

chiapasius en México.

8. Cupul-Magaña, F.G., Escobedo-Galván, A.H., Casas-Andreu, G. and Uriarte-Garzón, P.: Hasta el Río Yaqui y más allá: localidades históricas y actuales de *Crocodylus acutus* (Cuvier, 1807) en la costa noroccidental del Pacífico mexicano.
9. Mandujano-Camacho, H., de la Cruz-López, C., Alfaro-Farrera, A.H., Pérez-Vázquez, L.A. and Hernández-García, P.A.: ¿Cómo reaccionan los cocodrilos en un evento sísmico? Observaciones en *Crocodylus moreletii*.
10. Esquinca-Cano, F., Avendaño-Gil, M.J., Coutiño-José, M.A., Gómez-Pérez, L.E. and Carbot-Chanona, G.: Rescate y conservación del patrimonio paleontológico de Chiapas: impacto en el conocimiento de la historia de los *Crocodylia* fósiles de Chiapas.
11. Velasco B., A.: La conservación y el uso sustentable de los cocodrilos en Latino América y el Caribe.
12. Aguilar-Miguel, X. and Casas-Andreu, G.: Bases para la incubación de huevos de cocodrilo en prácticas de rancho.
13. Flores-Urtiaga, L.L.: Revisión bibliográfica de la respuesta inmune en crocodilianos.
14. García-Garduño, M.E., Monroy-Vilchis, O. and González-Desales, G.A.: Retos de las comunidades locales en la conservación de los *Crocodylia* en México.

Minutes of CSG Steering Committee Meeting, Santa Fe, Argentina, 6 May 2018

Meeting opened at 0900 h.

Steering Committee Members present: Grahame Webb, Alejandro Larriera, Tom Dacey, Charlie Manolis, Perran Ross, John Caldwell, Mark Merchant, Simone Comparini, Christine Lippai, Lonnie McCaskill, Paolo Martelli, Alvaro Velasco, Carlos Piña, Marisa Tellez, Luis Bassetti, Allan Woodward, Thomas Rainwater, Kent Vliet, Val Lance, Phil Wilkinson, Matthew Shirley, Enrico Chiesa, Cathy Shilton, Jerome Caraguel, Sally Isberg, Pablo Siroski, Yoichi Takehara, Alfonso Llobet, Hesiquio Benítez Dias, Manuel Tabet, Curt Harbsmeier, Sergio Balaguera-Reina, Rainier Manalo, Laura Porras Murillo, Alfonso Llobet, Oswald Braken Tisen, Steve Platt, Fabian Schmidt

Others present: Sukenao Iida, Mitsuko Takehara, Helen Crowley, Rob Gandola, Alba Imhof, Juan Larriera, Joe Partyka, Lauren Augustine, Miryam Venegas-Anaya, Weber Girardi, Russell Lowers, Ashley Percy, Jeff Lang, Shawn Heflick, Miriam Boucher, Robert Godshalk, R.J. Rao, Charles Caraguel, Rambli bin Ahmad, Philip Baltazar, Vic Mercado, Chona Mercado, Leonor M. Alcántara, Luis Sigler,

Christie Wilkinson, Gerry Swan, Takayuki Kataoka, Toby Ramos Targarona, Colette Adams, Jon Paul Rodriguez, Zilca Campos, Simon Pooley, Jan Myburgh, Melina Simoncini, Christy Plott, Robinson Arias-Botero, Terry Cullen, Gisela Poletta, Maikel Bitolo, Joey Brown, Samuel Hilevski, Stephany del Rosario, Melciellyne del C. Aguilar M., David Oudjani, Yairen Alonso Jimenez, Tamara Anderson, Paul Reilly, Etiam Perez Fleiten, Betzaida Rivera, Venetia Briggs-Gonzalez, Csaba Geczy, Victor Vest, Brian Sibongga, Robby McLeod, Frank Robb, Lucia Fernandez, Marcos Coutinho, Buddy Baker, Matt Eschenbrenner, Kate Anderson

