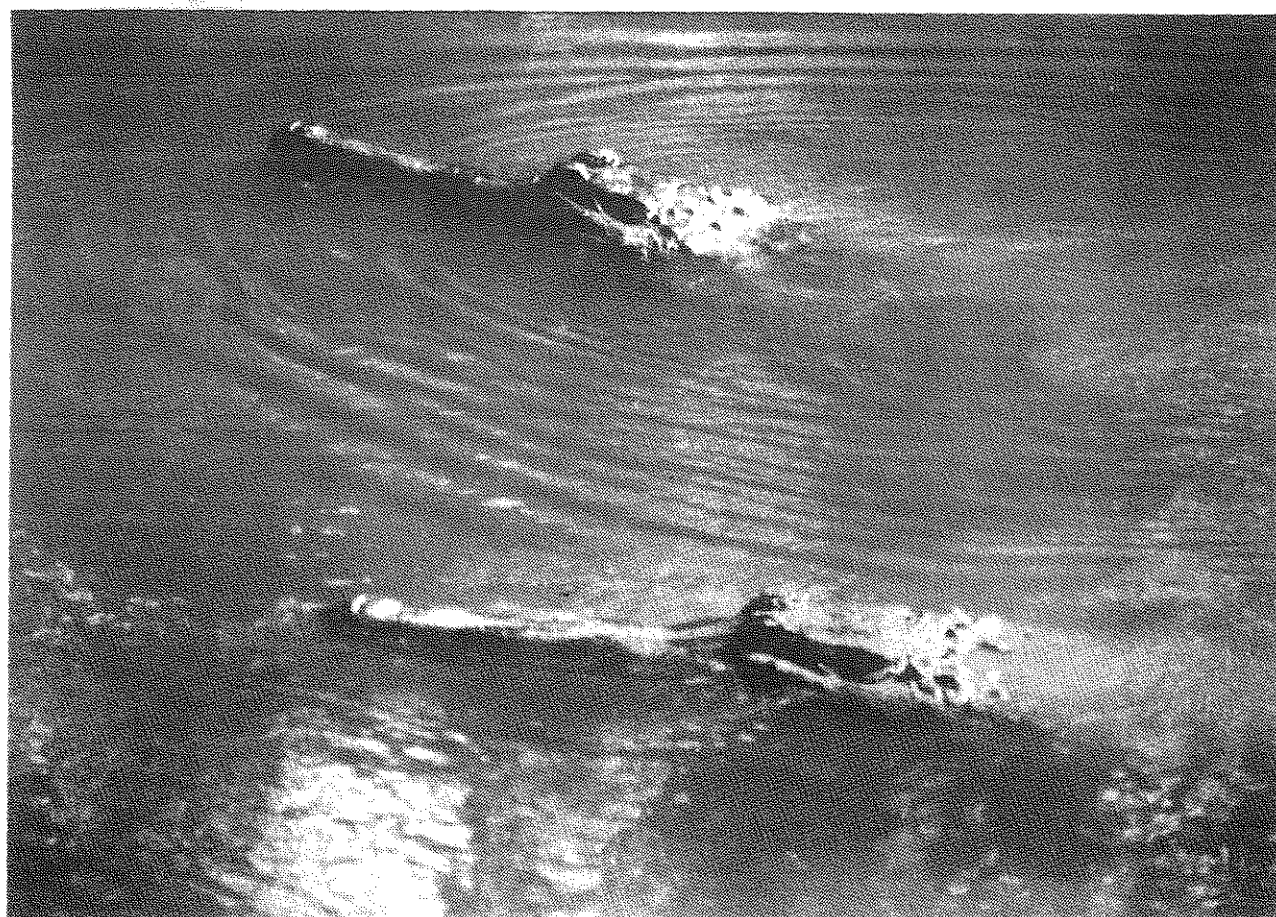


# **CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP**

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## **NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 13 No. 2 ■ APRIL 1994 - JUNE 1994



IUCN World Conservation Union ■ Species Survival Commission

# CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13 Number 2  
APRIL 1994 - JUNE 1994

IUCN--The World Conservation Union  
Species Survival Commission

Prof. Harry Messel, Chairman  
IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group  
Executive Chancellor  
Bond University  
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: Two *Tomistoma schlegelii*, part of a group held at Samutprakan Crocodile Farm, Thailand. Reproduction in captivity is one option for conservation of this critically endangered species and several animals in this group appear large enough to breed. F. W. King photo.

The CSG NEWSLETTER is produced and distributed by the Crocodile Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission, IUCN - World Conservation Union. CSG NEWSLETTER provides information on the conservation, status, news and current events concerning crocodilians, and on the activities of the CSG. The NEWSLETTER is distributed to CSG members and, upon request, to other interested individuals and organizations. All subscribers are asked to contribute news and other materials. A voluntary contribution (suggested \$40.00 US per year) is requested from subscribers to defray expenses of producing the NEWSLETTER. All communications should be addressed to: Dr. J. P. Ross, Executive Officer CSG, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.

## 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 Research 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 Roggwiller, Tanneries des Cuirs d'Indochine et de Madagascar, Paris, France.

Utai Youngprapakorn, Samutprakan Crocodile Farm, Samutprakan, Thailand.

Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Walter Herd, Offenbach (Main), Germany.

Singapore Reptile Skin Trade Association, Singapore.

Heng Long Leather Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore.

Asociación Colombiana de Zoocriaderos, Bogotá, Colombia.

Reptilartenschutz, Offenbach am Main, Germany.

A. Handoko, Salim Group, Jakarta, Indonesia.

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

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

Miguel Stambulie, Zoocriadero Bucaintu, Cartagena, Colombia.

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

F. Wayne King, Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.  
 Crocodile Farmers Association of Indonesia,  
 Jayapura, Indonesia.  
 Paul H. Slade, Nell and Hermon Slade Trust,  
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 Environment and Conservation, Boroko,  
 Papua New Guinea.  
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 Cairns, Australia.  
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 Crocodile Traders, Cairns, Australia.  
 IUCN-World Conservation Union, Gland,  
 Switzerland.  
 Kurt Preiss, Reptilia Inc., Miami, Florida,  
 U.S.A.  
 Crocodile Management Association of Thailand,  
 Bangkok, Thailand.  
 Prof. Harry Messel, Sydney, Australia.  
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 Abbeville, Louisiana, U.S.A.  
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 Robert and Ellen Young, Thonotosassa, Florida,  
 U.S.A.  
 Terry Cullen, Cullen Vivarium, Milwaukee,  
 Wisconsin, U.S.A.

## MEETINGS

**TWELFTH WORKING MEETING IN PATTAYA.**  
 Between 2 and 6 May 1994, over 90 members of the CSG from outside Thailand, as well as an additional 100 participants from within Thailand, gathered at the Royal Cliff Beach Hotel in Pattaya for the 12th Working Meeting of the CSG. The meeting was hosted by the Crocodile Management Association of Thailand, the Royal Forest Service, the Department of Fisheries, Kasetsart University and the Thai Association for Trade in Reptiles and Amphibians.

The meeting was most ably organized by Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn, assisted by Kriengkrai (Ken) Chaimongkoltrakul, and Mr. Leslie George and his staff. Uthen Youngprapakorn provided extensive assistance to participants on behalf of Mr. Utai Youngprapakorn and Charoon Youngprapakorn.

Forty two papers were presented in sessions covering Conservation in S.E. Asia, Taxonomy, Captive Breeding and Conservation, Stress, Monitoring populations and General papers. Written papers are presently being compiled for

the Proceedings of the Working Meeting. Particularly interesting reports were received from the S.E. Asian region including a detailed update on the distribution of wild populations of *C. siamensis* in Cambodia, which appear extensive, and reports of two verified wild *C. siamensis* revealed during surveys in Thailand.

The meeting was noteworthy for both the high standard of presentations and the very generous hospitality of the meeting organizers and hosts. Participants hardly had a free evening as they were entertained by banquets, parties and presentations of traditional dancing, Thai boxing and music. The closing banquet was particularly entertaining and delightful with a multinational rendering of traditional Latin American songs by an impromptu group of Australian, Thai, Venezuelan and Cuban CSG members.

Field trips to several crocodile farms were arranged by the hosts and there was the intense discussion and exchange of ideas between sessions for which CSG Working Meetings are known. The CSG Steering Committee met for two days before the Working Meeting and the CSG-CITES Review Committee for Thailand crocodile management met immediately following. The CSG would like to express again our grateful thanks to all the many people who made the meeting such a success, and particularly to our Thai hosts who made us so welcome.



Dr. Val Lance, Deputy Chairman for Science, gets into the swing of things with his enquiries into sex determination in elephants closely watched by A. Larriera.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 12TH WORKING MEETING.

Roberto Ramos of Cuba taking his first elephant ride.

The award for split second timing was taken in fine style by Johan Marais and Prof. Gerrie Smith from South Africa who arrived, as they had promised, moments before their scheduled time for presentation, and only a day after the historic national elections in South Africa.

John Lever's thought provoking presentation on the role of captive breeding in conservation which expanded into a broad consideration of the conservation ethic and the role the CSG and its members could and should play.

The temple tour coordinated by Charlie Manolis.

The award for coolness under fire went to Preston Mc Eachern who handled intensive and penetrating questioning from the audience well, in this, his first public scientific presentation.

Phil Wilkinson from South Carolina, USA, drew chuckles from fellow 'southerners' when he dated the initiation of the alligator industry in the USA to "before the War of Northern Aggression", [more usually known as the US Civil War, 1861-65 eds].



Professor Harry Messel, the CSG Chairman, staying on top of the crocodile situation in Thailand.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Meeting, 30 April - 1 May  
1994. Royal Cliff Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand

Participants: Steering Committee -- H. Messel (Chairman), F.W. King, V. Lance, R. Elsey, G. Webb, P. Ratanakorn, A. Velasco, R. Jenkins, C. Koh, K. Van Jaarsveldt, D. Jelden, S. Broad, S. Trachter, H. Andrews, P. Ross.

Observers: T. Dacey, F.B. Yuwono, S. Tressler, W. Strahm, D. Ashley, V. Onions, N. Kinler, N. Ishii, Y. Takehara, K. Ogiso, U. Youngprapakorn, A. Matsuda, A. Larriera, L. Roiter, R. Ramos, J. Thorbjarnarson, P. Wilkinson, K. Rice, T. Hines, S. Ranot, K. Cook, R. Andrews, J. Lever, C. Foot, C.A. Ross, I. Games, A. Alba, A. Sebastian.

