

**17th Meeting of the  
IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group**

***“Advancing CSG Core Business”***

**----- PROVISIONAL AGENDA -----  
(22 April 2004)**

**The agenda for the meeting is currently in draft form, and will continue to be modified as additional papers and posters are received. Please note, we have not yet made a final decision on the agenda’s content, nor the timing and order of presentations. Therefore, this provisional agenda should be used as a guide to the content and activities associated with the meeting at this time.**

The organising committee is prepared to consider any paper or poster on crocodilians that people attending the 17th Working Meeting of the CSG would like to present. In establishing priorities we would appreciate papers that most closely follow the theme of this year's meeting and the rationale behind it.

The core business of the CSG is to enhance the conservation and management of crocodilians, on a global scale. In practice this is a difficult and challenging task, but one in which the CSG has achieved considerable success. The principal theme of the 17th Working Meeting - *Advancing CSG Core Business* - recognises the need to keep CSG members well informed about the major issues driving crocodilian conservation. Firstly, with reviews and updates of how crocodilians fit within the various treaties and evolving frameworks that guide international conservation. Secondly, with case histories that provide definitive evidence about the status of wild crocodilian populations and the success or failure of strategies aimed at enhancing conservation in different contexts. Priorities in setting the agenda will be given to papers dealing with these issues.

No CSG meeting would be complete without updates on the diversity of applied and non-applied research with which CSG members are involved. To the extent possible, all submitted papers and posters will be accepted, but if needed, priority will be given to research results that have some clear application to improve conservation and management of crocodilians.

## Provisional Agenda

**DAY 1: Monday, 24 May 2004**

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### Steering Committee Meeting

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION (Prof. Harry Messel)
2. CSG BUSINESS
  - 2.1. Financial and Executive Officer's report (Perran Ross)
  - 2.2. Publication of CSG Proceedings (Perran Ross)
  - 2.3. Status of CSG Newsletter (Perran Ross)
  - 2.4. Status of CSG Website (Perran Ross)
  - 2.5. Progress of CSG-National Geographic filming contract (Perran Ross)
  - 2.6. CSG Core Business – Are Changes Needed? (Grahame Webb)
3. REGIONAL REPORTS
  - 3.1. Eastern Asia, Oceania, Australasia (Grahame Webb)
  - 3.2. Western Asia (Nikhil Whitaker)
  - 3.3. Africa (Rich Ferguson)
  - 3.4. Europe (Dietrich Jelden)
  - 3.5. North America (Allan Woodward, Ruth Elsey, Manuel Muniz)
  - 3.6. Central America (Alvaro Velasco, Manuel Muniz)
  - 3.7. South America (Alejandro Larriera)
4. TASK FORCE AND OTHER STATUS REPORTS
  - 4.1. Crisis – gharial decline by 50% in Chambal River (Nikhil Whitaker)
  - 4.2. Bangladesh March Crocodiles (Perran Ross)
  - 4.3. Progress with Chinese Alligator program (Jiang Hongxing)
  - 4.4. Crocodile farming in Cambodia (Jenny Daltry)
  - 4.5. Tomistoma Task Force update (Grahame Webb)
  - 4.6. PNG and current status of Mainland Holdings (Y. Takehara, Perran Ross, Grahame Webb)
  - 4.7. CSG mission to Colombia (Alvaro Velasco and Alejandro Larriera)
  - 4.8. Situation in Bolivia and Paraguay (Alejandro Larriera)
  - 4.9. Human-Crocodile Conflict Task Force progress report (Rich Ferguson)
5. CITES AND TRADE
  - 5.1. Personal Effects (Don Ashley)
  - 5.2. CITES Infractions and Enforcement (Don Ashley)
  - 5.3. Live export for commercial captive breeding (Don Ashley)
  - 5.4. CITES Decision 11.164 and CITES COP12 Document 52.2 (Dietrich Jelden)
  - 5.5. CITES Compliance document (Tomme Young)
  - 5.6. Progress on CITES travelling trade fair sample certificate made from reptile skins (Dietrich Jelden)
  - 5.7. CITES evaluation of ranching programs (Rich Ferguson)
  - 5.8. Ranching operations in Ecuador (Alejandro Larriera)
  - 5.9. Economic study of crocodylian trade phase 2, and CSG involvement (Kevin van Jaarsveldt)
  - 5.10. Trade monitoring (Steve Broad/Kevin van Jaarsveldt)
  - 5.11. Cuba's COP13 Proposal for *C. acutus* (Roberto Soberon)
6. RESEARCH AND VETERINARY
  - 6.1. Standard anatomical work for Crocodylia – CSG approval (Val Lance)
  - 6.2. Veterinary group report and discussion, humane killing, and quarantine requirements for imports to South Africa (Fritz Huchzermeyer)
7. OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1. IUCN Red List (Grahame Webb)
- 7.2. Future Chair of the CSG (Dietrich Jelden)
- 7.3. Venue of next CSG meeting (Dietrich Jelden)

