AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Catagonus wagneri* in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Paraguay

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia

12. Order: Artiodactyla

13. Family: Tayassuidae

14. Scientific Name:
   - **Genus**: *Catagonus* (Ameghino 1904)
   - **Species**: *Catagonus wagneri* (Rusconi 1930)

15. Common Names:
   - English: Chacoan peccary, Giant peccary (Large Gray)
   - French: Quimilero (Chaco Argentino)
   - Spanish: Guaraní: Taguá

16. Code Numbers: 5301 419 002 002 001

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The range of the Chacoan peccary is restricted to the Gran Chaco region of South America, which covers North-West Argentina, South-West Argentina, South-East Bolivia and North-West Paraguay (Wetzel 1977, Wetzel & Sowls 1981; Mayer and Brandt 1982). Its entire range probably covers about 139,600 km² (Sowls 1984), but its distribution is best known in Paraguay, where it is restricted to the drier regions from the middle Chaco with rainfall of 900 mm p.a. to 400 mm p.a. at the Bolivian border (Wetzel 1977).

The Provinces where the Chacoan peccary is reported to occur or to have occurred are as follows:


BOLIVIA: Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz, Tarija (Ludlow 1983).

(See Annex I)
22. **Population**: The Chacoan peccary is subject to considerable pressure by the opening up of the Chaco and the construction of new roads for military use and oil exploration, also by the conversion of its habitat to cattle pasture. The diurnal activity, natural curiosity and the strong cohesion of social groups renders it particularly vulnerable to hunting pressure. The population has been reduced in the Chaco Austral of Argentina and in all areas of the Chaco Boreal of Paraguay and Bolivia. It has been severely reduced and perhaps locally extirpated in the most arid portions of its range (the Bolivian–Paraguayan border), as well as in areas modified for grazing lands and roads (Oliver 1981; Wetzel & Sowls 1981; Bejarano 1981; Thornback & Jenkins 1982).

The Chacoan peccary is known to occur in the Teniente Enciso and Defensores del Chaco National Parks of Paraguay, but doubts have been expressed about the adequacy of policing in these areas. (There is only one park guard in the Teniente Enciso National Park - 40,000 ha and five in the Defensores del Chaco National Park - 789,000 ha). The boundaries are rarely patrolled (Ludlow, 1983) and the Military are reported to be the prime abusers of the parks.

The population of the Chacoan peccary surviving within the Defensores del Chaco National Park is not exactly known, but Ludlow computed a crude estimate of a 72,000 animals, probably a much too optimistic one (Ludlow, 1983).

The Chacoan peccary was formerly abundant in the Teniente Enciso National Park. In the mid 1970s it was not uncommon to see several herds in one day (Sowls, pers. comm.). Ludlow calculated a theoretical population of 3,696 animals, again using data from Mayer & Brandt (1982). These numbers seem to have been reduced very drastically: in 1981 Ludlow spent 20 weeks in the Chaco parks and saw herds on 11 occasions. In 1982 he spent 14 weeks in the Chaco and saw only 2 individuals. In the same year he observed only one animal during the four weeks he stayed in the Teniente Enciso National Park (Ludlow, 1983; Ludlow, in litt.)

The normal herd size of the Chacoan peccary has also decreased in the past decade. Moreno (SA CITES Paraguay, in litt.) did not see one full breeding group (i.e. 5-7 individuals) in January 1986. No more than two at a time were seen.

According to inhabitants of Depto. Boquerón, Paraguay, the Chacoan peccary has totally disappeared from the region. The population in the northern region of the Paraguayan Chaco seems to be quite small as well (Gould, in litt.).

These data altogether give reason to believe that there exists a real danger of extinction for *C. wagneri*, if nothing is done to curb the present evolution (Hazelton, in litt.; Mayer & Brandt, 1982).