Steering Committee of the CSG. The Chairman of the CSG, Professor H. Messel announced that he was reconstituting the steering committee. Several members of the Steering Committee had advised him they would be unable to serve for the coming triennium. The new Steering Committee composition is:

Deputy Chairman (New World) Professor Wayne King, Deputy Chairman (Old World) & Vice Chairman Europe Dietrich Jelden, Europe Richard Luxmoore; African Region Vice Chairman, Jon Hutton, Deputy Olivier Behra; East Asia etc. Vice Chairman, Grahame Webb, Robert (Hank) Jenkins, Koh Chon Ton, Yono Raharjo, Parntep Ratanakorn; West Asia Vice Chairman, Rom Whitaker, Deputy Lala Singh, Deputy Harry Andrews; Latin America Vice Chairman Juan Villalba Macias, Deputy Alejandro Larriera, Deputy Alvaro Velasco, Ms. Lucy Aquino, Bernardo Ortiz von Halle, Sergio Trachter, Lic. Mina Queros, Miguel Rodriguez; North America Vice Chairman I. Lehr Brisbin, Deputy Ruth Elsey, Deputy Dennis David; Science Vice Chairman Val Lance; Trade Vice Chairman Kevin van Jaarsveldt, Deputy Philippe Roggwiler, Deputy Toshio Yamanaka; Trade Monitoring Vice Chairman Ginette Hemley, Marco Pani, Steven Broad; Ex Officio IUCN George Rabb, Stephen Edwards; CITES Obdulio Menghi, Jaques Berney; Executive

Officer Perran Ross.

New members of the Steering Committee, Prof. Lehr Brisbin (USA), Ruth Elsey (USA), Miguel Rodriguez (Colombia), Alejandro Larriera (Argentina) and Steven Broad (Traffic South East Asia) were welcomed. Continuing members were thanked for their ongoing efforts for the CSG, and members who had resigned were thanked for their distinguished service. The chairman noted the contribution of time and money that members of the Steering Committee expended on behalf of CSG. This in-kind contribution represents an added benefit that the CSG receives in addition to donations from its patrons and was vital in achieving its conservation goals. See follow-up page 24.

Renewal of CSG membership. Following SSC procedure, membership in all specialist groups expires in 1994. Members will therefore be renewed by nomination by Vice Chairmen and invitation of the Chairman. The executive officer has provided lists of current members to the regional Vice Chairmen and will coordinate with them to prepare revised lists of members for approval by the Chairman and nomination to SSC/IUCN. Members can expect to receive letters of invitation/renewal and materials from CSG and IUCN after July 1994.

CSG Finances. A financial report for calendar 1993 and a first quarter report for 1994 were presented. In 1993, revenues of \$69,019.90 and expenses of \$62,990.45 were recorded and accumulated balance at year end was \$23,285.61. In the first quarter of 1994 revenues were only \$5,411.82 and expenses were \$16,899.20. Additional expenses of around \$4,600 had been incurred in the last month leaving a current balance (15 April 1994) of \$7,375. This was insufficient to meet anticipated expenses of the current quarter without additional revenue. A call for donations was made.

A draft budget for 1994 was presented estimating revenues of \$65,000 and expenses of \$65,000 contingent upon receiving donations from our current patrons. Revenue derived from NEWSLETTER subscriptions, sales of publications and grants and contracts made up an increasing proportion of income and balanced the budget against the loss of some patrons. A diagram detailing the management and flow of funds through CSG accounts was presented.

## Annual Financial Report- Jan - Dec 1993

### Summary

Balance at 1 Jan 1993	15,692.27
Carried forward from 1992(1)	1,563.89
Total Revenues 1993	69,019.90
Total expenses 1993.	62,990.45
Balance at 31 Dec 1993.	23,285.61

### Detail

#### Income

Donations (unrestricted)	53,592.78
Special projects	10,000.00
Sales (Publications)	1,096.70
Misc. & News subs.	4,200.00
Interest	130.42

Total Revenues	69,019.90
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#### Expenses

Salaries & benefits	
Staff	40,000.00
Consultants & casual	200.00

#### Publications

Printing and Copying	8,696.71
Other publication	238.54

#### Office

Repair	314.00
Supplies	750.98
Phone & Fax	1,800.00
Mail	6,670.40
(includes mailing Newsletter)	
Misc.	161.00

#### Equipment

Capital (500+)	0.00
Disposable	0.00

#### Travel

Airfares	1,383.45
Accommodations	1,136.87
Meals	114.43
Other travel expenses	257.51

Bank fees, charges	1,266.56
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Total expenses 1993	62,990.45
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(1) The amount of \$1,563.89 was raised by NEWSLETTER subscriptions for 1992 paid in 1993 and is reported here.

# BUDGET 1994

Projected expenses in \$ US, 1 Jan 1994 - 30 Dec 1994

## Expenses, Core operations and NEWSLETTER.

### Revenues

Current donors	55,000
Interest	500
Sales	900
Newsletter subscriptions	3,600
Fees for Services	5,000
Misc. other	0
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>65,000</b>

### Expenses

<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	
Staff	40,000
Consultants and casual	500
<b>Publications</b>	
Newsletter (4 issues)	4,500
<b>Office</b>	
Supplies and Stationary	1,000
Repair	500
Phone and Fax	3,500
Mail (includes Newsletter)	5,500
<b>Equipment</b>	
Capital	0
Disposable	500
<b>Travel</b>	
Airfares	4,000
Accoms. & Meals	2,500
Other transportation	500
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Bank charges	600
Other contingencies	1,400
<b>Total General Operations</b>	<b>65,000</b>

Discussion followed on the continually precarious nature of the CSG finances. Cash flow difficulties are constant and uncertainty about donations makes planning difficult. The chairman noted that the CSG could only maintain its activities if financial resources

continued to be available and that services and activities would have to be cut if funds ran short. He appealed to patrons to indicate, if possible, the expected timing of donations so that positive cash flow could be maintained.

The major expense (60%) of the CSG budget is the Executive Officer position. The Executive Officer's activities undertaking surveys and participating in IUCN meetings was questioned and it was noted that these activities result in net financial gain to the CSG and help support the budget. Extended discussion followed on the best way to structure this position, including the possibility of moving the position to Australia where the chairman could provide direct office support. It was agreed that continued examination of this was needed.

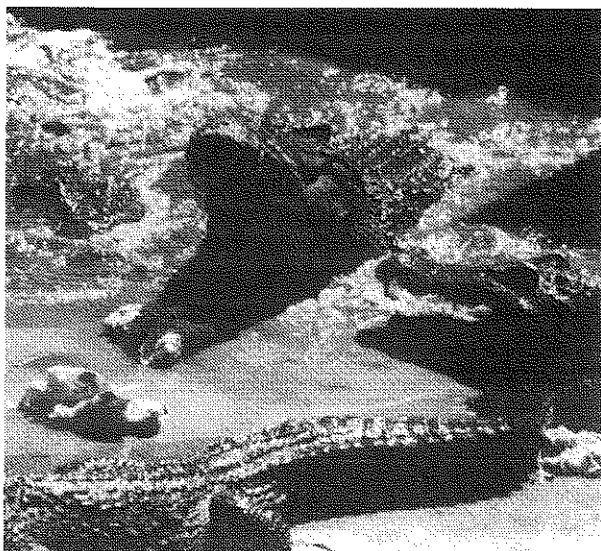
CSG Brochure. A draft of a CSG brochure prepared by Prof. King and P. Ross was presented and discussed. The brochure described the structure and activities of the CSG and was complimentary to existing brochures of the IUCN and SSC. The brochure will be useful to members for informing general enquiries and fund raising. Comments and revisions were invited and, funds permitting, a preliminary printing of the brochure would be done and examples distributed to the Steering Committee.

Pattaya Meeting Report. Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn advised the group on the arrangements for the 12th Working Meeting. An extensive program of presentations, booths, posters and social events was ready and over 150 participants had pre-registered. Prof. Messel extended his sincere thanks to Dr. Ratanakorn and to the hosts of the meeting, CMAT, TATRA, Royal Forest Department, Fisheries Department and Kasetsart University. He expressed thanks on behalf of CSG for their extensive efforts in exceedingly difficult and complex task of organizing the meeting. Prof. Messel also expressed warm appreciation for the assistance rendered by CMAT to the Steering Committee with a meeting room, coffee and office support.

13th Working Meeting. The group agreed to seek invitations for the next working meeting in 1996 but agreed that discussions on the meeting organization and information on the structure and services proposed would be reviewed prior to a final decision being made. Invitations were



then received from A. Larriera for Santa Fe, Argentina; S. Trachter for Matogrosso, Brazil; C. Koh for Singapore; S. Ranot for Mombasa, Kenya; W. King for Gainesville, USA; and R. Ramos for Cuba. The group asked the Executive Officer to collect information and present it at the next Steering Committee meeting for discussion.



CSG members take a light snack around the pool between sessions at the 12th Working Meeting.

CITES Proposals. Six proposals concerning crocodiles have been submitted to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the next CITES Conference of the Parties (COP) in Fort Lauderdale, USA, 7-17 November 1994. An additional three proposals were known to be in preparation. Written requests to review these proposals were received from the IUCN Trade Specialist Group, The new Director General of IUCN, Dr. D. McDowell, and the CITES Secretariat. The chairman emphasized the need for uniform criteria of judgement for proposals. Copies of the proposals were only recently received from CITES and therefore the full proposals had not been distributed. The Executive Officer presented summary sheets on the proposals to assist discussion. After discussion it was agreed that the available information would allow the meeting to identify broad topics of interest or concern for each proposal and identify CSG members to give the full proposal extensive review. These reviews and comments would be forwarded to IUCN and CITES and also referred back to the proponents for any recommended modification of proposals.

A final judgement on the proposals and a recommendation to the COP would have to await full review and would probably be determined at a Steering Committee meeting immediately prior to the COP. Following this clarification each proposal was presented and discussed.

Australia. Maintain the Australian population of *C. porosus* on Appendix II pursuant to Resolution Conf. 1.2 (Bern Criteria). Hank Jenkins and Graham Webb summarized the content of the proposal. Australian populations of *C. porosus* appear to be secure and thriving under state management plans with a strong federal government capacity to control international trade. The proposal relies heavily on data and the population status in the Northern Territory. Discussion of the different status and management strategies in Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia followed. The similarity was noted to the American alligator, where Appendix II listing was achieved on the basis of large populations and good management in Louisiana and Florida. The meeting was informed that there was opposition to this proposal from Australian NGO's who were lobbying State and federal officials to prevent the proposal being submitted. A final decision at the federal level was awaiting comment from the CSG at this meeting. To facilitate full review and consideration, copies of the full proposal were made available. After careful review by members of the Steering Committee it was agreed that the CSG had full confidence in the Australian management structure and believed Appendix II listing was appropriate for this population. The following letter was prepared and sent to the Australian Management Authority expressing unanimous support for the proposed listing.

