

**Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, Australia**  
 (15 April 2024)

**Executive Officer Report**

**General**

Tom Dacey stepped down from the role of the CSG Executive Officer (EO) after 19 years of service in April 2023. Sally Isberg accepted the Executive Officer role and is employed on a part-time basis, based in Darwin, Australia. The EO's current annual salary is \$AUD25,000 (approx. \$US16,500) which includes all associated on-costs as required by the Australia Taxation Office (eg superannuation, workers compensation, etc.). Any travel expenses incurred by the EO (including attendance at CSG working meetings, regional meetings, etc.) are in addition to the salary, and are subject to prior approval by the Chairs, but none have been requested at this time.

**Steering Committee Composition**

Current membership of the CSG Steering Committee (SC) is 71 people. The last meeting of SC was just prior to the Chetumal Working Meeting (4 July 2022). This provided an opportunity to update SC members on changes in the CSG and advise them of proposed activities.

**CSG Membership**

There were 728 CSG members (in 82 countries) recorded in the CSG's database, as of 28 February 2024.

<b>Region</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Latin America & the Caribbean	165	23
North America	146	20
East & Southeast Asia	105	14
South Asia & Iran	91	12
Europe	80	11
Australia & Oceania	68	9
Southern & East Africa	45	6
West & Central Africa	28	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>728</b>	

Since the last CSG working meeting, the IUCN has recognised that many specialist group members were not registered through their portal. An e-mail was distributed to CSG members who were not already registered, seeking their permission for the IUCN to be provided with their details so they could be included. Only two members responded asking for their details to be withheld.

Ten (10) members have passed away since the Chetumal working meeting (2022 - Wayne King, Tran Nga, Roberto "Toby" Ramos Targarona, George Saputra, Paul Weldon; 2023 - Angel Alcala, James Aparicio, Hank Jenkins, Juana Pena Flores, Pedro Vasquez Ruesta) and one ex-member (2023 - Goff Letts). It has recently come to our attention that Harry Andrews (India) passed away in 2018.

**CSG Database**

We continue to maintain our own CSG database. It is regularly updated with new contact details as they become available. However, this is very much dependent on members informing the EO of any changes to their contact details, particularly e-mail addresses.

**Regional Offices**

Regional offices were "established" with one-off funding at different times in Latin America & the Caribbean (Argentina), Central America & Caribbean (Belize), South Asia & Iran (Sri Lanka) and East & Southern Africa (South Africa), to enable the Regional Chairs to maintain a CSG office and more active presence in their region. However, only the LAC office has continued with a formal office structure and been funded consistently each year. The CSG Executive Committee has previously agreed to establish a West & Central Africa regional office, and \$US5000 has been earmarked for this purpose, if and when required.

## **Reviews/Missions**

Co-ordination was provided for the following since July 2022:

- Review of the “Modelling population dynamics of estuarine crocodiles on Queensland’s northern populated east coast”
- CITES CoP19, Panama City, Panama, 14-25 November 2022
- Submission of SSC Internal and SSC Internal EDGE grants - one of each was successful in 2023 (SSC Internal Grant: Marisa Tellez; SSC Internal EDGE grant: Matt Shirley)

## **Meetings**

The Executive Committee currently meets on a monthly/bimonthly basis as necessary. The outcomes of these meetings include:

- Development of “Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Prevention Policy for CSG-Endorsed Events”
- Development of “Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Resolution Procedures for CSG-Endorsed Events”
- Discuss strategies with the social media team to increase engagement and CSG profile
- Launch Red List assessments to increase engagement on our social platforms
- Create SRAS student and interested persons email lists to increase the awareness of CSG communications
- Other issues discussed and still to be resolved included: Development of a “Communication Strategy” for the CSG; Development of “Crocodile conservation priorities”; Drafted Terms of Reference for Regional and Thematic Group Chairs; and, Revised Nomination Form for members

## **CSG Newsletter**

The CSG Newsletter remains one of the key means of communicating with members and other people and organizations interested in crocodylian conservation. Since July 2004, the Newsletter has been edited and compiled by Charlie Manolis. Since July 2018 the Newsletter has been produced in electronic (pdf) form only. All CSG members are advised by e-mail when the Newsletter is available. Other interested persons/organizations have been advised that the Newsletter is available on the CSG website.

## **Communication**

The main methods of communication within the CSG membership are through e-mail, the CSG Newsletter, the CSG website and specific Zoom meetings. Regular phone contact has been established with several senior members. The CSG website is updated regularly.

## **Financial Management**

Quarterly financial statements are compiled by Charlie Manolis and sent to the CSG Executive and Steering Committee members.

## **Student Research Assistance Scheme**

Between 2009 and April 2024, 269 applications for SRAS and FHVS-SRAS funding were received, of which 249 were approved (SRAS N= 237; FHVS-SRAS N= 12). Details of applicants/projects are posted on the CSG website at: [www.iucncsg.org](http://www.iucncsg.org) (under Grants).

## **Next CSG meeting**

The venue and host of the 28th CSG Working Meeting will be discussed in Darwin, in April 2024. At the time of writing of this report, the CSG had received two informal submissions to host the 28th Working Meeting, and additional information is being sought these can be assessed and a decision made.

**Prepared by:** Sally Isberg

**Date prepared:** 20 March 2024