



Solomon Islands Saltwater Crocodile Conservation and Management Plan 2023 - 2027

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The Solomon Islands Saltwater Crocodile Conservation and Management Plan 2023 - 2027 was formally launched on 17 July 2024. The vision of the Plan is to “Reduce the risk of crocodile attack on people, while ensuring the long-term conservation and management of the species based on science, culture, and traditional knowledge for sustainable utilisation.”

2

In 1993, Solomon Islands banned export of the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) to help the population recover from unregulated commercial hunting. This ban has resulted in recovery of the crocodile population and the species is now widespread throughout Solomon Islands. There are increasing reports of crocodile-human interaction and a growing number of crocodile attacks on people, pets and livestock. Livelihoods, tourism, travel are threatened. This management plan addresses community concerns and provides formal processes and management actions for crocodile management in Solomon Islands.

3

The aim of the management plan is for long-term conservation and management of saltwater crocodiles and their habitat through sustainable use and by reducing the risk posed by saltwater crocodiles to the community. The Plan identifies human-crocodile conflict hot-spots and defines a ‘problem crocodile’, which is essentially any crocodile that poses a threat to human safety, and other animals, including livestock.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) are responsible for the management of saltwater crocodiles in the Solomon Islands.

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and community groups play an important role to help identify, communicate and implement control and response measures regarding problem crocodiles, disseminate crocodile safety information, and undertake population monitoring.

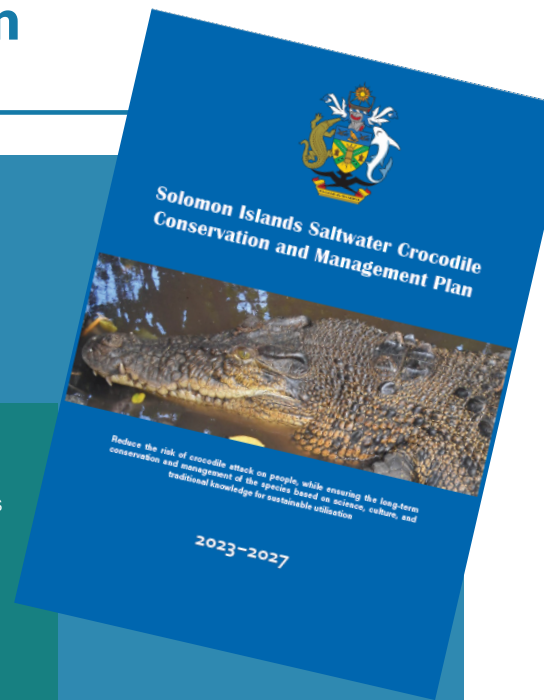
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The saltwater crocodile features prominently on the national coat of arms, signifying its importance to the culture and national identity of Solomon Islanders.

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Solomon Islands is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). CITES is an international agreement designed to ensure that international trade in animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. The saltwater crocodile appears in the CITES Appendix I, and is listed on schedule I under the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998, which prohibits export, other than for scientific purposes under permit. This means that international trade of that species is banned. A species can be taken off CITES Appendix I if it can be shown that its populations have reached sustainable numbers in the wild and that sustainable use can be achieved.

Before any products from wild crocodiles can be exported from the Solomon Islands, a proposal will need to be made to CITES to transfer the Solomon Island population of *Crocodylus porosus* from Appendix I to Appendix II, based on the population recovery that has taken place.



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