Dr. P. Bridgewater  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Nature Conservation Agency  
PO Box 636  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

Dear Dr. Bridgewater:

The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group is holding its twelfth working session in Pattaya, Thailand. During the meeting the Steering Committee of the Specialist Group met to begin

to review and evaluate the conservation merits of various proposals to amend the CITES Appendices in relation to crocodilians. In this context the Steering Committee evaluated the draft proposal to amend the current listing on Appendix II of CITES of the Australian population of *Crocodylus porosus* that has been prepared by Australia. Although the final decision rests with the Parties that will be represented at the Fort Lauderdale meeting, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group is the principle advisory body to the Secretariat on proposals concerning crocodilians. The Steering Committee was unanimous in its support of the Australian proposal. In considering the proposed amendment, the Group commended the responsible government agencies for the manner in which the management of the commercial use of an Appendix II-listed species has been approached. The Australian model represents an excellent example of how scientifically based management and sustainable use of a formerly endangered resource can enhance its conservation. The accompanying data provide unequivocal evidence that the application of commercial ranching of the wild population has been beneficial to the continued recovery of the species in Australia.

Management of the Australian population of *C. porosus* demonstrates that carefully designed and regulated commercial use of a wild species through ranching can achieve positive conservation benefits for the wild resource. The Specialist Group supports the rationale behind the proposal and feels that the regulatory controls and administrative systems that exist in Australia at the State, Territorial and Commonwealth levels could provide adequate safeguards to ensure that the long term conservation of the species in Australia will not be compromised as a result of achieving more flexible management.

Yours sincerely, Professor H. Messel

Indonesia. Proposal to maintain the Indonesian population of *C. porosus* on Appendix II under Res. Conf. 3.15 (ranching). The history of CSG interactions with the Indonesian program was summarized. Indonesia prepared a proposal and, on the CSG chairman's recommendation, G. Webb assisted in editing it. The proposal was to develop separate management options for Irian Jaya and the remainder of the country. Indonesia's program

had received extensive discussion at the ACSUG meeting prior to the CSG. It was reported there that substantial difficulties remain in the implementation of management and control. New regulations and a management scheme have still not been developed and many of the recommendations of previous CSG reviews remain unfulfilled. The CSG will undertake a full review of the Indonesian program 3-10 July and make a final evaluation of the management program then. The specific request of the Director General of IUCN to report to him on Indonesia was noted. The CITES Standing Committee recently informed Indonesia of a timetable for the completion of specific action with regard to trade in wildlife, following which, if compliance is not demonstrated, a trade ban will be recommended by the Standing Committee of CITES. Extended discussion of the Indonesian situation followed centering on the basic issue that Indonesia is beset by chronic and deeply seated difficulties with wildlife management and trade. *C. porosus* and *C. novaeguineae* are not perceived to be in danger of extinction and the two species must be managed together. Irian Jaya presents a special set of problems and integration of management there with the parallel program in PNG is needed. The current status of crocodile management in PNG, particularly monitoring credibility and infrastructure, was discussed.

The feasibility and legality under CITES of the proposed dual management strategy in Indonesia was questioned and considered to be similar in theory to croc management in USA and Australia, with differing management options applied to different areas and jurisdictions. D. Jelden proposed that wild crocodile use should be restricted to Irian Jaya under Res. Conf. 8.22 and use prohibited elsewhere. This was considered impractical and G. Webb thought that the ability to have ranching, whether implemented or not, would provide the only mechanism for monitoring and controlling the situation and assessing sustainability among Indonesia's diverse islands.

It is clear that Indonesia is approaching a crisis with its wildlife management and trade and that a trade ban is likely unless substantial internal measures are implemented. The problem of wildlife trade in Indonesia goes far beyond crocodile management. While Indonesia, and particularly the Indonesian crocodile farmers and reptile traders, attempt to grapple with the



problem, it is unclear whether other wildlife trade groups are reacting and whether the government infrastructure can respond.

The CSG will objectively determine the situation with crocodiles at the time of its review in July, and after rigorous but fair evaluation, will report to the COP. Resolution of the matter lies fairly in the hands of the Indonesians. G. Webb was requested to coordinate communication of the substance of the Steering Committees concerns to Indonesia so that they could make appropriate amendments to their proposal.

Tanzania. Maintain *C. niloticus* on Appendix II with export quotas for wild skins under Res. Conf. 3.15 Tanzania is requesting export quotas of wild harvested skins of 5,000 in 1995, 4,000 in 1996 and 3,000 in 1997 for control of crocodiles causing human and livestock mortality. There is a lack of data linking the requested quota with the levels necessary for nuisance control. Presentation of the results of recent surveys was incomplete and confusing in the proposal. An underlying justification for the proposal is the apparent failure of the crocodile ranching program in Tanzania to achieve operational or financial stability. Data in the proposal indicate that while human deaths due to crocodiles are reportedly extensive, during the last three years only 148 crocodiles (erroneously cited as 248 in the proposal) were collected under the previous nuisance control quotas of 800. It is unclear why a total quota of 12,000 is requested for the coming three years or where they will come from. Concern was expressed that crocodile densities are low outside protected areas and that crocodiles may be taken from the healthy populations in Selous Game Reserve. The CSG recognized the urgency of action needed to prevent human deaths from crocodiles, but was also concerned that the resource for future economic benefit to the people should not be destroyed for short term gain. The proposal will be sent for review and detailed comment.

South Africa. Maintenance of *C. niloticus* population on Appendix II under 3.15 (ranching). This proposal represents the response recommended by CSG after South Africa received a limited 7.14 quota in 1991. Although South Africa's wild populations are small and fragmented they appear well protected and secure. Major production will continue to be from farms but some development of private

lands ranching of eggs is envisaged. It is noted that the survey data are becoming dated (1989) and continued monitoring is not specified. Applications have been received in some countries for import of crocodile specimens from South Africa allegedly collected by sport hunting of nuisance animals. While it seems probable that South Africa could easily support a small amount of sport trophy crocodile hunting, nowhere is provision for this take addressed in the proposal. The proponent was advised to submit their proposal under both 3.15 and 8.22 and to add a description of the annual harvest and control measures proposed for sport trophies and nuisance animals which are specifically allowed under 8.22.

Sudan. Reports of proposals from Sudan for registration of a farm and for disposal of an accumulated stockpile could not be confirmed. A similar request was made in 1991 and implemented in 1992-93. There is therefore no justification for a repeat.

Madagascar. A proposal to maintain the population of *C. niloticus* on Appendix II for ranching (3.15). Supporting data is weak and the management infrastructure is apparently not well developed. The only justification for the proposal seems to be the successful egg collection program for ranching around Besalamy. Reports were also received of recent illegal skin laundering through farms and illegal exports. Further detailed review by French speaking reviewers was recommended.

Ecuador. Proposal to list *Melanosuchus niger* on Appendix II for ranching (3.15) Tommy Hines presented a summary of the surveys and proposal to develop a pilot ranching program in Ecuador. The proposal was generally sound but two issues needing clarification were identified, the survey data cover a relatively small area and the government infrastructure for management and control is not well described. The proposal addressed these by restricting harvest to egg production within only the surveyed area and proposing that the three year pilot project will serve as an opportunity for the government to develop a strong management system. The proposal was referred to John Thorbjarnarson for detailed review and Hank Jenkins was asked to provide input on alternatives that would allow initiation of the ranching scheme under CITES

while retaining some oversight in the preliminary period. Tommy requested that to assist the Management Authority understand the issues and develop the necessary structure, a letter from the Steering Committee be developed.

May 9, 1994

Dr. Angel Paucar  
Director Nacional de Areas Naturales y Vida  
Silvestre  
Autoridad CITES Ecuador

Dear Dr. Paucar:

The 12th Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) was held in Pattaya, Thailand, 2-6 May 1994. One of the major activities at the meeting was the review of proposals submitted to CITES regarding the conservation and management of crocodiles.

Your proposal to reclassify black caiman, *Melanosuchus niger*, was forwarded by the CITES Secretariat to CSG for our recommendations. We have reviewed the proposal and the CSG response was positive. The ranching you propose is a safe and cautious harvest strategy, and is considered by most crocodilian biologists to have strong conservation benefits. The CSG supports your efforts to transfer *Melanosuchus niger* in Ecuador to Appendix II (Ranching) and feels that such listing would be in the best long-term interests of black caiman in your country. However CSG support is dependent upon clarification of some issues, assurances on others, and ultimately, on the successful implementation of your proposed management actions during the period of your pilot program.

Three specific issues are of concern:

1) Infrastructure. Your proposal outlines the legal basis for crocodilian management under the Management Authority. However, we request some clarification of how the commitments in the proposal will be accomplished. Important issues are licencing and inspection of ranches, tagging of skins, size limits on skins exported, the 1,500 hatchlings per year collection quota and the provision of a 3-year pilot program. You correctly identify these as important elements in your proposal but we feel that you should identify specific procedures and regulations dealing with these issues. If the necessary regulations do yet

exist we would ask you to propose a time scale for their implementation. We would also be reassured if you could describe in more detail the administrative structure, resources and personnel you propose to apply to crocodilian management during the development of the pilot project.

2) Monitoring. Monitoring the wild population of the black caiman is one of the most important requirements for successful management. We recommend that you provide specific details of a program of long term monitoring. Your proposal suggests that you are developing a cooperative monitoring program with the ranch operators and we encourage you to work with them on this aspect. We also encourage the Management Authority to seek legislative approval to apply money raised from the sale of tags to directly finance a long term population monitoring program.

3. Reporting. The requirement of CITES Resolution Conf. 3.15 for reporting is correctly specified in your proposal. We would strongly emphasize the importance of providing CITES Secretariat with the necessary data on the program as it develops. This information will be used to determine if the program is meeting the criteria of Res. Conf. 3.15 and the consequences of failing to meet these criteria can be the transfer of the population back to Appendix I (Res. Conf. 6.22).

Your proposal to transfer a population of *Melanosuchus niger* to Appendix II is the first such proposal for this species. It is important that this program set a strong precedent for other Parties in the species range. In view of this, upon receipt of your positive response on the points raised above, the CSG will recommend that the proposal should be approved at the 9th Conference of the Parties. However, we will also recommend that the CITES Secretariat, with appropriate technical experts, review the Ecuador ranching program before the 10th Meeting of the Parties to CITES to evaluate your success at implementing an effective crocodilian management program.

We offer these recommendations only to assist your efforts towards successful management of your crocodilian resources. Our conditional support of the your ranching proposal for black caiman does not indicate any lack of enthusiasm for the project. On the

contrary, we hope that with the improvements we suggest, your program could become a model of sustainable use and conservation.

Your sincerely,  
Professor H. Messel, Chairman CSG

Cuba. A proposal has been submitted to the Secretariat to register the farm at 'Laguna Tesoro for captive breeding of Cuban crocodiles. A copy in Spanish was displayed but not reviewed. A brief summary of the recent survey results was presented. Questions were asked concerning the adequacy of the Cuban infrastructure to provide protection and trade control. This was judged to be very good. Concern was expressed about whether any skins were formerly sent to eastern Europe and whether there were any stockpiles of skins. None are known to exist. Concern was expressed at the trade in crocodile curios to tourists which are then exported illegally to Europe. D. Jelden noted that illegal curios of *C. rhombifer* were still commonly confiscated by German authorities from returning tourists. It was agreed that the Cuban authorities should be requested to address the control of this trade, both in their proposal and as an enforcement issue. It was agreed that, assuming the Cuban authorities would adequately address this issue, the proposal should be supported by the CSG.

