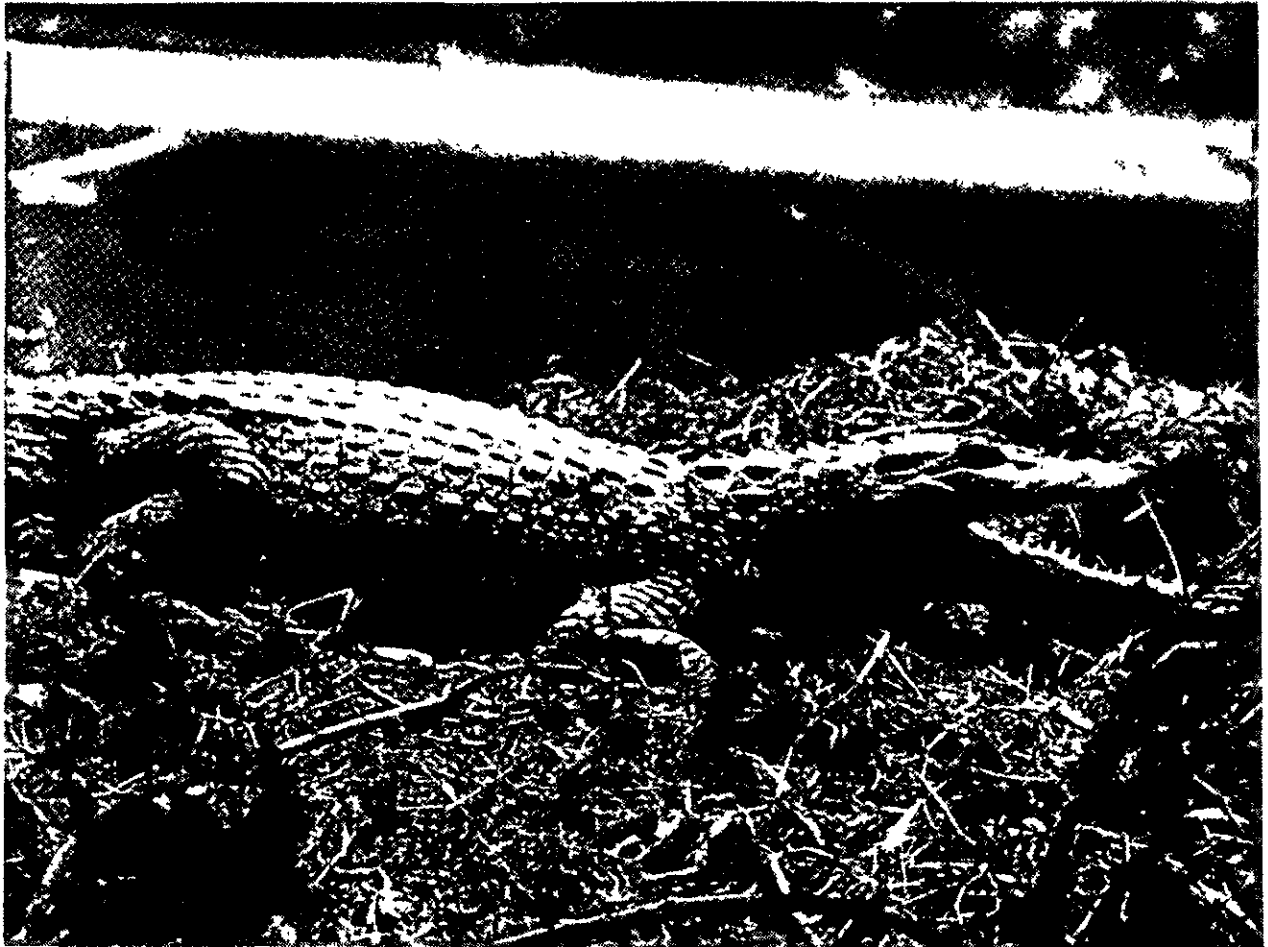


CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 No. 1 ■ JANUARY 1992 - MARCH 1992



IUCN World Conservation Union ■ Species Survival Commission

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IUCN--The World Conservation Union
Species Survival Commission

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COVER PHOTO: Adult *Crocodylus mindorensis* in the breeding pens at CFI, Palawan, Philippines, see page 19. W. King photo.

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:

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, FL, U.S.A.

Yoichi Takehara, Horiuchi Trading Co., Tokyo, Japan.

Ken Ogiso, Stock Kojima, Tokyo, Japan.

JLIA 'CITES' Promotion Committee, Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. John G. Mahler, Dallas, TX, USA.

World Wildlife Fund / USA, Washington, DC, U.S.A.

Walter Herd, Offenbach (Main), Germany.

Koh Chon Tong, Heng Long Leather Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore.

Center for Marine Conservation, Washington, DC, U.S.A.

Utai Youngprapakorn, Samutprakan Crocodile Farm, Samutprakan, Thailand.

Noboru Ishii, Takara Tsusho Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.

Toshio Yamanaka, Yamatoshi Hikaku Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.

Shlomi Ranot, Clal Crocodile Farms Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel.

Helene Arpels, Inc., New York, NY, USA.

Luc Benoit, Inc., New York, NY, USA.

Reptilartenschutz, Offenbach am Main, Germany.

Harry Freeman, Hartleys Creek Crocodile Farm, Queensland, Australia.

Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, SC, U.S.A.

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

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

Tadashi Kataoka, Inoue & Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.

Crocodile Farmers Association of Indonesia, Jayapura, Indonesia.

Paul H. Slade, Nell and Hermon Slade Trust,
Mona Vale, Australia.
Tom E. Crutchfield, Herpetofauna Inc.,
Bushnell, FL, U.S.A.
F. Wayne King, Gainesville, FL, USA.
Kurt Preiss, Reptilia Inc., Miami, Florida,
U.S.A.
IUCN-World Conservation Union, Gland,
Switzerland.
Prof. Harry Messel, School of Physics, University
of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
Wayne Sagrera, Vermilion Gator Farms,
Abbeville, LA, U.S.A.
Robert and Ellen Young, Classic Skins,
Thonotosassa, FL, U.S.A.
Terry Cullen, Cullen Vivarium, Milwaukee, WI,
U.S.A.
David B. Haire, III, American Tanning &
Leather Co., Griffin, GA, U.S.A.
Gabriel & Miguel Rey Lopez, Hacienda el
Molino Ltda., Bogotá, Colombia.
Jonathan Politano, Miami Beach, FL, U.S.A.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES took place in Kyoto Japan 2-13 March 1992 and numerous important decisions were made that will directly affect many CSG members. Researchers, management authorities, farmers and traders will all need to be aware of the new regulations. To make this vital information available to CSG members this issue of the NEWSLETTER is devoted completely to reporting the CITES meeting. Materials submitted on other topics, and the 1991 literature review, will appear in a later issue.

CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE, MINUTES, 29 FEBRUARY 1992, KYOTO, JAPAN

Present: H. Messel (Chairman), G. Hemley, J. Hutton, N. Ishii, R. Luxmoore, P. Ross, G. Webb, CITES Observers: J. Berney, O. Menghi. Observers: Y. Takahara, Y. Kaneko, T. Inoue, S.

Sano, T. Tanabe, Y. Kobuchi, H. Tokonaga, Giam C.H., Koh C.T., Leong H.K., Koh C.H., Kwan M.W., Kwan K.W., A. Bari, T. Saleh, W. Ramono, Y. Raharjo, S. Pakoewibowo, M. Yoshinaga, J. Cox, S. Nash, C. Youngprapakorn, N. Youngprapakorn, P. Ratanakorn, S. Kokonutakorn, A. Gaski, H. Kelly, C. Bishop, J. Jackson, D. Morgan, H. Jenkins.

