

Chinese Alligator Fund

HELP PREVENT THE EXTINCTION



Most of us have heard about the charismatic American alligator, with its ever-present smile and its toothy reputation. But how many have heard about the “other” alligator species: the Chinese alligator? Restricted to a tiny reserve in eastern China, the diminutive *Alligator sinensis* is on the brink of disaster.

Surveys in 1999 by the Wildlife Conservation Society of New York provided us with some shocking news: there are only between 130 and 150 alligators left in the wild, nearly all their protected habitat has gone, and numbers are declining fast. If current trends are any indication, there is a good chance the species will be extinct in the wild within 15 years.

But it is not too late to act. The Chinese have made excellent progress with a captive breeding plan, and now they need additional resources to secure existing habitat, introduce captive bred alligators into new habitat, investigate fund-raising ventures such as ecotourism, and provide vital education to the children and adults of the region.

The IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group, which has worked tirelessly for years to help save the world’s crocodilians, is coordinating conservation efforts with dedicated Chinese researchers and alligator enthusiasts around the world. The Chinese Alligator Fund has been created to make a real difference to the future of the alligators.

You can play a part in the recovery of the Chinese alligator by donating to the Chinese Alligator Fund. Even small amounts can make a big difference, but large amounts can make a huge difference. If you care about alligators, please consider helping to save the creature that inspired the fabled Chinese dragon. Don’t let the Chinese alligator disappear into legend.

FINDING OUT MORE

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/alligatorfund>

Internet web page for the Chinese Alligator Fund

<http://wcs.org/news/breakingnews/international/alligator.doc>

The Wildlife Conservation Society report on the Chinese alligator’s status

<http://cyclura.com/endangered/endangered-caf.html>

Further information on the Chinese Alligator Fund at cyclura.com

MAKING A DONATION

Donations may be sent in any negotiable form. Checks should be in US dollars, drawn on a US bank, and made out to “University of Florida Research Foundation” and annotated “Chinese Alligator Conservation Fund Donation”. Please also visit the CAF web page for donor options.

Telegraphic (wire) transfers can be sent to: University of Florida Research Foundation, First Union National Bank, Acct no. 13100149887, ABA #063000021, 104 Main St, Gainesville, FL 32602, USA – please annotate all wire transfers with the words “for CHINESE ALLIGATOR FUND” and contact Dr J P Ross to ensure your donation reaches the right place.

Donations and inquiries should be sent to: Dr J. P. Ross, Executive Officer CSG, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville FL 32611 USA. FAX +1 352 392 9367 email prosscsg@flmnh.ufl.edu

THE FUTURE OF THE CHINESE ALLIGATOR RESTS IN ALL OF OUR HANDS