Lic. Elvirra Carrillo  
Directora Regulaciones pesqueras  
Ministeria de Industria Pescaria  
Havana, Cuba.

Dear Directora Carrillo:

At our recent meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee in Pattaya, Thailand, 30 April-1 May 1994, we considered the proposal submitted by Cuba for the registration of the crocodile farm at Laguna Tesoro as a Captive Breeding Operation for the Cuban crocodile, *Crocodylus rhombifer*.

We were informed about the results of the recent CITES survey, in which a substantial wild population has been discovered, and also heard that the Cuban government has agreed in principle to the recommendations for the conservation of this population. It is also evident that your farm meets the requirements for captive breeding.

However, one issue was raised, which we bring to your attention and ask you, as a matter of urgency, to address both in your proposal, and by action in Cuba. The CSG was informed that curios (small stuffed specimens, feet, heads, etc.) of Cuban crocodile are produced in a small scale artisanal industry and sold to tourists in Cuba. These are then exported, in violation of CITES, to other countries. We were informed that the seizure of these illegal imports was common and recent in Germany. We are aware that these curios are almost certainly produced from farm bred crocodiles and do not represent any danger to the wild population. However, we would strongly recommend that as a demonstration of its enforcement capacity, and its commitment to conservation and compliance with CITES, that you immediately act to bring this trade in curios under control.

We are confident that you will be able to act upon this matter, and if you would inform us of the actions taken and proposed regarding this issue, then we will be pleased to give full CSG support to your proposal.

Yours sincerely  
Professor H. Messel, Chairman CSG

[see response page 23]

Honduras. Proposal to register a captive breeding operation for *C. acutus*. Under the revised requirements for farm registration presented in CITES Res.Conference 8.15 the responsibilities of the farm, the national Management Authority, the CITES Secretariat and the COP were clearly defined. It was the responsibility of the Management Authority to demonstrate adequate national management, control and enforcement of the farm and trade to meet the requirements for non-detriment and conservation benefit to the wild population. A recent visit to the Honduras Management Authority by Obdulio Menghi and Perran Ross reported continued confusion and inaction on the part of the Management Authority which appeared to be unable to meet the requirements of 8.15 at present. However, there were some optimistic indications that the situation of the Management Authority might change. These included the development of a new Ministry of Environment, development of guidelines for national wildlife use regulations and recent international coordination on CITES issues with neighboring countries. A recent change in

was expected to facilitate improvement of the situation.

Discussion followed on the status of wild populations and the conservation significance of the farm maintaining a captive population in the face of severe pressure on the wild resource from human population expansion and illegal hunting. It was concluded that the proposal indicates that the farm substantially meets the requirements of Res. Conf. 8.15 for the operational responsibilities but at present the Management Authority fell short of meeting its requirements. The Steering Committee decided to withhold any recommendation or judgement at the present time, but noted that the farm appeared generally to be operated in a manner leading to conservation merit. The group determined to wait and see if the Management Authority was able to implement effective infrastructure and initiate control mechanisms as required under 8.15.

Universal Tagging revisited. Hank Jenkins summarized the extensive history of development of CITES tagging requirements and the recent objections to the proposed implementation of Res. Conf. 8.14. This had culminated recently in a request from the CITES Standing Committee that a revised version 8.14 be prepared for submission to the 9th COP. A draft was offered for review and following discussion Hank and Dietrich were delegated to review and revise the draft with input from representatives of trade and industry. The revised draft maintains the original concept of universal tagging as envisaged by CSG.

Revised criteria for listing species on CITES Appendices. Hank Jenkins updated the meeting on progress of the proposal to revise the CITES listing criteria. This began at Kyoto and developed from a draft by IUCN based on the new IUCN threatened species criteria. CSG submitted supporting comments for early drafts. After extensive review and modification by the Parties and by the Animals and Plants Committees a draft was now in form of a proposal to the 9th COP and was being tested informally by a validation process for several species of plants and animals. These revised criteria would only come into effect, should they be approved, after the 9th COP and would not affect any current proposals. The opposition of many NGO groups and some SSC Specialist

Groups was based on the new draft criteria appearing to change Appendix listing for some charismatic species. The relationship of CITES listing and national protection for some species was noted. It is unclear whether the new criteria will be approved by the Parties.

Review of Indonesian crocodile management program. After the extensive discussion at the ACSUG meeting and the earlier discussion of Indonesia's CITES proposal by the CSG, Indonesia should be fully aware of the critical importance of the review by CSG which will take place 3 -10 July 1994. The recent ultimatum presented by the CITES Standing Committee concerning all wildlife trade made the review additionally important. It was noted that in response to questions raised at the ACSUG meeting, the report of a survey of *Tomistoma* funded by ACSUG, had been faxed to CSG indicating the work was completed and the Indonesian agencies appeared to be developing increasing responsiveness on crocodile management issues.

Review of Thailand crocodile management program. The review will be conducted 7 and 8 May by Professor Messel, Dietrich Jelden and Steven Broad (standing in for Ginette Hemley). P. Ross will assist with report preparation. After questions concerning the focus and particular concerns that this review would address, a small subcommittee was formed to generate an agenda in conjunction with the Thai representatives. General issues were identified from the specific recommendations for action of the first review in 1992. These included the results of wild population surveys, the current implementation of import and export controls, particularly as they were applied to caiman skins and live *C. siamensis* from adjacent countries, the adoption of regulations, and the planned release of crocodiles to restock former habitat. It was stressed that the review aimed at receiving updated information on the implementation of crocodile management goals previously proposed by Thailand.

CSG Review of other crocodile management programs. As a result of the intense scrutiny generated by the CSG reviews of programs in Indonesia and Thailand, it was proposed that other programs that have long been considered successful should also be subject to objective

evaluation. The CSG support for sustainable use programs as a benefit for conservation of wild crocodiles is based on examples of successful programs in the USA (Florida and Louisiana), Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Australia and Papua New Guinea. We need to demonstrate that these programs are still well managed and conferring conservation benefits to maintain the credibility of the CSG. Objective review would benefit these programs with constructive recommendations for improvement.

Kevin van Jaarsveldt and Chris Foot, representing Crocodile Farmers of Zimbabwe, immediately stated that they welcomed objective review of their program by CSG and urged other programs to do so also. Discussion followed on the choice of programs to review, the process and timing of reviews and the criteria that should be considered. It was thought valuable to review both developed and undeveloped countries to avoid any north versus south bias. Concern was expressed that CSG did not have sufficient resources to pursue this program and the need for some funding, and careful planning was recognized. A time frame of development and implementation of reviews of programs in at least three major continents (Africa, America, Asia) within the next two years was proposed. The Chairman should request an invitation from the Management Authority or producers association concerned. Concerns were expressed that this process should proceed with caution until a clear understanding of what was needed emerged. Hank Jenkins questioned whether this process was in conflict with the ongoing evaluation of sustainability being conducted by both the SSC Sustainable Use Group and the IUCN Sustainable Use Program. The chairman offered that it was the absolutely correct prerogative of the CSG to comment upon crocodile management programs. After further discussion a small group of D. Jelden, J. Thorbjarnarson, S. Broad and H. Jenkins was asked to develop draft guidelines for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting. The Group agreed that all that was needed at present were preliminary ideas on which to base further development of the process.

Sustainable Use and Guidelines. A brief summary of events at the Buenos Aires IUCN meeting was presented, at which a Sustainable Use Specialist Group meeting and an SU

workshop was held. Concerns were expressed by some CSG members present that the development of sustainable use guidelines by IUCN had become entrapped in an unproductive line of thought. The SUSG was unable to generate much support for its guidelines, and IUCN declined to approve them, opting instead for a continued validation process for wildlife use projects. Frustration was expressed about the process and direction adopted by SUSG. The chairman informed the meeting that he had forwarded these concerns to the chairman of SSC and been assured that they had been heard "loud and clear". The SSC was considering forming a task force to address the issue and offer direction to SSC. It was hoped that this intervention would get the SU process back on track. It was recognized that the development of IUCN policy on SU affects CSG and it would be unproductive to ignore it or isolate ourselves from developments. It was therefore proposed that the SSC chairman be asked to consider including G. Webb as a CSG representative on the task force.

Standards for Monitoring crocodilian populations. Following the directive of the Steering Committee at its Darwin Meeting, the output of the workshop held on this topic was presented for the Steering Committees information. The brief workshop report has been published in the Proceedings of the Darwin Meeting.

US Special rule on Nile crocodile and *C. porosus* imports. The special rule was published by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on 19 April and copies faxed to the CSG. The rule is open to comments until 18 July 1994 following which revisions and a final rule may be developed. The rule waives the requirements for US import documents for whole skins traveling directly from specified exporting countries but imposes significant additional requirements for skins and products that pass through, or are processed in, an intervening country. These provisions appear to be motivated by concerns that inadequate controls in re-exporting countries might allow skins from other sources to be mixed with material from legal sources. Members from exporting countries identified numerous deficiencies and inconsistencies with CITES practice. Frustration was expressed that the draft rule diverged significantly from

representation made by USFW staff as to its contents and intent. Particular problems included the extended time that would elapse before the rule would be implemented. This was estimated at a minimum of 6-8 months and then a built in delay of 12 months, which following upon the protracted 6 year process to develop the rule, seems inordinately slow. Specific provisions of the rule appeared to be punitively strict and include a requirement that all skin pieces of 9 square inches or larger be documented, and that re-exporting countries inspect 40% of all imports and exports. Skepticism was expressed that US itself was able to meet the requirements which it wished to impose on other countries. Opinions were voiced that the rule represented defacto protectionism for the US alligator trade although this was refuted by representatives of the alligator industry. After energetic discussion it was agreed that a formal response from the CSG offering comments should be drafted. Additionally members were encouraged to submit their own independent comments and to pursue all available diplomatic and legal channels to assist development of a rule that supported sustainable use and conservation. It was noted that US representative Charles Dane was expected at the Animals Committee meeting in Beijing April 16th and CSG members Jenkins, Hutton and others could pursue with him directly.

Chief, Office of the Scientific Authority  
Mail Stop: Room 725 Arlington Square  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, DC 20240 USA

Dear Dr. Charles W. Dane:

This is written in response to the Endangered and Threatened Species; Saltwater and Nile Crocodiles; Proposed Rule published in the 19 April 1994 issue of the Federal Register, vol. 59, no. 75, pp. 18652-18663.

The IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) commends the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for moving to reclassify the Australian population of the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) from endangered to threatened under provisions of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Pleased though we are, nevertheless, we must note that this proposed action appears to have been subject to

inordinate delays. The current proposed rule comes nine years after the Australian population of saltwater crocodile was transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and 3½ years after the FWS published its first proposed rule to reclassify this population of saltwater crocodile from endangered to threatened. Similarly, the present proposed rule comes 3½ years after the FWS published its 1990 announced review of the status of the Nile crocodile and 7 months after publishing the downlisting of the Nile crocodile from endangered to threatened.

