



Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction: “Operations LTM Liberations”

Matthew R. Bailey

President

National Association for Biomedical Research

Operation Long Tail Liberation

- In the beginning



The LTM Issue

March 7, 2022

The screenshot shows the IUCN Red List page for the Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*). The page features a red header with the IUCN Red List logo, a search bar, and navigation links. The main content area includes a photograph of two macaques, the species name, and an abstract. The assessment status is highlighted as 'Endangered' (EN) in a red circle. The page also displays the date of the last assessment (07 March 2022) and the scope of the assessment (Global).

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[Jump to Long-tailed Macaque: In detail](#) [Translate page](#) [Select Language](#)

Long-tailed Macaque

Macaca fascicularis

ABSTRACT

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2022. *Macaca fascicularis* is listed as Endangered under criteria A3cd.

[Download](#) [Text Overview](#)

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT [?](#)

[▶](#) Hansen, M.F., Ang, A., Trinh, T., Sy, E., Paramasiwam, S., Ahmed, T., Dimalibot, J., Jones-Engel, L., Ruppert, N., Griffioen, C...

LAST ASSESSED
07 March 2022

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT
Global

[Assessment in detail](#)

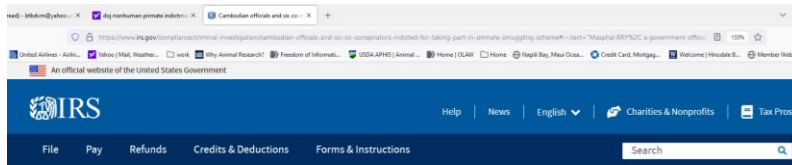
The LTM Issue

- October 31, 2022 - Robert W G Jenkins letter to IUCN
 - Why was the LTM up listed by IUCN so quickly?
 - Data to support the IUCN red listing lacks scientific objectivity and rigor.
 - ‘...no risk of biological extinction, and to imply otherwise detracts from the Red List’s role in identifying species facing real risks of biological extinction...’
 - “...one of the cited contributors to the assessment, Ardith Eudey (deceased, 2015), was co-founder of the International Primate Protection League [IPPL]...”
 - “The current assessment of long-tailed macaque as ENDANGERED, which seems to put advocacy before science, clearly undermines the possibility of” the IUCN Red List being used as an alternative mechanism for listing species under CITES.”

The LTM Issue

- November 14-25, 2022 – CITES Meeting in Panama
 - Participant on retainer
 - ARM presence

The LTM Issues



Cambodian officials and six co-conspirators indicted for taking part in primate smuggling scheme

- IRS Organization
- A Closer Look
- Financial and Budget Reports
- Tax Statistics
- Do Business with the IRS

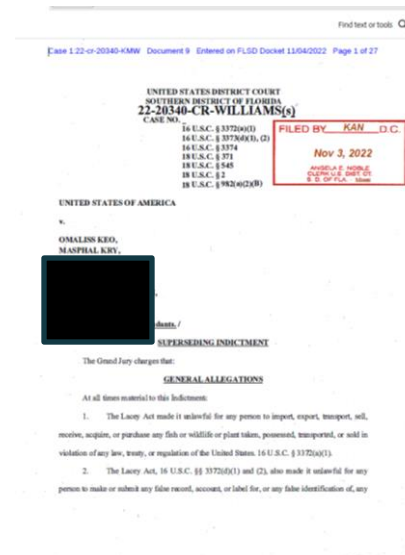
Date: November 16, 2022
Contact: newsroom@ci.irs.gov

MIAMI – Members of an international primate smuggling ring have been charged with multiple felonies for their role in bringing wild long-tailed macaques into the United States.

The eight-count indictment charges two officials of the Cambodian Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the owner/founder of a major primate supply organization and its general manager; and four of its employees with smuggling and conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act. The defendants facing these felony charges are:

2/17/2023 – Motion to Suppress
Transcript of interview

The Fifth Amendment provides that no person “shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.”



