

Human–crocodile conflict attention protocol and its application in Chiapas, Mexico

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Abstract: Due to the increase in human-crocodilian conflict, there is a need to implement strategies to address and prevent this problem. In 2010, a Workshop on Development and Management for UMAs in Ciudad del Carmen; Campeche was organized; the Human Conflict - Crocodile was discussed, taking as reference the version called “Protocol of Attention to Conflicts Man-Crocodile” in Mexico. In 2015, a second version was prepared compiling contributions from different specialists in the country. After a non-fatal incident in Chiapas in 2011, municipal, state and national meetings were held to address the issue. It was through efforts and budget of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas and the La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve that in 2016, in collaboration with the Group of Crocodile Specialists in Mexico, that the Human Interaction Review and Analysis Workshop was held entitled “Crocodile and Management Strategies for the Sustainable Use of Crocodylia of Chiapas” through intersectoral work for the conservation of crocodilians in Mexico. After nine years and 11 meetings in Chiapas, it was possible to generate an Action Program for the Conservation of Species (PACE): Crocodylia and a Protocol of Attention to Human-Crocodilian Contingencies (PACH-C), which were published officially in 2019, with a validity of 3 years for its application, update and improvement of actions. Derived from this protocol, intersectoral meetings have been held to launch the SOS - Crocodile group for the State of Chiapas. Although the PACH-C is mainly operative, it is expected to complement a preventive protocol that allows to inform, raise awareness and mitigate the incidents with crocodilians in Mexico, achieving a harmonious and sustainable coexistence with the Crocodylia.

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