We are puzzled as to why the Papua New Guinea population of saltwater crocodile is being proposed for listing under the similarity of appearance provisions of the ESA. As noted in the proposed rule, the PNG saltwater crocodiles currently are not listed under the ESA. Granted that there might be some difficulty in distinguishing between different populations of saltwater crocodile solely on the basis of scale morphology, which meets criteria 1. of section 4(e) of the ESA, but the FWS has failed to prove that criteria 2. and 3. are met. Under the provisions of the CITES and the regulations of the Government of Papua New Guinea, all crocodile skins exported from PNG must be accompanied by CITES export permits and self-locking, non-reusable tags. This combination of permits and tags is sufficient to identify the country of origin as Papua New Guinea. Indeed, Papua New Guinea saltwater crocodile hides have been imported into the U.S.A. without undue problems. In the proposed rule the FWS neither suggests nor documents a history of problems involving identification of PNG crocodile skins imported into the U.S.A. What occurred between September 1990, when the FWS published its first proposed rule, and now that requires the imposition of similarity of appearance provisions on PNG saltwater crocodile skins? The morphology of the hides has not changed, and neither has the export requirements or the FWS enforcement procedures. The only thing that comes to mind is the adoption by CITES of Resolution 8.14 on universal tagging of crocodilian hides. Resolution 8.14 will require all saltwater crocodile exporting nations to tag their hides, thus making it even easier to distinguish between PNG hides and those of other range states. Unless the FWS can document a history of



import infractions that have occurred as a result of the PNG saltwater crocodile population not being listed under the ESA, then clearly criteria 2. and 3. of section 4(e) of the ESA are not met and there is no justification for listing the PNG population under similarity of appearance.

For this very same reason, we propose that the Australian population of saltwater crocodile should not be downlisted from endangered to threatened, but should be delisted altogether from the ESA, similar to the current situation with the PNG population. Such action will in no way decrease the protection provided this species. Crocodilians listed on Appendix II of the CITES cannot be shipped internationally primarily for commercial purposes without CITES export permits (printed on security paper with all the requisite signatures, stamps, and seals or chops) from the country of natal origin or re-export. In addition, under provisions of the universal tagging resolution, all whole skins, belly hides, flanks, or substantially whole skins must be tagged. This combination of export permits and skin tags are sufficient to distinguish skins from the country of natal origin and are the accepted standard for distinguishing between legal and illegal shipments, and are the very core of the proposed rule. The CSG totally supports any requirement for correct identification of the species contained in any shipment of skins or products. However, the proposed rule contained in 17.42(c)(3) (ii)(B) requiring copies of CITES export/re-export permits from the country of origin and each country of re-export for the skins (or skin pieces larger than 9 square inches) used in crocodilian products imported into the U.S.A. not only is unreasonable, but most CITES Management Authorities of exporting states and manufacturers will find it impossible to comply with this rule. The author of this proposed rule does not understand the crocodilian skin trade or the crocodilian leathersgoods manufacturing process. Tanned and finished classic crocodilian skins are sold by the square centimeter, so manufacturers cannot afford to throwaway scrap after the larger pieces of most leathersgoods have been cut out of the finished skin. Depending on the species involved, finished classic hides sell for US \$6.00 - 10.00 a centimeter (\$15.00 - 25.00 an inch), and while scrap sells for less, its cost still is significant. To avoid a significant economic loss, the larger scrap is used for gussets, bottoms, and internal trim, while smaller pieces are used for watch straps, key ring fobs, and narrow belt

blanks. In an ideal world, gussets and trim cut from American alligator scrap would be used only on American alligator products.

Unfortunately, manufacturers frequently are left with pieces of scrap after the use of the skins of a particular species is finished. Their only hope of using the scrap and thereby avoiding an economic loss is to use it in similarly colored products manufactured from other species.

Requiring documentation of pieces of skin down to 9 square inches in size is unwarranted in the extreme. By comparison, a mans wallet varies from 24 to 43 square inches in area. Where will manufacturers get illegal finish tanned skins? Under the CITES universal tagging resolution, skins moving in international commerce must be tagged. This makes tanners the major point of control. An occasional tag is lost during the tanning process, but that lost tag should be recovered in the bottom of the tank or drum and accounted for on the permits and other documentation. If more than the occasional untagged whole skin, belly hide, flank, or substantially whole skin turns up in a tanners tanks and drums, that tanner is operating illegally. Illegal skins might be available from the country of natal origin, but raw or crusted skins are not used in finished leathersgoods. If tanners process legal, tagged skins, where will manufacturers get illegal tanned, dyed, and finished scrap? If legal skins are exported from one nation (e.g., Venezuela), are sold to a buyer in another nation (e.g., U.S.A.), exported to a tanner in a third nation (e.g., France), and to a manufacturer in a fourth nation (e.g., Italy), and during manufacture legal scrap from a second species is incorporated, and then is shipped to a retailer in a fifth nation (e.g., U.S.A.), under the proposed 17.42(c)(3) (ii)(B) rule each retail item could require 6 to 10 pages of documentation. To our knowledge, this is the most burdensome documentation requirement ever proposed by any government to control the crocodilian skin trade. The CSG urges the FWS to require proper identification of the species involved in manufactured leathersgoods, but not to require documentation of tags, permits, and certificates on individual cut pieces of skin used in the manufacture when those pieces constitute less than 25% of the product.

Proposed rule 17.42(c)(3) (iii)(F)((3) seems to be in error. Paragraph (F) of that rule refers to The country of origin..., which presumably means the country of natal origin for the skins.

Yet, subparagraph (3) refers to ...crocodilian skin and product shipments imported into that country.... If the skin or product is imported into the country, that country is not the country of natal origin. Clearly this is in error and is not workable. We believe that subparagraph (3) is meant to refer exports from the country of natal origin or the country of re-export. Even if the intent as to country of natal origin or country of re-export is clarified, it is not clear what proposed rule 17.42(c)(3)(iii)(F)(3) would actually require. What does ...physically inspects no less than 40 percent of the crocodilian skin and product shipments... mean? Does it mean physically inspects 40 percent of the individual skins or products in each and every shipment? Does it mean physically inspects each and every skin or product in at least 40 percent of the shipments? Does it mean physically inspects one or two skins or products in 40 percent of the shipments? Does it mean physically inspects a random sample of skins and products in 40 percent of the shipments? Does it mean physically inspects the shipping containers and documentation, but not the actual skins and products, in 40 percent of the shipments? Each of these interpretations is possible under the current wording of proposed 17.42(c)(3)(iii)(F)(3).

Even if the meaning of proposed 17.42(c)(3)(iii)(F)(3) is clarified, imposition of this regulation seems capricious. While the government of Colombia currently inspects 100 percent of the crocodilian skin exports leaving that nation, data available to us suggests that the FWS currently does not inspect 40 percent of the crocodilian imports into or exports out of the U.S.A. Imposing on foreign governments requirements more stringent than the U.S. government requires of its own agencies is capricious and unwarranted.

The proposed 17.42(c)(3)(i)(A) and 17.42(c)(3)(ii)(A) state that this proposed rule on Nile crocodiles and Australian and Papua New Guinea saltwater crocodiles will come into effect ...after [date to be 1 year after the effective date of the final rule].... This proposed rule has a public comment period lasting until 18 July 1994. Compilation and analysis of those comments and publication of a final rule will require a minimum of 60 to 90 days, but if the FWS's past record on reclassifying the listing of these crocodiles is any indication 1 to 3 years could lapse before publication of the final rule. Why then is an

additional year required before the final rule comes into effect. This is unwarranted and unneeded.

In summary, the Crocodile Specialist Group commends the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for proposing downlisting the Nile crocodile and the Australian population of the saltwater crocodile on the U.S. Endangered Species Act. However, the CSG is opposed to listing the Papua New Guinea population on the ESA as threatened by similarity of appearance when no problem has been demonstrated by its current unlisted status. Indeed, that lack of problems argues strongly that the Australian population of *Crocodylus porosus* should be delisted rather than downlisted. Such delisting will not weaken protection for either population since the CITES permitting and tagging requirements will remain in place. The CSG supports the correct and complete identification of skins used in crocodilian leathers, but opposes any requirement for documenting through tags, copies of permits and other certification for pieces of skin that constitute less than 25 percent of the product. The proposed rule 17.42(c)(3)(iii)(F)(3) is unworkable because of country of natal origin and country of re-export are confused, and because the meaning of ...physically inspects 40 percent of the individual skin or product shipments... is unclear. In addition, that proposed rule is capricious because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service itself does not inspect 40 percent of the shipments entering the U.S.A. Finally, there is no justification for delaying for one year the date on which the final rule will come into effect.

Although it is not directly related to the proposed rule on Nile crocodiles and Australian and Papua New Guinea saltwater crocodiles, the Crocodile Specialist Group is deeply concerned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not yet published a final ruling on delisting the yacare caiman (*Caiman crocodilus yacare*). Three and a half years have passed since the FWS announced a review of the U.S. Endangered Species Act listing of the yacare caiman. Data available to the CSG indicate that sufficient data were submitted by interested biologists, wildlife officials, and ranch state governments to justify delisting this species; a review of the submitted data was completed and a draft final rule was prepared by a U.S. Scientific Authority biologist 1½ years ago; and a second review and draft final rule was prepared

by a U.S. National Biological Survey biologist 1 year ago, but still no final rule has been published. This delay is jeopardizing the efforts of several range states to conserve this species through rigorously controlled sustainable utilization. Clearly the FWS has decided that scientific data and conservation of the species are not the basis for listing species on the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Harry Messel  
Chairman, CSG

Tomistoma Research proposals. Mr. Anthony Sebastian of Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) described AWB as an international NGO based in Malaysia with a special interest in conservation of wetlands and wetland species. Following initial contacts in Darwin last year AWB has communicated with CSG concerning mutual interest in a conservation project for *Tomistoma*, which was designated by CSG as one of seven top priority species for conservation action. Mr. Sebastian reviewed the survey of general distribution of *Tomistoma* undertaken by AWB in the last year, concluding that Indonesia, and particularly Sumatra, was the major remaining stronghold of the species, although significant localities in Sarawak and Kalimantan were known. He presented a draft proposal for a more detailed survey and conservation program and invited the CSG to comment upon, and if possible, become a supporter of, the project. Professor Messel welcomed AWB interest in this critical species and noted that CSG had encouraged ACSUG to fund a survey of *Tomistoma* by PHPA in Indonesia, which was recently completed. AWB and CSG concur that the next immediate need for *Tomistoma* conservation is detailed quantitative evaluation of the identified populations with an eye to developing conservation programs in the future. AWB maintains an office and staff in Bogor and has a close working relationship with PHPA. Mr. Frank Bambang Yuwono, representing the Indonesian Fauna and Flora Trade Association invited AWB to contact his office in Indonesia for assistance. CSG does not have funds to support a proposal and in any case rarely operated in such a fashion. Prof. Messel cautioned that any funds generated for conservation with CSG endorsement would have

to be applied effectively to field activities and not expended wastefully on institutional support. The need for coordination to avoid needless duplication of effort was recognized. Finally the meeting agreed to review and evaluate the AWB proposal and recommend assistance and support as appropriate.