H. Messel opened the meeting at 9.03. A progress report on response to subscriptions for the Newsletter was presented by the Executive Officer. Of 657 invitations sent out with the Newsletter in late January, 17 responses were received. Of these, 7 sent the \$40 Newsletter donation, two sent \$40 and an additional \$500, and 8 requested continued Newsletter subscription without making a donation. Total revenue to date was \$1,390 which would pay for production of one newsletter. [Results as of 15 April are 67 returns, 54% making donations and \$3,300 donated. -- Eds]

A financial report for calendar year 1991 was presented by the executive officer. After beginning the year with \$11,765.68, revenues of \$71,469.44 and expenses of \$63,376.52 were reported, leaving a balance of \$19,858.60 at year end. Expenses and revenues were quite close to budget estimates and the small excess of revenues gave the CSG operating funds to carry into 1992. An expense item of \$1,600 for "Bank fees" was explained as charges levied by the University of Florida Foundation where we deposit our funds. The advantages received from the Foundation were accounting and banking services and tax exempt status in the US and these charges could be offset against interest earned on our account. Unfortunately, poor performance of the Foundation's investment account last year resulted in low interest earnings but this could be reversed if economic conditions generally improve. Alternative banking support services were also being investigated. Jon Hutton asked if the capital assets of the CSG such as computers shouldn't be reported and depreciated as per normal business practice and the executive officer agreed to do so in future.

A planning budget for 1992 was presented incorporating changes made by the Steering Committee last November. The planning budget anticipates expenses totaling \$68,498 to be met by estimated revenues of \$68,500. Expenditures for the first two months of 1992 exceeded

**Crocodile Specialist Group
Annual Financial Report, Jan - Dec 1991**

Actual revenues and expenses as of 15 February 1992

	Projected 1991	Actual 1991
Revenues		
Donations	\$50,000	\$55,307.00
Interest	2,000	536.06
Sales	3,000	3,575.51
Misc.,	5,000	6,253.00
Fees for Services	5,000	5,797.87
Total Revenues	\$65,000	\$71,469.44
Expenses		
Salaries Staff		28,275.00
Benefits		7,928.48
Consultants & casual		1,100.00
Office		
Phone & Fax		1,950.00
Mail		5,415.93
Supplies		1,392.20
Misc.		185.80
Equipment		
Capital (\$500+)		0.00
Disposable		141.68
Repair		0.00
Publications		
Photo developing, film		169.05
Printing and Copying		5,578.82
Travel		
Airfares		5,125.00
Other travel expenses		104.56
Accomms & Meals		4,379.07
Miscellaneous		
Bank fees, charges		1,630.93
Total Expenses 1991		\$63,376.52

Summary

Balance at 1 Jan 1991	\$11,765.68
Total Revenues 1991	\$71,469.44
Total expenses 1991	\$63,376.52
Balance at 31 Dec 1991	\$19,858.60

[Totals adjusted to end of year 1991. Small discrepancies appear between this report and preceding quarterly reports due to changed (and improved) allocation of expenses to various categories.]

**Crocodile Specialist Group
BUDGET 1992**

Projected revenues and expenses in \$ US, 1 Jan 1992 - 30 Dec 1992. Revised November 1991, Jan 1992.

Revenues Estimated	
Current donors	\$55,000
Interest	1,000
Sales	3,000
Newsletter subscriptions	4,500
Fees for Services	5,000
Total Revenues	\$68,500
Expenses.	
Salaries Staff	30,000
Benefits	10,648
Consultants and Casual	250
Office	
Phone and Fax	2,000
Mail	5,500
Supplies	1,500
Equipment	
Capital	3,000
Disposable	200
Repair	500
Publications	
Newsletter (4 issues)	5,500
Travel	
Airfares	3,800
Other transportation	800
Accomms & Meals	3,000
Miscellaneous	
Bank fees, charges	1,800
Total General Operations	\$68,498

\$20,000 including expenses of the Kyoto trip, a laptop computer and the last Newsletter, and the current CSG balance was only \$6,494.97. The chairman emphasized yet again his gratitude to patrons who support the CSG and reiterated the need for continued fundraising. It was agreed to publish the financial reports in the Newsletter. The chairman and Steering Committee endorsed a statement by Jon Hutton congratulating the executive officer for his extremely clear reporting

of the group's financial affairs.

The chairman reported that the Crocodile Action plan was supposed to have been printed and copies brought to Kyoto but had not yet been received from the IUCN delegation. IUCN had agreed to mail copies of the action plan directly to all CSG members and additional copies would be available for the Steering Committee and Gainesville office. (Copies of the action plan were received the next day.)

Zimbabwe meeting. Response to the call for papers for the meeting were slow, and in particular very few abstracts had been received from the African region, which was surprising. However, it was expected that late submissions would be forthcoming and a full program was confidently expected. Jon Hutton reported on organizational progress which was well advanced. Over 300 advanced registrations were received but confirmed registrations with hotel reservations were also rather slow in coming back to the organizing office in Zimbabwe. Jon presented a very handsome meeting letterhead developed for the meeting and the first issue of a Delegate Newsletter that would be distributed to keep delegates informed of meeting plans. The great urgency of finalizing travel and hotel reservations before the Zimbabwe tourist rush closed out all seats and rooms was stressed. Jon reported that the meeting registration fee of \$100 dollars was insufficient to cover all the expenses but if additional fees of \$25 for Proceedings and \$25 for the cocktail party and the barbecue could be charged then his budget would balance. It was agreed that the charge of \$150 was reasonable and provided some flexibility for contingencies. A full schedule of events was presented including social events and field trips. This will be circulated in the Newsletter.

Mr. Howard Kelly of the Crocodile Farmers Association of South Africa repeated CFAS invitation to delegates to visit South Africa after the Zimbabwe meeting and described arrangements that his group had planned. He asked for assistance in scheduling this visit to coordinate with the Zimbabwe schedule and Mr. Kelly, Jon Hutton and Perran Ross were instructed to work out a compatible schedule which Mr. Kelly could advertise to delegates and could appear in the CSG Newsletter.

Philippines report. Professor Messel presented a written report on the workshop at the Palawan Crocodile Farming Institute held

just three days previously. The chairman expressed his conviction that CFI had among the best crocodile research facilities in the world for captive breeding crocodiles and described it as an excellent establishment with enormous potential for good work. Extracts from this report are presented on page 19 below.

Mr. Y. Takehara responded on behalf of Japanese Leather Association and JICA thanking Prof. Messel and the other workshop members for their effort. He outlined the organizational structure of CFI which is advised and supported by Mr. Saiko Akira and Mr. Takehara in their capacities with both the JLIA CITES promotional committee and as advisors directly to JICA. He expressed great satisfaction that after some time of poorly informed negative criticism of the project the CSG had come forward with the first reliable assessment that had led to an affirmation of the good work being done at CFI. He requested that this good report be well publicized during the CITES meeting so that the well deserved credit for the operation could be widely recognized. He stated that such positive image building would help JLIA in its progress toward developing similar projects elsewhere in the world.

Hank Jenkins drew the attention of the meeting to two proposals before the current CITES meeting containing language suggesting that captive breeding and closed cycle farming had no conservation benefits. Given the obvious benefits revealed in the Philippines project it was agreed that this language was too restrictive and CSG needed to intervene during the proposal drafting sessions to change the wording to a more favorable form.

