

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

Albuquerque BioPark Collaboration

In April 2017, the CSG Chair was approached by Kira Mileham (IUCN) with a proposal for the CSG to enter into a collaboration with Albuquerque BioPark, with a view of reaching some form of agreement that might be beneficial to the CSG, IUCN and Albuquerque BioPark. Immediate access to project funding was not envisaged, but after a successful collaboration it could possibly open the way for the CSG to access project funding from Albuquerque BioPark and similar organisations. Several e-mail exchanges with KM ensued to clarify the possibilities of some type of collaboration.

In October 2017, Grahame Webb, Charlie Manolis and Tom Dacey (CSG) held a Skype meeting with Baird Fleming (Albuquerque BioPark) and Kira Mileham to discuss ways in which CSG may be able to work with Albuquerque BioPark to advance CSG goals (which are fundamentally to assist the IUCN and SSC to meet their missions with crocodilians). Discussion eventually centred on the development of priorities for conservation of crocodilians as a way forward.

A further Skype meeting was held on 14 November 2017, where Albuquerque BioPark project officers Matt Eschenbrenner and Kate Anderson were introduced to Grahame Webb and Tom Dacey. It was agreed that Albuquerque BioPark would collaborate with the CSG and develop a “CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians”, based upon the CSG’s Species Action Plans (currently being updated). The following general conservation contexts were recognised:

1. Species Priorities
 - (a) preventing species extinction internationally;
 - (b) preventing species extinction nationally.
 - (c) sustainable management
2. National Priorities
 - (a) conservation, management, sustainable use
 - (b) status assessments.

The eventual aim is for Albuquerque BioPark to publish the “CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians”, that could be used to support funding requests for various species and national projects.

It was agreed to provide the updated Species Action Plans to Albuquerque BioPark as they become available, and Matt Eschenbrenner and Kate Anderson would attend the CSG Working Meeting in Santa Fe, to have further discussions with CSG members.

Prepared by: Tom Dacey, CSG Executive Officer

Date prepared: 1 April 2018