

**16/26. CONSERVATION OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN POPULATION  
OF THE SALTWATER CROCODILE  
(*CROCODYLUS POROSUS*)**

NOTING that the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, meeting in Caracas in October 1984 carefully examined the 1984 Australian proposal to CITES to transfer the Australian population of *C. porosus* to Appendix II of CITES and that the proposal addressed a number of criticisms raised in respect of an earlier application concerning population status, protected areas, Aboriginal consultation, details of ranching, and other aspects of management;

NOTING FURTHER that the Specialist Group expressed its support for the proposal, believing that it will have benefits for the conservation of the species without detriment to the Australian saltwater crocodile population. In arriving at this conclusion, the Crocodile Specialist Group:

- (a) expressed concern at the continuing commercial netting for barramundi fish (*Lates calcifer*) in the estuaries of Kakadu National Park, to the detriment of the *C. porosus* which are an important part of the park ecosystems;
- (b) requested the Australian Management Authority, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Authorities, to correct this situation as soon as possible;
- (c) accepted assurances from the Australian Government representatives that egg harvests will be restricted to flood-prone sites and harvests of live crocodiles will be carried out strictly in accordance with the proposal and management plan;
- (d) accepted assurances that the Northern Territory Conservation Commission would cooperate with a suitable person or persons nominated by the Australian Management Authority to act as independent monitors of field survey operations and data as required;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 16th Session in Madrid, Spain, 5-14 November 1984:

1. COMMENDS the Australian Authorities for the improved policies, programmes and updated information which have enabled this positive step to be taken, and recognizes the valuable contributions made to the programme by the University of Sydney over the past 13 years; and
2. URGES Australian Governments to encourage and support independent research and monitoring programmes of *C. porosus* by government agencies and non-governmental organizations having appropriate expertise and to implement conservation management practices in Northern Australia in cooperation with traditional Aboriginal landowners as necessary.