The LTM Issue



- February 20-22, 2023
 - CRL & Inotiv Subpoenas
 - Involvement of DC DOJ

The LTM Issue

- April 12, 2023
 - PETA FILES PETITION FOR RULEMAKING UNDER ESA

Petition
Before the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Department of the Interior
April 12, 2023
Requesting Rulemaking to List the Southern Pig-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) as a
Threatened or Endangered Species Under the Endangered Species Act

Submitted by:
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Lisa Jones-Eggel, Ph.D.
Briana Mary Gullotta, Ph.D.
Jane Goodall, Ph.D. DSE
Action for Primates
Born Free USA
Sarah Katz
Nadine C. Brykanski, V.M.D.
Angela Gramer
Liz Truitt-Giffin, Ph.D.
The Macaque Coalition
Ecofem
Ian Redmond, OBE, DSc, FLS
International Primate Protection League
Wildlife Alliance
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Michael Schibler, Ph.D.
One Voice
Abolition Vivivoxina
Sam Shaver, Ph.D.
Gemma de Silva
Northwest Animal Rights Network
Peta Mauldin
Phoenix Green Initiative
Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH, FACP, FAACP
Nikki Kulkarni, MD
Neotropical Primate Conservation
EMF Foundation
Tim Ajay
Paw for Animals
Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand
Dove Langue Foundation
Fundacion Entropika
Angela Maldonado, Ph.D.
Animal Defenders International
World Animal Protection
Paula Fehersorb
Japan Anti-Vivisection Association

LJE

“The U.S. animal experimentation industry’s voracious demand has nearly emptied the forests of these keystone species,”

The LTM Issue



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

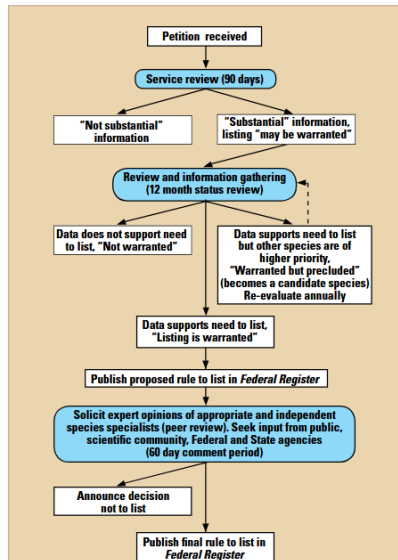
The Petition Process

For requests to list a species as an threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act

What are petitions for listing?

Petitions are formal requests to list a species as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The ESA requires that we make and publish specific findings on the petition. We (or the National Marine Fisheries Service for most marine species) must make a finding within 90 days of receiving a petition (to the extent practicable) as to whether or not there is "substantial information" indicating that the petitioned listing *may be warranted*. If this preliminary finding is positive, a status review is conducted. Within one year of receipt of the petition, we must make a further finding that the listing either is or is *not warranted*. A positive one-year finding can be incorporated into a proposed listing, however, if a prompt proposal is precluded by higher priority listing activities, we may defer the proposal. Then the species becomes a candidate for listing and is added to our candidates list. These "warranted but precluded" proposals require subsequent one-year findings on each succeeding anniversary of the petition until either a proposal is undertaken or a "not warranted" finding is made.

For further information about the petition process and how petitions are evaluated, please refer to, "Public Advisory: Information to Consider When Submitting a Petition under the Endangered Species Act" on our website at https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/petition_guidance_for_internet_final_for_posting.pdf



July 12, 2023

The LTM Issue

- May 26, 2023 – Emergency BOD meeting
 - NABR’s three-pronged approach to defend the use of the LTM before the IUCN, CITES and the USFWS
 - Working with credentialed and respected wildlife scientists to expose and refute petitions
 - Work with a coalition of lobbyist
 - A motion to approve expenditure of up to \$1,000,000 was unanimously approve

The LTM Issue

- June 15, 2023
 - NABR filed a petition with the IUCN challenging the change in listing status.
 - The scientific literature referenced is often misinterpreted and such information does not demonstrate that the long-tailed macaque has declined.
 - Triggers a scientific review by the IUCN

The LTM Issue

- June 19-23, 2023
 - NABR President Matthew Bailey attended the 32nd Meeting of the Animals Committee in Geneva, Switzerland
 - LTM was brought up by the USDA delegation
 - requested a review of the species in range states
 - a statement in support of the species for drug and vaccine development
 - After noting that this species has been reviewed by CITES previously as for health

The LTM Issue

- June 19-23, 2023
 - NABR President Matthew Bailey attended the 32nd Meeting of the Animals Committee in Geneva, Switzerland
 - NABR and EARA are also members of a working group on the role of CITES in reducing **risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade**, which is likely to be a point of attack by opponents who argue that nonhuman

04/04.2024

The LTM Issue

- June 22, 2023
 - Conflict of interest letter
 - the specific listing criteria is the subject of a separate challenge
 - this correspondence is to question the objectivity of some of the individuals who
 - are clearly biased in their contribution to the assessment
 - the IUCN “Conflict of Interest Policy” has been seriously breached by five individuals