Chinese alligator farms. Prof. Messel described the very rapid response to the Steering Committee's concerns on the Chinese alligator farming proposal made possible by the concerted efforts of Dietrich Jelden and Brian Vernon of Mainland Holdings, PNG, who arranged funding, Professor Wang Sung of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who facilitated permits, and the field team of Grahamme Webb and Brian Vernon. He noted the very rapid production of their detailed report which is summarized on page 17.

After discussion of the report, the meeting agreed that the CSG should recommend that the CITES Secretariat approve the certification of the Chinese alligator farms. The recommended proposal for a special marketing program

emphasizing the conservation benefits of the program required more careful development but would be pursued by CSG. The chairman took the opportunity to express his conviction that the present time and opportunity of the CITES meeting was a strategic opportunity to become proactive on the issue of opposition to sustainable use by some organizations. He questioned the motivation of groups who made big publicity events out of opposing sustainable use of wildlife when such use was demonstrably well designed and had conservation benefits. Such opposition constituted an anti-conservation action and often seemed to be motivated toward gaining money from a misinformed and credulous public. Issues such as the very favorable conservation benefits of the Chinese farming program should be used to refute and expose the anti-conservation stance of the anti sustainable use argument.

Caiman Trade and Singapore. Prof. Messel reviewed the recent events following Singapore's withdrawal of its reservation on *Caiman crocodilus*. Prof. Messel formally thanked the Singapore authorities, Dr. Giam and Mr. Koh for their efforts in bringing about this very positive development. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the steadfast manner that our colleagues in both Singapore and Japan have honored the undertakings they have given him concerning improvements in crocodylian trade. However, a remaining unresolved issue is the request of the Secretariat and of the South American parties that Singapore conduct an inventory of existing stocks in conjunction with the withdrawal of their resolution.

Dr. Giam Hoo Choo, head of the Singapore management authority thanked Prof. Messel and the CSG for their assistance and for the opportunity to attend the Steering Committee meeting. He noted that Singapore now has no remaining CITES reservations and expressed his hope that in response to Singapore's action, Paraguay and the South American co-sponsors would withdraw the draft resolution calling for trade bans in caiman products from Singapore. He stated that Singapore was ready to play a positive role in international conservation and would support CSG positions on captive breeding and sustainable use. He asked the CSG for assistance with advice on humane killing of crocodiles, which, while not a CITES issue, was of concern to Singapore. Dr. Giam noted that

Singapore had acted in a completely legal manner with respect to both CITES and Singapore law and was disappointed in false statements about illegal activities by Singapore. Jaques Berney of CITES Secretariat responded to Dr. Giam noting that Singapore's withdrawal of its reservation had met the bulk of the Paraguay resolution requirements but the continuing problem of inventory and disposal of existing stocks must be addressed. Such problems were complex but required resolution in order to allow Singapore to fully comply with the requirements for legal trade in the future. He noted the similarity to the problem of ivory stocks that had been satisfactorily resolved. Mr Y. Takehara, representing JLIA expressed concern from the Japanese perspective that stocks of skins originating from illegal sources might be traded in the future. The increased sensitivity of the Japanese public to endangered species trade issues was causing the industry to be very careful to avoid any appearance of improper trade.

In extensive discussion the complex nature of pre-reservation withdrawal stocks was examined. Such stocks are legal under Singapore law but as some stocks lack original export documents from their country of origin they cannot be re-exported. It was noted that such stocks would only be a problem if they were traded to another CITES party. Dr. Giam asked for assurance that CITES Secretariat did want an inventory and if it were conducted that the inventoried stocks could be made legal and enter trade. Jaques Berney responded that the legalization of stocks must be agreed to by the Conference of the parties, not unilaterally by the Secretariat. Dr. Giam expressed concern that such an inventory had never been required of another country but repeated Singapore's commitment to vigorously enforce CITES and have no illegal trade. The reluctance of the South American parties to withdraw their resolution without an inventory was noted. To resolve this issue Obdulio Menghi recommended that a meeting be held between Paraguay, Singapore, the Secretariat and the CSG to negotiate a solution to this issue and hopefully resolve it before it came to the floor of the convention and he undertook to convene this meeting. The following resolution was then approved: the Chairman and the Steering Committee of the CSG: Commends and congratulates Singapore on its withdrawal of its reservation on *Caiman crocodilus* and strongly

recommends to Singapore that, in its own interests and the interests of conservation, Singapore adheres to the request of the CITES Secretariat and parties to inventory existing stocks of caiman skins from all sources. (The Chairman later chaired a meeting referred to above and the matter was resolved in a satisfactory manner).

Madagascar. Jon Hutton briefed the meeting on the background to the Madagascar proposal and the serious internal problems experienced in Madagascar. A rough translation of responses from Madagascar to the questions asked by the CSG at its last meeting was presented. The remaining basic issue was that while the ranching program in Madagascar was developing effectively, the hunting of wild crocodiles remained a very difficult issue to control. This proposal provided an example of the undue complexity that had evolved in CITES with the application of multiple sometimes contradictory Conference resolutions to crocodile management. Jon Hutton and Hank Jenkins both proposed that the CSG should undertake a detailed analysis and possible overhaul of CITES in relation to crocodiles, and recommend an improved procedure to the next conference of the parties. They proposed to undertake such an analysis at a workshop at the CSG Zimbabwe meeting. With regard to the Madagascar proposal, after discussion it was resolved that the CSG should support the ranching proposal with the condition that the wild harvest should be restricted to the minimum number required for the resolution of nuisance crocodile problems. It was agreed that this and all the other recommendations on CITES proposals would be introduced by CSG delegates at the appropriate Committee and drafting sessions for consideration and adoption by the parties as well as communicated to the CITES Secretariat.

Tanzania ranching proposal. The Tanzanian proposal for ranching contains a request for a quota of 2000 wild skins that the CSG opposed. Information was received that Tanzania was likely to persist in this request despite the CSG's opposition and discussion was held on whether the CSG position should be modified. After discussion the Steering Committee decided not to modify its position and remain opposed to such a large wild quota.

Somalia crocodile population on Appendix II. Somalia is entitled to continue its Appendix II status and annual quota of 500 skins for the next period of the Convention and this can be done by default without submitting any proposal as long as no increase in quota is requested. Jon Hutton reported on the civil unrest and complete breakdown in communications with that country that completely prevent any surveys or management plan development. There seemed no reason to immediately return the Somalia crocodile population to Appendix I but a zero quota should be recommended.

Sudan. The CSG had previously opposed Sudan request for continued Appendix II status for *niloticus* and a one time special export quota to allow the clearing of stockpiled skins. Jon Hutton reported that he had examined the stockpile and it contained 11,120 skins of which 8,000 were of saleable quality. He had also heard of a previously unreported trade from Sudan to Egypt. Jaques Berney presented the Secretariat's view that a special quota would allow the regularization of this situation under the Convention. He requested the CSG support an export quota with a 90 day time limit and conditions restricted the transfer to Egypt with no subsequent re-export. After discussion the meeting recommended:

- i. That the Swiss (Depository Government) proposal to transfer the Sudan population of *C. niloticus* to Appendix I be accepted, but delayed 30 days (i.e. to take effect 120 days after the 8th C.O.P)
- ii. That the stockpile be disposed of within the 30 days immediately before the App. I listing takes place.
- iii. That the skins be sold to Egypt for domestic use and not be re-exported to the European or other market.
- iii. That funds from the sale be made available to TRAFFIC to conduct marketing studies in the north African region
- iv. That an independent observer verify the inventory and tag the skins before export.

