

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION QUOTA PROPOSALS.

A. PROPOSAL:

Maintenance of the Tanzania population of *Crocodylus niloticus* Laurenti. 1768 in Appendix II subject to an export quota of 5000 for 1995, 4000 for 1996 and 3000 for 1997.

B. PROPONENT:

The United Republic of Tanzania.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

1.0 Taxonomy

1.1. *Class:* Reptilia

1.2. *Order:* Crocodylia

1.3. *Family:* Crocodylidae

1.4. *Species:* *Crocodylus niloticus*, Laurenti 1768.

1.5. *Common Names:* English: Nile crocodile
French: Crocodile du Nil
Spanish: Crocodrilo del Nilo
Swahili: Mamba

1.6. Code Numbers:

2.0. Biological Data

Tanzania has a human population of about 27 million people (1993 data) and a total surface area of 450,000 Km² of which 25% is set aside for conservation purposes.

2.1. Distribution

There are two species of crocodile in Tanzania. The slender - snouted crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*) has a limited range and almost certainly confined to Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania.

The Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) is widespread throughout Tanzania. The distribution and population status of the Nile crocodile has been estimated by several methods detailed in this document.

Tanzania is richly endowed with rivers, lakes and swamps in systems briefly outlined below:

Rivers, which mainly form larger river systems including:

- (i) The Selous river system, which includes the Kilombero, Luwegu, Ruaha, Rufiji, Niombe and Matandu rivers.

- (ii) The Rukwa system, which includes the Kavuu, Rungwa rivers with Lake Rukwa and Lake Chada.
- (iii) The Lake Victoria system, which includes the Grumeti and Mara rivers with Lake Victoria.
- (iv) The Lake Malawi system, which includes the Ruhuhu and Kiwira rivers with Lake Malawi
- (v) The Pangani system, which includes the river Pangani, Lake Mbuya, etc.
- (vi) The Lake Tanganyika system, which includes Lake Tanganyika and the Malagarasi, Ugalla and Moyowosi rivers.
- (vii) The Ruvuma system, which comprises of the main Ruvuma river.

The swamps/wetlands system includes the Kilombero, Moyowosi/Gombe, Ugalla, Mara, Pangani, Bahi and Tendigo.

Surveys done to date include those of Graham and Parker (1968), Hirji (1986) Hutton and Katalihwa (1988), Games and Severre (1989), Games and Severre (1990) and Games and Severre (1993). Colt and Pooley (1972) have also done a review on the Nile crocodile distribution in Tanzania.

2. 2 Population (*estimates and trends*)

Tello (1985) made an estimate of 74,000 crocodiles in Tanzania. Hirji (1986), with very little evidence, recommended for cropping 1000 crocodiles from Lake Rukwa indicating an abundance of crocodiles in the Lake. Katalihwa and Lema (1988) used information from Tello (1985) and made an estimate of 76,000 crocodiles in Tanzania.

Crocodile densities in the Selous Game Reserve and its surroundings were obtained from aerial surveys and the information indicated that the crocodile population was stable and increasing (Hutton and Katalihwa, 1988; Games and Severre, 1989).

In their country-wide survey of crocodile densities, Games and Severre (1990) came up with varying densities, averaging, for example, 2.23 crocodiles per km in the Upper Rufiji river system and 7.46 crocodiles per km in the Lower Rufiji river system.

Table 1. Crocodile Densities in the Selous Game Reserve From Aerial Survey Estimates:

	Graham/ Parker 1963	Hutton/ Katalihwa 1988	Games/ Severre 1989	Games/ Severre 1990	Games/ Severre 1993
Upper Rufiji	1.95 - 3.15	0.98	3.15	2.89	2.26
Lower Rufiji			6.75	11.83	10.49
L. Tagalala				18.07	23.38
Ruaha		1.56	1.77	1.57	1.68
Kilombero		0.28	7.74	2.86	3.54
Upper Luwegu			2.74		
Lower Luwegu		0.33	1.64		

Games and Severre (1993) made an aerial crocodile survey in the whole country. This was the first crocodile survey in Tanzania during which a GPS was used (see report). Night counts by boat, were also made in the Rufiji river system to obtain correction factors. This survey was initially intended to be a repeat of the 1990 country - wide survey but the aims were modified as it progressed. It was important to survey the Ruvuma river, which forms the boarder of Tanzania with Mozambique. as only anecdotal information was available about the crocodile populations within the river. At the commencement of the survey, it was thought that there could be two main exploitable populations both in the Selous Game Reserve and Lake Rukwa.