The LTM Issue

- June 22, 2023
 - Conflict of interest letter
 - It is important for IUCN that the Red List is scientifically credible and supports IUCN's role as an independent, objective and reliable information source. For the IUCN to accept this superficial assessment, with obvious biases and vested interests among compilers, it compromises and detracts from the veracity and utility of Red List assessments for genuinely endangered species

The LTM Issues

- July 18, 2023 - Committee Hearings Questions for the Record (QFR's)
 - House Natural Resources Hearing on Endangered Species Act (ESA) oversight with Martha Williams, Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently denying permits to allow the import of Cambodian origin NHPs and samples

The LTM Issues

- July 18, 2023 - Committee Hearings Questions for the Record (QFR's)
 - **What steps is the Service taking to ensure** that more than 18,000 pre-clinical **research projects do not grind to a halt** given the Service's **decision not to approve permits** related to the long- tailed macaque originating from Cambodia?
 - Will the Service **commit to expeditiously agreeing on a path forward** to allowing necessary research models to enter the United States so that millions of cancer patients may have hope for new treatments?
 - Is the Service **working with the Dept of Justice to help ensure that the denial of permits is directly related to the scope of their current investigation and that importers who relied on the Service's issuance of permits are afforded due process?**

The LTM Issue

- August 31, 2023
 - Exhibit A. - Response to Comments Received During Informal Discussions (Cite as NABR 2023)
 - were unable to provide any data to support a historical decline except personal opinions and two studies that show some decline
 - the fact there are no data to support a claim of a historical 40% decline isn't relevant; rather, the authors state that what is relevant is the projected 50%

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The LTM Issue

- August 31, 2023
 - Exhibit A. - Response to Comments Received During Informal Discussions (Cite as NABR 2023)
 - NABR (2023a) states “Hansen et al. (2022) misrepresents conclusions and data contained
 - In response to this, “[t]his assertion, even if correct, has no relevance to the outcome of the listing.”
 - NABR (2023a) states “[g]iven that the 40% decline identified is not supported

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The LTM Issue

- September 4, 2023



AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PRIMATOLOGY Official Journal of the American Society of Primatologists ASP

COMMENTARY | Open Access

Removal from the wild endangers the once widespread long-tailed macaque

Lief Erikson Gamalo, Kurnia Ilham, Lisa Jones-Engel, Mike Gill, Rebecca Sweet, Brooke Aldrich, Phaivanh Phiapalath, Tran Van Bang, Tanvir Ahmed, Sarah Kite ... See all authors

First published: 04 September 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23547>

This Commentary, which was submitted for review and publication in the American Journal of Primatology, is part of a special issue titled "Scientific Activism and Primate Conservation." The goal of the special issue is to identify important issues in primate conservation and provide readers with a set of actions they can take to help protect primates and their habitats. Lief Erikson Gamalo and Kurnia Ilham are joint first authors.

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Abstract

In 2022, long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), a once ubiquitous primate species, was elevated to Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. In 2023, recognizing that the long-tailed macaque is threatened by multiple factors: (1) declining native habitats across Southeast Asia; (2) overutilization for scientific, commercial, and recreational purposes; (3) inadequate regulatory mechanisms; and (4) culling due to human-macaque conflicts, a petition for rulemaking was submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to add the species to the US Endangered Species Act, the nation's most effective law to protect at risk species. The long-tailed macaque remains unprotected across much of its

“However, all introduced species were introduced by humans such as the population on Tinjil Island for purpose of supplying the biomedical trade therefore all population of long-tailed macaques are deserving of protection and conservation”

How long has Mauritius been involved?
The macaques originally came from Southeast Asia and were introduced almost certainly as pets to Mauritius by the Dutch around 1602.

The LTM Issue

- September 11, 2023 - NABR Files Formal Petition Challenging the Reclassification of Long Tailed Macaques
 - did not reach objective scientific conclusions regarding the status of *M. fascicularis* as required by IUCN criteria, and more importantly, fails to meet basic scientific ethics and standards.”

