

Distribution and Abundance of Indo-Pacific Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) in Southern Palawan Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The indigenous population of wild Indo-Pacific crocodile in the Islands of Palawan are considered remnant aside from being widespread in the East and Southeast Asian Region. It is mainly distributed in coastal estuarine which extends primarily in upstream rivers in Palawan eco-region. This study was conducted in major habitat of *Crocodylus porosus* in Southern Palawan from October 2014 to 2015. Standard ground spotlighting survey was used to determine the estimated crocodile population density and extrapolated to the whole region. A stable wild population of *Crocodylus porosus* was distributed in five municipalities within the southern tip region. There was no significantly large number of crocodiles observed in specific area but still form as viable breeding population. However, natural habitats are experiencing serious threats through land conversion and occasional hunting by increasing human immigration. Critical habitat establishment is warranted. The status of wild population and human-crocodile conflict resolution is also presented and discussed.

Keywords: *Crocodylus porosus*, distribution, abundance, population, habitat