The Selous Game Reserve, situated on the south-east coastal plain, is traversed by the Rufiji River, whose drainage basin covers most of south-eastern Tanzania. The major feeders of the Rufiji are the Ruaha, Luwegu and Kilombero rivers. The Selous crocodile population has received extensive surveys in the past (Hutton and Katalihwa, 1988; Games and Severre, 1989; 1990) but this survey was the first following a three year period when eggs and hatchlings had been collected in some areas within and outside the reserve.

The Rufiji can be divided into the Upper and the Lower sections. The Upper Rufiji is wide and sandy with crocodile densities of 0.83 to 5.67 crocodiles per km (with a mean of 2.26 crocodiles per km) (Games and Severre, 1993). This compares

with previous densities of 1.95 to 3.51 crocodiles/km (Graham and Parker (1964), of 0.98 crocodiles/km (Hutton and Katalihwa, 1988) and of 1.48 to 3.8 crocodiles/km (Games and Severre, 1990).

The Lower Rufiji river (which lies within the Selous Game Reserve) is also wide and sandy. Games and Severre (1993) surveyed this area three times on the same day at 14:17, 15:35 and 18:15 hours with respective mean densities of 5.53, 5.89 and 10.46 crocodiles/km.

The Rufiji river system has five lakes namely, Tagalala, Manze, Nzerekera, Siwando and Mzizima running from west to east. The lakes are shallow and since they are connected to the Rufiji, it allows for free movement of crocodiles. Table 2 shows data analysis for Tagalala indicating an increase in crocodile density over the period 1990 to 1993 i.e. 13.9, 8.38 and 23.38 crocodiles/km respectively.

Table 2. Aerial Surveys of Lake Tagalala in the Selous Game Reserve:

Date	Time	Numbers	Density
1990 (October)	11.00	181	13.9
1993 (November)	12.00	109	8.38
1993 (November)	17.30	304	23.38

The Kilombero river constitutes a swamp of about 5500 sq km. The upper part of the river flows through a broad flood plain with extensive sand banks. Crocodile densities of 0.88 to 15.33 crocodiles/km (with a mean of 3.45) were recorded within that part of the river within the Selous Game Reserve. However, these densities dropped to 0.57 outside the reserve. The densities were estimated at 7.74 in 1989, 2.86 in 1990 within the Selous Game Reserve and 0.26 crocodiles/km outside the Selous Game Reserve. (Games and Severre, 1989, 1990).

Data from the most recent survey (Games and Severre, 1993) within and outside the Selous Game Reserve indicate a stable and perhaps a growing population. The stability and growth is attributed to enhancement of stricter law enforcement efforts and minimal disturbance to the crocodiles. Using night count correction factors, the Lower Rufiji alone has upper and lower estimates of 4861 and 3950 crocodiles respectively. (Games and Severre, 1993).

Table 3. Comparison of Night Counts in the Lower Rufiji River

Year	1990	1993
Density	16.6	16.7

2.3 Habitat.

Crocodiles occur in stable habitats, many of which are in National Parks and Game Reserves where human activities are controlled. Hunting of crocodiles is not allowed in National Parks. Tourist hunting of crocodiles in Game Reserves is under strict control.

In general many rivers and lakes have sand banks which offer ample space for nesting.

3. Trade Data

3.1. National Utilization:

Crocodiles, parts or derivatives thereof are not traded within the country. The Policy and Management Plan for Crocodiles in Tanzania spells out that utilization involves ranching and sport hunting within the premises of Resolution Conference 3.15 of CITES (Policy for Crocodile Management in Tanzania, 1993: see its copy). A management programme is currently being prepared to help impose stricter domestic measures and control on crocodile conservation and utilization.