Illegal trade between South America and South East Asia. A letter from the CSG Vice chairman, Latin America suggested that some south American countries were considering renewed censure of Asian nations for their alleged role in the illegal trade. The allegations are based on past events and no information on recent problems was offered. The confrontation on this issue in Kyoto in 1992 was recalled and disappointment that the issue was being revisited was expressed. An appeal was made to all parties to consider productive methods of dealing with an illegal trade that was a shared concern of both exporting and importing countries. Mr. Koh expressed the view that this was aimed at Singapore but reassured the meeting that his association was ready to work closely with legal authorities to resolve the problem. He appealed to the CSG to assist in facilitating communication and transfer of information between the parties concerned that would assist governments pursue their investigations. Steven Broad of TRAFFIC South East Asia offered to pursue the matter with his contacts through the TRAFFIC Network and with the Singapore authorities. Professor King observed that as the major markets for all skins were now in south east Asia it was a natural consequence that the illegal trade would appear more evident there. However, proportional to the volume of trade, it was not clear that there was more illegal trade into Asia than elsewhere. A cooperative approach between exporting and importing countries is the most effective mechanism of suppressing illegal trade and is the essence of the CITES Convention.

Indian Region Report. The proposed joint project between specialist groups on cetaceans, otters, fresh water turtles and crocodiles in the upper Ganges was described. CSG was invited to review the proposal and participate on crocodilians. A detailed proposal on crocodilians in Nepal has been prepared by T. Maskey, H. Andrews, P. McEachern (of IUCN Nepal) and J. Cox. It was suggested that this proposal and

personnel be the CSG component of the multidisciplinary study.

Harry Andrews reported on his recent surveys in the Andaman Islands. There are small but widespread populations of *C. porosus*. There is some impact of new settlers and a report was given of recent capture and transfer to Thailand of 130 crocodiles by Thai fishing boats. Concern was expressed at this illegal trade. Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn responded that crocodilian management had recently been assigned to the Thai Department of Fisheries, who were well placed with fisheries patrol boats to interdict this trade. It was noted that the Indian authorities should also be advised of the problem and Steven Broad undertook to do this through TRAFFIC India.

Colombia. Hank Jenkins and Wayne King summarized the recent CITES visit to Colombia. It appears that production capacity of Colombia farms is consistent with the volume of exported caiman skins. Control mechanisms are well developed and effectively implemented. Some problems remain in the realm of tag control and monitoring, and the assessment of wild population status. Activities are in progress to address these problems. The development of conservation and captive breeding activities for rarer species such as *C. acutus*, *C. intermedius* and *M. niger* was noted. The re-organization of the management authority appeared to have resulted in significant improvements in Colombian crocodilian management. A training program is planned for June to initiate surveys.

John Thorbjarnarson reported results of recent surveys among indigenous people near Leticia indicating *M. niger* was more abundant and widespread than previously thought. Val Lance confirmed that colleagues of his engaged in other reptile studies had also reported *M. niger* populations in Colombian Amazonia.

Venezuela report. Alvaro Velasco reported on recent surveys in the Orinoco delta region and the development of a pilot harvest quota in that area. Surveys in both wet and dry seasons confirmed earlier estimates of caiman density in the range of 0.91/hectare (wet season) to 2.8/ha (dry season) and a preliminary sustainable harvest quota of 24,000 caimans greater than 1.8 m. However, actual harvest in the first phase was only about 200. In the llanos area the caiman hunting season has just closed and a harvest of

around 25,000 is expected. A full report will be submitted to the CSG NEWSLETTER. An action plan for *C. intermedius* has been prepared by the Venezuela Crocodile Specialist Group presenting a 5 and 10 yr plan for conservation action. The responsibilities of the government agencies had been defined. Due to low prices and sales the number of caiman farms in Venezuela had declined from 29 to 6 and these were surviving by exporting small caiman to the US for pets.

John Thorbjarnarson reported that preliminary surveys of *C. intermedius* in Colombia were undertaken by Myrian Lugo and additional breeding and restocking was planned. There was an opportunity to develop a program with an Oil company that maintained extensive fresh water cooling ponds in which it might be possible to raise crocodiles. A program of cooperative interaction between Venezuela and Colombia was recommended. DNA analysis was proposed to establish the genetic similarity of *C. intermedius* in the two countries and depending on the results, plans to maintain separate stocks, or exchange animals for restocking, could be developed.

Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands were surveyed by Profs. Messel and King in 1990 but to date the recommendations of the survey had not been implemented. Significant crocodile populations were restricted to one locality. Requests had been received from the operator of a small croc farm in the Solomons on the process required for him to trade skins. This requires action under CITES that is not possible at present. However, a new foreign aid initiative to the Solomons opens the possibility of a re-invigorated management and conservation program for crocodiles. The CSG was ready to assist with expert advice and assistance when needed.

China. A brief report on current developments of crocodile farming in China indicated that no significant changes have occurred. The advertised "largest Crocodile farm in the world" at Hainan island was thought to be stalled at present. The joint management of the Anhui Alligator Center (ARRCAR) was proceeding. It was noted that China is a major consumer of wildlife products and with its huge population and vigorous economic development, was likely to become a significant force in the crocodile trade. Vigilance on the situation is needed to ensure that trade

develops along sustainable lines within the CITES framework.

Philippines. The extreme concern of the CSG for the status of the Philippine crocodile was expressed. The history of CSG review and recommendations for the CFI project was presented. While some significant advances in husbandry and breeding success had been achieved, implementation of the detailed recommendations of several CSG reviews had been slow. The project received major financial support from Japanese govt. Recently CFI was visited independently by Mr. Y. Takehara and C. A. Ross. Mr. Takehara reported on his visit which was conducted as a private individual. He recalled the original motivation for Japanese support for the project was a result of JLIA's desire to support conservation of a truly endangered species. He noted that production at CFI had improved to around 1,000 hatchlings a year and that the removal of breeding stock from the wild was justified by the poor situation for crocodiles in the wild. At the present time it was feared that the slow development of commercial production and large financial burden was causing Philippine authorities to reconsider their participation in the project. The project is facing a crisis.

Andy Ross reported that he did not perceive the situation to be terribly bad. He noted some significant improvements in the interaction of the Japanese aid agency JICA and the Philippine staff such as the transfer of library materials and the sending of personnel for training in Australia. His opinion was that remaining friction within the staff was prompted by uncertainties of tenure and economic uncertainty about continued Philippine participation. He noted that CSG member Prof. Angel Alcala was now Secretary of Environmental Resources and so continued Philippine participation seemed likely during his tenure. Future success of the project was based upon improving production and marketing of *C. porosus* which the farm could do as a CITES registered captive breeding operation for this species. The possibility of creating and supporting a reserve for a wild population on *C. mindorensis*, which is a high CSG priority, was considered remote.

Concern was expressed that further deterioration of morale at CFI would lead to a loss of staff that would endanger the captive crocodile population. The importance of the

small breeding group at Silliman University and the exchange program for breeding with Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas, and Melbourne Zoo, was noted. After discussion of the various ramifications of this matter it was agreed to draft a letter to President of the Philippines, copy to Alcala expressing concern and CSG opinion of the importance of the CFI project for the conservation of *C. mindorensis*.

May 9, 1994

His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos  
President of the Republic of the Philippines  
Malacan Palace  
San Miguel  
Philippines

Dear President Ramos:

I am writing to express the congratulations of the Crocodile Specialist Group of the SSC/IUCN for efforts undertaken by your government to conserve crocodiles in the Philippines. The Philippine crocodile (*C. mindorensis*) occurs only in your country and is critically endangered in the wild, therefore the special efforts of your government to protect this species by captive breeding are vital to its survival. At our working meeting 2-6 May in Pattaya, Thailand, we received a report on the latest developments concerning the program of crocodile conservation conducted by Silliman University and by the Ministry of Environment on Palawan at the Crocodile Farming Institute (CFI) in conjunction with Japanese aid agencies. We are delighted to hear that the Silliman program is expanding and particularly congratulate you on their program of breeding exchange with other institutions. The CFI program is also developing well. We understand that technical progress at the Institute has been excellent and that the Institute is now the guardian of the largest group of Philippine crocodiles in existence and continues successful breeding of this endemic endangered species. We would, however, like to express great concern about the future of the CFI facility.

The CSG has participated in technical reviews and advisement of the CFI program. We are very aware of the difficulties that have arisen in the past concerning this program, and we are particularly appreciative of the special efforts that the Government of the Philippines has made to continue funding for the operation at a time

to continue funding for the operation at a time when funding resources are scarce and competing priorities must be considered. CFI has recently been registered as a captive breeding facility for the saltwater crocodile (*C. porosus*) which opens the possibility that the Institute can begin to become self-supporting by the sale of products of this species. The program therefore appears to be on the verge of success and it would be a great pity if full support from the Philippines were withdrawn at this crucial point. We fully understand that all governments must face difficult decisions in allocating available resources to national priorities and we do not presume to advise you on what your priorities should be. However we would draw to your attention two points for your consideration.

The Philippine crocodile, *C. mindorensis*, is a unique species that occurs only in your country and is critically endangered in the wild. It is no exaggeration to say that the survival of this species rests, for the moment, on the maintenance of a captive population. We all hope for a future when it will be possible to provide adequate habitat and protection to allow this, and many other unique Philippine species, to live again in safety in the wild, but for the time being, the captive population is the sole repository of this priceless representative of Biodiversity and Filipino natural heritage. Such considerations have direct economic value. Many countries have successfully developed programs to use their crocodile resources in a sustainable manner for the direct economic benefit of their people. It would be a tragic loss of future potential if the Philippine crocodile were not preserved for the future. The crocodile conservation program in the Philippines has also generated another priceless resource. The technical personnel who have painfully learned all the complexities of crocodile husbandry represent a resource of incalculable value if the Philippines wishes to develop the economic potential of crocodiles in the future. The future development of economic benefits from sustainable use of crocodiles will be dependent upon the presence of well trained personnel. The Filipino personnel at CFI are a resource of human capital that is already established and trained. It would be an unnecessary loss of future options, if these personnel were to be forced to move to other fields due to inadequate support for crocodile management.

We suggest that the most productive way for

the crocodile management program to develop would be to encourage the captive breeding of *C. porosus* for commercial purposes (including skin production and tourism) and encourage extension of this activity to the private sector. This would allow the widest participation of Filipinos and realise the economic incentives for conservation. This would have to proceed under careful regulation and in compliance with CITES. The commercial production of *C. porosus* would then be able to subsidize the protection and conservation of the much more endangered *C. mindorensis*. The expansion of private farms would also provide an opportunity to place *C. mindorensis* for safekeeping at a variety of locations as insurance against unanticipated disaster at CFI or any other single locality. The crocodiles and Filipino expertise at CFI represent the stock from which such a program could be developed.

