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Department of Conservation and Land Management

TAKE CARE IN CROCODILE AREAS

**TAKE CARE
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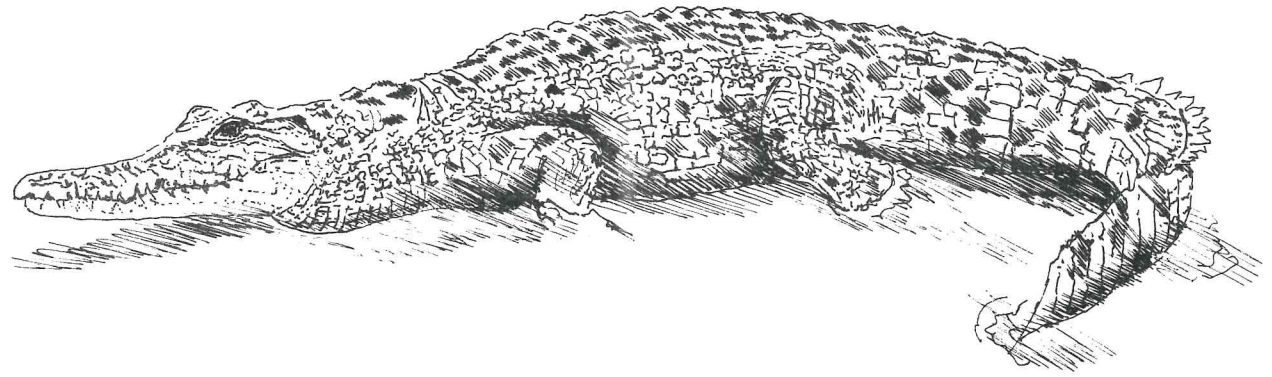
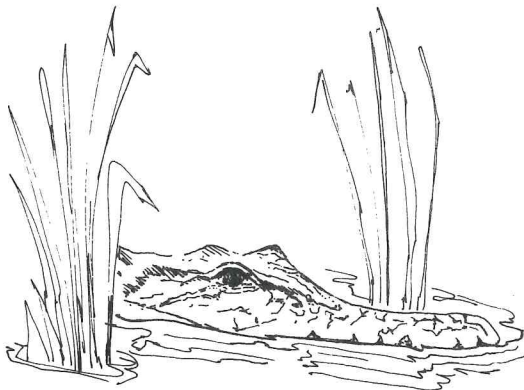
Throughout the Kimberley region of Western Australia look out for signs erected at places where there is a potential danger from crocodiles. Absence of a warning sign does not mean the area is safe. Obtain local advice.

People and crocodiles, however, can “live together”, if a few simple rules are followed.

Two crocodile species occur in Western Australia. Saltwater or estuarine crocodiles are dangerous to humans, but freshwater crocodiles are not. Because it can be difficult to tell them apart, treat all crocodiles longer than two metres as dangerous.

The name “saltwater” or “estuarine” crocodile is misleading. They live along the coast, out to sea around islands and in estuaries. They also, however, live long distances upstream in fresh water rivers and creeks, and in swamps long distances from the sea.

While crocodiles may be more aggressive during the breeding and nesting season (“wet” season) they can attack year-round.



How to be ‘Crocodile Wise’

Throughout the Kimberley Region

- Observe the warning signs.
- Seek local or expert advice about crocodiles before swimming, camping, fishing or boating.
- There is a potential danger anywhere saltwater crocodiles occur. If there is any doubt, do not swim, canoe or use small boats in estuaries, tidal rivers, deep pools or mangrove shores.
- Be aware. Keep your eyes open for large crocodiles. Children and pets are at particular risk in the water or at the water’s edge.
- Do not paddle, clean fish, prepare food or camp at the water’s edge. Fill a bucket with water and do your chores at least 50 metres away. Returning daily or regularly to the same spot at the water’s edge is dangerous.
- Do not lean over the edge of a boat or stand on logs overhanging water, and don’t hang articles over the edge of the boat.
- Stand at least a few metres back from the water’s edge when fishing. Crocodiles have not been known to attack well away from the water.
- Dispose of food scraps, fish offal and other wastes properly, and away from your camp site.