(See Annexes II & III)
23. Habitat: The Gran Chaco is a vast alluvial plan in the rain shadow of the Andes and is virtually flat (Eckel 1959). Most of the region is covered with semi-arid xerophytic woodland and thorn forest (Wright et al., 1964; Short, 1975). In the centre of the Catagonus range (km. 580 on the Trans-Chaco Highway) we find a dense and scrubby forest except for scattered large trees, principally quebrachos (Aspidosperma quebracho blanco and Aspidosperma quebracho colorado) and palo santo (Bulnesia insignis).

The habitat where C. wagneri was found is an impenetrable thorn forest with few openings (Sowls, 1984). This primary habitat extends to the West into the more open, rolling sandhills. To the East its range appears to be bounded by the transition from high thorn forest to open palm (Copernicia australis) savannah habitat.

In some areas (northern Alto Paraguay) the original forest extends to the Paraguay River and C. wagneri may occur in these areas (Stallings, pers. comm.). However, C. wagneri reached its greatest abundance in the central, moderate stature forests of the Chaco (Ludlow, 1983).

The Chacoan peccary is a wilderness animal that does not appear to be able to survive when its pristine habitat has been destroyed or converted. Its liveable environment has narrow temperature and rainfall limits (Sowls, 1984).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Of the large mammals in the Chaco, the Chacoan peccary is the one most often killed for meat. It is the primary target of food for a wide range of people, including subsistence farmers, ranchers, oil prospectors, military personnel, Mennonite communities, visiting sportsmen and occasionally park guards (Oliver, 1981; Mayer & Brandt, 1979; Ludlow, 1983). Its meat is highly prized as the most delicious meat available (Benirschke, 1984), and moreover it is quite easy to hunt (Oliver, 1981). (See Annex III).

There seems to be a minor trade in their hides, although this is best regarded as a by-product of hunting (Oliver, 1982).

Catagonus hides are the least valuable among the three peccary species and only a small percentage reaches the leather market (Wetzel, pers. comm.). Sowl (1984) found that Catagonus hides were only occasionally saved in the Chaco of western Paraguay. They were usually thrown away with the head.

On the other hand it has been suggested that in southeastern Bolivia some Chacoan peccaries are hunted exclusively for their hides (Bejarano, in litt.). Ojeda & Mares (1982) noted that the Chacoan peccary is intensively hunted in the Argentine Chaco where the animal is taken primarily for its meat and its commercially valuable hide. They reported that purses made from Catagonus skins can be purchased in San Miguel de Tucuman.
32. Legal International Trade: The only country where legal trade can be permitted is ARGENTINA, where hunting and trade is regulated by the Provinces' legislation (Reglamentación 691/81). Commercial trade is possible by the export permits given by the Provinces. In the first official statistics about exportation of the National Director of Fauna (1983), Tayassu tajacu appears as the only peccary species exported; nevertheless nothing from those data guarantees that this name would not cover Catagonus skins as well (Olrog & Cajal, 1982).

Ojeda & Mares (1982) noted that C. wagneri is also hunted for its commercially valuable hide. They stated that Argentina exported over 300,000 peccary hides (all three species) from 1972 till 1979. Still the result is that it would be very difficult for customs agents to distinguish the pelts of the three species.

Argentine export figures are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hides (All 3 spp.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>26,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>56,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>31,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>8,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>4,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>7,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>39,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>53,574</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1980-1984: Ruiz (in litt.)*

33. Illegal Trade: Although faunal protection laws exist in all three countries, they are apparently ineffective or unenforceable.

In PARAGUAY exact information pertaining to commercialization is difficult to obtain. It is common knowledge that there are professional hunters and buyers of skins in Paraguay. The skins come and go through various military checkpoints, which do not check the shipments. It is difficult to say whether the majority of these skins come from Paraguay or Bolivia, nevertheless there is heavy illegal trafficking of skins in
Paraguay. The exact destination of these illegal skins is unknown, though rumoured to be the F.R. Germany and Japan. From his limited observations Moreno (SA Paraguay, in litt.) estimates that the peccary hide trade seems to be of minor importance. However, Paraguay has great difficulties to enforce its laws for the protection of wildlife. This is due to a number of factors, one being that the Chaco is so extensive, another is the unwillingness of the military to turn in offenders when they pass through the checkpoints.

