CSG Ecotoxicology Working Group (EWG)
Terms of Reference

The Ecotoxicology Working Group (EWG) is a working group within the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG). The CSG recognises that ecotoxicological changes in the environment could have negative impacts on crocodylian populations and their health. The EWG was established to develop resources to assist in the development of assessment protocols related to crocodylian ecotoxicology.

Purpose

The purpose of the EWG is to develop resources, build capacity and provide guidance on ecotoxicology to the CSG aimed at improving the understanding of contaminant exposure and its effects on crocodylian health and population dynamics.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1. Establish a network of ecotoxicology and toxicology specialists with expertise in crocodylia to provide support and advice to CSG members.

Action 1.1: Candidates for inclusion on the EWG will be identified through expressions of interest, and an email list will be developed.

Action 1.2: Send an invitation email, including these endorsed Terms of Reference, to prospective candidates so they understand and agree to assist in achieving the objectives of the EWG.

Action 1.3: Develop a page for inclusion on the CSG website describing the role of the EWG and include a list of EWG members.

Timeframe: Within 6 months of endorsement of these Terms of Reference.

Objective 2. Develop standardised protocols and practical guides to support sample collection, preservation and analysis techniques relevant to crocodilians.

Action 2.1: Create a list of standardised protocols and practical guides to be developed and delegate to EWG members for drafting.

Action 2.2: Work with the Communications Working Group to determine how these protocols and guides will be presented as a repository on the CSG website.

Action 2.3: Deliver standardised, field-ready protocols ready for uploading on the CSG website.

Timeframe: Within 24 months of endorsement of these Terms of Reference.

Objective 3. Develop protocols for assessing the impact of crocodilian populations and their health.

Action 3.1: Develop a CSG position paper outlining the known physiological and environmental impacts of ecotoxicology on crocodilian health and their populations. Work with the CSG Executive Committee for endorsement of this position paper.

Action 3.2: Develop resources for interpreting ecotoxicology results in the context of crocodilian and ecosystem health for inclusion on the CSG website.

Action 3.3: Work with the CSG Red List Authority to quantify the risk of ecotoxicology on different crocodilian species for inclusion in global crocodilian Red List assessments.

Timeframe: Within 36 months of endorsement of these Terms of Reference.

Governance

Subject to any direction from the CSG Co-Chairs, the EWG will be chaired by Jérémy Lemaire.

The EWG Chair may nominate members who have demonstrated expertise in ecotoxicology, toxicology, physiology, or environmental contamination, subject to any direction from the CSG Co-Chairs. The CSG Executive Officer will be a member of the EWG. The EWG Chair will report to the Executive Committee through the Executive Officer.

Biannual meetings will be held with all EWG members to distribute tasks, review progress, and validate materials and/or decisions related to the EWG's work. The EWG Chair will prepare the meetings and send invitation emails for each meetings, including reminders. General communication will take place through a mailing list.

Reporting and Review

The EWG will report to the CSG Executive Committee at least twice a year. An annual review of progress and performance will be conducted every 12 months.

Duration and Review of Terms of Reference

The EWG is expected to achieve its current objectives within 36 months of endorsement of these Terms of Reference. At that time, a formal review will assess whether the objectives have been met, determine if additional time is required, and consider whether the scope of the EWG should be revised or expanded. Where appropriate, revised Terms of Reference will be developed.

Endorsement date: 19th January, 2026

Endorsed by: CSG Executive Committee