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The LTM Issue

- August 14, 2023 - Lawyers representing the defense have filed a motion seeking to interview witnesses
 - In a letter to DOJ - “executed an unlawful covert operation in Cambodia... without the consent or knowledge of that nation’s government.”
 - Requested the initiation of an investigation into misconduct by the prosecution and a motion to dismiss the indictment
 - The letter further revealed the operation was labelled “Operation Longtail Liberation”
 - “This USFWS operation included the use of at least one paid Chinese-national as an undercover operative to conduct secret electronic surveillance of multiple

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September 14, 2023

- NABR Files Formal Petition Challenging the Reclassification of Long Tailed Macaques
 - “did not reach objective scientific conclusions regarding the status of *M. fascicularis* as required by IUCN criteria, and more importantly, fails to meet basic scientific ethics and standards.”
 - “fails to present evidence to support reclassification of *M. fascicularis* from vulnerable to endangered.”
 - “dismayed with statements contained in the IUCN assessment that clearly conflict with and misstate

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October 13, 2023

- IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee Accepts NABR's Petition Challenging the Reclassification of Long Tailed Macaques
 - “Given the lack of data on trends in abundance, and misrepresentation of the data that do exist in the IUCN assessment, we expect that the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee will agree with our conclusions”

December 12, 2023

- NABR Rebutts AJP Commentary on Long-Tailed Macaques
 - We found no data to support a major decline in abundance of long-tailed macaques, and previous publications misrepresent cited literature.
 - The adaptability of the species and the rapid population growth from low numbers suggest the risk of extinction is very low.

November 6-10, 2023

- 77th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES
 - restriction of trade include risks of zoonotic spillover to extinction risks of individual species, including arguments that captive breeding contributes to extinction risks
 - Cambodia must complete a questionnaire and communicate the status of the long-tailed macaque to CITES for consideration at the next Animals Committee meeting

December 21, 2023

- Scientific review published in the American Journal of Primatology disputes information used to determine a faulty conservation status of long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) the International Union for Conservation of Nature is
 - “none of the published literature cited to support the IUCN listing [long-tailed macaques] as endangered presents any data to support the hypothesized decline, nor does the literature establish that the species is at risk of becoming

January 11, 2024

- August 14, 2023 Court Filing
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Department of Justice appears to have paid a Chinese-national as part of an investigation conducted in a foreign country without that country's knowledge or consent
 - the defense's review of more than one million investigation documents, the defendant's name appears nowhere, raising questions according to the defense about why the indictment was quickly changed in late 2022 and why their client was arrested.

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National Association for
Biomedical Research

February 1, 2024

- NABR Files Expanded Petition Challenging the Listing of Long-Tailed Macaques by the IUCN
 - Follows the format in the ALP article that reviewed scientific information used to determine the conservation status of the long-tailed macaque
 - “none of the published literature cited to support the IUCN listing as Endangered presents any data to support the hypothesized decline, nor does the literature establish that the species is at risk of becoming extinct.”

– expanded petition initiates a formal process with

February 26, 2024

- NABR files final response to the authors
 - NABR engaged with the IUCN Primates Specialist Group in an unsuccessful attempt to resolve informally issues noted in our petition.
 - NABR respectfully requests that the IUCN:
 1. Undertake a new status assessment of *M. fascicularis* conducted by truly independent scientists not involved in advocacy roles for the target species;
 2. Vacate the results of both the 2022 and 2020 assessments; and
 3. Change the official Red List species status of *M. fascicularis* to its previous designation as a species of

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March 22, 2024

- Jury reached a verdict of not guilty on all counts in the case of a Cambodian forestry official's alleged participation in a purported scheme to introduce wild-caught monkeys into the U.S. research supply chain
 - Government prosecutors had dropped 5 of the initial 8 charges, and the judge dropped another, leaving 2 counts of conspiracy and smuggling for the jury to consider.
- Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Biodiversity issued a press release
 - “... we denounce the actions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has overstepped their authority and failed to adhere to international

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March 22, 2024 (cont.)

- Court records reveal
 - FWS conducted an illegal surveillance operation in a foreign country without that country's knowledge
 - FWS failed to notify the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs about the operation
 - FWS paid an informant who turned out to be a Chinese-national more than \$200,000
 - FWS asked animal rights groups to give the informant a job and relocated the informant's family to Florida at taxpayers' expense

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National Association for
Biomedical Research

March 24, 2024

- “Parentage Analysis for Long-tailed Macaque Raised in Cambodian Breeding Colonies.”
 - The paper was developed by NABR in collaboration with the Veterinary Genetics Lab (VGL) at U.C. Davis

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

March 27, 2024

Matthew R. Bailey
President
National Association for Biomedical Research
Foundation for Biomedical Research
1909 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Protocol for determining parentage of LTM progeny

Dear Mr. Bailey:

I'm writing to you today regarding previous discussions on a proposed protocol for long-tailed macaque (LTM) imports.