South African proposal. Mr. Howard Kelly expressed the intention of South Africa to accept the CSG recommendation and devise a method to submit the South African proposal as a ranching proposal rather than under Conf. 2.23 as originally submitted. He explained that South

Africa suffered from being the only country trading in Nile crocodiles from Appendix I as farmed specimens. Jon Hutton offered to propose from the floor that the proposal be accepted by the parties as a ranching proposal under Conf 3.15 but the CITES observers expressed concern that circumventing the spirit of the farming resolutions was not acceptable to the Secretariat. An alternative was proposed that South Africa accept Appendix II status under a quota which could be achieved without violating the articles of the Convention. After discussion in which the CSG reaffirmed its strong opposition to accepting a proposal under Conf. 2.23 it agreed to recommend that South African populations be transferred to Appendix II with quota of 1000 farm raised skins per year.

Indonesia. Mr. Widodo Ramono responded to the chairmans invitation to present to the meeting the Indonesian response to the criteria defined by the CSG before it could consider support for their proposal. Mr. Widodo reported that the law addressing wildlife protection and trade had been revised and specific provisions relating to crocodiles had been approved. A task force to regulate crocodile management in Indonesia had been established and begun functioning, overdue reports to CITES had been completed and submitted and an inventory of farmed crocodiles and skins was largely complete. Procedures for the reporting of trade in crocodiles were begun but not complete and a detailed schedule was presented showing how this would be achieved. The schedule included regular reporting to CSG, CITES and TRAFFIC and concrete goals and deadlines by which progress with the plan could be checked.

Jaques Berney replied for the Secretariat that he was gratified by the apparent concrete progress. He stressed the importance of continuation of the Irian Jaya crocodile project as a component of the management plan and noted current initiatives for the World Bank to continue funding that project. He welcomed Indonesia's new commitment to action in crocodilian conservation but cautioned that the long history of previous failure to keep commitments would necessitate keeping continuous scrutiny on the project. Ginette Hemley of TRAFFIC USA also expressed encouragement over the positive results but also noted that the farm inventory was incomplete and some discrepancies remained. Hank Jenkins

supported the steady progress of Indonesia toward more effective crocodile management since the Lausanne CITES meeting and suggested that in the next phases of this development the developing Indonesian management plan should be coordinated with croc management in Papua New Guinea to ensure compatible management throughout Irian Jaya. Mr. Takehara stated that at the practical level the issue of correct export documents from Indonesia had become much more prompt, reflecting the greatly improved efficiency of the new management structure. Richard Luxmoore asked for an estimate of the size distribution of crocodiles in farms and Widodo answered that the great majority are less than 80 cm length. Notwithstanding these advances the data base for wild crocodile population assessment in Indonesia remains weak.

Professor Messel summarized by stating that for the first time he felt that Indonesia was taking crocodile management seriously and this progress must continue. He noted that CSG support of the Indonesian program was a continuing process that would not allow Indonesia to revert to ineffective management following CITES and noted that return of Indonesia's *porosus* populations to Appendix I could be quickly and easily accomplished. Despite the continuing cautious reservations about the Indonesian program, and some lingering uncertainty based on past problems, he expressed the willingness of the CSG to extend support for their program and their current CITES proposal on the basis that their activities would continue to be carefully scrutinized. He also emphasized that even with the support and recommendation of the CSG, the decision to approve Indonesia's proposal lay entirely with the parties to the convention. The widespread dissatisfaction with Indonesian action on other wildlife trade issues might affect the decision on crocodiles.

Ginette Hemley then rose to express dissatisfaction with this result and suggested that in view of the past history of problems in implementing promised activities, that the CSG should closely monitor the situation. Mr. Yono Raharjo pointed out that the schedule presented included commitments to submit reports at three monthly intervals. Jaques Berney requested that copies of export permits should be forwarded to the Secretariat to assist with the verification of authentic documents by importing countries.

After careful review of the submissions of the Indonesian management authority and farmers association in response to the CSG resolution of 11 November 1992, the CSG resolved that in view of the substantial progress achieved on the action items of the November 11 resolution, the CSG is prepared to support Indonesia's proposal for Appendix II listing with certain conditions. Should that proposal not be accepted, the CSG would support the extension of Appendix II status with a quota, feeling that at this time transfer of the Indonesian populations of *C. porosus* to Appendix I would not be beneficial to conservation of crocodiles in Indonesia or the development of sustainable management plans. The CSG further resolved that it will, with the cooperation of the Indonesian authorities and the farmers association, convene an annual, on site review committee of 3 CSG members chosen by the CSG chairman and with costs covered by the Indonesians, to monitor continued progress in crocodile management and the suppression of illegal trade of crocodilians from Indonesia. In clarification it was added that the review committee would function in the period up to the next C.O.P and could be revised at that time, and that the expenses involved would be travel and accommodation and food costs for the committee.

Mr. Ramono responded on behalf of Mr. Tazir Saleh, President of the Task Force, and the Indonesian representatives that he and the other members of the task force were grateful for the confidence of the CSG, accepted the obligations of the CSG resolution, and felt responsible for the continued development of effective crocodile management. He expressed their commitment to continue the current progress. They hoped that the crocodile program might become a model for effective wildlife management for other resources in Indonesia.

In response to the question of what recommendation the CSG should make should a quota approval be necessary, Prof. Messel asked Grahame Webb and Hank Jenkins to confer with the Indonesian representatives and forward a recommendation for an appropriate quota as a contingency position.

Prof. Messel then noted that of the seven species identified as the highest priority in the CSG Action Plan, five species were Asian. Of these, substantial progress had been made in initiating conservation on the gharial in India and Nepal, and in recent months progress was

initiated by the CSG on the Chinese alligator, the Philippine crocodile and the Siamese crocodile, however, the situation of *Tomistoma* remained completely unaddressed. This species was now becoming a very urgent priority. Recent reports indicated small populations were still present in Indonesia and he expressed his intention to call upon Indonesia in the near future to assist with the conservation of *Tomistoma*.

Thailand. The chairman summarized the background to the trade prohibition recommended by the CITES Standing Committee and referred to the CSG resolution of November 1991. Jaques Berney reported that this firm action had very good responses in Thailand both from the government and private groups. He noted that the ban will remain until the Standing Committee of CITES recommends a change. Prof. Messel then invited the Thai representatives to report on their response to the CSG resolution. Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn, president of the Crocodile Management Association of Thailand (CMAT) noted that his organization was established prior to the import ban not in response to it. The association's goals are to promote conservation, sound husbandry practice and improved communication among crocodile farmers and to advise and assist the Thai management authority, the Royal Forestry department (RFD). He reported that the trade ban was having serious consequences for the manufacturing and tanning industries in Thailand and a large proportion has closed. Samutprakan Farm, the largest farm and only operating exporter, was experiencing severe overcrowding of stock with associated increases in mortality due to their inability to dispose of stocks. In response to the CSG resolution he reported that CMAT had initiated the complete tagging with microchip transponders, of all skins in trade in Thailand starting January 1992. The tagging system is coordinated through registries with both CMAT and RFD providing a cross check mechanism for tracking stock. He reported that a completely new law concerning wildlife trade and protection had been passed by the parliament and only awaited the signature of the King for implementation. The law enables the implementation of CITES including a complete report from all farms on their stocks to RFD and controls of inventory and exports that should eliminate illegal trade in crocodile skins. CMAT was also developing proposals to conduct surveys

for wild crocodiles in Thailand and had already received reports of new locations where very small numbers of wild crocodiles might remain. The Farmers Association had agreed to provide 1% of hatchlings raised for re-stocking programs. A preliminary re-stocking program for *C. porosus* was planned for a sanctuary on Tarutao Island. CMAT was also planning restocking of *siamensis*, taking care that only pure stock, not hybrids, were released. CMAT was also initiating a regional dialogue on crocodile conservation with surrounding countries. A documentary film had been produced and shown on TV and booklet of husbandry practice for small farmers had been distributed. Dr. Ratanakorn concluded by requesting the CSG to consider supporting the following proposals:

