Contribution of the Zapata Swamp Farm to the conservation of crocodiles in Cuba

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<u>Abstract:</u> Here, we updated the information regarding the management of the captive population of the Zapata Swamp Farm and its contribution to the conservation of the Cuban crocodile, and the knowledge of the status of the crocodilian species present in Cuba. The aims of the conservation activities are: 1) understanding the species biology, 2) increasing the distribution range of Cuban crocodiles, 3) monitoring their free-living populations, and 4) managing captive populations. Work is currently underway to create a health baseline for captive Cuban crocodile populations, and the wild population presents at Zapata Swamp. Furthermore, we started a project to identify the temperature range for sex determination in *Crocodylus rhombifer*. We show the first results of updating the distribution range of the genus Crocodylus in Zapata and of the three species of crocodilians present in the Isla de la Juventud. In addition, we show a summary of several release events of Cuban crocodiles held between 2019 and 2022, and a project on developing to assess the status of the population of *Crocodylus rhombifer* released in 1994 at the Isla de la Juventud.

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