Four crocodile ranches are presently operational (two in Ifakara, and two in Dar es Salaam/Bagamoyo), while one ranch is being developed in Pangani. The number of crocodiles in each of the ranches in Tanzania as at December 1993 is shown in Table 4. The ranches are 100% owned and manned by Tanzanians whose meagre financial resources had to be supplemented by recent crocodile quota allocations and hence skin exports. As the quotas from the wild were small, and coupled with the low prices of skins in the international market, the economic boost to the ranches was far from adequate. However, the ranches have good infrastructure including, for example incubators which cost up to US \$ 15,000 per unit.

Table 4. Crocodiles in Ranches in Tanzania:

Ranch	No of Crocodiles in 1993
Hambo	517
Tumaini	35
Teule	38
Kaole	1100

3.2 Legal International Trade:

Game Division reports (1961) indicate that prior to 1991 trade in crocodile skins thrived in Tanzania. Monitoring of crocodile skins entering the world market was strengthened in 1980. Table 5 (a) to 5 (e) indicate crocodile skin exports and respective projections of the same, from Tanzania. The tables also summarily address Res. Conf. 7.14 (e) (i) to (iv).

***Table 5 (a)**

Summary of Crocodile Trophies Exported from Tanzania 1982 -1995

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type of Trophy</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
1982	Full skins	207
1983	Full skins	25
1984	Full skins	0
1985	Full skins	207
1986	Full skins	477
1987	Full skins	1456
1988	Full skins	1804
1989	Full skins	1980
1990	Full skins	1040
1991	Full skins	819
1992	Full skins	459
1993	Full skins	148

*Source: CITES Annual Reports - Tanzania

Table 5 (b).

ACTUAL EXPORTS OF WILD CROCODILE SKINS FROM TANZANIA

YEAR	CROPPING	CONTROL		SPORT HUNTING	
		<i>AGREED QUOTA</i>	<i>ACTUAL EXPORTS</i>	<i>AGREED QUOTA</i>	<i>ACTUAL EXPORTS</i>
1987	-	2000	1456	100	?
1988	-	2000	1804	100	8
1989	-	2000	1980	100	43
1990	-	1000	1000	100	40
1991	-	1000	819	100	26
1992	-	400	400	100	59
1993	-	200	120	100	28
1994	-	200	-	100	-

Table. 5 (c)

ACTUAL EXPORTS OF RANCHED CROCS./SKINS FROM TANZANIA

YEAR	R A N C H I N G			
	AGREED EGG/ HATCHLING QUOTA	ACTUAL COLLECTED	AGREED SKIN QUOTA	ACTUAL SKIN/ LIVE CROCS. EXPORT
1990	4000	1370	4000	0
1991	6000	5500	6000	0
1992	28,000	4000	6000	0
1993	28,000	4500	6000	0
1994	28,000	-	6000	0

Table 5 (d)

PROPOSED/PROJECTED CROC. HARVESTS FROM TANZANIA 1995 - 1997:

	AGREED RANCHED COLLECTION EGGS/HATCHLINGS	REQUEST FOR WILD QUOTA	AGREED SPORT HUNTING QUOTA
1995	28,000	5000	100
1996	28,000	4000	100
1997	28,000	3000	100
			100

Table 5 (e)

EXPECTED PROPOSED EXPORTS			
	SPORT HUNTING	RANCHING	WILD SKINS
1995	100	As per quota limit (Table 5 (d))	5000
1996	100	-	4000
1997	100	-	3000

The skins exported in the past were obtained from the wild within premises of the CITES provision of Resolution Conference 5.21. Exported skins were tagged and relevant CITES export certificates were issued.

No skins from the ranches have been exported to date. Ranching operators attribute this to the fact that the current market requires large skins. Time is therefore needed to allow for more body growth of the crocodiles in the ranches, but the opportunity cost is immense.

3.3. *Illegal Trade:*

To further the results of Operation Uhai of June 1989, another country-wide crackdown on poachers and illegal dealers and traders of wildlife products has been will be launched in 1994. The results of "Operation Uhai", which lasted for about two years, are well known. A force of 2000 men from the Army, the Police Force and the Wildlife Division was mobilized to expedite the exercise. Poaching for most species was almost stamped out. A total of US \$ 3 million was spent in the course of the operation.