- 1) A reconsideration of the trade ban to allow trade in farmed skins from the Samutprakarn Farm.
- 2) Registration of five additional crocodile farms in Thailand for trade. These being farms inspected and approved during the CSG review mission last year by Drs. Webb and Jenkins.
- 3) Support of the CSG for information and technology transfer to assist effective management of crocodiles in Thailand.
- 4) Assistance of the CSG in coordinating regional cooperation on crocodiles.
- 5) Finally on behalf of CMAT, Dr. Ratanakorn requested the CSG to consider an invitation to hold the next (12th) Working Meeting of the CSG in Thailand.

Steve Nash of TRAFFIC ASIA then reported his recent visit to Thailand where he observed the scope of initiatives undertaken by CMAT and RFD but noted that implementation of much of the program remained to be accomplished and would be difficult. He suggested ongoing monitoring of progress would be needed. Jaques Berney commented that considerable progress had also been made by other sectors of the wildlife trade in Thailand including plants and fisheries and that he saw the potential for the Standing Committee to favorably consider a partial lifting of the trade ban. Jon Hutton pointed out that while the actions of CMAT were valuable, the real problem with illegal crocodilian trade in Thailand was the trade in illegal caiman and this seemed not to be addressed. Jaques Berney suggested that Thailand should make its intentions regarding export and re-export of

crocodilian skins known to the Secretariat.

The chairman responded that three species of wild crocodile, including the CSG highest priority species, were in big trouble in Thailand and the conservation of these species was of great significance. He commended CMAT and the Thai authorities for their obvious large investment and effort to resolve the problems and their obvious movement in the right direction. After consideration of developments in crocodilian management and CITES enforcement in Thailand the CSG:

- i. Fully supports the applications of 5 Thai crocodile farms for certification by the CITES Secretariat.
- ii. Would recommend to the Standing Committee of CITES that they consider a partial lifting of the recommended trade ban from Thailand to allow the resumption of trade in farmed crocodile products from Thailand and other legal crocodilian products.
- iii. Will, with the cooperation of the Thai authorities and farmers association, convene an annual, on site review committee of 3 CSG members chosen by the CSG chairman with the costs covered by Thailand, to monitor continuing progress on crocodile management and conservation in Thailand. He also said the Steering Committee would take under consideration the invitation to hold the next meeting in Thailand.

Italy. Ginette Hemley reported that new legislation in Italy has been adopted for the implementation of CITES. Comments received from Dietrich Jelden suggested that the CSG had been partially instrumental in bringing this matter to the attention of the EC. After discussion it was agreed that the CSG would take its lead from the Standing Committee of CITES. The CSG remains in full support of the Standing Committee of CITES and will base any changes on its position on trade bans as expressed in the CSG resolution of November 1991, on the evaluation by the Standing Committee of Italy's compliance with CITES implementation. Hank Jenkins noted that Italy had been added to the list of sponsors for the Proposal on Universal Tagging although they had made no contribution to the development of this proposal and asked for an explanation from the Secretariat. Obdulio Menghi informed us that Italy had been included at the request of the EC and Germany.

Proposals from Southern African States on operation of CITES. Professor Messel reported that the SSC/IUCN had developed a position and the CSG would follow their lead on this issue.

Nomenclature of *Crocodylus raninus*. A very brief discussion of the situation of this newly re-erected taxon was held expressing great doubt as to its validity considering the small number of specimens. It was concluded that the biological validity of this taxon is open to question and that pending a resolution by further study, no action was necessary by the CSG or the Nomenclature Committee of CITES.

Alligator exports from the US. Concern was expressed by several members of the Steering Committee that the letter sent to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in November did not accurately express either the content of the discussion at Santa Martha or the opinion of the Steering Committee. The circumstances of the review and approval of that letter were discussed. The chairman expressed considerable unhappiness that the letter did not receive careful review by the Committee and ruled that henceforth no letters would be approved by the Steering Committee or sent out in his name unless a written copy of the final text had been reviewed and approved by him.

Caiman Farming in Paraguay. Mr. Takehara of JLIA described a newly developed ranching scheme for *Caiman yacare* in northern Paraguay and requested the assistance of the CSG in ensuring that surveys of the resource were conducted and the operation of the scheme was sound. After discussion it was agreed that the issue would be discussed with the Paraguayan representatives of the CSG.

Farm Directory and Crocodile Farming manual. Richard Luxmoore reported that these two publications have been amalgamated and the final text was being passed to IUCN for review, after which rapid production was expected. The chairman requested that a copy of the complete publication be given to him during the present CITES meeting.

Conservation value of captive breeding. Hank Jenkins drew the attention of the Committee to two resolutions being considered

by CITES that addressed captive breeding. In both of these the CSG had introduced text to indicate a strong preference for ranching schemes over closed cycle farming. While all agreed that this is the preferred position of the CSG it was pointed out that recent examples indicated that under special circumstances, particularly when a population was greatly depleted, or its habitat was eliminated, that captive breeding was a valuable action of last resort to save a species. The examples of the Chinese alligator, Philippine crocodile, Cuban crocodile and Orinoco crocodile were noted. The Committee agreed that further new text should be introduced into these resolutions to ensure that the valuable aspects of captive breeding under special circumstances remained available. Hank Jenkins, Jon Hutton and Perran Ross were delegated to coordinate and insure that this occurred during the CITES drafting process.

Universal tagging of crocodilians. Jon Hutton described a possible process whereby the CSG could take a lead role in the production and distribution of the standard CITES tags that would be required if the Universal Tagging proposal was approved as expected. He outlined again the need for a new tag design and the possibility that CSG could derive income from such a tag. It was noted that Professor King was also working on this project and the chairman requested that the two developers of this idea communicate and get coordinated. It was noted that liaison and discussion with CITES Secretariat was necessary and that the new tag would be required very quickly as its use would become mandatory 90 days following the adoption of the proposal at CITES. After discussion it was agreed that Jon and Hank Jenkins would pursue with Wayne King, the CITES Secretariat and the CITES Animals Committee and proceed to develop a tag and arrange its use.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 6.31 pm. -- J.P. Ross, *rapporteur*.



CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP STEERING
COMMITTEE, MINUTES, 11 MARCH 1992,
KYOTO, JAPAN

Present: H. Messel (Chairman), G. Hemley, J. Hutton, D. Jelden, R. Luxmoore, T. Yamanaka, J. Villalba-Macias, S. Edwards, P. Ross, Observers; Y. Kaneko, T. Tanabe, A. Bari, W. Ramono, J. Cox, A. Gaski, A. Elobied, E. Severre, J.M. Genolagani, H. Jenkins, D. Ashley.

Meeting opened at 12.42 pm. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Stephen Edwards as a new member of the Steering Committee. Minutes of the last meeting were offered for review. The present meeting was being held to briefly review major results of the CSG activities at CITES to date.

