

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

**Student Research Assistance Scheme (SRAS) and Fritz Huchzermeyer Veterinary Science
Student Research Assistance Scheme (FHVS-SRAS)**

The SRAS program has been operating since 2009 (9.4 years), and the FHVS-SRAS program since 2014 (3.4 years).

As of 1 April 2018:

1. 141 applications (135 SRAS, 6 FHVS-SRAS) have been received.
 - One applicant (Costa Rica; 2009) withdrew from her studies and returned the funding.
 - One applicant (India; 2017) was asked to re-work his application and has yet to re-submit.
 - One application (Mexico; 2018) did not comply with the guidelines for funding, and has yet to be re-submitted.
 - 137 applications (132 SRAS, 6 FHVS-SRAS) were approved for funding, and one was under review.
2. Qualifications being sought by 135 applicants were: PhD (37%), MSc (39%), BSc (incl. Honors) (22%) and Post-doctorate (2%). The qualification for 3 applicants was not provided, and those applicants have not been able to be contacted.
3. Three students have applied twice for funding, the result of them continuing with higher qualifications [PhD to Post-Doc (N= 1), MSc to PhD (N= 2)].
4. Most (86%) studies focused on one species, 11 (8.3%) involved two species, 4 (3.0%) involved up to three species (eg West Africa region) and 3 (2%) involved multiple species.
5. The most commonly studied species were: *C. acutus* (21), *Caiman latirostris* (18), *Caiman crocodilus* (16), *C. niloticus* (15), *A. mississippiensis* (12) and *C. porosus* (7).
6. Most (N= 86) students have completed their studies, and submitted final reports (posted on CSG website), and the balance (N= 52) of projects are ongoing. One applicant (Ethiopia, 2014) ran into problems, and although has given an undertaking that she will be able to complete the study, this may not be the case.
7. Most funding of SRAS and FHVS-SRAS has been from CSG reserves, with specific contributions to the programs coming from Bergen Aquarium (\$US25,000 in January 2009), Bjornparken Zoo (\$US2500 in October 2017), Perran Ross, Paolo Martelli and Cathy Shilton.
8. An average of 15.2 applications has been received per year (2009-March 2018).
9. 57% of successful applicants have been males and 43% females.
10. Students from 34 countries have undertaken, or are undertaking, studies in 38 countries.
11. In terms of research location (CSG region), studies have been in:
 - Latin America & the Caribbean (54%)
 - East & Southern Africa (11%)
 - West & Central Africa (8%)
 - North America (9%)
 - East & Southeast Asia (8%)
 - South Asia & Iran (4%)
 - Australia & Oceania (4%)
 - Europe (1%)

12. In terms of “origin” (CSG region), most students have been from:
- Latin America & the Caribbean (47%)
 - North America (16%)
 - Europe (10%)
 - East & Southern Africa (11%)
 - West & Central Africa (4%)
 - East & Southeast Asia (4%)
 - South Asia & Iran (5%)
 - Australia & Oceania (3%)
13. In August 2016, a questionnaire (see attached) was sent to 98 SRAS students, and responses were received from 89 (91%) of them. It was decided at the Skuzuza EC meeting to pass the review of the questionnaires to the Future Leaders Working Group (FLWG).

Prepared by: Charlie Manolis

Date prepared: 1 April 2018

Table 1. Location of studies funded by SRAS and FHVS-SRAS (2009 to March 2018).

Region	Study Location	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Tot
AO	Australia	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	5
AO	Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
AO	Subtotal	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	6
ESA	China	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4
ESA	Indonesia	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
ESA	Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
ESA	Philippines	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
ESA	Thailand	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ESA	Vietnam	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ESA	Subtotal	3	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	11
EU	Netherlands	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
EU	UK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
EU	Subtotal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
LAC	Antilles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Argentina	5	2	-	1	2	1	3	1	-	1	16
LAC	Belize	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
LAC	Bolivia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
LAC	Brazil	2	1	-	3	1	1	3	-	1	1	13
LAC	Colombia	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	8
LAC	Costa Rica	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
LAC	Cuba	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
LAC	Ecuador	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Mexico	1	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	1	5	14
LAC	Panama	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
LAC	Peru	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Venezuela	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	5
LAC	Subtotal	10	8	1	8	8	9	12	1	9	9	75
NA	USA	1	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	12
NA	Subtotal	1	2	2	1	-	1	-	1	3	1	12
SAI	India	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
SAI	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
SAI	Nepal	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
SAI	Subtotal	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	6
SEA	Botswana	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
SEA	Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
SEA	Namibia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
SEA	South Africa	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	9
SEA	Uganda	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SEA	Africa	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SEA	Subtotal	3	2	2	-	1	2	-	-	3	2	15
WCA	Benin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WCA	Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
WCA	Benin/Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
WCA	Burkina Faso	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
WCA	Cameroon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WCA	Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
WCA	Dem. Rep. Congo	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WCA	Gabon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
WCA	Subtotal	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	6	-	11
Totals		20	13	9	11	11	15	16	4	25	14	138

Table 2. Country of origin for students funded by SRAS and FHVS-SRAS (2009 to March 2018).

