

It takes a village to catch a crocodile

THE OPERATION

- Officers and volunteers identified crocodiles by “eye shine” – using torches to sweep the surface of the water, looking for light reflected off a crocodile’s eyes.
- Normally this method is more effective at night and at low tide.



NYParks and PUB officers on a boat patrol at night at Lower Seletar Reservoir.

From Feb 14 to Feb 23

10
days

50 surveillance trips conducted day and night

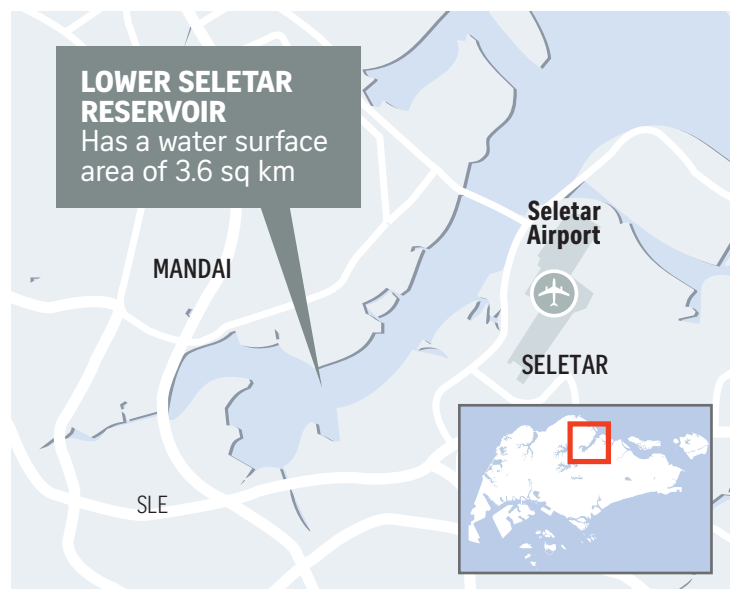
800 man-hours in total

About 60
people involved

- National Parks Board (NParks)
 - Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore
 - PUB
- + Volunteers from the Otter Working Group

HOW IT WAS CAUGHT

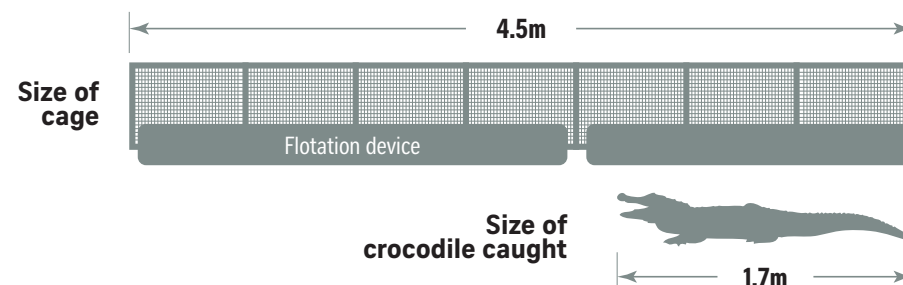
- Three cages, designed and built by NParks, were deployed to trap crocodiles humanely.
- Flotation devices ensured that crocodiles would still be able to breathe when inside the cage.
- CCTV cameras were used to monitor the cage traps to ensure that no other animals were trapped.
- Chicken meat was used as bait.



THE CROCODILE NOW

- The scale pattern of the crocodile matches earlier photos, confirming it is the crocodile sighted earlier.
- Checks found it to be healthy.
- It has been relocated to the core area of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, not accessible to the public.
- Patrols continued until March 1 in case of further crocodile sightings.

After sightings were reported at Lower Seletar Reservoir, the authorities caught the reptile last month. Here are some facts about the multi-agency operation.



ESTUARINE CROCODILE (SALTWATER CROCODILE)

One of the largest crocodile species in the world, growing up to over 5m in length.



Hunts mostly at night, eats mostly fish but may also eat mammals, birds and carrion

Can live for more than **70 years**



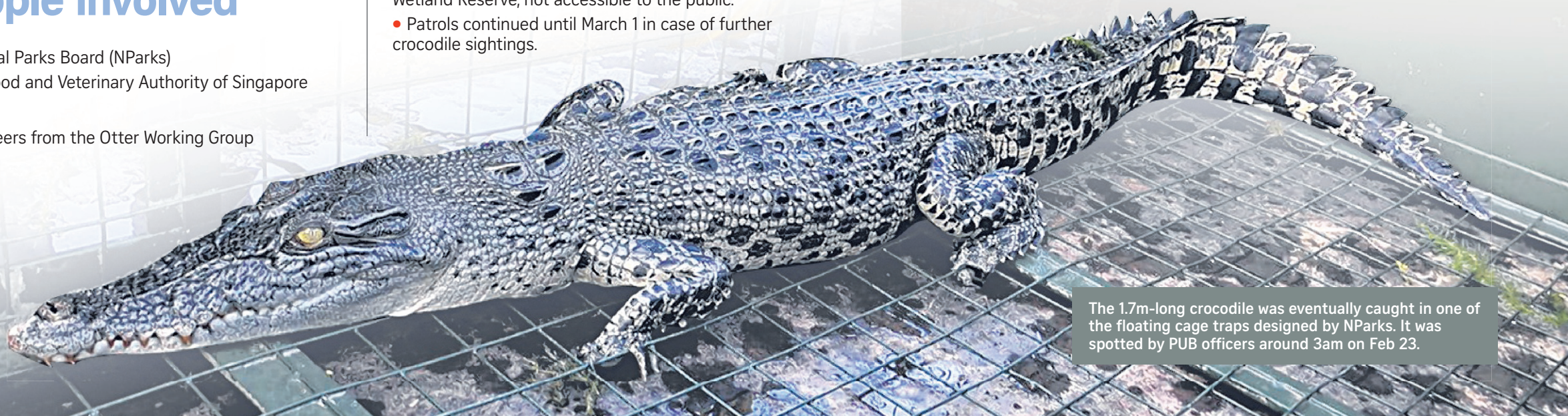
Likes brackish and freshwater areas such as coastal regions and wetlands.



Camouflages well, difficult to see because it is often submerged in water.

Averages 50 eggs at a go, but the mortality rate for the young is high.

Can be found in India, South-east Asia, Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific.



The 1.7m-long crocodile was eventually caught in one of the floating cage traps designed by NParks. It was spotted by PUB officers around 3am on Feb 23.