Apologies

Steering Committee members: Ruth Elsey, Bruce Shwedick, Thomas Ziegler, Asghar Mobaraki, Eric Langelet, Anslem De Silva, C.H. Koh, Hank Jenkins, Yosapong Temsiripong, Sergio Medrano-Bitar, Manuel Muñoz, Matthew Brien, Wu Xiaobing, Thomas Ziegler

CSG members: Samuel Martin, Richard Fergusson, Sam Seashole, Joe Wasilewski, Antoine Cadi, Obdulio Menghi, Agata Staniewicz, Kim Lovich, Pierre Charruau, Godfrid Solmu

1. Executive Reports

1.1. Chair's Report (verbal - Grahame Webb)

The Chair opened the meeting at 0910 h, welcomed participants, and thanked Alejandro Larriera and the Proyecto Yacare team, and the various institutions (CICYTTP-CONICET, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, FHUC-University Nacional del Litoral, BIOS Santa Fe, Gobierno de la Ciudad de Santa Fe) for hosting the working meeting.

One minutes' silence was held for CSG members who have passed since the last Steering Committee meeting (May 2016).

The Chair raised various "Boom/Bust" issues:

- a. CITES meeting (CoP17) held in South Africa
 - A number of FLWG members attended.
 - Mexico, Sarawak, Colombia and Madagascar submitted amendment proposals.
 - Colombia (compliance problem, not a conservation problem).
 - Traceability.
 - CoP18 (Colombo, Sri Lanka, May-June 2019): should Madagascar choose to resubmit it should engage with EU from the start; Egypt may submit a proposal to lift the zero quota currently in place.
- b. Reviews: Queensland population monitoring and trial wild nest harvesting; and, Nepal's "Gharial Conservation Action Plan for Nepal (2018-2022)".

- c. Albuquerque Bio-Park collaboration project for the development of a “CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodylians”.
- d. Best Management Practice Manual (on CSG website).
- e. Red List assessments.
- f. CSG Action Plans update.
- g. CSG website.
- h. CSG Newsletter.
- i. Apaporiensis caiman project, Colombia.
- j. Student Research Assistance Scheme.
- k. Wildlife Management International contract.
- l. Next Working Meeting bids from India and Morocco.
- m. Sustainable Use: SULI - Hunting; and, Born Free Foundation now a member of IUCN.
- n. McIlhenny family recognition.

Yoichi Takehara delivered a short address to the Steering Committee, announcing his resignation as a representative of the Japan Leather & Leather Goods Industries Association, CITES Promotion Committee & Japan Reptile Leather Industries Association. As a long-serving member of the CSG and SC, Takehara-san has contributed significantly to the group over many years, and will continue to do so as a CSG member in a private capacity. He also provided a history of Japan’s involvement with CITES, and specifically with crocodylian trade.

1.2. Minutes from SC meeting, Skukuza

The minutes of the previous SC meeting were noted, with the opportunity for participants to comment on any issues.

1.3. Actions from SC meeting, Skukuza

The actions from the previous SC meeting were noted.

Discussion was held on the African Survey Database, which had been established by WCMC, but had not been updated for some time. Christine Lippai subsequently advised that she had followed this matter up with Jon Hutton and WCMC. Preliminary indications are that a revision and update would cost around \$US14,000.

Action 1: A working group, led by Matthew Shirley, Christine Lippai and Sergio Balaguera-Reina, was established to review the issue and come back with recommendations on a way forward during the course of the working meeting.

1.4. Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Officer presented his report, highlighting:

- Current SC membership of 76 people;
- CSG membership of 612 people from 64 countries;
- Regional Offices are currently maintained in Latin America & Caribbean (Argentina), Central America & Caribbean (Belize), South Asia & Iran (Sri Lanka), East & Southern Africa (South Africa); and,
- The CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme (including the FHVS-SRAS) has approved 142 applications since its inception in 2009 (see SC.5.1).

Currently, CSG members are listed on the website without contact details (eg e-mail address). When the website was established, contact details were not included, as some members cited privacy issues. Perran Ross indicated that contact details of most members could be found within minutes on the web, and so privacy may not be such an issue now. Suggestions on ways in which members could be reached through the CSG website without showing e-mail addresses were discussed.

