

Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee Meeting
Sofitel Royal Bay Hotel, Agadir, Morocco
(12 May 2026)

IUCN Red List Authority

Only one Red List (RL; Table 1) has been published since the last Steering Committee (SC) meeting, which was the re-assessment of *Melanosuchus niger* finding that it remains as 'Least concern' (LC). We are grateful for the efforts of all the assessor/authors (R. Botero-Arias, M. Hernández-Rangel, J. Thorbjarnarson, W. Magnusson and R. Da Silveira) and the other CSG members who contributed to, or reviewed, this assessment before submission to the IUCN Red List unit.

Drafts for six African species, including *Crocodylus suchus*, *Osteolaemus* spp., *Mecistops cataphractus* and *M. leptorhynchus* are at various stages of completion with Matt Shirley as project lead. As part of the *Osteolaemus* spp. workshop hosted by Matt Shirley in Cote d'Ivoire in November 2024, the CSG supported Sally Isberg to attend as the Red List Authority Co-ordinator (RLAc) to provide training and support to the assigned assessment teams.

The Action Plan for *C. palustris* was finalised in 2025 and has been used to draft the global RL re-assessment document lead by Colin Stevenson. Once completed, an assessment team for *C. palustris* will be formally appointed with anticipated completion by the end of 2026.

Claire Wilkie has joined the RL team and has been assigned to lead the *C. mindorensis* re-assessment. Claire has begun to draft the required documents after which an assessment team *C. mindorensis* will be formally appointed.

Recently, the largest limitation which has hampered the progression of RL assessments has been the lack of mapping capacity within the CSG RL team. Due to work and other commitments, our resident mapping experts were not able to assist as readily since the last report. Numerous other avenues were explored including requesting options from and having meetings with the IUCN Red List unit, IUCN Global Reptile Assessment Lead, Reptile Species Survival Specialist at Albuquerque Zoo as well as trying to find private contractors. No private contractor with the necessary skills could be identified. Of the IUCN contacts, the common response was that mapping for Red List assessments is the known bottleneck for RLAs yet no viable options to assist were identified other than training someone. Colin Stevenson and I began learning GIS skills but recognising that not everyone can be skilful at everything, we are very happy to announce that Sergio Balaguera-Reina is back on the team and available to assist. However, this has made us recognise that we need to upskill more people with an interest in, or having existing skills with, GIS so please get in contact if you can help.

In early 2026, Sergio Balaguera-Reina was invited to become the Deputy RLAc. This is a newly defined role which will assist with the progression of our RL obligations to the IUCN SSC as well as provide a succession plan for Red Listing within the CSG. So, the team now consists of Sally Isberg, Sergio Balaguera-Reina, Colin Stevenson and Claire Wilkie. Anyone who would like to become involved in the RL team, please let me know.

A Green Status assessment for *Gavialis gangeticus* was published by Jailabdeen Ajji M., Babu Ram Lamichhane, Phoebe Griffith and Jeff Lang in 2025 to accompany the existing Red List assessment. Thank you to this team who undertook this onerous task. Sally Isberg is currently undergoing Green Status training as organised by the IUCN SSC Australian Species Specialist Group. Once accredited, Sally will work with the appointed *C. mindorensis* RL assessment team to update the Green Status concurrently and become familiar with this process.

In a recent press release, Collective Fashion Justice accused the CSG of receiving payments from crocodylian skin industry donors for favourable global Red List assessments for certain crocodylian species. To clarify, and as evidenced in the current (Agenda item 1.4) and previous IACS financial statements, no payments have ever been made to the Red List co-ordinators, assessors, reviewers or contributors to undertake RL assessments. The CSG has twice supported the travel of the RLAc to attend workshops (2019 and 2024) as well as paid Robinson Botero-Arias, as a post-graduate student, to enter references into the RL SIS database system. Further, the IUCN provides no support, financial or otherwise, to the CSG RLA team including when asked for assistance on mandatory items such as mapping. All CSG Red List assessments, including the CSG RLAc and team, are done on a voluntary basis either as individuals or as representatives of the organisations they are employed by. This accusation, while baseless and misleading, has nonetheless been taken very seriously and to ensure more transparent governance over this process, a declaration statement will be required to be completed by each individual involved in all future assessments declaring any perceived or real conflicts of interest as well as if they agree (or not) with the final RL category determination to be submitted to the IUCN Red List unit.

Prepared by: Sally Isberg, CSG Red List Authority Co-ordinator
Date prepared: 25 March 2026

Table 1. Current status of Red List and Green Status of currently recognised crocodylian taxa.

| Species | Global Red List | | | | Green Status | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| | Assessed as | Assessed | Published | Actions | Assessed as | Assessed | Actions |
| <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> | LC | 2018 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Alligator sinensis</i> | CR A1b, B1ab(11v)+2ab(ii.v), C1+2a(i) | 2017 | 2018 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Caiman crocodilus</i> | LC | 2016 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Caiman latirostris</i> | LC | 2019 | 2020 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Caiman yacare</i> | LC | 2019 | 2020 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus acutus</i> | VU A2cd | 2020 | 2022 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus intermedius</i> | CR A2bcd, C2a(i) | 2017 | 2018 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i> | LC | 2016 | 2017 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus mindorensis</i> | CR A2cd | 2012 | 2016 | Plan enacted | CD | 2021 | Current |
| <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> | LC | 2020 | 2023 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> | LC | 2017 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus novaeguineae</i> | LC | 2018 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus palustris</i> | VU A2cd | 2009 | 2013 | Plan enacted | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> | LC | 2019 | 2021 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i> | CR A2cde | 2022 | 2022 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> | CR A2cd | 2012 | 2012 | Due | | | TBA |
| <i>Crocodylus suchus</i> | Not yet been assessed | | | Draft almost complete; map required | | | TBA |
| <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> | CR A2bce | 2017 | 2019 | Current | CD | 2025 | Current |
| <i>Mecistops cataphractus</i> | CR A2acde+3cde+4acde | 2013 | 2014 | Map required to complete assessment | | | TBA |
| <i>Mecistops leptorhynchus</i> | Not yet been assessed | | | Map required to complete assessment | | | TBA |
| <i>Melanosuchus niger</i> | LC | 2023 | 2025 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i> | VU A2cd | 1996 | 1996 | Drafts advancing; maps required | | | TBA |
| <i>Paleosuchus palpebrosus</i> | LC | 2018 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Paleosuchus trigonatus</i> | LC | 2018 | 2019 | Current | | | TBA |
| <i>Tomistoma schlegelii</i> | EN C2a(i) | 2022 | 2023 | Current | | | TBA |

Red List codes: LC= Least Concern, VU= Vulnerable, EN= Endangered, CR= Critically Endangered

Green Status codes: FR= Fully Recovered, ND= Non-Depleted, SD= Slightly Depleted, MD= Moderately Depleted, LD= Largely Depleted, CD= Critically Depleted, ID= Indeterminate.

TBA= 'to be advised'