

SPECIES MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

PO Box 390, Belconnen ACT 2616, AUSTRALIA

Tel. 612-6258-3428 Fax. 612-6259-8757

<http://www.speciesms.org>

COP13 Bulletin: issue 1

What is SMS?

Species Management Specialists (SMS) is a newly formed, international, non-government organisation dedicated to improving the conservation of wild plant and animal species through improved management. SMS has its headquarters in Canberra, Australia, and has foundation members in all continents.

The glue that unites our members is specialist knowledge and experience in the management of wild species. Our members are driven by a conviction that improved conservation can only be achieved through better management. SMS members are experts at making and implementing practical conservation policy.

SMS's goals and objectives

SMS believes that CITES has become more complex than it needs to be: that CITES members must take appropriate, practical and sensible action regarding management of commercially valuable species to ensure their survival in a changing world.

Whether conservation efforts succeed or fail is ultimately determined by management skills and capability. We believe that the management experts and scientists who have joined SMS can offer real alternative solutions to important conservation issues that concern all CITES members. SMS promotes the view that management experts should play a greater role in setting the international conservation agenda by ensuring priorities are soundly based in science and that proposed actions are practical and realistic to implement.

Flexibility and the willingness to adapt to new knowledge are the keys to improved management, and these are only possible if risk and uncertainty are accepted as ongoing variables. SMS is cautious about abandoning approaches to conservation and will not support proposals to CITES that unnecessarily constrain flexibility or ban commercial trade for reasons other than real threats to the survival of species.

The search for practical solutions to conservation problems underlies our analyses in the ***Guide to Amendment Proposals and Working Documents***, which we have distributed to all Parties at COP13.

SMS will be distributing further Bulletins like this throughout the meeting. Species Management Specialists thanks the individuals who, and organisations that, have contributed to the formation of our organisation and volunteered their time in the development of the Guide to COP13.