Action 2: Charlie Manolis to review this matter and come back with recommendations.

1.5. CSG/IACS Financial Reports

The Executive Officer reported that:

- The IACS bank balance at 31 March 2018, was \$AUD844,952 (approximately \$US650,613).
- The IACS bank balance at 30 April 2018, was \$AUD836,567 (approximately \$US644,157).
- The IACS Annual General Meeting was held on 24 October 2017, noting the Audit Report and approving the re-election of office bearers.

Matt Shirley enquired whether there was any proposal for greater income earning capacity. The Chair advised that he was currently considering the publication of a crocodylian source book or magazine, in which all members within and outside industry who pursue professional activities linked to crocodylians, including competitive grants and consulting, could advertise. There is a danger in CSG competing with its members if it starts expanding into “projects”; CSG is a network of members.

The report was noted.

2. Regional Reports

2.1. East & Southern Africa

Christine Lippai, Regional Chair for East & Southern Africa, presented the report, advising that the region is very large and she was developing a networking strategy, including identification of focal points. Matt Shirley advised that Egypt is planning to go back to the next CITES meeting, seeking to lift the current zero export quota on wild *C. niloticus* specimens.

The report was noted.

2.2. West & Central Africa

A late report was received and posted on the website the day before the SC meeting. Matt Shirley addressed the meeting, advising:

- a. They will be building up their networking and membership over the next couple of years;
- b. There are ongoing projects in 9 countries;
- c. There is a massive bushmeat trade in Dwarf crocodiles, as there appears to be no control in the exporting countries; and,
- d. The Proceedings from the 3rd regional meeting, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 8-10 December 2015, are in preparation.

The report was noted.

2.3. East & Southeast Asia

Lonnie McCaskill, Regional Chair for East & Southeast Asia, presented the report, highlighting:

- a. Cambodia: conservation programs currently being undertaken by FFI and WCS.
- b. Indonesia: Lake Mesangat project (Siamese crocodile) being undertaken by WCS and the recent survey by Steve Platt [reported in CSG Newsletter 37(1)].
- c. Laos: reintroduction of Siamese crocodiles in Xe Champone Ramsar site.
- d. Philippines:
 - i. Finalisation of "Conservation and Management Plan for Crocodiles in the Philippines" by DENR.
 - ii. Protocol for "Managing Human-Crocodile Conflict in the Philippines".
 - iii. Release of 29 captive-bred Philippine crocodiles in Paghungawan Marsh, Siargao Island, on 17 June 2017.

- iv. Proposed "2nd Philippine Crocodile Forum" to be held in Laguna, Philippines, in March 2019.

e. Thailand:

- i. Siamese Crocodile Task Force meeting held 1-2 June 2017.
- ii. Pilot release of three *C. siamensis* into Pang Sida National Park on 23 April 2018 (one of them equipped with a radio-transmitter) (see SC.4.3).

Steve Platt provided a verbal update on reintroduction efforts for the Chinese alligator.

The report was noted

2.4. Australia & Oceania

Charlie Manolis, Regional Chair for Australia & Oceania, reported:

a. Papua New Guinea:

- i. The annual nest monitoring survey is continuing but lack of government funding means industry will again need to assist.
- ii. Degradation of habitat by introduced fish species and burning during dry years continues to affect nesting habitats, although nest monitoring indicates positive trends for both *C. porosus* and *C. novaeguineae*.
- iii. The ever-stricter grading standards for skins, resulting in lower prices, will most likely discourage rural communities from continuing to support the crocodile conservation programs.

b. Solomon Islands: HCC continues to be a major issue. Some recent funding will allow some population surveys to be carried out.

c. Timor-Leste: about 70+ fatalities over the past 7 years. Crocodiles are possibly coming from the Northern Territory of Australia.

The report was noted.

2.5. South Asia & Iran

Anslem de Silva, Regional Chair for South Asia & Iran, was unable to attend the meeting. The report was noted.

2.6. Latin America & the Caribbean

The Joint Regional Chairs, Pablo Siroski, Alvaro Velasco and Alfonso Llobet, highlighted the following:

- a. Cuba held an international Crocodile Workshop

in June 2017, attended by 76 participants, including a number of CSG members.

