

Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee Meeting

Agadir, Morocco

(12 May 2026)

Fundraising Report

Overview

The IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) is currently in the process of defining a long-term fundraising strategy to support the continued work of the group and its global conservation initiatives. As an international nonprofit organization operating under the framework of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the CSG relies entirely on external financial support to carry out its activities.

The CSG's work spans science, conservation, policy support, sustainable use, capacity building, communications, and collaboration among governments, researchers, conservation organizations, indigenous and local communities, industry stakeholders, and wildlife management authorities around the world. The ability of the CSG to continue this work depends directly on the availability of sustainable funding sources.

Because the CSG is a nonprofit organization, its financial activity relies solely on donations, sponsorships, grants, and voluntary contributions.

Current Fundraising Position

The CSG is presently in the strategic development phase of building a more structured and proactive fundraising program. Initial discussions have focused on identifying funding opportunities, improving donor engagement, increasing visibility of the group's work, and creating a more sustainable financial framework for future operations. The next step in this process will be the development of a detailed action plan to implement the fundraising strategy.

To support this effort, the CSG intends to establish a dedicated Fundraising Committee. This committee will help guide and coordinate fundraising activities and will focus on areas such as:

- Donor development and stewardship
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Grant identification and applications
- Corporate partnerships
- Conservation philanthropy
- Event fundraising initiatives
- Communications and outreach support
- Long-term financial sustainability planning

The formation of a dedicated committee will allow the CSG to take a more organized and strategic approach to fundraising while leveraging the expertise and networks of CSG members and supporters globally.

Financial Infrastructure

To facilitate international fundraising and financial management, the CSG currently maintains two bank accounts:

- One account located in Australia
- One account located in the United States

This structure provides flexibility for receiving and managing international donations and supports the CSG's global operational footprint.

At present, the CSG is able to accept donations through multiple payment methods, including:

- PayPal
 - Including credit card payments processed through PayPal
- Check payments
- Wire transfers

These existing payment capabilities provide immediate functionality for donor contributions while additional fundraising infrastructure and processes continue to be developed.

Importance of Fundraising to the CSG Mission

The work of the CSG plays a critical role in global crocodylian conservation and management. The group supports science-based conservation efforts, facilitates collaboration among international stakeholders, contributes technical expertise to governments and treaty processes, and promotes sustainable conservation models that directly benefit wildlife and local communities.

Funding is essential to support activities such as:

- Scientific meetings and workshops
- Conservation assessments
- Technical publications and communications
- Student and early-career scientist support
- Capacity building initiatives, including the Student Research Assistance Scheme
- Policy engagement
- Field conservation projects
- Public education and outreach
- Administrative and operational support

As global conservation challenges continue to grow, the need for stable and diversified funding sources has become increasingly important to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the CSG.

Next Steps

The immediate priorities for the CSG fundraising initiative include:

1. Finalization of the overall fundraising strategy
2. Formation of the dedicated Fundraising Committee
3. Development of a detailed fundraising action plan
4. Identification of priority funding opportunities
5. Expansion of donor outreach and engagement efforts
6. Development of sponsorship materials and communications assets
7. Strengthening online donation and fundraising capabilities

The CSG recognizes that successful fundraising will require coordinated effort, clear communication of impact, and strong engagement with supporters who value science-based conservation and sustainable wildlife management.

Conclusion

The CSG has a long history of contributing meaningful scientific and conservation outcomes for crocodylian species and wetland ecosystems around the world. Continued success in these efforts depends upon building a sustainable financial foundation that can support the organization's mission into the future.

The current work being undertaken to define a fundraising strategy and establish a dedicated fundraising structure represents an important step toward ensuring the long-term strength and effectiveness of the CSG and its global conservation efforts.

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