Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*)

Previously widely distributed throughout the Philippines, *Crocodylus mindorensis* now occurs on the islands of Mindanao, Mindoro, Negros and Luzon. Initial decline in numbers was due to hunting, but now habitat modification (rivers, lakes and swamps) is the major threat to existing populations. Although no definitive population estimates are available, the total wild population is believed to be small (perhaps <100 non-hatchlings). Some captive breeding is being carried out, and a program is now in place to establish protected areas where *C. mindorensis* can be released back into the wild.

Adults rarely exceed 2-3 m, and only the largest males sometimes reach 4 m in length. If at all there are only few data available on the species’ reproductive behaviour and hatchling care. Eggs are laid in a mound nest at the end of the dry season (June-July). Clutch sizes are small (7-20 eggs). The female will guard the nest during the incubation period, which is usually 3 months long.

“The Philippine crocodile was described in 1935 by Karl Schmidt on the basis of a type specimen and three paratypes from the island of Mindoro (Schmidt 1935, 1938). Schmidt also described the closely related New Guinea Freshwater Crocodile (*C. novaeguineae*) in 1928 and later made a comparison of morphological differences between *C. mindorensis*, *C. novaeguineae* and *C. porosus*, maintaining *C. mindorensis* as a separate species (1956). However, some authorities have treated the Philippine crocodile as *C. novaeguineae mindorensis*, a sub-species of the New Guinea Crocodile. Hall (1989) provided new [morphological] evidence of the distinctness of the Philippine crocodile and *C. mindorensis* is now treated as a full species.” (van Weerd, M. in CSG Action Plan 2010)