**1800-2000 h            “Icebreaker Function” (sponsored by NAIB)  
Venue: Waratah Sports Club, Gardens Oval**

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**DAY 2: Tuesday, 25 May 2004**

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**Session 1**

**0830-0930 h            Opening Ceremony**

- CSG Chairman's welcome (Prof. Harry Messel)
- SSC Chairman's welcome (Dave Brackett)
- Overview and Strategic Goals of the Meeting (Prof. Grahame Webb)
- Workshop Introductions
  - Workshop 1: Skin quality: farmers, tanners and vets (Fritz Huchzermeyer)
  - Workshop 2: Human crocodile conflicts (Rich Ferguson)
  - Workshop 3: Major Issues affecting the sustainability of crocodilian trade (Don Ashley)
  - Workshop 4. Advancing CSG core business (Perran Ross)

**0930-1000 h    Coffee Break**

**Session 2**

**1000-1200 h            Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use of Crocodilians in Australia**

- Chairman's Introduction
- Northern Territory of Australia (Mike Letnic)
- Queensland (Mark Read)
- Western Australia (Peter Mawson)
- Federal Government involvement (Cindy Steensby)
- Australian Aboriginal aspirations and perceptions in Arnhem Land, NT (Peter Whitehead)
- Harvest of Saltwater Crocodiles by an Arnhem Land Aboriginal Community (Ray Hall)
- Australian crocodile industry (Vicki Simlesa)

**1200-1400 h    Lunch**

**Session 3**

**1400-1530 h            Foundations of Crocodilian Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use;  
International Directions for Crocodilian Conservation**

- Chairman's Introduction
- Crocodilians within the World Conservation Union (IUCN) (Perran Ross)
- Crocodilians within the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Dietrich Jelden)
- Crocodilians and compliance with CITES (Tomme Young)
- Article IV of CITES and the concept of non-detriment findings (Grahame Webb)
- Precautionary Principle (Jon Hutton)

**1530-1600 h                      Coffee Break**

**Session 4**

**1600-1730 h                      Foundations of Crocodylian Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use**

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species – Strengths and Weaknesses (Barry Brook)
- Wildlife Management Principles and Practices (Peter Whitehead)
- Adapting management as populations recover and risk of unsustainable use decreases (Ruth Elsey)
- International Trade and CITES - tags, permits and stricter domestic measures (Cindy Steensby)
- Lessons we are still learning: bio-economic models of crocodile conservation (Brendan Moyle)
- What can kangaroos tell us about sustainable use of crocodiles? (Gordon Grigg)
- Conservation implications of harvesting adult wild crocodylians (Allan Woodward)

**1800-1930 h                      Welcome Function, "Speakers Green", Parliament House of the Northern Territory of Australia**

Official NT Government welcome by Minister Chris Burns (Infrastructure, Planning and Environment) and Minister Paul Henderson (Business, Industry and Resource Development)

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**DAY 3.                      Wednesday, 26 May 2004**

