

The present status of Indo-Pacific crocodiles in the Philippines: a summary report of the second forum on crocodiles in the Philippines

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Abstract: After twelve years of sealed commitments to conserve the two species of crocodiles present in the Philippines, the Indo-Pacific Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the endemic Philippine Crocodile (*C. mindorensis*), a follow-up dialogue was successfully concluded in March 2019 to strengthen partnerships in crocodile research and sustainable management in the country. Seven resolutions directed towards the conservation and management *C. porosus* were adopted by the plenary on March 8, 2019. It included a special resolution encouraging all sectors in the ASEAN countries to support programs addressing human – crocodile conflicts (HCC). The Philippine government conservation plan of action for the *C. porosus* showed progress towards conservation and sustainable use management with 18 years of crocodile farming industry innovations. Based on general accounts, the increasing frequency of HCC was perceived to be related with the increasing non-hatchling population that was distributed in southern Palawan, Sulu archipelago, and along the southern coast of Mindanao. Ecological distribution modeling suggested that there were at least 20 new island localities with potentially extant populations.

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