All of the crocodile proposals were approved by CITES Committee 1 and were expected to be passed by Plenary. The Madagascar, Indonesia and South Africa ranching proposals were approved for quotas after Committee I referred an amendment to Conf. 7.14 extending the renewal period for quotas to plenary. The Sudan special quota had been arranged to allow clearance of the stockpile in a limited period and release of funds to CITES for supporting crocodile conservation in the region. The Universal Tagging of crocodile skins proposal was adopted. The process for implementing the new tag requirement remains to be negotiated with CITES and the chairman will consult with the Secretariat and Hank Jenkins of Animals Committee and then inform the Animals Committee on the process recommended. CSG was proceeding with the development of an improved tag design and Hank Jenkins and Jon Hutton will coordinate.

The captive breeding criteria and registration of farms had experienced some difficulty and continuing inputs from Spain, Cuba and Mexico addressing their concerns about the problems of illegal sources of founder stocks and the need for continuing benefits being returned to the range states from captive breeding were still under negotiation. The CSG concerns about the captive propagation of exotic species were also not adequately covered by the present drafts. Negotiations to a satisfactory outcome were expected.

The CSG stand on Indonesia had attracted criticism from some NGO's and the importance of the review committee process to maintain

CSG credibility was stressed. The chairman stated forcefully that should Indonesia be found lacking in its implementation of the agreed crocodile management structure that he would immediately recommend to the Standing Committee of CITES that a complete trade ban of not only *C. porosus*, but all wildlife products should be recommended to the parties. He proposed the first review committee should take place in November 1992 with subsequent reviews in November 1993 and immediately before the COP in 1994. He assigned himself, D. Jelden and R. Luxmoore as the committee. Observers from CITES and TRAFFIC were also invited to join the review committee at their own expense.

Widodo Ramono responded with sincere thanks to the CSG for their support and a pledge to honor all commitments. He expressed thanks for the CSG's willingness to help solve the problems Indonesia faced. He noted that most of Indonesia's critics had little or no experience of the country and had made no effort to assist Indonesia. John Genolagani of PNG asked if PNG could join the review process and Indonesia immediately extended an invitation. A conflict of dates on November 23-25 was noted and the Chairman agreed to coordinate the committee visit with the review to Thailand and avoid that conflict.

The Chairman announced the formation of the Asian Conservation and Sustainable Use Group (ACSUG) comprised of crocodile farming and trade associations from Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. This was the first step in the development of a regional association to which other countries and crocodile interest groups would be invited. A first meeting on 30-31 Oct in Jakarta was announced.

The chair had received confirmation that the SE Asian regional meeting in Darwin had received approval from Australian authorities and was tentatively planned for March 1993.

The Chairman announced plans for crocodile surveys in Nicaragua (April), Vanuatu (April and June) and Panama (September) and site visits to Brazil and Paraguay in July, and noted that requests to initiate CITES surveys had been received from Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nepal and in general terms from several SE Asian countries including Sabah and Sarawak. CITES was very interested in developing surveys in West Africa but lacked French speaking personnel to implement these. Development of

plans for a survey in Cuba were well advanced.

Steve Edwards welcomed the commencement of surveys in Nicaragua and noted that the IUCN sustainable use program had been coordinating with the CSG to arrange surveys in an area south of Lake Managua. He requested that the results of the surveys for the Los Guaches area be made available to assist the IUCN sustainable use program there.

The proposed review and revision of CITES crocodile regulations was discussed and a workshop on this issue announced. D. Jelden, J. Hutton and H. Jenkins were asked to coordinate and provide draft background documents for Zimbabwe.

The chairman reported that the U.S. CITES delegation would visit Palau following the Kyoto meeting and that he would brief them on the recent crocodile survey there and the recommendations.

CITES reports on the situation of *Caiman* in Bajo Apure and Guarico Province and the Cienaga de Juan Manuel reserve in Venezuela were discussed. Both reports, authored by Dr. Jose Ayarzaguen, and funded by CITES and EC, reported evidence of population depletion and size class distortion in parts of these areas indicating excessive harvest. The reports recommended suspension of harvest in the most critically affected areas and an increase in enforcement to reduce poaching in the reserve. These reports were taken as heartening indications of the value of monitoring programs, particularly in the case of wild harvest programs, and the importance of adjusting harvest regimes in response to demonstrated population effects. A letter commending the reports and endorsing their recommendations would be prepared.

Jon Hutton referred to the Sudan special quota arrangement to release funds for crocodile research in Sudan and requested that some funds be released from this source to pay for Mr. Elobied to attend the Zimbabwe meeting.

Meeting closed 1.33 pm..

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL
TAGGING RESOLUTION, 12 March 1992

Participants: H. Messel, O. Menghi, H. Jenkins,
P. Ross.

The meeting was convened to discuss

mechanisms for implementing the Universal Tagging resolution approved by the Conference of the Parties. The resolution requires all crocodilian skins and parts thereof to be tagged and defines the characteristics of the required tag. Discussion centered on a procedure that would facilitate the universal use of a suitable tag and possibly allow the generation of funds for crocodilian conservation activities at CITES and in the CSG. The progress of CSG members W. King and H. Hutton in designing an improved tag that met the CITES criteria and would be satisfactory to both producing countries and consumer countries was reported. An improved tag design is well underway.

The various options and constraints for placing this tag into general use were discussed in depth.

Issues covered included the requirement of national laws in some countries to utilize local products and the great complexity of trying to establish a completely centralized supply and data recording operation base for tags, given the diversity of needs for different parties. The only control that could be imposed was through some sort of licensing agreement with a manufacturer or small group of manufacturers who could provide tags to users and information to CITES. It may be possible to negotiate an agreement with manufacturers to remit a royalty or licensing fee for manufacturing a specially patented tag and have this fee paid to CSG who could forward a portion of funds received to CITES for crocodilian programs. Extreme care would have to be taken to ensure that any such arrangement was not perceived as an unfair trade practice. It was agreed that under no circumstance could CSG or CITES endorsement be used by any individual to receive personal financial benefit from tag licensing. It was agreed that all arrangements would be completely open and available for scrutiny. The practical difficulties and costs of establishing and maintaining patents, arranging effective licensing and initiating production of tags was recognized. The need was recognized for rapid development of the tag within the 90 day period until the resolution takes effect.

It was concluded that in order to ensure the complete integrity of both CSG and CITES and to comply with CITES operational requirements that the use of the new tag would have to be voluntary for users and driven by the industry demand for a tag to meet both its needs and

CITES requirements. It was hoped that if a new tag with superior characteristics and competitive cost was devised, that normal market demand would be sufficient to promote its widespread use. It was agreed that development of a new tag and its presentation to CITES and to the management authorities and consumer countries should be the responsibility of CSG members. It was agreed that the recent Universal Tagging resolution gave the mandate to the Animals Committee of CITES to investigate a suitable tag for recommendation to the Secretariat who could in turn recommend it to users. To accomplish this the Animals committee could invite the technical advice of the CSG on a suitable tag design. It was agreed that H. Jenkins of Animals Committee would write to the CSG Chairman to invite the CSG's assistance on a suitable tag design.

The concept is to rapidly place into use a CSG designed and approved tag, approved by the Animals Committee and recommended by the Secretariat of CITES for use in tagging crocodile skins. Initiatives to meet this need are already underway by CSG several members.