In BOLIVIA Bejarano (in litt., see Broad, 1984) describes the hunting of C. wagneri for its hide as the main threat.

The hide of C. wagneri, although thinner and not as valuable as that of the other peccary species, is often included in the large numbers of peccary hides exported for leather goods manufacture and it has become the quarry of the increasing number of travellers through the Chaco (Thornback & Jenkins, 1982). Because of the fact that the pelt is not a characteristic that clearly distinguishes C. wagneri from the other peccary species (especially Tayassu pecari - Olrog & Cajal, 1982), and moreover that customs statistical categories tend to be rather broad, it is difficult to say how large a part of the peccary skins exported are from C. wagneri.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: None.

342. Parts and Derivatives: Any eventual limitations or bans on trade of Tayassu rajacu and Tayassu pecari skins without an adequate protection of C. wagneri (e.g. Appendix I listing) could possibly increase the hunting pressure on this species, notwithstanding its hide being the least valuable.

4. Protection Status

41. National: In PARAGUAY all hunting, commercialization, importation and exportation is prohibited by Decreto 18796 of 1975. Moreover, Paraguay has already established nine national parks. C. wagneri occurs with certainty in two of them, namely the Defensores del Chaco NP (379,000 ha) and the Teniente Enciso NP (40,000 ha) in the West of the country.

In ARGENTINA hunting and trade is regulated by the Provinces' legislation (Reglamentación 691/81). Commercial trade for exportation is possible by the export permits given by the Provinces, but because of the recent increase in trade, the National Direction is studying the possibility of totally prohibiting their trading and consequently the exportation (Ruiz, in litt.).

In BOLIVIA the exportation of living wildlife and derivative products has been forbidden by the Ministerial Resolution No. 226/85 up to 31/7/86. At present all exportation of wildlife products is forbidden for the next three years by Decreto Supremo No. 21312 of 2/4/84.
42. International: None.

43. Additional Protection Needs: C. wagneri has been recommended for inclusion in Appendix I in view of its present threatened status and the fact that any trade regulations on the other peccary species could conceivably encourage the trade in its hide, albeit that this trade is reportedly negligible at present.

At national level, it would be very important to offer plans for the preservation and management of threatened areas. Therefore, more information is needed about the exact distribution and population of C. wagneri.

To gain further knowledge about C. wagneri and help to assure its survival, a captive breeding herd should be established: attempts so far have been unsuccessful.

The presently prohibitive regulations on the movement of live suids between international breeding centres due to veterinarian restrictions, effectively stifle the otherwise promising potential for captive breeding programmes.

Several breeding attempts have already been undertaken, so far without success:

- In 1977 Frädrich obtained 3 animals which were transported to the Berlin Zoo. After six weeks 2 of them died.

- Since 1983 one Chacoan peccary has been kept in the Asunción Zoo, Paraguay.

- Another promising project is the 20 ha fenced compound at Madrejón, within the Defensores del Chaco NP where one young male plus a 1 year old females were kept on 17/12/85 (Benirschke, in litt.).

- In 1986 a five acre fenced corral together with five small holding or quarantine corrals have been established at Estancia Toledo (Filadelfia). The young male from Madrejón has been transported to this ranch. Four more adult peccaries (1.3) have been captured, from which only one female was still alive on May 86. On 14/7/86 1 male and 1 female were held at Estancia Toledo. Natives report that Chacoan peccaries are quite easy to capture but that it is difficult to keep them alive for more than three days. Veterinary and pathological help are needed and since the diseases of Catagonus are unknown, further study on this subject is indicated (Bird, in litt.).

