

Human-crocodile conflict history in Mexico

Paulino Ponce Campos

Bosque Tropical Investigación para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A. C., Misión San Miguel,
Torre 4A, Depto. 2. Colonia Atlas Chapalita, Zapopan, Jalisco 45036, México
(poncecp@hotmail.com)

Abstract: An historic analysis of the Human-Crocodile Conflict (H-CC) in Mexico is presented. Historic cases of H-CC were studied since the Spanish had arrived to Mexico, based on the manuscripts from that time, up to date. This resulted in six different stages, information which have been related to Mexican history. In a qualitative way, crocodile abundance, declination and recovery is related to the historic process of HC-C, based on the comments of the old manuscripts, skin exportation, law protection and the actual abundance of large crocodiles. Some H-CC cases were recovered from XVI century in Mexico and South America. The oldest case registered in the country, seems to be occurred with Morelet's crocodile in the year 1566 in Yucatán, where an indigenous man lost its life. The oldest case recorded here for an American crocodile, in the American continent, was in the year 1565 in Colombia, which occurred to an African man. Systematic information related to H-CC started in early nineties in the state of Jalisco and then in Quintana Roo at the middle of the decade. Some researchers, started to be involved since the year 2000 and this effect increased in the late 2000's, up today. H-CC protocol process is mentioned until the last protocol was presented in 2018. The law protection process of Mexican crocodilians is mentioned and related to adult crocodile population recovery in the country. A list of actions and strategies to diminish HC-C in the country is presented. It is important to know that H-CC have decreased significantly in the las two years. The highest frequency of H-CC in Mexico was in the year 2017.

Keywords: Human-crocodile conflict, History, Mexico

Type of presentation: Oral

Thematic area: Socio-economic Issues (P12: Human-Crocodile Interactions)