

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

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**Living with Crocodilians Working Group**

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**Background and membership**

Following the 27th CSG Working Meeting, the CSG Executive supported the establishment of the Living with Crocodilians Working Group (LWCWG; previously Human-Crocodile Conflict WG), chaired by Simon Pooley. A team was recruited (Table 1) aiming to balance geographic coverage insofar as possible, with links to active HCC work or relevant organisations, and key HCC species in mind. The group has met monthly since inception, except for June/July 2025 and early 2026, and have captured four member videos on HCC in their regions so far.

**LWC WG Projects**

**1. Questionnaire**

The initial project was to put together a global questionnaire survey to gather preliminary information as a basis for providing guidance on HCC management measures for the CSG and all interested parties. WG members contributed to several drafts, which was ready to go by late 2024. This was then entered into KoboToolbox and tested, before being launched in February 2025. It was shared through the CSG membership as well as specifically requesting regional chairs to share the link and encourage relevant persons in their networks to complete the survey. We publicised it further through various social media platforms, and through a Working Group/Project website hosted by Birkbeck University of London ([here](#)). We also did a lot of work translating the English version into Bahasa Indonesian (thanks to Jan van der Ploeg) and South American Spanish (thanks to Paulino Ponce Campos and Laura Porras). These were also launched in 2025.

Unfortunately, while many members are enthusiastic about discussing HCC, it is another matter entirely to persuade them to contribute work towards projects focused on addressing it. I am grateful to the 49 CSG members who responded to the English survey, and 4 Spanish respondents, but while we will draw on this information (summarised in a precis report to the Executive in November 2025), given that it is from motivated and experienced individuals, it cannot be said to be representative of HCC across our regions.

Based on this first small sample, we can conclude that safety awareness and education, sending representatives to attacks sites to report and talk to locals, and monitoring crocodilians, are those actions believed most effective. Translocation was almost universally believed to be ineffective. Some strategies more common in human-wildlife conflict work on other species seem to be little tried (according to our limited sample) in crocodilian issues management, notably compensation (of any kind), and livelihoods-related changes (not referring to sustainable use). Least evaluated are providing community benefits, improving infrastructure, and changing (human) behaviour. Overall, it seems a clear challenge that many listed methods are not implemented, or if they have been, have not been evaluated.

Emerging from WG discussions, there is strong interest in outreach and awareness materials, and we decided in the first instance to prepare a media card with advice on reporting crocodilian attacks (see below). There is also strong interest in considering synergies with other projects targeting infrastructure, livelihoods, etc., in rural areas, where actions will directly improve safety around crocodiles (eg provision of water in safe places, toilets, etc.). Guidance on doing so would be useful we feel (locals may appreciate such actions but not connect it with protecting crocs). Crocodile Exclusion Enclosures (CEEs) have already emerged as a focus for more research and design work, and evaluation.

**2. Literature review**

With the above in mind, I decided to undertake literature reviews of the CSG regions based on my biannually published bibliography of Human-Croc Interactions, Croc Digest. I generated these as AI summaries of only the uploaded documents for each region listed in Croc Digest, edited by myself and distributed to WG members from that region or country for comment, to be integrated by myself. We have completed those for the USA (treated separately), Mexico (treated separately), Central America and Caribbean, and South America. My thanks to Morgan Hart, Paulino Ponce Campos, Lauro Porras Murillo and Ronis Da Silveira for the input on these. I have completed the same for our African regions, but would prefer external checks on these. We should have these completed with an overview to present at the Morocco meeting.

### 3. Media

We have prepared a brief guidance document on how to (and not to) discuss crocodylian attacks in the media. A draft was sent to Matt Brien in February 2026, and will also be presented in Morocco. We also updated text for the CSG HCC-related pages, and are thinking about content for the relevant page on the new CSG website when it arrives.

#### Other WG activities

As Chair of the group, I have been busy with other smaller HCC and CSG tasks, including reviewing funding applications to the CSG, and academic papers, and supporting students studying HCC most recently Antonia Geibel's MSc project on HCC in Murchison National Park, Uganda. I reviewed a funding application for a PhD applicant hoping to work on HCC in Tanzania, which would be welcome.

In January 2025, I had discussions with Pablo Siroski and Robinson Botero Arias about ongoing HCC-related work in Colombia. Laura Porras presented on HCC and our work at the El Salvador CSG regional workshop.

I helped Bobby Cross develop some poster illustrations for mitigating HCC in African countries, although we are unclear of whether they have been distributed and who has ownership of the copyright.

**Prepared by:** Simon Pooley, Chair of CSG Living with Crocodylians Working Group

**Date prepared:** 27 February 2026

Table 1. Current members of LWCWG.

Member	Affiliation	Region
Ronis Da Silveira	Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Brazil	Brazilian Amazonia
Yusuke Fukuda	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, Northern Territory Government	Australia (NT)
Mohd Izwan Zulaini Abdul Gani	Sarawak Forestry	Sarawak, Malaysia
Morgan Hart	S. Carolina Department of Natural Resources, USA	SE states of the USA
Rainier Manalo	Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc.	Philippines (Southeast Asia)
Laura Patricia Porras Murillo	Wildlife Management and Conservation International Institute, National University, Costa Rica	Costa Rica, Southeast Mexico
Paulino Ponce-Campos	Bosque Tropical Investigación para la Conservación de la Naturaleza. A. C., México	México and Latin America
Brandon Sideleau	Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory, Australia/CrocAttack	Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste
Colin Stevenson	Crocodiles of the World, UK	South Asia & Iran, Europe
Jan van der Ploeg	Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands	Philippines, Solomon Islands, Indonesia