

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

Drone Working Group

Activities

During November 2025, we organized a drone training course at CIMFAUNA, held in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. There were 25 participants, including CSG members.

Through 2025, we collaborated in the organization of the Global Conservation Tech and Drone Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. On 1-6 March 2026, Lonnie McCaskill participated in the event. There were over 700 total attendees over the 5 days of the meeting.

In Argentina, in partnership with Predelta National Park, we are currently testing strategies to monitor crocodiles using thermal cameras at different times of day.

Publications

Aubert, C.; Le Moguédec, G.; Velasco, A.; Combrink, X.; Lang, J.W.; Griffith, P.; Pacheco-Sierra, G.; Pérez, E.; Charruau, P.; Villamarín, F.; et al. 2024. Estimating total length of partially submerged Crocodylians from drone imagery. *Drones* 8: 115.

Thapa GJ, Thapa K, Poudel S, Pun DBP, Shrestha S, Poudel P, et al. 2025. Eyes in the sky: Drone monitoring of the largest gharial and mugger populations in the East Rapti River, Chitwan National Park. *PLoS One* 20(8): e0330350.

Kpatchia E.J. and Armel Nago S.G. 2025. Advancing crocodiles conservation through aerial ecological monitoring with drones in West Africa. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies* 13(5): 55-62.

Prepared by: Lonnie McCaskill and Carlos Piña, Co-Chairs Drone Working Group

Date: 7 April 2026