5. Information on Similar Species

Over the entire range of C. wagneri the three peccary species occur sympatrically. The characteristics most outstanding that allow differentiation from Tayassu tajacu and Tayassu pecari are the following: rostrum long and convex, ears long, lack of lateral dew claws on the rear feet and greater size. However, the pelt is not clearly distinguishable from that of Tayassu tajacu (Olrog & Cajal, 1982). The Chacoan peccary is even similar in coloration to the white-lipped (T. pecari) having a grizzled, gray brown coat.
Although it is possible to distinguish *C. wagneri* from the other peccaries in the field, the identification of the skins on the contrary represents a substantial problem.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The responses from the three countries of origin are given below. All of them have expressed broad support for this proposal. (See Annex IV).

PARAGUAY: support (Moreno, *in litt.*)

ARGENTINA: support (Ruiz, *in litt.*)

BOLIVIA: support (Menghi, pers. comm.)

7. Additional Remarks

The IUCN SSC Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group gives its full support to this proposal. Moreover, Dr. Lyle K. Sowls is completely in favour of the amendment and late Prof. Ralph Wetzel - the discoverer of this species - recommended the inclusion of *Catagonus wagneri* in Appendix I of CITES (Oliver 1982).

However, in view of the identification problems when skins have been processed or been reduced to small size articles, it would be nonsense only to list *C. wagneri* in Appendix I without including the other two peccary species in Appendix II on a look-alike basis under Article II 2(b) of the Convention. This would greatly facilitate the monitoring of the international trade and allow the perception of future trends and conservation needs. Also design of a species identification key for peccary skin products could be very useful in this matter (Oliver 1981). (See Annex V).

8. References


ANNEX I: DISTRIBUTION

Fig. 3.—Approximate distribution in South America of:
A) Tayassu injucis; B) Tayassu pecari; C) Cutagous wagiiuri.

MAYER and BRANDT (1982) p.442

SOWLS (1984): The Peccaries p.5

Estos registros corresponden al distrito occidental de la formación fitogeográfica chaqueña.

(Source: Ciesa & Cañal '86)
CONCLUSIONS AND STATUS

Three distinct species of peccaries exist in the New World at present. With the exception of the coat coloration, the collared and white-lipped peccaries are more similar to each other morphologically than either is to the Chacoan peccary. Obvious sexual dimorphism is absent in the entire family. Coat coloration differences exist between immature and adult individuals of each species.

The collared peccary has the widest range and the most general habitat preferences. At the other extreme, the Chacoan peccary is the most restricted in its distribution and has the narrowest habitat preferences.

The Chacoan peccary has slightly larger litters containing proportionately more males than the collared peccary. More reproductive data are needed on the white-lipped peccary before sufficient comparisons can be made with the other two species.

All three species appear to be largely herbivorous based on accounts of food species determined through food habits studies or observations by trained personnel.

The mountain lion and jaguar are the principal predators of the three peccaries; man is the only predator that has a significant effect on all three species over their entire ranges.

All three are social, herd-oriented animals. These herds are probably largely composed of one or more extended family groups. In general, the activity patterns of the peccaries appear to be a product of mean daily temperatures and hunting pressure by man. Where the midday temperatures are high and the hunting pressure is intense, the animals are more nocturnal in their activity. With the exception of herd size, the Chacoan peccary closely resembles the collared peccary in its various behaviors. Again, too little is known about the white-lipped peccary to make any comparisons with the other peccaries. As present, only the white-lipped peccary remains largely unstudied in its natural history.