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**Session 5**

**0830-1000 h Action on the Most Endangered Species**

- Chairman's Introduction
- General update on Chinese Alligator (Jiang Hongxing)
- An Experimental Release of Chinese Alligators in Anhui Province (Ding Youzhong)
- Status and ecology of the Siamese Crocodile in South West and East Cambodia (Boyd Simpson)
- Overview of Status and Conservation of Siamese Crocodiles in LAO PDR (John Thorbjarnarson)
- Update on Orinoco Crocodile in Venezuela and Colombia (Alvaro Velasco)
- Update on Philippine Crocodile (Chris Banks)
- Status of *Tomistoma schlegelii* in Malaysia (Shahrul Anuar Mohd Sah)
- Management of the Siamese crocodile in Thailand (a 10-year review with recommendations) (Yosapong Temsiripong)
- Increasing role of the Internet in crocodylian conservation (Adam Britton and Akira Matsuda)
- Overview of Status and Conservation of Siamese Crocodiles in Vietnam (tbc)
- Update on False Gharial in Indonesia (tbc)

**1000-1030 h                      Coffee Break**

**Session 6**

**1030-1200 h                      Management Programs and Case Histories**

- Chairman's Introduction
- Update of the Status and Conservation Action for Cuban Crocodiles (Roberto Soberon)
- Fisheries Department Conservation Program for Siamese Crocodiles in Cambodia (Heng Sovannara)
- Crocodile population trends in Papua New Guinea (Godfrid Solmu)
- *Caiman yacare* and *Caiman latirostris* ranching programs in Argentina (Alejandro Larriera\*, A. Imhof)

- False Gharials in Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan (Boyd Simpson)
- Progress in India and Bangladesh (Nikhil Whitaker)

**1200-1400 h Lunch**

### Session 7

**1400-1530 h Management Programs and Case Histories**

- Status of crocodylians in South American countries (Alvaro Velasco)
- The Management of *Caiman yacare* in Range States (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay) (Alejandro Larriera)
- Conservation and Management of Sri Lankan Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus* and *Crocodylus palustris*) (Jayantha Jayewardene).
- Spotlight surveys of New Guinea freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus novaeguineae*) in mid-zone Memberamo River (Memberamo and Rouffaer River systems), Papua Province, Indonesia (Hellen Kurniati)
- Bushmeat and crocodiles in Central Africa (John Thorbjarnarson)

**1530-1600 h Coffee Break**

### Session 8

**1600-1730 h Management Programs and Case Histories (cont.)**

- Geographical study of the commercial management program of *Caiman crocodilus* in Venezuela (Colomine, Yanez, Collazos, Gamboa, Villarroel, Velasco, De Sola)
- Effects of Sustained Harvest on Wild Populations of *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus* in Venezuela (Velasco, Colomine, De Sola, Villarroel)
- Habitat Analysis and Population Status of *Crocodylus acutus* in Venezuela (De Sola, Velasco, Villarroel, Colomine)
- Proposal of sustainable use of the spectacled caiman (*Caiman yacare*) in indigenous lands of the Bolivian Amazonia (Alfonso Llobet)
- Life history of *Caiman yacare* in the Brazilian Pantanal (Marcos Coutinho –,tbc)
- Ecological distribution of crocodiles in South West Cameroon: threats and conservation potentials (Gonwouo Nono Legrand – tbc)

**1830-2130 h Social Event – BBQ, "Darwin Trailer Boat Club", Fannie Bay**

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**DAY 4. Thursday 27th May 2004**

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### Session 9

**0830-1000 h Local People in Crocodylian Conservation**

- Chairman's Introduction: Embracing Local people as Beneficiaries of crocodylian conservation programs (Jon Hutton)
- Piloting community-based crocodile conservation in Cambodia (Jenny Daltry)
- Human-crocodile conflicts in Africa (Rich Ferguson)
- The effect of financial incentives on protecting habitat for low-income resource owners (David Wilken)
- Developing crocodylian education in public schools: integrating three concerned entities (Harold Nugent)
- Assessment of the viability of the program of conservation and use of the spectacled caiman (*Caiman yacare*) in Bolivia (Alfonso Llobet)
- Involvement of local governments in crocodile conservation in the Philippines (Jerome Miranda – tbc)

**1000-1030 h Coffee Break****Session 10****1030-1200 h Farming and Trade Issues...**

- Chairman's Introduction (Peter McInnes)
- Crocodilians in World Trade: an Update (John Caldwell - tbc)
- Major Issues Affecting the Sustainable Trade of Crocodilians (Don Ashley & others)
- A genetic improvement program for farmed Saltwater Crocodiles (Sally Isberg, P. Thomson, F. Nicholas, S. Barker, C. Moran)
- Economic factors affecting crocodilian sustainable use (Don Ashley)
- Farming viability. What the future may hold (tbc)
- Brief History of Industry Involvement with Crocodile Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use (tbc)