CITES REPORTS



The CSG was well represented at the CITES meeting, 2-13 March 1992, with the

Chairman, Executive Officer and eight members of the Steering Committee in attendance. There were also numerous CSG members present as national delegates and observers. The attendance lists for the Steering Committee Meetings indicate many of these. The CSG went to CITES with a full and well prepared agenda of crocodile issues and the majority of these issues were approved by the CITES parties. This very good success was largely a result of the extensive preparation the CSG put in to find suitable solutions to these issues before the meeting and to the support of our very extensive network of members in national delegations. The CSG strategy of coordinating activities between researchers, NGO's, management authorities, CITES Secretariat and commercial interests, all represented in our wide membership, appears to be effective.

The results of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES are

extracted from the summary reports of the Plenary and Committee meetings in Kyoto. The abbreviations associated with each item refer to the CITES document number.

The potential benefits of wildlife utilization was a recurrent theme of the Committee discussions with many delegates stating that sustainable wildlife use was directly linked to conservation in their countries. A resolution, Com 8.3 (Rev. 4), recognizing the benefits of trade in wildlife was approved stating that, "The Conference of the Parties to the Convention recognizes that commercial trade may be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems and/or to the development of local people when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question."

A process was initiated to develop new criteria for the listing and delisting of species on the Appendices of the convention (Com. 8.11). The meeting directed the Standing Committee of CITES to undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a revision of the criteria for amending the appendices, for consideration at the next (9th) meeting. A draft of these new criteria will be circulated 300 days prior to the next meeting. This process represents a continuing review and overdue revision of the CITES appendix listings and it is hoped that new criteria can be adopted at the next meeting. CSG will provide input to these criteria via the IUCN.

In response to Singapore's withdrawal of its reservation on *Caiman* and to promote the co-operative spirit of the meeting, a proposal by South American parties to censure Singapore was withdrawn. Singapore pledged to follow all CITES regulations in the disposal of current stocks.

Universal tagging of crocodylian skins (Com. 8.23) was approved as follows:

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention recommends

- a) the introduction of a universal tagging system for the identification of all raw and processed crocodylian skins and parts thereof ('chalecos', flanks, bellies, tails, throats, legs and feet) by the general application of non-reusable tags to identify all crocodylian skins entering international trade from the countries of

origin and that all countries subsequently re-exporting such items do so with the original tags intact unless substantial processing and manufacturing has taken place;

b) that such non-reusable tags include as a minimum the International Organization for Standardization code for the country of origin, a unique serial identification number, species code and the year of production and further that such non-reusable tags have as a minimum the following characteristics: a self locking system, heat resistance, inertia to chemical and mechanical processing, information to applied by permanent stamping;

c) the same information as is on the tags should be given on the export permit, re-export certificate or any other Convention document, or on a separate sheet which shall be considered an integral part of the permit, certificate or document and which should be validated by the same issuing authority unless substantial processing and manufacturing has taken place;

d) that each Party in which tags are applied maintain records accounting for tags issued and maintain records that relate each Convention document number to the tag(s) of the crocodilian specimens traded thereunder and vice versa, and include this information in the annual report;

e) that Parties establish where legally possible a system of registration or licensing, or both, for importers and exporters of crocodilian skins and parts thereof as defined in paragraph a) above;

f) that parties make provisions in the Secretariat's budget, to which additional voluntary contributions may be made, for the production and dissemination of skin tags in quantities that are requested by any Party, as well as the cost of implementing and administering the system; and

g) that Parties accept one year after the adoption of this Resolution export permits, re-export certificates or other Convention documents for trade in crocodilian skins and parts thereof as defined in paragraph a) above only if they

contain the information referred to in paragraph a) and the related skins are properly tagged;

Urges all Parties to restrict trade in crocodilian skins and parts thereof as defined in paragraph a) above to specimens that are identified in accordance with the requirements of this Resolution;

Directs a) the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals committee, to develop a practical tracking system for monitoring tags used in trade;

b) the Animals Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to study the possibilities of a practical uniform marking system for manufactured products of crocodilian skins in commercial trade and report its findings and recommendations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

c) the Animals Committee and the Secretariat to evaluate the marking system as recommended in Resolution Conf. 5.16 and report their findings and recommendations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

This resolution effectively applies the tagging system that has been in wide use for farmed skins to all skins in trade, including caiman skins.

In a related resolution, Com. 8.9 (Rev.), concerning Coded Microchip Implants for marking live animals in trade the Parties recommended where possible and appropriate, and without excluding the use of other methods, that implantable transponder microchips be used for the secure identification of live Appendix I animals of species identified in accordance with advice received from the IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Group. The resolution referred extensively to the detailed recommendations of the Captive Breeding Specialist Group for technical and administrative details of this microchip marking. This resolution has immediate relevance to several crocodile trade issues including the live trade from Thailand and that proposed from China (see below).

Two resolutions addressed the registration of captive breeding operations. Com. 8.21 (Rev. 2) was adopted after extensive revision in Committee. It defines a clear and comprehensive procedure for qualifying, registering and monitoring commercial captive-

breeding operations for Appendix I species. The principles set forth in Conf. 2.12 remain the basis of the procedure but primary responsibility for registration is placed with the national management authority. A process of consultation with all parties is established and if any Party objects to a registration then the matter must come before the Conference of the Parties for discussion and approval, however if no Party objects, registration will be approved by the Secretariat. The Resolution further repeals CITES Resolutions Conf. 4.15, Conf. 6.21 and Conf. 7.10 which are now replaced by the new Conf. 8.21. The resolution also sets forth a series of codas defining the roles of the Captive Breeding facility, the Management Authority and the Secretariat in a detailed set of requirements and criteria for captive-breeding registration of any Appendix I species.

Conf. 8.4 (Rev.) sets forth additional criteria for the establishment of captive-breeding operations, and for the assessment of ranching proposals for crocodilians. The operative part of the resolution reads:

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention recommends that parties allowing the establishment of commercial captive-breeding operations for an Appendix I crocodilian do not allow wild caught animals to form the breeding stock unless justified in a national management plan demonstrating conservation value;

Directs the Secretariat to include new captive-breeding operations in its Register of Operations which breed Specimens of Species included in Appendix I in Captivity for Commercial Purposes under the provisions of Resolution 8.21¹ only when it has been proved that the breeding stock has been established in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, within its area of natural distribution;

Recommends also with respect to ranching proposals that:

a) Parties achieving or having achieved the transfer of their populations of crocodilians to Appendix II under the

provisions of Conf. 3.15 be required to limit the manner of exploitation of wild populations to those techniques described in the proposal and not, for example, to later initiate new short term programmes for taking wild animals without notifying the Secretariat;

b) those based solely on egg or hatchling collection be accepted as a matter of routine provided that appropriate inventories, harvest level controls and monitoring programmes are proposed and that sufficient safeguards are established in the proposal to ensure that adequate numbers of animals are returned to the wild if necessary;

c) those which include a component of wild harvests be examined much more stringently than those based purely on egg and hatchling collection; and

d) any wild-adult component of a ranching proposal normally be limited to a reasonable number commensurate with the control of nuisance animals and sport hunting together; and

Recommends finally that any Party wishing to establish a long term commercial harvest of wild adults be required to satisfy the criteria adopted under the Convention and specially the Berne criteria (Resolution Conf. 1.2) for the transfer of its population to Appendix II.

The intent and effect of this resolution is to encourage and simplify ranching using eggs and hatchlings and discourage and make more rigorous any use of wild adults.

Proposals for the amendment of the Appendices.

Ethiopia *Crocodylus niloticus*. Proposal to maintain in Appendix II under a ranching proposal with the self imposed proviso that the 1992 export quota be reduced from 6,000 to 4,500 skins. Approved.