- b. A “Tri-Country Review Meeting of *C. moreletii*” among Belize, Guatemala and Mexico, is proposed by the end of 2018.
- c. A Central America & Caribbean sub-regional office has been established in Belize, and Regional Vice Chair Marisa Tellez is proposing to hold a CSG regional meeting in Belize. Tentative dates (25-28 June 2019) may clash with CITES meeting in Sri Lanka (May-June 2019).
- d. Mexico: Hesiquio Benitez reported:
 - i. The first ranching facility for *C. moreletii* has been established.
 - ii. A Ranching Protocol has been developed.
 - iii. A number of publications have been produced.
 - iv. Human-Crocodile Conflict is an issue.
- e. Venezuela: Alvaro Velasco highlighted:
 - i. National survey of *C. intermedius* commenced in October 2016.
 - ii. The “Second Venezuelan Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Crocodylia” was held in Caracas on 29 November 2017.

The report was noted

2.7. Europe

Regional Vice Chair Fabian Schmidt addressed the report, highlighting the following:

- a. There are now 8 programs in EAZA, one EEP (European Endangered Species Program) and 7 ESB (European Stud Book).
- b. Zigler, Rauhaus and Schmidt published an important article on the “Review of Crocodiles in Zoological Gardens with a focus on Europe”.
- c. Ashley Percy and Agata Staniewicz organised the first European Croc Networking Meeting (ECNM) held at “Crocodiles of the World” in Brize Norton, UK, October 2016. A second ECN meeting was held at the Krokodile Zoo, Denmark in October 2017 and a third meeting is planned for 2018 at Planete des Crocodiles, Civaux, France.

The report was noted.

2.8. North America

Joint Regional Chair Allan Woodward raised the following issues:

- a. The impact of skin grading standards resulting in lower prices for wild alligator skins.
- b. The increasing population of American crocodiles in South Florida is causing concern.
- c. Limited wild harvest proposed in North Carolina.

The report was noted.

3. Thematic Group Reports

3.1. CITES

Vice Chair Hank Jenkins, had tendered his resignation from the position, and the report was prepared by the Executive Officer, Tom Dacey. Issues raised included:

- a. Matthew Shirley is IUCN Focal Point for the intersessional CITES Animals Committee Working Group on Captive-bred and Ranched Specimens.
- b. Daniel Natusch is on the CITES Animals Committee Traceability Working Group.

Considerable discussion was held on both these working groups, and the Chair indicated that the CSG will need to be careful and maintain a watching brief on both these important issues.

The report was noted.

3.2. Industry

A partial report was received from Mexico. Issues discussed by SC included:

- a. With the loss of Don Ashley, Vice Chair of the Industry group, there is now a need for it to be restructured.
- b. There is pressure from welfare/animal rights interests, forcing quick industry responses, particularly from the fashion industry. However, responses from industry will not satisfy these critics.
- c. Real problems are developing with the demand for high quality skins if the ability for people to make economic benefit from wild harvesting is reduced.
- d. Corporate Social Responsibility, as interpreted by the fashion houses, needs to be examined to ensure conservation benefits remain high in the social effects of decisions made to combat Animal Rights campaigns against them.

- e. The CSG Chair will prepare a statement/document regarding the industry-conservation link, after discussion with all interested CSG members, within and outside industry. It was agreed to discuss this matter with industry representatives at the CSG meeting, as some may not stay for the full duration.

The report was noted.

3.3. Trade Monitoring

John Caldwell, Vice Chair for Trade Monitoring, addressed his report, highlighting: that he will continue producing the IACTS reports, under contract with WCMC; and, the 2017 IACTS report is due for completion in July 2018.

The report was noted.

3.4. Veterinary Science

Vice Chairs Paolo Martelli and Cathy Shilton raised the following issues:

- a. Six FHVS-SRAS applications have been approved for funding.
- b. Gowri Mallapur has been appointed Secretary for the group, which has resulted in better organisation and response times.
- c. The Veterinary Science section on the CSG website has been updated.
- d. The group mailing list has been expanded.
- e. Group members have contributed to the document on the humane killing of reptiles.
- f. Veterinary workshops at CSG meetings continue to be popular.