Over their entire ranges, the status of the collared and white-lipped peccaries is stable. This is not true for the Chacoan peccary. Of the three species, the Chacoan peccary is the only one regarded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as threatened. Habitat destruction and hunting are cited as the major threats to the survival of this species (IUCN 1978). Since the initiation of this study, the numbers of Chacoan peccaries observed in the Chaco Boreal of Paraguay have decreased. Of the large mammals in this area, it is the one most commonly killed for meat. In fact, the Chacoan peccary is now extremely rare in areas of the northern Chaco where it was very abundant 4 to 5 years before (L. K. Sowls 1981, personal communication, P. Hazelton 1981, personal communication). With the increasing accessibility of this region as the Trans-Chaco Highway is resurfaced, the hunting pressure on this species for food, sport, and hides has dramatically increased. Although Paraguay has officially prohibited all game hunting nationwide, the enforcement of this ban is sporadic and in the Chaco is essentially nonexistent. As human settlement continues in this region, the future survival of this species in Paraguay is in doubt. Its status in Bolivia is unknown, but according to local hunters, the Chacoan peccary is not common there. Some areas of the northern Argentine Chaco reportedly still have good numbers of this species, but their future there is also uncertain (R. Ojeda 1981, personal communication). It would be ironic indeed if this species, thought to be extinct until the mid 1970's, were in fact to become extinct before the end of this century.

Table 10.1. Thirteen Peccaries Seen Near Kilometer 510 of Trans-Chaco Highway (Copegra).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Observation Time (Days)</th>
<th>Number of Herds Seen</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sowls (1982), The Peccaries p. 455.
ANNEX III: UTILIZATION

TO: W.L.R. OLIVER; Secretary

FROM: PROF. RALPH M. WETZEL
DR. LYLE K. SOWLS

J Keep Hotel,
New Delhi.

Dated: 22nd February, 1981

Recommendation for Group Action Programme
on the Chacoan Peccary or Tagua Catuscus wagneri

Status:

Population reduced in the Chaco Austral of Argentina and in all areas in the Chaco Noroeste of Paraguay. Severely reduced and perhaps locally extirpated in the most arid portions of its range (Bolivian-Paraguayan border), as well as areas modified for grazing land and roads.

Considerations:

Trade in hides is considered by this Group to be incidental to the central reason for killing the tagua as a prized food item. It is heavily used by military outposts, ranchers, trappers, and oil exploration parties for food.

EG a) Sowls and Wetzel estimate that one small, 4-room hotel in the Chaco used more than 1,000 tagua each year.

b) Small military outposts in Paraguay use 1 tagua each week (J. Stellings, pers. comm. 1981).

The tagua hide is the least valuable of the 3 peccaries and only a certain percentage of the hides reach the hide buyers. Therefore, we believe that trade in the hides of tagua should not be treated as part of the problem of conservation of that species.

The establishment of a large national park within its range has been a positive step in its conservation.

Recommendations:

1. Continue the vulnerable status, but closely monitored by Paraguayan authorities for IUCN. This monitoring should include the gathering of better information on local abundance and detailed information on the exact distribution throughout its range.

2. Because of the extreme vulnerability of the tagua, when new roads are built, and clearing of the forest follows, we recommend that special efforts of the Bolivian, Paraguayan, and Argentinian Governments be made to set aside parks as inviolate sanctuaries. We also recommend that these Governments set up more of these refuges in the heart of the tagua range, and keep large areas free of any disturbance, including roads and trails.

3. We believe that new studies on the basic biology of the tagua and its ecological relationship with the other three sympatric species should receive encouragement.

IUCN/SSC PIGS AND PECCARIES SPECIALIST GROUP
Señor
Juan S. Villalba Macías, Director
TRAFIC (Sudamérica)
Carlos Rosi 1946/301
Montevideo - Uruguay

Estimado Juan:

Estoy viendo con satisfacción las acciones que estás realizando en favor de la conservación de nuestra fauna silvestre. Espero que hayas recibido la contestación del Señor Ministro, Don Hernando Bortoni, a tu requerimiento, sobre, interpretación de nuestra legislación, la cual consideré correcta y apela a continuar recibiendo tu cooperación.

Con referencia a tu MEMO de fecha 3 de diciembre de 1985, estoy totalmente de acuerdo con la propuesta a ser presentada sobre la inclusión en los Apéndices I y II, de las mencionadas especies de Palmares.