We would therefore respectfully recommend that in your government's evaluation of funding priorities for the future, the dual benefits that can be derived from the crocodile farming program be recognized. We believe your continued support for this program will assist both the conservation of a unique Filipino species and also the future development of a potentially valuable resource.

Yours sincerely

Professor H. Messel, Chairman CSG.

cc. Dr. A. Alcala, Secretary of the Environment

Vietnam. Andy Ross reported on his recent visit to Vietnam. He established that the survivors of the gift of Cuban crocodiles were widely distributed and had been allowed to hybridize with Siamese crocodiles in captivity. He estimated that there were 100's of hybrids, widely distributed in zoos and captive collections. After discussion it was agreed that P. Ross would assist Toby Ramos to discuss with Vietnamese representatives and prepare an official communication from Cuba to Vietnam on the topic. The meeting agreed it would be desirable to eliminate hybrids from Vietnam but this may not be possible. Discussion followed on the significance of hybrids to commercial production, international trade and the maintenance of wild populations.

Paraguay. W. King presented the results of his



recent survey of Paraguay where very high densities of *C. jacare* were recorded. The new management regime in Paraguay was described and it is evident that crocodilian management and trade is under control. The Paraguay Management Authority had a stockpile of about 50,000 confiscated jacare skins and was seeking advice on whether these could be sold legally to raise funds to support management and conservation. While there are some precedents for such action it was agreed that this was a matter that must be pursued directly with the CITES Secretariat.

Vanuatu. Prof. Messel presented a brief report on the suspension of activity of the conservation and crocodile restocking scheme at Port Patterson, Vanuatu, following a dispute among local land owners. The project was postponed indefinitely.

Palau. The Recovery Plan for the salt water crocodile on Palau prepared by USFWS was discussed. The plan had been reviewed by several CSG members who all agreed that it had serious deficiencies in its approach. It stresses enforcement and additional surveys as well as redundant scientific studies and fails to address the root cause of crocodile problems in Palau which were habitat alienation and public misinformation and prejudice. These comments had been communicated to USFWS through the formal comment process and no further action by the CSG was deemed necessary.

African report. A letter and series of short reports from African Vice Chairman Olivier Behra were presented. The immediate outlook for crocodilian conservation in central and western Africa appears pessimistic and it remains uncertain what concrete actions can be formulated. Some general principles of support for regional work and conservation were offered. The Executive Officer was asked to obtain recent survey reports from Cameroon.

French Guyana. A draft letter to the French Ministry of Environment supporting conservation measures for the black caiman in the Kaw swamp area was reviewed and approved.

May 10, 1994

Mr. Michel Barnier

Minister of the Environment  
20 Avn. de Segur  
75 302 Paris 07 SP  
France

Dear M. Le Minister:

In its concern for the conservation of the Black Caiman and with awareness of the interest at the international level in the Kaw region of French Guyana, the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group welcomes the creation of a regional park in the Kaw area and the establishment of a strictly protected area within the Kaw swamp.

We would respectfully like to make the following recommendations for your consideration and action:

1. Realistic protection measures should be applied to the Black Caiman concerning its overall distribution, particularly on the Appouague stream at the level of Alpoto and Mantouni islands. This protection should include a ban on night time hunting as well as protection of the biotope.
2. More in-depth studies on the Black Caiman population should be conducted, including a regular follow-up of the populations. Indeed it appears important to obtain a better understanding of the specific distribution of the different species in the overall habitat as well as the seasonal movement of individuals.
3. Within the framework of the creation of the protected area, a surveillance system should be established from the outset that would cover the whole distribution of the Black Caiman (including the shores of the Alpoto and Mantouni Islands).
4. The situation on the stocks of caiman products should be clarified as well as the current status in the trade in caiman meat.
5. The Black Caiman already held in captivity in French Guyana should be clearly identified. Appropriate care should be taken with the clutches and hatchlings to ensure a better survival rate of these animals and to enhance the value of existing stock.
6. The possibility of collaboration with a private farm, within the framework of the management

program should be left open. A technically appropriate ranching project should be accepted pending the demonstration of its economic viability.

The Crocodile Specialist Group would be interested in providing further suggestions on the subject. This could be coordinated through our Deputy Vice Chairman for Africa, Mr. Olivier Behra who is of French nationality and has been conducting work in Guyana, or through our Vice Chairman for South America, Mr. Juan Villalba Macias (tel/fax 596 2 493 384), who can coordinate your contact with our other representatives in the region.

I look forward to receiving more good news about caiman conservation in French Guyana.

Yours sincerely;  
Professor H. Messel, Chairman CSG

cc: Dr. L. Sanite, Regional Director of the Environment, French Guyana

Pet trade in small alligators. Concerns about the alligator pet trade, and a draft statement from the Louisiana Wildlife Department, were presented by Ruth Elsey. The meeting agreed that the uncontrolled proliferation of alligator farms throughout the world, stocked from hatchlings exported as pets, was not desirable from a conservation perspective. The topic is complex and includes ecological concerns about introducing alligators into the range of other species, contrary to the CSG policy on exotic crocodiles. It raises welfare concerns about the level of care and ultimate fate of pet alligators. Concern was expressed as to whether a pet trade that depended upon the very low survival of pet animals was either ethical or defensible as sustainable use. The suitability of alligators, or any large crocodilian, as a pet for any except the specialist collector was questioned. Difficulties of CITES regulation and trade control were cited, however, it was not clear why pet alligators were any different in this regard from other live transfers or small non-living products. The need for CITES documentation is the same. Most members considered that this issue was an internal problem that US should address by domestic measures. After discussion it was agreed to refer the issue to a small discussion group who were asked to return with clear information on the topic to the next Steering

Committee meeting. Ruth Elsey, Don Ashley, Val Lance & Wayne King were asked to coordinate. After recognizing his strong experience in the pet trade Mr. Bambang Yuwono of Indonesia was also asked to participate.

Humane Killing. It was recalled that at the successful workshop on this issue in Zimbabwe a CSG policy statement had been issued and a recommendation that interested veterinarians in the CSG continue to monitor the issue and keep the group current on progress. After brief discussion it was agreed that advances on the topic should be collected and presented in the NEWSLETTER.

DNA workshop. The potential for organizing a workshop on DNA analysis and genetics of crocodilians organized by Prof. Lehr Brisbin was announced. The value of such an activity was recognized and the Executive Officer requested to coordinate with Lehr and inform the Steering Committee.

Action Plan revision. The availability of a great deal of new and updated information crocodilian conservation status was noted. After discussion it was agreed that the Executive Officer would coordinate with Dr. John Thorbjarnarson to prepare updated sections of the Action Plan. The chairman undertook to initiate a search for funds to support an Action Plan update and requested Ross and Thorjarnarson quickly develop a timetable and draft budget for this purpose. These funds have now been obtained.

Model Management Plan. The final draft of the document prepared by Dennis David was presented. It had been extensively reviewed in its current form by CSG members Hutton, Jenkins, Jelden, Hemley, King, Ross and Hines. It was agreed that further revision of the document was not needed except for some minor clarifications. It was agreed that an appropriate vehicle for publication was inclusion in the Proceedings of the current meeting under Dennis David's authorship. The financial assistance of Mr. S. Trachter was acknowledged.

Delisting *C. yacare*. W. King reported that as the yacare delisting process was still stalled in USFWS a group of South American countries were contemplating preparation of resolution to

A meeting had been held to discuss this. The process was still under discussion.

Proceedings of the Pattaya Meeting. Brief discussion was held concerning the most effective manner of producing the Proceedings of the Pattaya Meeting. It was agreed that the Proceedings should be produced by the Executive officer in Gainesville and that a transfer of funds from the meeting registration should be arranged for printing and mailing costs.

G. Webb announced that the Proceedings of the Darwin Meeting were currently being distributed. It was agreed to send a letter to the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory thanking them for their efforts in producing an excellent meeting and now a very useful Proceedings.

May 9, 1994

Dr. Matti Urvet, Director Conservation  
Commission of the Northern Territory  
P.O Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831, Australia

Dear Dr. Urvet:

I am writing to again extend our thanks and appreciation to the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, for organizing and hosting the Second Regional Meeting of the Crocodile Specialist Group in March 1993.

At our recent 12th Working Meeting in Pattaya Thailand, Dr. Grahame Webb presented the first copies of the Proceedings of the Darwin Meeting which was assembled and produced by CCNT. The volume is a very useful contribution to crocodilian research, management and conservation and I must add our thanks to you and your staff for producing such an excellent volume. Both the quality of production and the content are top notch and I think both CSG and CCNT can be proud that this volume will be a significant contribution to the field for some time to come.

You may be interested to hear that at our 12th Working Meeting in May several of the participants from SE Asia who were at the Darwin Meeting gave presentations reporting significant updates from their countries. I believe the seeds that we were able to plant, with your assistance, in Darwin, may eventually bear a rich crop of conservation benefits in the region. Once again CCNT has demonstrated its

leadership role in conservation and sustainable resource management. We look forward to continuing to work productively with you in the future.

Yours sincerely, Professor H. Messel

## MEETING FOLLOW-UP

Since the Pattaya Meeting several responses and additional actions concerning the items listed above have been received.

### Thailand review

The IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group review committee consisting of Professor Harry Messel, Chairman CSG; Dr. Dietrich Jelden, Deputy Chairman CSG; Mr. Steven Broad TRAFFIC SE Asia and rapporteur, P. Ross, visited Thailand from 30 April 1994 to 7 May 1994 in conjunction with the 12th Working Meeting of the CSG at Pattaya, Thailand. The 12th Working Meeting gave the opportunity for the formal presentation of several papers detailing results of recent surveys of wild crocodiles in Thailand and reports on the status of crocodiles in the neighboring countries of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. The meetings also gave the opportunity for extensive informal communication and exchange of views prior to the actual review which took place on 6 and 7 May 1994.

The committee acknowledged a continuing improvement in crocodilian management and conservation in Thailand. However, it was noted that supporting documentation was not provided in all instances, but the Thai authorities cooperated fully with the review committee. The specific recommendations of the 1992 review report were adopted as the points of discussion for the 1994 review and a request was made for Thai representatives to provide available documentation related to these topics. CSG was informed that the responsibility for trade and crocodile management (captive and wild) outside National Parks and Protected Areas under jurisdiction of Royal Forest Department had recently been transferred to the Department of

Fisheries. However, responsibility for crocodilians within National Parks and Protected Areas remains with RFD. Therefore, the committee requested that representatives of both agencies, as well as representatives from crocodile NGO and trade associations, be present at the review.