**1200-1400 h Lunch****Session 11****1400-1600 h Research Session. Plenary Poster Session**

- Chairman's Introduction
- 5 minutes per speaker

## Posters:

1. On the use of Bioimpedance Analysis (BIA) in determining body composition in farmed crocodiles (Steve Peucker et al.)
2. Crocprofit: A decision investment tool for crocodile farmers and investors. (Steve Peucker et al.)
3. The development of the electrical stunning equipment (Steve Peucker)
4. Analysis of microsatellites and parentage testing in saltwater crocodiles (S.R. Isberg\*, Y. Chen, S.G. Barker, C. Moran)
5. Developing crocodilian education in public schools: promoting respect (Harold Nugent)
6. Pesticides in crocodiles (Robert Packett)
7. Population status and future management of *Crocodylus niloticus* (Nile crocodile) at Lake Sibaya, South Africa (Xander Combrink, J. Perran Ross, Jan L. Korrûbel)
8. Aerial, spotlight and nesting surveys to estimate the Nile crocodile population at Lake Sibaya in the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park (Xander Combrink)
9. Effects of two different incubation media on hatching success, body mass and length in *Caiman latirostris* (C.I. Piña, M. Simoncini and A. Larriera)
10. Size of *Caiman latirostris* eggs and hatchling body size coming from three different environments in Santa Fe, Argentina (J.P. Montini, A. Larriera, C.I. Piña and P. Siroski)
11. Food conversion rates of *Caiman latirostris* reared at two different temperatures. (M.V. Parachu Marcó, C.I. Piña, and A. Larriera)
12. Sexual dimorphism in hatchling *Caiman latirostris* (C.I. Piña, A. Larriera, P. Siroski and L.M. Verdade)
13. The effect of three different experimental salinity levels on *Caiman latirostris* growth (L. Santucho, A. Imhof and A. Larriera)
14. Growth of *Caiman latirostris* reared at three different stocking densities (G. Poletta, P. Siroski and A. Larriera)
15. Population genetic analysis of *Caiman latirostris* in Santa Fe Province, Argentina, by RAPD (P. Amavet, P. Siroski and A. Larriera)
16. *Caiman latirostris* and *Caiman yacare* population surveys in Formosa Province, Argentina (P. Siroski)
17. Pancuronium bromide – an immobilising agent for crocodiles (Laurel Bates *et al*)
18. Regional plan for the conservation of the Magdalena Crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*. (Leonardo Orjuela Castro)

19. Blood parasites of Siamese crocodile in Thailand (Jindawan Siruntawineti, Win Chaeychomsri, Anussara Ritvichai, Thawatchai Ong-aat and Yosapong Temsiripong)
20. Internal parasites of Siamese crocodile in Thailand (Win Chaeychomsri, Jindawan Siruntawineti, Komsan Gomonchindakul, Thawatchai Ong-aat and Yosapong Temsiripong)
21. Efficacy of Siamese crocodile serum for bacterial growth inhibition (Jindawan Siruntawineti, Win Chaeychomsri, Thawatchai Ong-aat and Yosapong Temsiripong)
22. Amoebacidal effects of serum from the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) (Mark Merchant, Ruth M. Elsey, Phillip Trosclair III)
23. GIS-based Habitat Suitability Analysis of Saltwater Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) in the Northern Territory (Yusuke Fukuda, Guy Boggs and Peter Whitehead)
24. Queensland Workplace Health and Safety (Ryan Anderson)
25. NMR studies of crocodile red blood cell metabolism (Chris Garvey)
26. Diet and condition of American alligators in three central Florida lakes (Amanda Rice)
27. Anatomical correlates associated with the bracing system of extant crocodylians: addressing the locomotor inadequacies of the Indian gharial (Steven Salisbury and Eberhard Frey)
28. Pb kinematics in estuarine crocodiles (Kerie Hammerton)

### Session 12

**1600-1830 h            Research Session. Poster Room Session (incl. coffee break)**

**1830-2100 h            Free time at participants expense (suggest "Mindil Beach Markets")**

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**DAY 5.            Friday 28th May 2004**

