

Working Group

Human-Crocodile Interactions

Agenda Tuesday 5th July.

26th Meeting of the CSG; Chetumal, Mexico 2022

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Time available 50 minutes between 18:00 and 19 hrs?

Introduction 3 min

Human Crocodile Conflicts (HCC) are known to happen since prehistoric times, and nowadays still occur worldwide wherever crocodilians occur in the wild. "HCC" here refers to damage-causing crocodilians affecting humans, their property and domesticated animals, the killing or persecution of crocodilians, and also where conflicts arise between human interests over how to manage crocodilians. So, there are two different topics on this: 1.- [Attacks](#) and 2.- and [Conflicts between humans and crocodilians](#) (less focussed on direct impacts). In the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, we have identified a range of causes for HCC, including: competition for fish; damage of fishing gear or nets; preventing access to aquatic habitats; opportunity costs in crocodilian habitats; lost income on human activities in aquatic habitats; and structural damage to property for example to dam walls. Causes of crocodilian attacks include: hunting for food; defence of territory; defense of nests and/or young; mistaken identity; and self defence.

Efforts are being made around the world in order to diminish both situations. Since 2013 there has been a strategy to improve our knowledge about crocodilian attacks worldwide (Adam and Erin Britton and Brandon Sideleau's work on CrocBITE <http://www.crocodile-attack.info/>) with more than 5,000 records for most of the extant species. There are also some strategies or at least more active research and information on human-crocodile interactions in particular countries or regions, for example Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Colombia, India, parts of Indonesia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, USA, (see Pooley, [Croc Digest](#) for more details), which already have information on both topics (HCC and attacks), and a few countries have specific strategies to diminish attacks, notably Australia and the USA.

This time, we shall gather together to discuss where information on HCC and/or attacks is missing and likely to be needed, where problems are increasing and what the main management challenges are, and which mitigation strategies are being applied, in order to prioritize actions for addressing HCC collectively. The aim is to prioritise research and knowledge sharing needs, and decide a shortlist of actions, to guide CSG work on this, for sharing by the next Working Group meeting. Participants are kindly requested to fill in a short questionnaire before the meeting (details will be sent to all who register for the session).

Objectives (2 min):

1. Bring together those interested in HCC of the CSG, to learn more about the current situation, problems, and different strategies in the different regions, countries and species.

2. Detect countries or areas with lack of knowledge of HCC
 3. Prioritize actions for addressing HCC collectively, to guide CSG work on this, for sharing by the next WG meeting
- **Organization and dynamics of the meeting. 3 min.** The agenda is based on four major topics, which can be used by the attendants to focus discussion during the meeting.
 1. Is your country or area experiencing HCC, but information is lacking?
 2. Are HCC cases increasing over the last five years?
 3. Are specific actions being taken to diminish HCC in your country or area?
Examples might include:
Researchers, government or researchers attending HCC cases;
Capture and release in different places (wild or enclosures) of problematic crocodiles, or euthanasia;
Training locals or specialized groups to attend HCC;
Education and outreach programmes, signboards etc.;
Crocodile exclusion enclosures.
What are the particular difficulties in handling HCC in your country or area?
 4. Is there a policy or an action plan to diminish HCC in your country or area?
 - **Discussion: 30 min**
Discuss the most important topics emerging from the pre-circulated questionnaire, focussing on data availability, trends in attacks and conflicts, and prioritising management interventions (including how these might be evaluated scientifically) and identifying management information and skills needs.
 - **Conclusions. 15 min.**
Summary and list of actions to guide work on HCC until the next WG meeting.