

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of the Mexican population of Ursus arctos in Appendix I instead of Ursus arctos nelsoni.

B. PROPONENT

The Kingdom of Denmark.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

- 11. Class: Mammalia
- 12. Order: Carnivora
- 13. Family: Ursidae
- 14. Species: Ursus arctos nelsoni (Merriam 1914)
- 15. Common Names: English: Mexican grizzly bear
French: ours brun du Mexique
Spanish: Oso pardo de Mexico
- 16. Code Numbers:

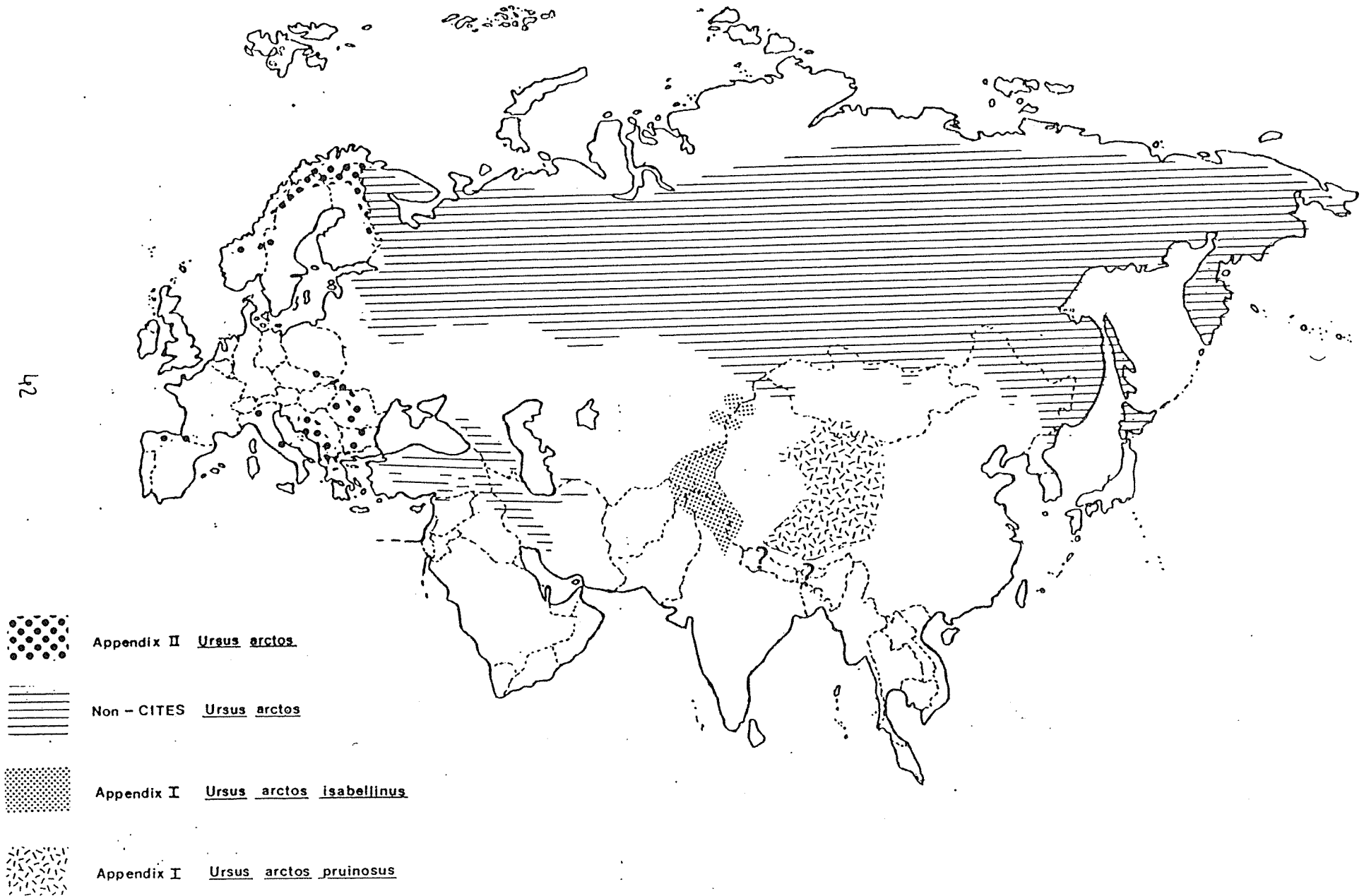
2. Biological Data

- 21. Distribution: Probably extinct. Formerly occurred in Arizona and New Mexico (U.S.A.) but it became extinct there in 1935 and 1933 respectively (Le Franc et al., 1987). The bear was also found in the Chichuahua State of Mexico but the last confirmed records there appear to relate to the early 1960s (Thornback and Jenkins, 1982).
- 22. Population: Probably extinct.
- 23. Habitat: Scrub areas were apparently preferred.

3. Trade Data

- 31. National Utilization: None at present.
- 32. Legal International Trade: None recorded at least since 1976.
- 33. Illegal Trade: None known.
- 34. Potential Trade Threats:
 - 341. Live Specimens: May be attractive to zoological parks if rediscovered.

Fig 1. The Eurasian distribution of Ursus arctos



342. Parts and Derivatives: Possibly some museum interest if the animal is rediscovered.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Fully protected in Mexican legislation.

42. International: -

43. Additional Protection Needs: If the animal is rediscovered immediate full practical protection should be given to it.

5. Information on Similar Species

Readily distinguishable from other bear species but likely to be very difficult or impossible to tell apart from other North American populations of Ursus arctos.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Sought, but no reply received.

7. Additional Remarks

96 different taxonomic names have been proposed for the North American population of Ursus arctos (Hall, 1984), nelsoni is merely one of these. However, it is not recognized as a valid subspecies and cannot be identified as such (Rausch, 1963). This view is held by present day bear biologists (Herrero, 1988).

As the subspecies is not a valid one, the CITES listing should refer to the Mexican population of Ursus arctos rather than Ursus arctos nelsoni (see Resolution Conf. 2.20).

8. References

Hall, E.R., 1984. Geographic variation among brown and grizzly bears (Ursus arctos) in North America. Special Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. of Kansas No. 13.

Herrero, S., 1988. (Chair IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group) in litt. 4 October.

Le Franc, M.N., Moss, M.B., Patnode, K.A. & Sugg, W.C. (eds.), 1987. Grizzly Bear Compendium. Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

Rausch, R.A., 1963. Georgraphic variation in size in North American brown bears as indicated by condylobasal length. Can. J. Zool. 41: 33-45.

Thornback, J. & Jenkins, M., 1982. The IUCN Mammal Red Data Book, Part 1. IUCN Gland, Switzerland.