The report was noted.

3.5. Zoos

Kent Vliet, Vice Chair for Zoos, raised the following issues:

- a. The report does not include advice from the Latin America & Caribbean or East & Southeast Asia regions.
- b. World Tomistoma Day was held on 5 August 2017.
- c. Alberquerque Bio-Park activities.
- d. North American Zoos had contributed

approximately \$US125,000 for various crocodilian conservation projects, with a similar amount from other zoos, which goes straight to projects where numerous CSG members benefit.

- e. Since 2010, CrocFest has raised \$US315,000 for a dozen projects. Last year \$US81,000 was raised for a Cuban Workshop.
- f. Romulus Whitaker was conferred the prestigious and highly deserved Padma Shiri for his work in wildlife conservation (one of India's highest civilian honours) over decades.

The report was noted

3.6. Public Education & Community Participation

Myrna Cauilan-Cureg, Vice Chair for PECP, was not present at the meeting and no report was received. It was noted that the PECP had not really been successful, as it was a tall ask to contribute globally to public education issues when people are fully engaged in education at the national level. The Chair indicated that the Executive would review what can be achieved with this group, and indicated that any ideas from CSG members would be welcomed.

3.7. General Research

Joint Vice Chairs, Val Lance, Mark Merchant and Carlos Piña, raised the following points:

- a. A Crocodile Symposium, organised by Mark Merchant and Wu Xiao Bing, was held at the 8th World Congress of Herpetology in Hangzhou, China, in August 2016. Report is on the CSG website. This has led to fostering of collaboration with some Chinese students in parasitology.
- b. A proposed Crocodile Genetics and Molecular Science meeting was cancelled due to a lack of interest.
- c. A Crocodilian Symposium organised by Pablo Siroski, Alvaro Velasco and Sergio Balaguera-Reina was held within the XI Latin American Herpetology Congress in Quito, Ecuador, on 24-28 August 2017.
- d. A Congress of Zoology is proposed for Bogota, Colombia, in December 2018.
- e. Carlos Piña called for nomination of articles from the 25th CSG Working Meeting for inclusion in a special issue of the South American Journal of Herpetology.

The report was noted.

3.8. Legal Affairs

Vice Chair for Legal Affairs Curt Harbsmeier highlighted the following:

- a. Global transition in alligator farming in Florida.
- b. Science-based humane guidelines for crocodilians. Suggested that perhaps the CSG should expand animal welfare guidelines for crocodilians outside of the farming industry.
- c. Role of external fundraising for in-situ crocodilian conservation and research. Fundraisers such as CrocFest and Octoberfest have provided a new model for independent fundraising which contributes significantly to global research efforts with crocodilians, involving CSG members in their private capacities.

The report was noted.

3.9. IUCN Red List Authority

The augmented Red List Authority team of Perran Ross, Sally Isberg and Sergio Balaguera-Reina, highlighted the following:

- a. They have been able to fast track the Red List Assessments.
- b. Information being provided in the CSG Action Plans provides valuable information to assist the Red List assessments.
- c. Since the last Working Meeting, assessments have been accepted for 5 species, a further 2 species have been submitted. It is hoped to complete a further 4 at the Santa Fe meeting, leaving only 5 to be undertaken in the last half of 2018.

The report was noted.

3.10. Taxonomy

Vice Chair Kent Vliet pointed out the following:

- a. Currently 17 members of the group.
- b. Terms of Reference have been finalised.
- c. Survey of members undertaken to determine current positions on current crocodilian taxonomy and to identify any areas of disagreement or uncertainty.
- d. The group have been in contact with Dr. Peter Paul Van Dijk, new Chair of the CITES

Nomenclature Committee.

- e. Have not had the opportunity yet to discuss the development of identification tools for crocodilian taxa.

The report was noted.

4. Task Force/Working Group Reports

4.1. Tomistoma Task Force

Bruce Shwedick, Chair of the Tomistoma Task Force, was unable to attend the meeting, and SC members were requested to read the report. The report was noted.

