


Report on the Operation of the Commercial Crocodile Industry in Western Australia 2009 – 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 

March 2012

This report is provided to the Commonwealth as requirement of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

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Cover photo: Ord River crocodile, W.R. Kay

Table 1. Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

1. Harvest data	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>					
Number of eggs (actual/authorised)	0/260	260/260	0/260		
Number of hatchlings (actual/authorised)	68/225	124/160	0		
Number of non-hatchlings (actual/authorised)	5/16	0/12	0/12		
Sex ratio of non-hatchlings	40% male	n/a	n/a		
Average total length of male non-hatchlings	300 cm	n/a	n/a		
Average total length of female non-hatchlings	250 cm	n/a	n/a		
<i>Crocodylus johnstoni</i>					
Number of eggs (actual/authorised)	0/0	0/0	0/0		
Number of hatchlings (actual/authorised)	4/0*	0/0	0/0		
Number of non-hatchlings (actual/authorised)	0/0	0/0	0/0		
Sex ratio of non-hatchlings	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Average total length of male non-hatchlings	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Average total length of female non-hatchlings	n/a	n/a	n/a		

* These animals were taken inadvertently while collecting *C. porosus* hatchlings.

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

2. Dangerous Fauna licences issued	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>C. porosus</i>	12	8	10		
<i>C. johnstoni</i>	4	2	0		
3. Industry compliance	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of premises inspected [#]	At least 1	0 in east Kimberley	At least 1		
Number of alleged offences	0	0	0		
Number of caution notices issued	0	0	0		
Number of prosecutions	0	0	0		
Joint surveillance activities	Nil	Nil	Nil		
4. Unusual circumstances	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Nil	Nil	Nil		
5. Progress against performance Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1: All licences relating to commercial crocodile industry operations in Western Australia are assessed, processed and issued in accordance with Western Australian legislation and DEC policy.	✓	✓	✓		

[#] Unable to confirm exact number of inspections due to staff turnover in Broome.

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

5. Progress against performance Indicators (cont.)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
2.1: Licence conditions are reviewed at least annually and where necessary amended.	✓	✓	✓		
2.2: Licensees are advised in writing of any changes to licence conditions within one month of such changes being approved by the Director of Nature Conservation or his delegate.	✓	✓	✓		
3: All prospective applicants for a <i>Licence to Take Crocodiles</i> must demonstrate to a DEC Wildlife Officer that they are conversant with all aspects of the Wildlife Conservation Regulations relevant to animal welfare and draft Code of Practice on the Humane Treatment of Captive and Wild Australian Crocodiles (revised April 2008).	✓	✓	✓		
4: All licensees who are found to have breached licence conditions relating to animal welfare are issued with Caution Notices or are prosecuted as appropriate.	✓	✓	✓		
5: Issues of significance associated with the animal welfare aspects of the commercial harvest are identified and where these are identified a research prospectus is prepared and distributed to universities and other research institutions during the life of this plan.	n/a – no issues identified	n/a – no issues identified	n/a – no issues identified		

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

5. Progress against performance Indicators (cont.)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<p>6.1: On receipt of an application for a <i>Licence to Take Crocodiles</i>, the authorized DEC officer assessing the application will ensure that the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has written permission from a landholder to access private property or Crown Land; • can demonstrate the necessary expertise to capture, handle and transport crocodiles safely and humanely; and • the requested number of eggs/crocodiles is within the harvest limits set down in the annual quota. 	✓	✓	✓		
<p>6.2: All crocodile processing works in Western Australia are inspected at least annually during the life of this plan by authorized DEC officers to ensure compliance with Western Australian legislation and licence conditions.</p>	✓	✗	✓		
<p>7: Reports of unlicensed activities and activities in breach of licence conditions are investigated to the fullest extent possible and, where sufficient evidence is available, offenders are issued with Caution Notices or prosecuted as appropriate.</p>	✓	✓	✓		
<p>8: During the life of this plan, all incoming industry returns are scrutinized and discrepancies are investigated and resolved.</p>	✓	✓	✓		
<p>9: A compliance database is maintained.</p>	✓	✓	✓		

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

5. Progress against performance Indicators (cont.)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
10: Aerial and boat spotlight surveys are undertaken annually in accordance with this plan.	✓	✓	✓		
11: All commercial crocodile harvest quotas are set and allocated in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 2009–2013</i> throughout the life of the plan.	✓	✓	✓		
12.1: Analysis of historical crocodile harvest and management data is undertaken during the life of this plan.	✗	✗	✗		
12.2: The results of analysis and research using historical crocodile harvest and management data are published in an appropriate forum.	n/a	n/a	n/a		
13.1: All proposals to undertake active adaptive management experiments are reviewed and assessed by DEC in accordance with the criteria outlined in this plan.	n/a – no proposals developed	n/a – no proposals developed	n/a – no proposals developed		
13.2: All necessary approvals are obtained prior to experiments testing deliberate management interventions commence.	n/a	n/a	n/a		
13.3: All adaptive management experiments are continuously monitored and conducted according to approval conditions.	n/a	n/a	n/a		
13.4: Results of all experiments testing deliberate management interventions are published in an appropriate forum.	n/a	n/a	n/a		

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

5. Progress against performance Indicators (cont.)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<p>14.1: During the life of this plan, significant issues associated with the ecology of harvested species and the management of the commercial harvest that are identified will be incorporated into a research prospectus and distributed, if required.</p>	<p>n/a – no significant issues identified</p>	<p>n/a – no significant issues identified</p>	<p>n/a – no significant issues identified</p>		
<p>15: An annual report will be provided to the Commonwealth by 31 March of the following year.</p>	<p>✘</p>	<p>✘</p>	<p>✔</p>		
<p>16.1: A final report on the operation of the Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 2009–2013 will be prepared during 2014, submitted to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2014 and posted on DEC’s website by 30 June 2014.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>17: Throughout the life of this plan, DEC’s website will contain the following information as a minimum standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current management plan (including the current quotas); • the current annual report submitted to the Commonwealth; • information sheets on crocodile biology and management; and • relevant contact information. 	<p>✘ ✘ ✘ ✘</p>	<p>✘ ✘ ✘ ✘</p>	<p>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</p>		

Table 1 (cont.). Information provided under Performance Indicator 15 of the *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest and Farming of Crocodiles in Western Australia 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2013*.

5. Progress against performance Indicators (cont.)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<p>18: Publicly available crocodile management information is distributed to interested parties as soon as practicable after such a request via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of this management plan • Fauna Notes that will be developed during the first 12 months of the life of this management plan. 	<p style="text-align: center;">✓ ✗</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓ ✗</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓ ✗</p>		
<p>19.1: Relevant DEC staff will participate in interviews with the media where appropriate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>		
<p>19.2: Media releases are prepared for issues of interest to the community when appropriate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>		
<p>20: As a minimum, all crocodile takers, farmers and processors who are issued with a <i>Licence to Take, Farm or Process Crocodiles</i> for the first time, or who have not held a valid licence during the term of the current management plan, will be provided with written information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-requisites for obtaining a licence • licence conditions; • regulations for taking crocodiles; • a copy of the draft Code of Practice on the Humane Treatment of Captive and Wild Australian Crocodiles (revised April 2008); and • Fauna Notes prepared on the two crocodile species (see Performance Indicator 18) and any revisions thereof that are available on the DEC website. 	<p style="text-align: center;">n/a – no new entrants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">n/a – no new entrants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">n/a – no new entrants</p>		