity as Secretary of DENR, for crocodilian conservation. -- C.A. Ross, *Dept. Vertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC 20560, USA.*

Dr. Jon Hutton and his wife Jill proudly announced the (somewhat delayed) arrival of their third daughter, who was born 26 August 1992. The child thoughtfully withheld her arrival until after the CSG Working Meeting in Zimbabwe, depriving the Meeting of an excuse for yet another party, but much to the relief of her father. Our very best wishes to all the Hutton family.

Dr. Norman Scott announces his new address at Piedras Blancas Research Station, Post Office Box 70, San Simeon, California 93452, USA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IUCN-CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP, DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, 1993. This meeting for the Eastern Asia, Oceania and Australasian region will be hosted by the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory in Darwin, Australia, 12-19 March 1993.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS ENCLOSED - Prospective participants should return a registration form immediately. To receive additional information contact: Jan Peters, CSG Conference Coordinator, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, P.O. Box 496, Palmerston N.T. 0831, Australia. Phone 618 989 4449, Fax 618 932 3849.