

Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee Meeting
Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina
 (5 May 2018)

Executive Officer Report

General

The CSG Executive Officer (EO) is employed on a part-time basis and is based in Philippines. Two or three trips are made to Darwin each year to work more closely with the Chairman. The EO's annual salary of \$AUD24,000 (approx. \$US19,000) also covers the majority of travel expenses made by the EO (including attendance at CSG working meetings, regional meetings, etc.).

Steering Committee Composition

Current membership of the CSG Steering Committee (SC) is 71 people. The last meeting of SC was just prior to the Working Meeting in Skukuza, South Africa (22 May 2016). This provided an opportunity to update SC members on changes in the CSG and advise them of proposed activities.

CSG Membership

CSG membership (covering 63 countries), by region (at 1 April 2018):

Latin America & the Caribbean	130	21%
North America	115	19%
East & Southeast Asia	106	18%
South Asia & Iran	80	13%
Europe	64	11%
Australia & Oceania	58	10%
East & Southern Africa	44	7%
West and Central Africa	9	2%
Total	606	

Four members have passed away since the Skukuza meeting (Don Ashley, June 2016; Beverly Seem, April 2017; Akira Saikyo, November 2017; Edmond Mouton Jr, March 2018).

CSG Database

The CSG database is regularly updated with new contact details as they become available. However, this is very much dependent on members informing the EO of any changes to their contact details, particularly e-mail addresses.

Regional Offices

Regional offices have been established in Latin America & the Caribbean (Argentina), Central America & Caribbean (Belize), South Asia & Iran (Sri Lanka) and East & Southern Africa (South Africa/USA), to enable the Regional Chairs to maintain a CSG office and presence in the region. With the exception of the LAC office, all other offices were provided one-off funding. The EC has also agreed to establish a West & Central Africa regional office, and \$US5000 has been earmarked for this purpose, if and when required.

Reviews

Co-ordination was provided for the following CSG review missions, meetings, etc.:

1. CITES CoP17, Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September-4 October 2016
2. Siamese Crocodile Task Force Meeting, Mahidol University, Thailand, 1-3 June 2017
3. Executive Committee meeting, Steering Committee meeting and 25th CSG Working Meeting, Santa Fe, Argentina, May 2018

Executive Officer Travel

The EO undertook the following travel, largely at his own expense:

1. Trips to Darwin: December 2016, September 2017, October 2017 (twice)
2. Siamese Crocodile Task Force meeting, Thailand, 1-2 June 2017
3. Surigao Island, Philippines, release of Philippine crocodiles into Paghungawan Marsh, Pilar, 17 June 2017
4. Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI) board meeting, Manila, 2 August 2017
5. Meeting with CSG Chair, Manila, Philippines, 14 December 2017

CSG Newsletter

The CSG Newsletter remains one of the key means of communicating with members and other people and organizations interested in crocodylian conservation. Since July 2004, the Newsletter has been produced in Darwin. In accordance with the CSG policy, distribution of hard copies of the quarterly CSG Newsletter is limited to: CSG donors; CSG Steering Committee members; financial subscribers; libraries; and, CITES Scientific and Management Authorities. All CSG members are advised by e-mail when the Newsletter is available electronically. Other interested persons/organizations can receive the Newsletter electronically by accessing and downloading it from the CSG website.

Communication

The main methods of communication within the CSG membership are through e-mail, the CSG Newsletter and the CSG website. Regular “internet phone” contact has been established with several members through the “Skype” system, and this potentially offers a cost-effective means of communication. The CSG website is updated regularly.

Financial Management

Monthly financial statements from Darwin and the USA are coordinated by the EO, and quarterly financial statements compiled and sent to the CSG Executive and annual statements sent to SC members. “Patrons and Donors” are issued an annual letter seeking donations. In 2017-2018 requests were sent to around 40 prospective donors.

Student Research Assistance Scheme

Between 2009 and March 2018, 141 applications for SRAS (N= 135) and FHVS-SRAS (N= 6) funding were received, of which 138 were approved. Details of grant proposals can be found on the CSG website at: www.iucncsg.org (under Grants), and a summary of the programs is in EC.2.5.

Next CSG meeting

The venue and host of the 26th CSG Working Meeting will be decided in Santa Fe, Argentina, in May 2018. Bids have been submitted by India (Gwalior) and Morocco (Agadir).

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