4.2. Future Leaders Working Group

The report was received just before the meeting. FLWG Chair Matt Shirley addressed the meeting, highlighting:

- a. The working group was established in 2016 to develop protocols for ensuring intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience from CSG veterans to younger CSG members, so that they could play a more active leadership role within the CSG.
- b. Some 10 FLWG members are now on the Steering Committee, in leadership roles.
- c. FLWG members have participated in: the mission to China; and CITES events (CoP17, Steering Committee, Animals Committee).
- d. Assisted in the evaluation of the SRAS review.
- e. Several members have been actively facilitating updated Red List assessments.
- f. Marisa Tellez is organising a Central American & Caribbean regional meeting.
- g. On-going and future work of the FLWG could include:
 - Becoming more present in social media;
 - Developing and FLWG page on the CSG website; and,
 - Brainstorming CSG's bigger commitment as a group to the non-commercially exploited species and how we can play a bigger role in assuring sustainability of initiatives, interest and funding.

The group would hold a side meeting during the Working Meeting and report back.

The report was noted.

5. General Business

5.1. SRAS and FHVS-SRAS Review

Charlie Manolis highlighted the following:

- a. SRAS started in 2009 and FHVS-SRAS commenced in 2013.
- b. To date 142 applications have been approved and funded.
- c. In August 2016 a questionnaire was sent out to all SRAS and FHVS-SRAS students and responses were forwarded to FLWG for review and comments.
- d. FLWG Chair Matt Shirley provided a summary of recommendations from the group, which are summarised as:
 - i. Make minor revisions to the SRAS application form. Revised forms provided.
 - ii. More explicit instructions for final reporting requirements are provided. These should be provided to awardees at the time they are informed of their successful award and at the time that their report is due (if possible).
 - iii. Grant amount be increased to \$US1100 or \$US1250 to account for inflation and the rising costs of field materials and fieldwork globally. The Executive Committee indicated that a small increase in the award would not forcibly change the way the grant program is currently implemented (eg rolling open requests, “unlimited” potential awards). Should this change, the FLWG is willing to provide recommendations on how best to modify the grant to fit a fixed/limited budget.
 - iv. The CSG should highly recommend to future working meeting organizers that any funding raised for participation of students in the working meeting should prioritize participation by SRAS awardees before considering other students who’ve had no previous relationship with the CSG.
 - v. The current policy of one award per degree should be maintained.
 - vi. Availability of the SRAS and FHVS-SRAS should be more widely advertised across online platforms and databases.
 - vii. As one of the objectives of the SRAS award is to serve as seed funding for students to leverage more grant awards, we recommend that the CSG include links

to significant online grant databases on the SRAS and FHVS-SRAS webpages (eg <http://terravivagrants.org/> and <https://www.aza.org/conservation-funding>). It is also recommended that CSG communicate to awardees that it is willing, when and where appropriate, to write letters of endorsement for SRAS and FHVS-SRAS funded projects that can be used with other funders.

- viii. Recommend that the CSG facilitate better access to its members who can serve as mentors to SRAS and FHVS-SRAS applicants and awardees. This is partially fulfilled via changes to the application template.

The report was noted.

5.2. Junior CSG Program

No further action to be taken on this issue.

5.3. Albuquerque Bio-Park Collaboration

Tom Dacey provided a background to this issue, welcoming Albuquerque Bio-Park officers, Matt Eschenbrenner and Kate Anderson, to the meeting. Matt Eschenbrenner addressed the members advising that Albuquerque Bio-Park had entered into a formal agreement with the CSG to help develop a “CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodylians”, based largely on the completed CSG Species Action Plans.

The report was noted.

5.4. WMI Contract

The Chair outlined the history of WMI involvement in supporting the operations of the CSG over the past 14 years, estimated to be in the order of \$1,000,000, enabling the CSG to accumulate substantial funds to ensure its sustainability. In the current economic climate WMI can no longer afford to underwrite CSG activities to this extent.

Perran Ross provided a comparison between 1990-2004 and 2005-2017, and how the CSG operated under the leadership of Harry Messel, with Perran as the Executive Officer based at the University of Florida. He provided a detailed statement of all CSG activities then, what it was costing the CSG, and the services now being provided by WMI.