Con respecto a datos poblacionales, es difícil establecer una estimación, no obstante, no puede afirmar, con absoluta certeza, que la población de las tres especies estén siendo disminuidas por efecto del avance de las fronteras agrícolas y ganaderas en las áreas del hábitat de estos animales. La protección legal conferida a los animales silvestres en Paraguay es de tu conocimiento, tu ayuda para su aplicación tendrá siempre gran significación y trascendencia.

Agradeciendo una vez más tu valiosa cooperación, aprovecho para saludarte con mi consideración más distinguida.

[Signature]

Ing. Hilario Noreno
Autoridad Científica
CITES - PARAGUAY

Asunción, 13 de enero de 1986
Asunción, January 13, 1986

Dear Juan:

I am looking with satisfaction at the actions that you are taking with regards to the conservation of our wild fauna. I hope that you have received the reply from the Minister, Mr. Herrando Bertoni, to your request about the interpretation of our legislation, which he considered to be correct. He hopes to continue to receive your cooperation.

With regards to your memo of December 3, 1985, I am completely in agreement with the proposition to be presented that the Peccary species be included in the Appendices I and II of CITES.

With respect to facts about the populations, it is difficult to establish an estimate, nevertheless, it can be affirmed, with absolute certainty, that the population of the three species are decreasing, due to the effect of the advance of the agricultural frontiers and the grazing into the areas of habitat of these animals. You know about the legal protection conferred to wild animals in Paraguay; your help in their application will always have great significance and consequence.

Appreciating once more your valuable cooperation, I profit by greeting you with my most distinguished consideration.

Signed,

Engineer Hilario Moreno
Scientific Authority
CITES - PARAGUAY
Sr. Director
TRAFFIC (Sudamericana)
D. Juan S. VILLALBA MACIAS
Carlos Roxlo 1496/301
MONTEVIDEO - R. O. DEL URUGUAY

Me es grato dirigirme a Ud. en respuesta a la nota de fecha 3 de diciembre ppo mediante la cual solicita información sobre las especies de pecaríes en nuestro país.

Existen 3 especies en Argentina:

**Dicotyles tajacu**  
pecarí de collar

**Tayassu albirostris**  
pecarí labiado

**Catagonus wagneri**  
pecarí quimilero

En cuanto a la información solicitada comunico a Ud. que:

a) No se cuenta con datos sobre poblaciones de las diferentes especies.

La distribución histórica es:

**Dicotyles tajacu**: Provincias de Formosa, Chaco, Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja, Misiones, Corrientes, Santa Fé y Santa del Estero.

**Tayassu albirostris**: Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Santa del Estero y Santa Fé.

**Catagonus wagneri**: Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Formosa y Salta.

La distribución actual se estima similar.

b) Las dos primeras especies se cazan deportiva o comercialmente. También los lugareños suelen cazar para alimentación de sus familias.

3) El comercio de exportación se halla autorizado en base a los mismos que emiten las provincias.

4) No se conoce.
Sr. Director  
TRAFFIC (SUDAMERICA)  
D. Juan S. Villalba Macías  
Carlos Roxlo 1496/301  
MONTEVIDEO-URUGUAY  

Dear Sir:  

It is a pleasure for me to answer your Memorandum, dated December 1985, by means of what you ask for information about Pecari Species in our country. 

There are 3 species in Argentina:  

- Dicotyles tajacu  
- Tayassu albirostis  
- Catagonus wagneri  

About the information you have required, I let you know:  

a) We do not have any details of the population of any of this three species. 

The historical distribution is:  

Dicotyles tajacu: Provinces of Formosa, Chaco, Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja, Misiones, Corrientes, Santa Fé and Santiago del Estero.  

Tayassu albirostis: Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Santiago del Estero and Santa Fé.  

Catagonus wagneri: Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Formosa y Salta.  