The recommendations of the 1992 report were discussed point by point in detail and a full report has been submitted to CITES and will be published separately. The following items were resolved:

1. The CSG Review Committee, while recognizing that present legislation provides a basis for control of crocodile farming and trade, again urged that the pending "regulations" embodied in the draft Ministerial Notification to enforce the 1992 Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, be issued as soon as possible in order to enhance control.
2. The CSG Review Committee recognizes the important leadership role that Thailand is playing in encouraging Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to accede to CITES, and recommends that these efforts be continued.
3. The CSG Review Committee once again urges that every effort be made to prevent illegal trade in live crocodilians and crocodile skins from Cambodia and Lao PDR.
4. The CSG Review Committee urges that attention be paid to the alleged illegal trade in live crocodiles from the Andaman Islands and recommends that the relevant Thai authority liaise closely with the equivalent authorities in India on this matter.
5. In view of continuing international concern about illegal exports of caiman skins from range states, the CSG Review Committee recommends that the authorities of Thailand prepare a report prior to COP 9 detailing Thai regulatory controls for import, domestic processing and re-export of caiman skins. Consideration should be given to implementing the previously agreed inventory of skins in tanneries.
6. The CSG Review Committee encourages the responsible authorities, in consultation with CMAT and TATRA, to fully implement the

intent of CITES Resolution Conf. 8.14 on the Universal Tagging of Crocodilian Skins in Trade.

7. The CSG Review Committee recommends that the responsible authorities, in collaboration with TATRA and CMAT, consider the development of a national management strategy and plan that combines all aspects of crocodilian management in Thailand in a single document. Such consideration should include attention to the specific points raised on this subject in the 1991 Webb and Jenkins Report.

8. The CSG Review Committee, recognizing the considerable progress made, encourages the continuation of the survey program for wild crocodile populations in Thailand.

9. The CSG Review Committee strongly recommends that a reintroduction program be developed as a matter of urgency. In order to protect the integrity of the wild stock, any reintroduction attempts should take place only after full investigation of the genetic identity of the subject animals and after the development of a full reintroduction strategy in consultation with the CSG Review Committee and the IUCN/SSC Reintroductions Specialist Group.

10. The CSG Review Committee requested the Thai Management Authority to prepare a written report of steps taken to implement the recommendations above and present it to the next Steering Committee Meeting of the CSG which will take place immediately prior to the 9th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Fort Lauderdale, USA, in November 1994.

## Indonesia review:

REVIEW POSTPONED. After an intensive exchange of faxes and information between the Indonesian authorities and the CSG, Professor Messel, CSG Chairman, took some time during an unrelated business trip to Jakarta to discuss the situation with representatives of PHPA and the Crocodile Farmers Association. The outcome of these discussions was that the Indonesians decided that they would postpone the review visit and undertake to impose a unilateral moratorium on exports of crocodile skins until the management procedures which they are developing are in place, at which time the CSG

will be invited by Indonesia to review these procedures.

## Cuba:

In response to the CSG letter the following response was received:

*Letter to Professor H. Messel from Elvira Carrillo, MIP, Cuba, undated but faxed 8 June 1994.*

Professor H. Messel  
Chairman CSG

First I must express my satisfaction to know that at the CSG meeting in Thailand the report on the Cuban crocodile population was well received, and also for the decisive approval of our proposal to register the farm for *C. rhombifer*.

In response to your letter concerning the illegal export from Cuba of stuffed crocodile curios. I must inform you that all these stuffed curios which are sold in the shops are specimens which die in the farm or are sacrificed. Notwithstanding this, after receiving your letter we have immediately undertaken the following measures:

1) For the present, no further specimens will be made available from the farm to the taxidermic industry.

2) We are preparing to undertake an inventory of the stuffed specimens currently in stock.

3) We are organizing a meeting between the Management Authority and the Customs to alert them to this situation.

4) We are advising customers in the tourist shops, by notices, that the Cuban crocodile is a species which is currently prohibited from international commerce, which in the case of tourists may be seized by the customs of some countries.

Although the commerce we are referring to here is very small, we reaffirm that we are taking the necessary steps to deter this kind of activity.

In relation to proposal that Cuba could be host of the next meeting of the CSG, I have informed the Cuban authorities to obtain an official recognition from the government and response to your questionnaire.

Salutations etc. Elvira Carrillo, Director of Fisheries Regulations (CITES Management Authority, Cuba)

## Steering Committee:

Following the CSG Steering Committee and input from members of the CSG the following additional changes to the Steering Committee were declared by the Chairman:

■ Dr. John Thorbjarnarson, of Wildlife Conservation International, USA, has been invited to become Deputy Vice Chairman for Science.

■ Mr. Alejandro Larriera of Argentina and Lic. Alvaro Velasco from Venezuela were invited to take on the responsibilities of Deputy Vice Chairmen for Latin America to provide additional channels for communication and coordination in this important area.

■ Ted Joanen of Louisiana Fisheries and Wildlife, USA, indicated that he had obtained financial support that would allow him to continue to serve on the Steering Committee and therefore wished to withdraw his earlier resignation. The Chairman invited Ted to serve as an additional Deputy Chairman to assist the nominated Vice Chairman, Prof. Lehr Brisbin. Further re-adjustments of the responsibilities of the North American Steering Committee members are under discussion as this NEWSLETTER goes to press.

## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

In the Spring of 1992 the Steering Committee proposed that a voluntary subscription to support the NEWSLETTER be requested of all CSG NEWSLETTER recipients. The policy made clear that the subscription was voluntary and no penalty would follow non payment. At the same time the longstanding CSG policy remained: subscribers from whom no communication at all was received for a period of more than one year would be made inactive. Exceptions to this policy are that all CSG members, Patrons, and a selection of institutional subscribers (for example IUCN headquarters & CITES Secretariat) are always sent their NEWSLETTER. This system has operated during 1992 and 1993 and this issue contains the subscription request for calendar

contains the subscription request for calendar year 1994 (Volume 13 of the NEWSLETTER). It seems valuable to review the success of the program.

The NEWSLETTER is distributed to between 700 and 800 recipients each issue depending on the number of active status subscribers on the central data base. Prior to mailing each issue the Executive Officer revises the data base, adding new subscribers and making persistently silent subscribers inactive. This issue will be mailed to 803 subscribers and the data base currently contains 339 inactive listings.

In 1992 Subscription responses were received from 147 recipients of whom 95 forwarded the \$40 US voluntary subscription. An additional 15 individuals sent \$40 and an additional donation of between \$60 and \$440 to assist CSG general operations. Total subscription revenue was \$4,980.00. In 1993, 169 recipients returned the subscription form with 104 sending the \$40.00 and an additional 21 also sending additional donations. Subscription revenues were \$4,790.00.

In both years respondents to the subscription request were quite evenly divided between commercial, academic, management agency and student and amateur categories. Unsurprisingly, a large proportion of the respondents who choose not to send a donation were from developing countries. However, the respondents making the \$40 donation were not so clearly differentiated. In numerous cases individuals from what might be expected to be relatively impoverished circumstances have made the effort to raise and remit a cash donation, although in some cases less than the suggested \$40.

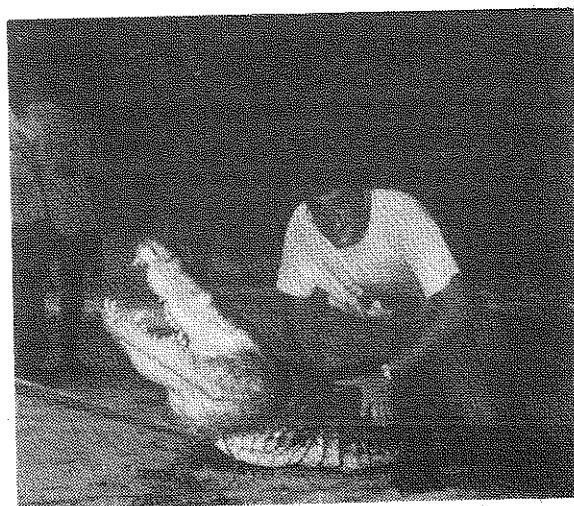
To place the subscription revenues in context, the preceding issue (Vol 13, 1) of the NEWSLETTER cost of total of \$1,052 for printing and binding and photo processing, and \$1,026.34 for mailing for a total of \$2,078.34 or \$2.59 each. This of course does not account for the cost of preparation, staff time etc., or for the very considerable donation of time and effort by members who actually prepare and submit the materials used.

It appears that the subscription program is a relative success with revenues supporting about half the annual production cost of the NEWSLETTER being raised. At the same time a large proportion (80%-85%) of NEWSLETTER recipients do not respond to the subscription request, even to indicate that they wish to continue receiving the NEWSLETTER but decline

to make a donation.

The question should be raised "would more recipients respond if the suggested donation was less, say \$25 or even \$20?" If response rate went up to 50% then revenues might be more than doubled and the NEWSLETTER production would become self supporting. This would open some interesting possibilities for expanding the NEWSLETTER's scope and format. An additional issue a year?, color photos?, student travel subsidies for meetings?, a larger format for more scientific presentations? Responses and comments from the readership are invited. -- J.P. Ross, *Executive Officer, CSG, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611 USA.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** - The newsletter must contain interesting and timely information. All news on crocodilian conservation, research, management, captive propagation, trade, laws and regulations is welcome. Photographs and other graphic materials are particularly welcome. Information is usually published, as submitted, over the author's name and mailing address. The editors also extract material from correspondence or other sources and these items are attributed to the source. The information in the newsletter should be accurate, but time constraints prevent independent verification of every item. If inaccuracies do appear, please call them to the attention of the editors so that corrections can be published in later issues. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individuals identified and, unless specifically indicated as such, are not the opinions of the CSG, the SSC, or the IUCN-World Conservation Union.



Preston McEachern of IUCN, Nepal, assisting Jeff Lang and Harry Andrews in their study of ticklish crocodiles.



## Steering Committee of the Crocodile Specialist Group

**Chairman: Professor Harry Messel**, Executive Chancellor, Bond University, Australia.  
For further information on the CSG and its programs, on crocodile conservation, biology, management, farming, ranching, or trade, contact the Executive Officer or Regional Vice Chairmen:

Andrews photo

**Deputy Chairmen (New World): Prof. F. Wayne King**, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA. Tel: (1) 904 392 1721 Fax: (1) 904 392 9367.

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**Bernardo Ortiz von Halle**, IUCN-America del Sur, Ecuador. **Sergio Trachter**, Techno Caiman Ltda., Brazil. **Lic. M. Quero P. PROFAUNA**, Venezuela. **Miguel Rodriguez, Pizano S.A.**, Colombia.

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**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. **Marco Pani**, TRAFFIC Europe, Italy.

**IUCN: Species Survival Commission Chairman: Dr. George Rabb**, Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, IL 60513 USA. **Program Director, Sustainable Use of Wildlife: Dr. Stephen Edwards**, IUCN-US,

**CITES Observers: Dr. Obdulio Menghi**, Scientific Coordinator, and **Jaques Berney**, Deputy Secretary General, CITES Secretariat, P.O. Box 456, CH-1219, Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41) 22 979 9123