

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Ursus arctos pruinosus from Appendix I to Appendix II and deletion of the subspecies name pruinosus.

B. PROPONENT

The Kingdom of Denmark.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia
12. Order: Carnivora
13. Family: Ursidae
14. Species: Ursus arctos pruinosus Blyth 1854
15. Common Names: English: Tibetan brown bear
French: ours brun du Tibet
Spanish: Oso pardo del Tibet
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: See figure 1.

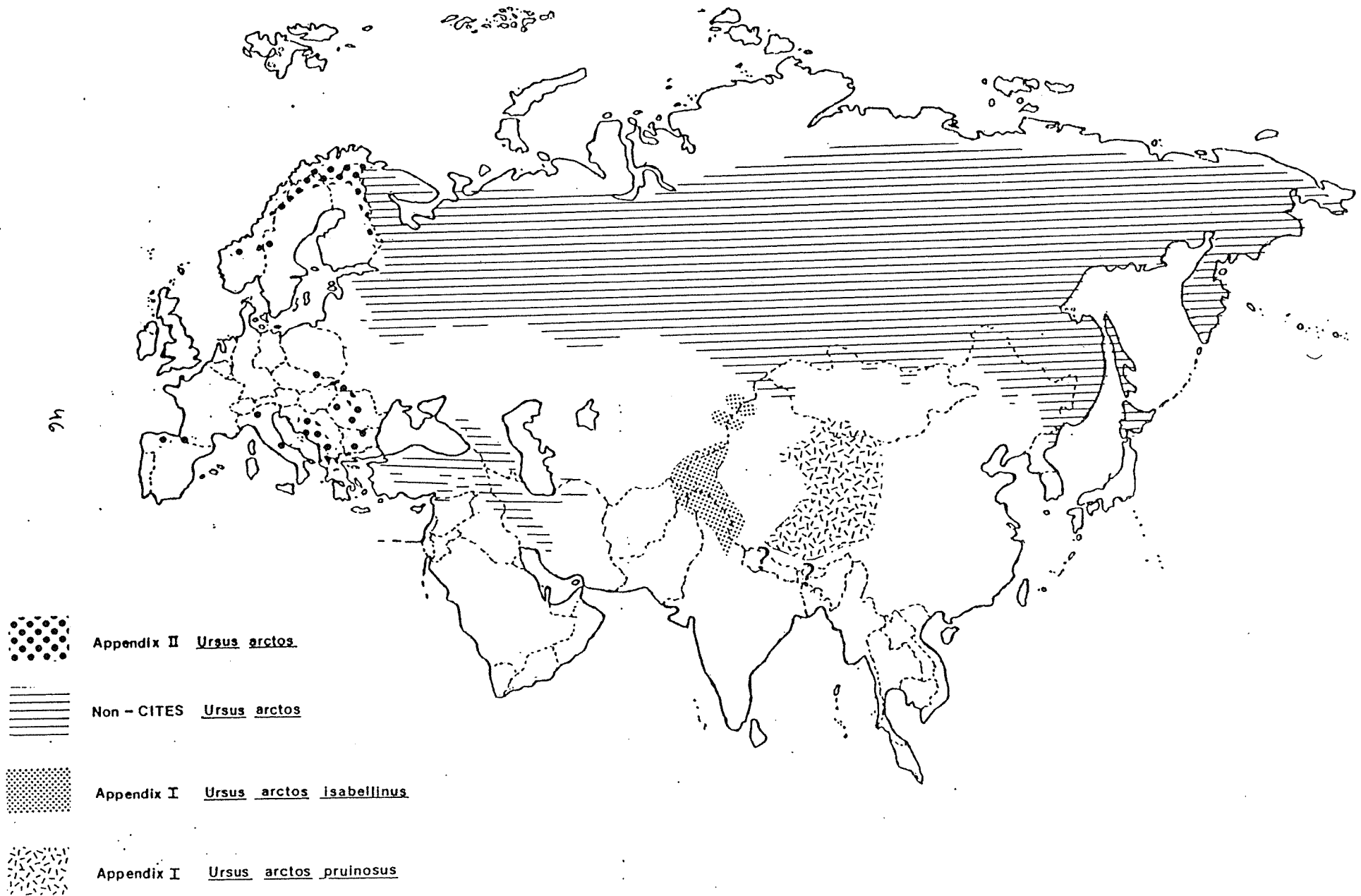
China: Found mostly on the plateau areas (4,500-5,000 m) of Quighai and Xizang (Tibet) Provinces with a distribution from Qinghai and Gansu South to Western Sichuan and Xizang (Tibet) (Ma, 1983). A survey in th Xizang Province appears to have extended the known range of U. a. pruinosus. Specimens were found less than 1,000 km from the Nepalese border although no confirmed records are known for this country (Seng Feng et al., 1986).

