



Grahame J.W. Webb

### Chair

Grahame J.W. Webb (1)

### Red List Authority Coordinator

James Perran Ross (2)

### Location/Affiliation

(1) Wildlife Management International  
Pty. Limited, Darwin, Australia

(2) Rocky Point Consulting LLC, Gainesville,  
Florida, US

### Number of members

642

### Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group

Website: [www.iucncsg.org](http://www.iucncsg.org)

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**Crocodile  
Specialist  
Group**



### Mission statement

The Mission of the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) is to assist the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to meet their missions with regard to the conservation, management and sustainable use of world crocodilians.

### Projected impact for the 2017–2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envisage: (1) increased reintroductions and improved status of wild populations of Critically Endangered (CR) crocodilian species (e.g. *Alligator sinensis* in China, *Crocodylus siamensis* in Cambodia and Thailand, *C. mindorensis* and *C. porosus* in the Philippines, *C. rhombifer* in Cuba and *C. intermedius* in Venezuela and Colombia); (2) improved legal protection status of habitat for *C. siamensis* and *Tomistoma schlegelii* in Mesangat Lake, East Kalimantan, Indonesia; (3) publication of 'CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians' and species action plans.

### Targets for the 2017–2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: review and progress Red List assessments for crocodilians.

#### Plan

Planning: (1) update and review Species Action Plans; (2) improve protection status of Lake Mesangat, Kalimantan, Indonesia, for Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) and False Gharial (*Tomistoma schlegelii*).

Policy: (1) complete at least two country/species reviews; (2) maintain involvement at

international forums (e.g. CITES); (3) develop 'CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians'; (4) update the *Crocodilian Capacity Building Manual*.

Research activities: quantify taxonomic and population status of the Rio Apaporis Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus apaporiensis*, Colombia).

#### Act

Conservation actions: improve the status of wild Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) populations through reintroduction programmes (Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Thailand).

#### Network

Capacity building: (1) fund up to 20 postgraduate students per annum through the CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme; (2) continue promoting the CSG Future Leaders Program.

Communication: investigate the concept of a 'Junior CSG'.

Documents review: update the *Best Management Practices for Crocodilian Farming*.

Proposal development and funding: establish a fundraising advisory group.

Technical advice: develop an updated standard reference source for crocodilian taxonomy and phylogenetic relationships.

#### Communicate

Synergy: improve communication with the membership.

### Activities and results 2019

#### Assess

##### Red List

**i.** Eight assessments were completed in 2018–2019, bringing it to 25 total assessments to date. (KSR #5)

Dr. Paolo Martelli, CSG Vice-Chair for Veterinary Science, discussing crocodilian health assessment and disease diagnosis techniques with participants during Kalimantan Crocodile Workshop  
Photo: Bruce Shwedick



Capture training and processing hatchling Siamese crocodiles (weight, measurements, tail notching, sexing and DNA sampling), part of WCS/FFI partnering at FFI headstart facility at Phnom Tamao Zoo, Cambodia  
Photo: Joe Rose



## Plan

### Planning

**i.** Eighteen Action Plans are completed or very near completion. (KSR #15)

**ii.** The “Mesangat-Suwi Management Plan, 2019–2023” was developed by the Indonesian Regional Government. The Ecosystem Essential Area (EEA) Forum is now implementing activities from this plan. Although some level of protection is afforded to the area, a stronger level of protection is considered more desirable. (KSR #15)

### Policy

**i.** A project to update the status of *Caiman latirostris* populations in Paraguay and Uruguay has been underway since mid-2018, following review of the situation in Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. (KSR #27)

**ii.** CSG members attended the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18), as well as the 71st and 72nd meetings of the CITES Standing Committee. (KSR #26)

**iii.** A final document on ‘CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians’ relies on all CSG Action Plans being completed. (KSR #28)

**iv.** Various proposed updates of the *Crocodilian Capacity Building Manual* are currently being evaluated (Human-Crocodile Conflict). (KSR #26)

### Research activities

**i.** Taxonomic and population status of the Rio Apaporiensis Caiman (Colombia): The genetic divergence between *Caiman c. crocodilus* and *C. c. apaporiensis* was found to be very low based on the mitochondrial genome, so there is no significant differentiation that supports the division of these two subspecies. (KSR #43)

## Act

### Conservation actions

**i.** Cambodia: Ten juvenile *C. siamensis* were released in the Cardamom Mountains; captive

breeding facilities for pure-bred individuals were expanded; industry has committed animals for testing and subsequent release. Thailand: A project for release of adult *C. siamensis* has been developed, but consultation with local communities continues before reintroductions can begin. (KSR #24)

## Network

### Capacity building

**i.** Twenty-two students were funded through the CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme in 2019. A total of 175 students were funded in the period 2009–2019. The number of students funded annually has doubled since the period 2009–2016. (KSR #17)

**ii.** Five ‘Future Leaders’ attended CITES CoP18 and meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, under mentorship of the CSG Chair and Deputy Chair. Terms of Reference for the Future Leaders Program were drafted, for dissemination to the membership for review and comment. (KSR #17)

### Communication

**i.** The Junior CSG programme is operating, but is focused in North America. Ways in which the concept can be extended more broadly to other regions of the world are now being examined.

### Documents review

**i.** A review of humane slaughter methods was undertaken recently, but no update was found to be required to the *Best Management Practices for Crocodilian Farming* manual at this time. (KSR #25)

### Technical advice

**i.** Development of an updated standard reference source for crocodilian taxonomy and phylogenetic relationships is ongoing. The CSG Taxonomy Working Group continues its work,

with *Crocodylus suchus* and *Caiman yacare* being proposed for endorsement, *Caiman c. apaporiensis* confirmed to be genetically indistinct from *Caiman crocodilus*. Information on *Mecistops leptorhynchus* and *Crocodylus halli* (= southern population of *Crocodylus novae-guineae*) has recently been published. The status of most crocodilian species (including *Caiman crocodilus* and *Crocodylus acutus*) is in a flux at this time, with cryptic species indicated or suspected, and will require significant review. (KSR #26)

## Communicate

### Synergy

**i.** An informal working group was established to look at other media platforms for communication between members.

## Acknowledgements

CSG wishes to acknowledge its CSG members, who individually and collectively make an enormous contribution to crocodilian conservation, management and sustainable use, in line with the IUCN and SSC mission statements. CSG also wishes to thank the individuals and organisations that donate towards the operations of the CSG through the International Association of Crocodile Specialists Incorporated.

## Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	1	
Plan	7	
Act	1	
Network	5	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 5, 15, 17, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 43