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### Session 13

**0830-1000 h    Research Session 1. Miscellaneous**

- Chairman's Introduction
- The crocodylian model in current developmental and evolutionary studies (Martin Kundrat)
- Mercury in alligators (Liberty Moore)
- Diving behaviour in freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) in the wild: correlations with heart rate and body temperature (Craig Franklin\*, Frank Seebacher, Mark Read)
- Influence of pesticides, micronutrients and fatty acids on hatch rates of wild, Florida alligator eggs (Allan Woodward)
- Movements of *Crocodylus porosus* in the Kimberley region of Western Australia: integrating genetic and radio-tracking data (Winston Kay\*, N. Fitzsimmons and G. Grigg)
- Ecotoxicology of crocodiles in Central America (Thomas Rainwater *et al.*)
- Patterns of metal accumulation in osteoderms of Australian crocodiles: identifying the source catchments of problem crocodiles (Kerie Hammerton – tbc)

**1000-1030 h            Coffee Break**

### Session 14

**1030-1200 h            Research Session 2. Miscellaneous**

- Movements of adult-sized estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) tracked by satellite telemetry (Mark Read, Gordon Grigg, Craig Franklin and Steve Irwin)

- Comparative analysis of habitats occupied by *Caiman crocodilus* in floodable plains of Venezuela (Villarroel, Velasco, Colomine, De Sola)
- The mysterious Crocodylid integumentary sense organs: what are they for? (Kate Jackson)
- The influence of weather conditions on caiman night-counts (Luciano M. Verdade\*, Fabianna Sarkis-Goncalves, Ana Maria V. Castro)
- Status of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) in southern Florida and its role in measuring restoration success in the Everglades (Ken Rice)
- Using crocodiles to teach taxonomy: a web based approach for high school science (Gordon Henley, Jr)
- Captive breeding and reproductive biology of the Indian gharial *Gavialis gangeticus* (Gmelin) in captivity (Nikhil Whitaker)

## 1200-1400 h Lunch

### Session 15

#### 1400-1530 h Research Session 3. Miscellaneous

- Conservation genetics of Chinese Alligator (Wu Xiaobing)
- Crocodylian genome projects: status and resources (Travis Glenn)
- Crocodylian gene hunting with expressed sequence tags (ESTs) (Mandy Schable)
- Captive animal with known pedigrees are needed for genetic maps of crocodylians (Cris Hagen)
- Evidence for long-distance migration by wild American alligators (R. Elsey, Val Lance\* and P. Trosclair III)
- Contaminants in crocodiles (Robert Packett)
- Molecular genetic data reveals a new cryptic species of African crocodile requiring a reassessment of conservation strategies for *C. niloticus* (Evon Hekkala, George Amato and Rob DeSalle)
- Aislamiento e identificación de microorganismos en el huevo de *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*, en tres granjas de la costa Atlántica en Colombia (Iván D. Palacios R. and Monica Sick G.)
- Ultrasonido como herramienta para evaluar estructuras reproductivas en hembras de *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* en ciclo cerrado. (Iván D. Palacios and F. Alberto Beltrán)
- Characterization of the innate immune system of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) (Mark Merchant)
- Philippine crocodile population ecology (Bernard Tarun)
- Stochastic simulation model of the population dynamics of the *Caiman yacare* in the Brazilian Pantanal (Marcos Coutinho, Milani Chaloupka and Zilca Campos)
- Economic valuation of the Tarcoles River *C. acutus* population using the travel costs method (Gerardo Abadia)

#### 1530-1600 Coffee Break

### Session 16

#### 1600-1700 h Workshop Reports

- Skin quality: farmers, tanners and veterinarians
- Human-crocodile conflicts
- Major issues affecting sustainability of crocodylian trade
- CSG core business

#### 1700-1730 h Closing Ceremony

#### 1830-2200 h Social Event: Banquet at Crocodylus Park

Includes: Demonstration of electric stunning equipment by Qld DPI.

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**DAY 6. Saturday, 29th May 2004**

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**McKinlay River Field Trip**

Depart Darwin at 0800 h, return 2230 h