Tanzania continues to strengthen law enforcement efforts for purposes of fostering conservation activities that will ensure continued existence and utilization of wildlife, the Nile crocodile inclusive, on a sustainable yield basis.

3.4. **Potential Trade Threats:**

3.4.1. *Live Specimens:*

Tanzania has no record of live specimen exports. However, some ranching operators had wanted to export live crocodile specimens for trade but their recipients finally turned down the orders. The ranching operators could possibly get greater returns if they exported the live crocodiles.

3.4.2. Parts and Derivatives:

Tanzania ensures that all exports of crocodile products are made within premises of strict rules and regulations that prescribe to CITES requirements. In the circumstances, threats borne out of trade to the crocodile population do not exist.

4.0. PROTECTION STATUS:

4.1. National:

The Wildlife Conservation Act No.12 of 1974 and its subsequent Amendments and Supplements ensures the proper protection of wildlife including the Nile crocodile.

National Parks, which cover 5% of Tanzania's surface area, are utilized for purposes of eco-tourism only. Thus crocodile utilization for, eggs, hatchlings, and legal hunting is strictly prohibited in National Parks.

Game Reserves, which cover 10% of Tanzania's surface area, cannot be entered without permission prior sought and obtained from the Director of Wildlife. Wildlife in Game Reserves cannot be utilized without proper permits.

Thus crocodiles in National Parks and Game Reserves, which cover a total of 15% of the total land surface, provide protection for a large part of Tanzania's crocodile population.

Issuance of permits to procure crocodiles, its parts or derivatives is therefore undertaken within the premises of the following procedures:-

- (i) The number of people granted crocodile hunting permits was once limited, out of lack of people's knowledge on the value of crocodile products. The quota was available under Resolution Conference 5.21.
But from 1990 crocodile ranching commenced in Tanzania with endorsement of the Conference of the Parties in 1992. Crocodile quotas from the wild are given to those who own ranches to help top up on their meagre resources in support of the ranching operations.
- (ii) Crocodile hunting in the wild is supervised by wildlife officials. Skins deemed to be of low standard after hunting cannot be discarded.
- (iii) All skins from crocodiles hunted in the wild are inspected and issued with certificates of ownership by respective Regional Wildlife Officers. This is to ensure that crocodiles on quota for a particular year are not hunted in the wild in the following year.
- (iv) Crocodile skins are tagged and respective export documents are issued under the normal CITES procedures.
- (v) All skins are checked by Wildlife Officers prior to shipment at International airports.

4.2 Additional Protection Needs:

Tanzania believes that neighbouring countries which are signatories to CITES will continue to exercise strict control in the trade of crocodiles, parts and derivatives thereof, and that the CITES Secretariat will impose stricter measures in control of illegal trade and help to enhance conservation and sustainable utilization of the Nile crocodile. To ensure proper crocodile conservation measures are enforced, the Minister has approved a Policy and Management Plan for Crocodiles In Tanzania, and this is in the process being implemented.

5. INFORMATION ON SIMILAR SPECIES:

The slender - snouted crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*) is confined to Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania. The status of this population is not known. Under these circumstances Tanzania will not allow any kind of utilization, including ranching operations, of this species.

6. COMMENTS FROM COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:

A request for the downlisting of the Nile crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II of CITES was tabled by 25 African countries including Tanzania at a CITES seminar held in Brussels, Belgium in 1984. The request arose from concerns that the Nile crocodile is not endangered. It was believed that the Nile crocodile was placed in Appendix I of CITES, as a measure to protect the American Alligator which was actually endangered, as a "look-alike" species.

Malawi presented a proposal at the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES advocating that downlisted populations for 9 countries, including those of Tanzania, needed be utilized under a quota system. The proposal was endorsed and Tanzania was granted permission to utilize the Nile crocodile at acceptable levels up to and including 1991. However, for the years 1992 to 1994, the quota was decreased to a level of 500, 300, and 300, respectively. A subsequent crocodile quota of 100 crocodiles was endorsed as from 1995 for tourist hunting purposes. Tanzania was not happy with this decision, and the Government reacted by sending a special request to the CITES Secretariat for issuance of an extra quota of 3000 crocodiles. This request was turned down.