The SC reaffirmed its previous decision that the CSG enter into a contract with WMI for the payment of \$US68,000 p.a. for 2017-2018. This contract to be reviewed each year and WMI to provide an annual statement of the services provided to the CSG.

6. 26th CSG Working Meeting

Tom Dacey reported that two formal applications had been received and considered by the Executive Committee, and a third application was tabled at the SC meeting.

1. Agadir, Morocco - submitted by Luc Fougeirol, Crocparc.
2. Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh State, India (May 2020) - submitted by Prof. R.J. Rao, Jiwaji University.
3. Mexico - submitted by Hesiquio Benitez.

Although the Executive considered Morocco was better suited to a regional meeting at some time in the future. India as an option raised concerns that other stakeholders were not included in the proposal, and it would be difficult for the increasing Latin members to attend. Mexico, despite being a late bid, was widely considered by CSG members to be ideal for hosting the 26th Working Meeting. Enormous advances have been made in crocodylian conservation and management in Mexico, and much more is following. It is an important time for showcasing what is a rapidly emerging program. .

Meeting closed at 1530 h.

Tom Dacey, *CSG Executive Officer* (csg@wmi.com.au).

25th CSG Working Meeting, Santa Fe, Argentina, 7-10 May 2018

Working Meeting

The 25th CSG Working Meeting was held at the Faculty of Biology Conference Centre at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral Campus, Santa Fe, Argentina, on 7-10 May 2018. The meeting was attended by 236 delegates from 30 countries (Argentina, Australia, Benin, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia).

The meeting was hosted by the State Government Ministry of Environment (represented by Jacinto Speranza) and Local Government (represented by Pablo Tabares as Director of the Agency for International Cooperation, Investments and Foreign Trade of the Government of the City of Santa Fe), and many additional sponsors provided financial support. The principal non-government sponsors were: Mutua de la Unión Personal Civil de la Nación (MUPCN); Yacaré Porá (farm from Corrientes Province); Trachter Genuine Reptile Skins; and, Asociación Biológica Santa Fe (BIOS).

The theme for the meeting was “Thirty years later ... a problem becomes a livelihood”, and included a strong emphasis on programs looking at strategies to generate incentives for conservation and livelihoods. Presentations covered: biology

and general research; conservation and sustainable use; zoos and education; and, human-crocodylian conflict.

The Organising Committee (Alejandro Larriera, Alba Imhof, Lucía Fernandez, Carlos Piña, Guillermo Príncipe, Melina Simoncini, María Virginia Parachú Marcó, Gisela Poletta, Pablo Siroski and the whole Proyecto Yacaré team) ensured that the venue, program, sponsors, entertainment, etc., were in place. The Organizing Committee also assisted with the complex logistic arrangements required by delegates from around the world.

A Veterinary Workshop preceded the working meeting on 5 May 2018 at the Proyecto Yacaré facilities (Santa Fe). Unfortunately, participation had to be capped at 38 participants. Enormous thanks to the local team (María Virginia Parachú Marcó, Gisela Poletta, Patricia Amavet, Pablo Siroski and volunteers) for coordinating the event, and to Paolo Martelli, Cathy Shilton and Marisa Tellez who presented the various veterinary activities.



Figure 1. Veterinary Workshop participants.

Following the Steering Committee meeting on 6 May (see above), a cocktail reception was organized on a boat that made its way along the river surrounding Santa Fe City and natural environment characteristic of the Parana River Islands.

The official opening of the working meeting on 7 May 2018 included addresses by CSG Deputy Chair Alejandro Larriera, CSG Chair Grahame Webb, Jacinto Speranza (Minister of Environment of Santa Fe Province), Jon Paul Rodriguez, (Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission), Laura Tarabella (Head, Faculty of Humanities and Sciences, UNL) and Pablo Tabares (Government of the City of Santa Fe).



Figure 2. Official opening (from left): Alejandro Larriera, Grahame Webb, Laura Tarabella, Jacinto Speranza, Pablo Tabares, Jon Paul Rodriguez. Photograph: Alvaro Velasco.