By way of background, on October 25, 2023, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) submitted a draft paper to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) entitled "Parentage Analysis for Long-tailed Macaque Raised in Cambodian Breeding Colonies." The paper, developed by NABR in collaboration with the Veterinary Genetics Lab (VGL) at U.C. Davis, outlines a process whereby NABR members may voluntarily determine the parentage of LTM progeny as a part of the CITES permit process. The protocol makes use of short tandem repeat (STR) DNA profiling techniques to verify that LTMs imported into U.S. for medical research purposes are in fact the progeny of other captive animals in breeding colonies.

USFWS previously expressed concerns with the parentage of LTMs imported from Cambodian breeding colonies, and whether such LTM imports comply with the requirements of CITES. As a result of these concerns, NABR and VGL worked together to develop the proposed STR protocol to provide additional technical information regarding proposed LTM imports from Cambodian breeding colonies. The USFWS has reviewed the proposed protocol and supports its voluntary implementation as part of the CITES permit process for LTM shipments moving forward.

Specifically, the protocol proposes to match imported LTMs to sires (male parents) held in captivity, which will provide an increased level of certainty that the progeny was indeed bred in captivity. While in some cases this may prove sufficient, it is important to note that shipments of LTMs exported under the CITES "C" source code are subject to all the requirements set out in 50 CFR 23.63, including, but not limited to, lineage of both parents. For example, if the captive status of an imported animal's female parent is questionable, additional information may be requested by the

April 2, 2024 - San Joaquin Valley Sun

<https://sjvsun.com/u-s/u-s-wildlife-officials-paid-a-chinese-national-224k-to-spy-on-cambodia-their-top-target-was-just-acquitted/>

- Chinese national approached animal rights activist group Cruelty Free International and asked for a salary
 - Sara Kite Director of Special Projects approached the FWS
 - Kite was an assessor on a disputed panel seeking to place the endangered species designation
 - The Chinese national, was at a primate facility in Cambodia when he approached the animal rights group and became a U.S. informant
 - admitted in court to stealing electronic records for the U.S. government, installing a program on computers to allow the FWS to watch surveillance cameras at the

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June 5, 2024 - House Committee on

- Opens an investigation into "Operation Long Tail Liberation."
 - This matter raises significant questions about the Service's relationships with Cruelty Free International and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
 - Documents and communications between employees of the Service, PETA, and Cruelty-Free International regarding
 - Documents and communications between employees of the Service and the Department of the Interior with any employee of PETA, Born Free, and Cruelty-Free International relating in any way to this matter, including, but not limited to, Operation Long Tail Liberation

04/06/2024

June 5, 2024 - House Committee on

- Opens an investigation into "Operation Long Term Liberation."
The Committee is concerned that the facts of this matter show an agency program **run wild, with little scrutiny or oversight and a disregard for the law and international norms.** To assist the Committee with effective management of America's public land management agencies, including general oversight of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent waste, fraud; and abuse of taxpayer dollars, provide the following records, documents, communications, or information, in electronic form, as soon as possible, but no later than June 19, 2024.



June 5, 2024 - House Committee on

- Opens an investigation into "Operation Long Tail Liberation."

June 24, 2024

- NABR Commends the IUCN's Decision to Reassess the Status of Long-Tailed Macaques
 - SPC concludes that, although there appears to be adequate evidence to support the current EN listing of the LTM, the lack of a clear organization of the available information and the value-laden language undermine the 2022 assessment.
 - PC therefore requests that a reassessment be submitted by the RLA within 8 months from the date of this ruling (or a different period as may be set by the SSC Chair). If a reassessment is not submitted by the end of this period, or the

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National Association for
Biomedical Research

September 10, 2024

- House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing - “The Fish and Wildlife Service Gone Wild: Examining Operation Long Tail Liberation”
- Witnesses include
 - **Ms. Martha Williams**, Director, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC
 - • **Mr. Paul Pelletier**, Attorney and Consultant, PEP Talk Advisors, Fairfax, VA
 - • **Dr. Chris Abee**, DVM, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Paige, TX
 - • **Dr. Donna Clemons** (retired), D.V.M., DACLAM, Retired Research Veterinarian, Trevor, WI.
 - • **Dr. Thomas Gillespie**, Professor & Chair, Department of Environmental Sciences, Emory University, Atlanta, GA [Minority Witness]

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