

GLOBAL CROCODYLIANS' ECOLOGICAL ROLES

The (Little-Known) Ecological Roles of Crocodylians



While the ecological roles of large freshwater predators like crocodylians are less understood compared to their terrestrial and marine counterparts, emerging studies highlight their potential positive impacts on ecosystem health. **Crocodylians**, which include 27 species across families such as **Crocodylidae**, **Alligatoridae**, and **Gavialidae**, inhabit a variety of aquatic environments like lowland rivers, estuaries, and lakes in approximately 100 countries. Their unique reliance on terrestrial habitats for nesting establishes vital cross-ecosystem linkages.

Crocodylians are among the largest predators in their habitats, with some species exceeding 5 meters in length and weighing over 500 kilograms. They act as ecosystem engineers, modifying habitats by constructing dens, holes, and mound nests. These activities not only impact local biodiversity but also create essential refuges and breeding sites for a wide range of other species, enhancing habitat structure and diversity. Although often underappreciated, these contributions highlight Crocodylians' role in maintaining the ecological balance and supporting the health of aquatic systems. Their presence in ecosystems like the Florida Everglades serves as a barometer for water management and hydrological functions, highlighting their potential as ecosystem health indicators.



However, their seemingly significant ecological roles is based on limited evidence. **Future research should focus on filling these gaps with targeted, hypothesis-driven studies.**



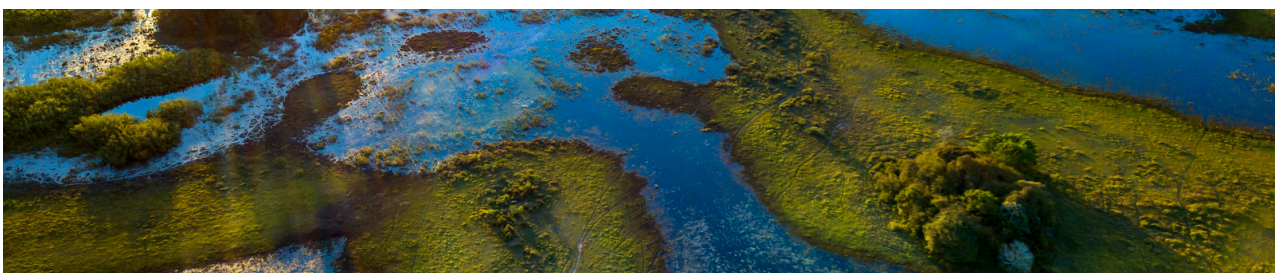
CONNECTING EFFORTS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

These detailed case studies from our alliance partners highlight diverse strategies and outcomes across the globe, showcasing the **extensive and impactful work being done to restore and conserve natural habitats**. By reintroducing key species and restoring habitats, our partners have taken significant steps towards reversing biodiversity loss and enhancing ecosystem services that benefit both nature and humanity.



A HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR ALLIANCE PARTNERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our alliance partners who represent these vital case studies. Their dedication and hard work underpin the success of these global rewilding efforts, making a significant impact on conservation and ecological restoration. Their innovative approaches and relentless pursuit of ecological health are inspiring a brighter future for our planet.



JOIN US AS WE BUILD THE HOPEFUL, GROWING GLOBAL REWILDING MOVEMENT

The mission of Global Rewilding Alliance is to help build the global rewilding movement with the aim to mainstream rewilding in science, policy and practice globally by 2030.

The Alliance is a partnership of rewilding organisations, with 225+ Alliance Partners worldwide working across all continents. Together, they are currently helping to influence the rewilding of 2.2 million sq.km of land and 5 million sq.km of sea in 124 countries.

WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO OUR CHAMPIONS
FOR THEIR CORE SUPPORT OF OUR WORK



BIOPHILIA FOUNDATION



BEN GOLDSMITH | ANDRÉ HOFFMANN



Summary of 'TAKING ANIMALS INTO ACCOUNT' - Case Studies

Published February 2025

© Global Rewilding Alliance

www.globalrewilding.earth

Partner with



HIGH AMBITION COALITION
FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030