Kenya *Crocodylus niloticus*. Proposal to maintain in Appendix II under a ranching proposal. Approved.

Tanzania *Crocodylus niloticus*. Proposal to maintain in Appendix II under a ranching proposal was approved with the modification of the requested quotas for wild taken adult specimens to 400 in 1992, 200-1993, 200-1994,

¹ The resolution refers to Conf. 4.15, 6.21 & 7.10 which are repealed and replaced by Conf. 8.21, which now becomes the operative Resolution.

and 100-1995 onwards and an additional annual quota of 100 skins from trophy hunting.

Indonesia *Crocodylus porosus* and Madagascar *Crocodylus niloticus*. Proposals to maintain in Appendix II under a ranching proposal. While moves toward crocodile ranching should be encouraged in these two countries the Meeting deemed it inappropriate to adopt these two proposals. It was considered wiser to retain the populations on Appendix II with export quotas although it was acknowledged that a re-interpretation of the time limits on Conf. 7.14 was necessary to allow this. Indonesia and Madagascar withdrew their ranching proposals on this understanding. The Secretariat suggested it was possible to interpret Conf. 7.14 as coming into effect 90 days after its adoption, at the 7th meeting, in which case only one interval between meetings could be said to have elapsed and a continuation of quotas was possible. On this basis the population of *C. porosus* in Indonesia was maintained on Appendix II under export quotas of 9,700 skins for 1992; 8,500-1993; 8,500-1994. These annual totals include 7,000 from farmed stocks being held at present, 1,500 from the wild and 1,200 skins already held for 1992. In addition Indonesia accepted conditions required by the CSG for an annual review committee to scrutinize progress.

The population of *C. niloticus* in Madagascar was continued on Appendix II with export quotas of 3,000-1992; 4,000-1993; 4,300-1994. In addition an allowance of 100 nuisance animals a year from the wild was allowed.

Congo. The delegation from the Congo supported the return of their populations of *C. niloticus*, *C. cataphractus* and *Osteolaemus tetraspis* to Appendix I and this was approved.

South Africa. The delegation from South Africa requested that their ranching proposal be amended to a quota proposal for Appendix II listing of their population of *C. niloticus* in accordance with Conf. 7.14 and this was accepted with the understanding that South Africa would submit a ranching proposal at the next meeting of the parties. An annual export quota of 1,000 skins per annum was approved.

Proposals for export quotas of crocodiles.

Somalia. Noting that Somalia had not requested maintaining its population of *C. niloticus* on Appendix II, it was agreed, following

the suggestion of the CSG, to maintain this population on Appendix I but with a zero quota.

Sudan. The proposal for a special export quota was approved under the following conditions: The proposal to transfer the Sudan population of *C. niloticus* to Appendix I was approved but delayed 30 days. The stockpile of skins should be disposed of 30 days prior to that date at the latest. The skins should be tagged in accordance with CITES regulations and an independent observer appointed to oversee documentation, tagging and export of the skins. The delegation of the Sudan invited a visit from the Secretariat and asked that the tags be supplied within one month. They suggested that US \$2 per tag be donated to the Secretariat via the Management Authority of Sudan to be used for crocodile surveys in that country.

Uganda. The proposal for Appendix II listing with an annual export quota of 2,500 ranched skins was approved.

Proposal for certification of a captive-breeding operation. China. The Chinese delegation introduced their proposal pointing out that the income from the sale of captive bred alligators would be used to benefit the conservation of the species. After hearing the detailed review resulting from the CSG site visit the proposal was approved.

Other general results of interest to CSG members. In document Com 8.24 the Parties to the Convention re-affirmed the importance of the role of the Scientific Authority in each country in the implementation of CITES. The resolution details the manner in which the Scientific Authority assembles the factual biological basis on which CITES decisions should be based. In particular the resolution calls on the Scientific Authorities to monitor the status of native species and export data and recommend remedial measures to maintain the species at a level consistent with its role in the ecosystem and well above the level at which the species may become eligible for Appendix I listing.

In Com. 8.10 (Rev.) concerning trade in wild caught specimens of all species the Parties direct the Animals Committee of CITES to make recommendations to ensure that Article VI of the Convention, requiring trade to be non detrimental, are implemented. Such recommendations can include quotas, zero quotas, and temporary restrictions on export of

particular species. The Secretariat is called upon to recommend strict measures, including suspension in trade, for Parties failing to meet the requirements of the resolution. In Com. 8.14 the problem of Parties failing to meet the reporting requirements is referred to the Standing Committee and Com. 8.22 (Rev) directs the Secretariat to obtain information on the competent management and permit issuing authorities in non member States. Parties are urged to restrict imports from non member states and scrutinize documentation. This group of resolutions all reflect a growing frustration of the Parties for noncompliance with the Convention and an increasing willingness of Parties to apply pressure to ensure compliance with CITES.

This trend was most evident in Com. 8.16 where the difficulties of implementing the Convention within the EEC were addressed. The Secretariat was recommend to verify the validity of documents for re-export from the EEC and the EEC countries were recommended to adopt adequate legislation and increase the allotment of resources to implement CITES.

In summary, Kyoto may have been a pivotal meeting for CITES. At the practical level the CSG agenda of using sustainable use to conserve crocodylians was advanced. However, it is clear that mechanisms were put in place to ensure that over the next cycle or two of CITES, major revisions in the operation of the Convention will be developed. New criteria for listing, accepting demonstrated benefits of trade for conservation, more coherent rules for registering captive breeding operations and establishing ranching proposals will all be forthcoming. It was said in jest that there seemed to be a second Convention operating at Kyoto, 'CITEC', the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Crocodylians. It is clear that the CSG program for integrating sustainable use with conservation, and involving the commercial trade sector in conservation action may be a model that CITES applies to a wider context.

For the CSG, it is clear that the regulations for crocodylians have accreted in a rather uncontrolled manner, resulting in an overly complex tangle of sometimes contradictory CITES regulations. Against the general setting of revisions in CITES, the CSG needs to address a comprehensive review of 'CITEC' with a view to clarifying, simplifying and streamlining

crocodyle trade regulation. A workshop for this issue has been proposed for Zimbabwe and we can expect to be busy on this for the next two years.

The next Conference of the Parties will be in the USA and we expect the usual frantic, exhilarating, sometimes frustrating, swirl of events in which the international structure of endangered species trade is established for the next two years. The Chairman and Executive Officer would like to thank all the members who participated and assisted at Kyoto and look forward to the continued cooperation for the conservation of crocodylians next time.

AREA REPORTS



ASIA

China:

ALLIGATOR FARMING AND CONSERVATION IN CHINA. The CSG conducted a fact finding mission in the Peoples Republic of China, 5-19 Jan 1992, undertaken by G. Webb and B. Vernon with co-ordination through Professor Wang Sung, Executive Vice Chairman of the Endangered Species Commission, and Dr, Qing Jian Hua, Deputy Director of the Conservation Department and the Endangered Species Import/ Export Administration. Funding was secured by D. Jelden through the Internationaler Reptileder Verband of Germany and from Mainland Holdings of PNG.

The historical distribution, taxonomy and biology of *A. sinensis* was reviewed and current management examined. Although previously distributed over a large area of the Yangtse valley, most natural habitat for this species has been converted to agricultural use. Prior to the establishment of protective legislation in 1972 alligators were killed as vermin largely because of the damage their extensive burrows do to irrigated fields. Remaining wild populations are very small and restricted to protected lands and refugia in agricultural settings.