Many African crocodile producing countries have time and again shown, in consensus, their concern that the Nile crocodile should be in Appendix II of CITES. This would help to justify for continued government spending on the conservation of the Nile crocodile. Utilization of the abundant wild crocodile population would increase both government much needed foreign exchange earnings and employment opportunities.

7.0 THE NILE CROCODILE AS PROBLEM ANIMALS IN TANZANIA

7.1 *The Problem:*

It has been reported time and again to the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) of the SSC of IUCN/ The World Conservation Union, and the CITES Secretariat that crocodiles pose actual and potential threats to human life, limb and his property in most of their areas of occurrence in Tanzania. Tanzanians channel issues which need immediate attention to higher government levels through their Members of Parliament, and cases regarding losses of human life and his property have become commonly discussed in Parliament. The Ministry of Tourism, Natural Resources and Environment is under pressure to find solutions to the problems. Problem crocodiles are killed in the wild in response to reports of damage to human life and property, but it must be borne in mind that the exercise is expensive. It is therefore necessary to justify costs borne out of crocodile control operations, through returns and benefits to the nation that accrue from such operations at least to enable the government to meet compensation costs to the victims.

Games and Severre (1993) sent out questionnaires to most Game Reserve Project Managers and Regional (Provincial) Wildlife Officers to get information about crocodiles as problem animals in their areas of occurrence. Some questionnaires were answered but there were handicaps in speedily collecting all the information to be included in this report on time. The country is vast and crocodile areas of occurrence are diverse. Lack of transport within the regions to facilitate the quick gathering of information from all the districts (Parliamentary constituencies), villages and actual sites of crocodile/human conflicts has amplified the problem to the effect that little, albeit useful, information has been obtained. The figures are therefore gross underestimates and do not cover the whole country. This information is presented summarily in Table 6 to demonstrate the scale of the problem.

Table 6. Human/Crocodile Conflicts From Certain Areas in Tanzania:

(i) MTWARA REGION:

Year	Area of Conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area
		No. Killed	No. Wounded	No. Killed	No. Wounded	
1993	Newala District	5	11	20	5	
	Masasi District	1	4	7	2	

Mtwara District (Rural)	-	2	4	2	44
Sub Total	6	17	31	9	44

(ii) *IRINGA REGION:*

Year	Area of Conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area
		No. Killed	No. Wounded	No. Killed	No. Wounded	
1991	Mtera Dam	1	-	4	-	4 (Ruhuhu River)
1992	Mtera Dam	12	-	-	-	3 (Mtera River)
1992	Ludewa/Ruhuhu	4	-	-	-	4 (Ruhuhu River)
1993	Ludewa/Ruhuhu	1	1	1	-	4 (Ruhuhu River)
Sub Total		18	1	1	-	15

(iii) *KILIMANJARO REGION:*

Year	Area of conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area
		No. Killed	No. Wounded	No. Killed	No. Wounded	
1988	Ruvu/Pangani Rivers	18	12	775	77	
1993	"	-	-	-	-	62
Sub Total		18	12	775	77	62

(iv) MWANZA REGION

Year	Area of Conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area	
		No. Killed	Wounded	No. Killed	Wounded		
1990	Sikuyu River- Magu	6	-	1	-	3 Magu Sikuyu River	
1990	Ngomu/ Nyunchenche Bengerewa	1		1	-	4 Ngomu	
1991	Kakobe - Sengerema	4		3	-	1 Kakobe	
1991	Ito - Iku Island Sengerema	2		1	2	1	3 Ito - Iku Island Ukusowe
1992	Busisi Sengerema	5		3	1	-	6 Busisi
1992	Simiku River Magu	1		1	-	-	1 Simiku
1993	Kakobe	2		1	-	-	1 Kakobe
1993	Busisi	1		-	-	-	1 Busisi
Sub Total		22		11	4	1	20

