

Clarifications to the Record
Thirtieth Annual Stetson International Environmental
Moot Court Competition 2025–2026

Please note that this document does not contain responses to all of the requests for clarification that were received. The answers to some requests are already contained within the Record, and other requests were beyond the scope of the legal and factual issues that should be the focus of your arguments in the memorials and during the oral rounds of the competition.

Q1. Did Ridus conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) prior to the de-extinction and rewilding project?

A1. Yes. The EIA concluded that the project would have overall net positive benefits. Anecoyon does not accept these conclusions.

Q2. Is the Sidney Animal Park operated in the style of a traditional zoo or a safari park?

A2. Safari park.

Q3. What commercial activities is Sidney Animal Park involved in beyond hosting animals?

A3. The selling of merchandise and food, as indicated in paragraph 45 of the Record.

Q4. What is the scale and form of Sidney Animal Park's "captive breeding program" (at [35])?

A4. The Sidney Animal Park is an active participant in a regional captive breeding program, similar to the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria's Ex-situ Program and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan. A notable example of Sidney Animal Park's contributions is the reintroduction of captive-born white rhinoceros to an area of Africa where they had been extirpated since 1970 due to civil unrest.

Q5. Has the Sidney Animal Park explicitly advertised the presence of two long-extinct Royal panthers in captivity to potential visitors?

A5. Yes.

Q6. What are the current living conditions and socio-economic status of the Panthera people in Ridus?

A6. The Panthera people have historically faced socio-economic challenges, resulting in lower average income levels and limited access to resources compared to national averages in Ridus.

Q7. Did the first step of the creation process for the Royal panther reference genome occur before December 2023 (when Anecoyon enacted national legislation prohibiting such use)?

A7. Yes. The work on the reference genome commenced shortly after the DNA was extracted in September 2020.

Q8. How many genes of the North American cougar have been altered in the CRISPR process to produce Ixchel and Itzamna?

A8. 20 edits to 15 genes.

Q9. Does Salols Co. meet the financial threshold for benefit sharing (similar to Sidney Animal Park at [38])?

A9. No.

Q10. Because Question 4 (at [47(b)]) is premised on Question 3 (at [47(a)]) being answered in the affirmative (“if so”), does this limit “a sector currently listed in Decision 16/2” to “Biotechnology”?

A10. No.

Q11. What occurred prior to and/or in 2009 that prompted the loan of the Royal panther fossil from the Anecoyon Ministry of National Resources to the National Museum of Ridus?

A11. The Museum had recently opened a wing devoted to the history of the Panthera.

Q12. What was the degree of preservation or mineralization of the fossil of the *Puma rojali* specimen recovered in 1901?

A12. The fossil provided DNA of sufficient quality to allow for the construction of a genome sequence.

Q13. Does the 2009 loan agreement include any provision for financial or other forms of benefit flowing to Anecoyon in connection with the fossil?

A13. No.

Q14. Should matters not mentioned in the issues themselves be argued in the memorials despite their absence? For instance, should the memorials address jurisdiction?

A14. You should focus your arguments on the questions submitted. Note that although the Record states that the Parties do not dispute jurisdiction, the Rules require that the memorials contain a statement of jurisdiction.

Q15. Is Anecoyon considered the Applicant and Ridus considered the Respondent for the purposes of this competition?

A15. Yes.

Q16. Should the diplomatic notes in the Record be considered aspersions or facts?

Q16. The facts referenced in the diplomatic notes should be taken as true, but the legal assertions in the diplomatic notes may be debated.