

# IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group

2020 Report



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## Chair

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## Number of members

690

## Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group

Twitter: @CrocSpecGroup

Website: 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.



(1-2 days) hatchlings with female Gharial, *Gavialis gangeticus*, at Dhudhaura, Rapti River, Chitwan National Park, Nepal  
Photo: Bed Khadka

Training an adult male Mugger, *Crocodylus palustris*, at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust  
Photo: Akanksha Mukherjee



## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

i. Three assessments for crocodylians drafted, but not yet completed. (KSR #5)

### Plan

#### Planning

i. Draft Action Plans were updated in 2020. (KSR #15)

ii. Travel to Indonesia was restricted by COVID-19; however, identification of a suitable candidate to undertake research to improve protection status of Lake Mesangat, Kalimantan, Indonesia for Siamese Crocodiles and False Gharial remains problematic. (KSR #15)

### Policy

i. Updates of 'Crocodylian Capacity Building Manual' carried out as required. (KSR #27)

### Act

#### Conservation actions

i. COVID-19 meant plans to release head-started animals in 2020 could not go ahead. At this stage, releases in Cambodia have been postponed to 2021. (KSR #24)



Twenty captive-bred adult Chinese Alligators, *Alligator sinensis*, were released in the newly constructed wetlands at Gaojingmiao Forest Reserve, Anhui Province, China, on 3 June 2020. This was followed by a second release of 100 captive-bred alligators later that month  
Photo: Lu Shunging

### Network

#### Capacity building

i. Twenty-three postgraduate students were funded in 2020 through the CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme. (KSR #17)

#### Communication

i. An initial Junior CSG programme was established in the US but was not considered broad enough for a global education programme for young people. How a future Junior CSG programme would address education will be addressed within the scope of a Communications Strategy now being developed.

#### Documents review

i. Update of *Best Management Practices for Crocodylian Farming* carried out as required. (KSR #25)

#### Technical advice

i. Assessment of *Mecistops* (2), *Osteolaemus* (3) and *C. halli/C. novaeguineae* carried out by the CSG Taxonomy Group. (KSR #26)

### Communicate

#### Synergy

i. Drafting of a Communications Strategy was initiated.

### Acknowledgements

CSG wishes to acknowledge its CSG members, who individually and collectively make an enormous contribution to crocodylian 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 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	1	
Plan	3	
Act	1	
Network	4	
Communicate	1	

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

KSR: Key Species Result