Region	Student Origin	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2108	Tot
AO	Australia	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4
AO	Subtotal	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4
ESA	China	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
ESA	Philippines	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
ESA	Thailand	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ESA	Subtotal	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	6
EU	Poland	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
EU	Germany	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
EU	France	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
EU	Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
EU	UK	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	4
EU	Portugal	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
EU	Subtotal	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	3	3	13
LAC	Argentina	5	2	1	-	2	1	3	1	-	1	16
LAC	Bolivia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
LAC	Brazil	2	1	-	4	-	1	3	-	1	1	13
LAC	Colombia	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	8
LAC	Costa Rica	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
LAC	Cuba	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
LAC	Ecuador	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Mexico	1	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	1	4	14
LAC	Panama	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Peru	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LAC	Venezuela	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	5
LAC	Subtotal	9	6	1	8	7	8	11	1	7	8	66
NA	USA	4	4	3	1	-	2	1	1	4	1	21
NA	Subtotal	4	4	3	1	-	2	1	1	4	1	21
SAI	India	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
SAI	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
SAI	Nepal	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
SAI	Sri Lanka	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SAI	Subtotal	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	7
SEA	Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
SEA	South Africa	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	11
SEA	Uganda	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
SEA	Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
SEA	Subtotal	3	2	2	-	1	2	-	-	3	2	15
WCA	Benin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WCA	Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
WCA	Burkina Faso	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
WCA	Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
WCA	Subtotal	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	4	-	6
ALL	Totals	20	13	9	11	11	15	16	4	25	14	138

**Review of the Crocodile Specialist Group's
Student Research Assistance Scheme (CSG SRAS)**

As a recipient of SRAS funding, the CSG is now seeking your input into a review of the CSG-SRAS program.

The questionnaire (see below) has been developed as part of this review, but please feel free to add any additional comments that you consider will help the CSG to improve the SRAS.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: _____

2. Country: _____

3. In what year did your study commence? _____

4. In what year did you receive SRAS funds? _____ (SRAS Project No.: _____)

5. Have you finished your study? Yes / No
If "Yes", in what year did you finish? _____
If "No", in what year do you think you will finish? _____
Notes (explain any extenuating circumstances) _____

6. What qualification are/were you seeking with your study: BSc / Honours / MSc / PhD / Post-doctorate, Other
Notes (explain "other") _____

7. Did you travel to another country to undertake your core study? Yes / No
If "Yes", which country/countries? _____
Notes (explain) _____

8. How did you find out about SRAS? (circle)
- University supervisor
- CSG website
- Other students
- Other (specify): _____

9. Do you think the SRAS criteria for applications (see above) can be improved? Yes / No
If "Yes", how: _____

10. Was the SRAS application form easy to use? Yes / No

If "No", why: _____

11. Were the reporting requirements clear? Yes / No

12. How important was/is SRAS to your study? Not important / Important / Very Important

13. In what way did the SRAS contribute to you being able to undertake your study?

14. If you have completed your study, are you still working with crocodilians in some capacity? Yes / No

If "Yes", in what capacity? (circle)

- Further study (another qualification _____)
- Employed (university / government / private organization)
- Other: _____

If "No", do you see yourself working with crocodilians in the future? Yes / No

15. In your case, do you think SRAS achieved its goal of encouraging and helping students to undertake formal research on crocodilians? Yes / No

16. How do you think the SRAS program could be improved? _____

17. During your period of study, were you able to attend any CSG Working or Regional meetings? Yes / No

If "Yes", how many and which meetings (year) did you attend? _____

If "No", were any specific reasons why you were unable to attend any meetings?

- Timing of meeting clashed with fieldwork
- Cost
- Unaware of meetings
- Other: _____

18. Have you presented any of your study at conferences, CSG Working Meetings? Yes / No

If "Yes"- CSG meetings / other Conferences (_____)

19. Have you published any of the results of your study? Yes / No

If "Yes", where have you published?

- Journals
- Conference Proceedings
- Other _____

If "No", do you intend to publish results from your study? Yes / No

20. Other Comments:

21. Personal details:

Current address: _____

Postal Address (if same as above, write "as above"): _____

Preferred e-mail address: _____