We think, the actual distribution continue being the same.  

b) The first two species, are hunted by traders or as sporting. The people from the place usually hunt them as food for their families.  

c) The commercial trade of this species for exportation, it is possible by the export permits that the Provinces give.
e) The illegal trade is unknown.

f) The skins exportation in the last five years has been:

1980 - 8,239 skins
1981 - 4,900 "
1982 - 7,360 "
1983 - 39,139 "
1984 - 53,574 "

Exportations of alive animals has not been made during that period.

g) In our country their hunting is regulated by the Provinces Legislation, but because of the increase of the trade this National Direction is studying the possibility of forbidding totally their trading and consequently their exportation.

Because of these circumstances, we agree with you on listing this species in App.I (Catagonus Wagneri) and in App.II (Dicotyles y Tayassu) of CITES, for what Argentina can cooperate to patronise the proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez Ruiz
Director of National Wildlife
The I.U.C.N./S.S.C. Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group was established in August 1980, and held its inaugural meeting during the course of the 55th Meeting of the Species Survival Commission in February 1981. The Group comprises a number of research workers and regional consultants who have a particular interest in these animals or can otherwise assist the activities of the Group. These members include Dr. Lyle K. Sowls, who is probably the world authority on the living peccaries and author of the new standard text, 'The Peccaries', which was published in 1981. The late Prof. Ralph M. Watzel, who first reported the survival of the Giant or Chacoan Peccary Catagonus wagneri in 1972, was also a member of the Group until his untimely death in 1984. Both of these people attended the inaugural meeting, where they formally proposed that the Group should develop recommendations for the inclusion of Catagonus wagneri in Appendix I of the Washington Convention, as an urgent measure for the species' enhanced future protection. In addition, they also drew the Group's attention to the burgeoning international trade in the hides of all three species of peccaries, but especially those of Tayassu pecari, the White-lipped Peccary and T. tajacu, the Collared Peccary.

In line with these recommendations and the other activities of the Group, efforts were made to develop and to maintain contacts with numerous other research workers and relevant governmental agencies in the countries of origin of these animals in an attempt to obtain as much information as possible on the various aspects of the hide trade and its likely impact on the conservation status of these species. At the request of the Group, the wildlife trade monitoring unit in Cambridge also initiated a pilot study in 1982. This work has since been developed and coordinated by Dr. Jean-Pierre d'Huart, Director of TRAFFIC (Belgium), who is also a member of the Pigs and Peccaries Group.

As a result of the general background information, raw data and consensus of expert opinion thus obtained, this Group strongly supports the proposal for the inclusion of Catagonus wagneri on Appendix I of C.I.T.E.S. and the inclusion of Tayassu tajacu and T. pecari on Appendix II. These recommendations are based on the following considerations:

- Catagonus wagneri is now severely threatened as a result of increased hunting pressure and habitat destruction throughout its small and rapidly diminishing range in the dry Chaco region of north-western Argentina, western Paraguay and south-eastern Bolivia, and should be conserved by all possible means.

- Although Catagonus hides are considered to be the least valuable of the three species, some hides undoubtedly enter international trade as there is no easy way of discriminating between the hides of the various species when they have been prepared or reduced to leather products.
although the minor trade in *Catagonus* skins may be a by-product of hunting for meat, this is certainly not always true in the case of *Tayassu tajacu* and, especially, *T. pecari* - from both of which species enormous numbers of hides have been exported from some countries in recent years.

- the inclusion of these species on the C.I.T.E.S. Appendices will greatly facilitate the desirable future monitoring of the international trade in these hides, which has been inadequately regulated to date, and that such information as has been obtained indicates that there have been a growing number of incidences of shipments of hides being illegally exported from countries of origin and that uncontrolled exploitation for commercial gain is increasing.

- whilst the Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group fully recognises the economic importance of these animals as a primary resource of subsistence hunters in many countries, and an important target for recreational hunters in some other countries, the Group considers that the inclusion of these species on the C.I.T.E.S. Appendices would be in no way detrimental to national legislations appertaining to hunting or by-products utilisation, but, rather, that the improved regulation of the international trade would help to insure future exploitation at a national level on a sustainable basis.

William L.R. Oliver
Chairman
I.U.C.N./S.S.C. Pigs and Peccaries
Specialist Group