Mongolia: Mountains of the Transaltai Gobi, principally in the Tsagaan Bogd, Hatan-Hairhan, Tost and Pemget mountain massifs, from Tost and Nemegetu Uul in the East to Aj Bodg in the West. (Tsevagmid and Dashdorj, 1974). There is one record of a specimen of Ursus arctos shot in Bhutan in 1945 (Gee, 1967) however, it appears that the specimen was not retained and the existence of the species there needs confirmation.

22. Population: Little known in China but a survey of the Xizang area located 5 records of U. a. pruinosus (Seng Feng et al., 1986). Only 15-20 quoted as remaining in Mongolia in 1973 (Mallon, 1985). Traces of the animals were found at three different localities in Mongolia during the period 1974-1976 (Dash et al., 1978).

23. Habitat: Mountainous areas.

Fig 1. The Eurasian distribution of Ursus arctos



3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: In China the bears are hunted extensively for their paws (for food) and gall bladders (for medical purposes) (Wang, 1989).
32. Legal International Trade: Annual reports of the CITES Parties show the following reported trade between 1976 and 1986 inclusive.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Country of</u>		<u>Origin</u>	<u>Imports reported</u>	<u>Exports/Re-exports</u>
	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>		<u>(purpose)</u>	<u>reported (purpose)</u>
1978	CH		GB*	1 skin	
1983	US		CN		3 live (Z)
1984	US		CA*	1 trophy	
1986	CN		JP (CN)		1 body (E)

Codes:

CA Canada (Z) Zoological
CH Switzerland (E) Educational
CN China
JP Japan
US United States of America

- * It would appear that these records may not actually refer to the subspecies pruinusus.

33. Illegal Trade: None known.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Little potential for trade.

342. Parts and Derivatives: A considerable potential exists for trade in gall bladders, skins and claws of all bears but there is no evidence to suggest that the animals referred to in this proposal are at greater risk than any other populations.

4. Protection Status

41. National:

China: Listed in the Second Category (= vulnerable) in the State Protected Species List of Wildlife attached to the Wildlife Protection Law 1988.

Mongolia: Not known.

5. Information on Similar Species

Readily separated from other bear species but indistinguishable from other Ursus arctos subspecies or populations.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

China supports the proposal. No reply received from Mongolia.

7. Additional Remarks

The listing of this subspecies in the appendices was made before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties and therefore was not subject to the Berne Criteria (Resolution Conf. 1.1).

Erdbrink (1953) quoted in Kurten (1973), located 271 taxonomic names that have been applied to the Old World specimens of Ursus arctos, pruinus is merely one of them. Erdbrink (1953) further states that subspecies are indistinguishable amongst Old World bears. Pruinosus is not recognized as a valid subspecies by current bear biologists and cannot be identified as such (Herrero, 1988).

As the "subspecies" is not valid as a taxonomic unit, the present special listing serves no practical purpose (see Resolution Conf. 2.20) and the population should be transferred to Appendix II with most of the other populations of Ursus arctos.

8. References

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