

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

Drone Working Group

I am excited to be a part of the next drone or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) workshop to be held in Darwin at this year's CSG Working Meeting! The Drone Working Group hopes that this will be an ongoing part of the CSG Working Meetings in the future as technology rapidly grows! This will be a fantastic opportunity to hear about the latest developments in crocodile conservation using drones, recent technology, and networking for future collaborations. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Since 2020 the working group has held virtual meetings to discuss and engage members of the CSG in projects, and recent technologies and to encourage networking among our members. Please see the CSG Website for a full history of the working group and activities.

On 6-9 October 2023, working group members Carlos Piña, Lonnie McCaskill and Ray Carthy were part of the organising team of the "Wildlife Conservation Drone and Technology Summit" held in Burnet, Texas, USA. Although this Summit was focused on global wildlife conservation, hands-on training, and demonstrations of drones and related technologies, there was a good representation of CSG members in attendance. We held a 2-hour Technology in Crocodile Conservation Workshop. There were presentations and a round table discussion that followed. It was a terrific opportunity to hear about current projects, network and share best practices. A full list of abstracts is found on the Summit website <https://www.wcdws.com/>.

Drones are going to be a valuable tool not just in conservation but in crocodile conservation. I know the working group leaders would like to get members' feedback to see if there is a need or interest in continuing with this working group. We are open to feedback and volunteers to join us.

Prepared by: Lonnie McCaskill

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