

A review of 25 years of research and management efforts for the conservation of the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) in the Mexican Caribbean

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Abstract: The population of *Crocodylus acutus* in the Yucatan Peninsula is one of three that are separated by geographical barriers in Mexico, the other two populations are found along the Pacific Coastal Plain and in the Grijalva - Usumacinta rivers drainage system. In the State of Quintana Roo *C. acutus* is circumscribed mainly to saline environments along the coast, consisting essentially of communities dominated by mangroves, coastal lagoons, rivers, cays and islands and typically nesting in sandbars. This coastal strip, where the critical habitat for the reproduction of the species is found, is subject to one of the greatest touristic developments and urban growth pressures in the world. Here we present a 25-year review of efforts for species conservation and its habitat, sympatry with *Crocodylus moreletii*, population trends, institutional management and human crocodile interactions. Finally, we provide guidelines for future research and adaptive management for the conservation of the American crocodile in the state of Quintana Roo along the Mexican Caribbean.

Keywords: *Crocodylus acutus*, Conservation, Management, Mexican Caribbean

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