(v) MOROGORO REGION:

Year	Area of Conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		NO. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area
		No. Killed	No. Wounded	No. Killed	No. Wounded	
1992	All Districts (and Sub Total)	5	2	-	-	4

(vi) COAST REGION:

YEAR	Area of Conflict	People Killed/ Wounded		Livestock Killed/ Wounded		No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control and Area
		No. Killed	No. Wounded	No. Killed	No. Wounded	
1990	Ruvu (River)	-	-	-	-	
	Wami (River)	-	-	-	-	
	Rufiji (River)	1	-	-	-	
1991	Ruvu (River)	5	-	2	-	
	Wami (River)	-	-	2	-	
	Rufiji (River)	2	-	3	-	
1992	Ruvu (River)	2	-	-	-	
	Wami (River)	2	-	3	-	2 (7 injured)
	Rufiji (Rover)	11	-	-	-	3
Sub Total		22		10		5

(vii) SUMMARY FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY 1990 - 1993 (PART):

Total No. of People Killed	Total No. of People Wounded	Total No. of Livistock Killed	Total No. of Livistock Wounded	Total No. of Crocodiles Killed under Control Operations
91	53	821	87	150

Where problems caused by crocodiles are numerous, the local people will certainly not tolerate crocodiles. In order to restore confidence of the local communities in crocodiles, and in order to guarantee the success of the Crocodile Policy and Management Plan in seeing that crocodile survival can be ensured, the resources must be financially rewarding to the people in whose land the crocodiles thrive. If not given due concern, poaching of crocodiles will surface under the pretext of hunting for defense and control. In the circumstances, the CITES Appendix I listing of the Nile crocodile may well witness its decline from Tanzania.

7.3 The Quota Request

It is possible that some schools of thought will oppose Tanzania's request to downlist part of its crocodile population to Appendix II and capitalize on the existence of ranching operations. But inspite of an offtake of eggs/hatchlings from the wild it has been intimated earlier in this document that these offtakes have had no negative effects on the crocodile populations (Games and Severre, 1993).

This request is put forth under Resolution Conf.7.14 and a decision made at a CSG meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in 1993 as a reaction to Tanzania's concern for problem crocodiles which can actually stand controlled trade. But it all culminate to underline the following:

- that Tanzania had shown the need for a larger wild quota at the 8th Conference to the Parties of CITES,
- that Tanzania, under pressure from the local communities and hence Members of Parliament, sent a request, in vain, for a quota of 3000 crocodiles in 1992 to the CITES Secretariat,
- that another crackdown on poachers, dealers and traders of wildlife, the crocodile inclusive, at a cost of 25 million Tanzania shillings has been put in place as a follow-up to Operation Uhai of 1989.
- that a Policy and Management Plan for Crocodiles in Tanzania is in now in place.
- that a crocodile Management Programme is in the making
- that local people must utilize land in the best way deemed suitable to boost their socio-economies through trade and employment, taking recognition of the appointment by the CSG of a specialist (at its 11th Working Meeting held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 2nd to 7th August, 1992) to team up with Tanzanian wildlife scientists to conduct a country - wide

survey on Nile Crocodiles. and insisting that the survey must be repeatable hence deployment of a GPS; and with full financial support (a substantial initiative) for the survey having come from the government of Tanzania.

- that Nile crocodiles occur throughout the country and noting, with grief, that they continue to be nuisance animals, and they will not be tolerated at the expense of loss of human life and his property,
- recognizing that the crocodile habitat is stable.
- noting that in some parts of the country, the stronghold areas inclusive, the crocodile populations are stable
- further noting the concern of Hon. Members of Parliament who duly represent their constituencies,
- Accepting the information in Table 6 that people actually lose their lives from crocodile attacks.

taking note that this document and the attached Appendices i.e. the report, dated November, 1993, addressed to the Director of Wildlife and the Policy and Management plan for the crocodile in Tanzania address the requisite for Res. Conf. 7.14

The United Republic of Tanzania strongly seeks the concern and hence support of the 9th Conference of the Parties in endorsing this proposal.

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