

Media Release:

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First Reported Croc Attack in Litchfield National Park

Rangers and Wildlife Officers from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts will today place a trap to capture a 2.5 metre saltwater crocodile that attacked a woman in Litchfield National Park yesterday.

Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger Luke Playford said yesterday's incident was the first reported crocodile attack in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin.

"The crocodile attack did not occur at any of the designated swimming areas for visitors to Litchfield National Park," Mr Playford said.

"The unfortunate incident took place in Bamboo Creek, a small creek that runs across Litchfield Park Road; the main bitumen road inside the park

"The water is only 1.5m deep where the crocodile attacked the woman - which highlights that at this time of the year following the Wet season rains, saltwater crocodiles can find their way into rivers and creeks where they are not normally found.

"The Parks and Wildlife Service only recommends swimming in signed designated swimming areas, as they are managed for crocodiles and visitor safety.

"The Parks and Wildlife Service advise those who swim outside of these designated areas within National Parks should exercise extreme caution and swimming is conducted at their own risk."

Mr Playford said the 36-year-old woman who was attacked, and her husband, appear to have stopped at Bamboo Creek to use the waterway and unfortunately the crocodile has made an opportunistic attack while she was in the shallows of the water.

Mr Playford said a trap would be placed in the area of the attack and the crocodile removed.

"The Parks and Wildlife Service do regular crocodile surveys in designated swimming areas of the National Park such as Wangi Falls for visitor safety and we do remove crocodiles yearly from Wangi Falls," he said.

"We also regularly monitor other waterways within the 1500 square kilometre National Park for visitor safety."

Areas within the National Park designated for swimming that are currently closed for swimming due to the heavy rainfall from the Wet Season are Wangi Falls, Walker Creek, Sandy Creek Falls and Surprise Creek falls.

Media Note: an image of Bamboo Creek where the incident occurred will be issued later this morning.

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