

Project Update: January 2014

During June-July of 2013, we carried out our field expedition to the Wildlife Refuge Monte Cabaniguán-Ojo de Agua (WRMC) in Southeastern Cuba, where we monitored nesting activity of American crocodiles during the peak of the breeding season. Dr. George Amato from the American Museum of Natural History, biologist Maikel Cañizares Morera from the Institute of Ecology and Systematics, Yoamel Milian Garcia from the University of Havana, Dr. Manuel Alonso Tabet and his research team from the National Enterprise for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna, and eight Jobabo community members joined the field expedition. We located and registered a total number of 146 crocodile nests across four nesting sites; marked, measured, and weighted 150 recently emerged hatchlings; collected skin tissue samples from the hatchlings; trained participants in crocodile monitoring techniques; and contributed to the design of the 2014 action plan for the management of American crocodiles in the WRMC.



Left: American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) at the Wildlife Refuge Monte Cabaniguán - Ojo de Agua, Southeastern Cuba – Photo by Manuel Alonso Tabet. Right: American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) at the Wildlife Refuge Monte Cabaniguán - Ojo de Agua, Southeastern Cuba – Photo by Natalia Rossi



Left: Recently emerged American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) hatching processed by our research team at the Wildlife Refuge Monte Cabaniguán - Ojo de Agua, Southeastern Cuba - Photo by George Amato. Right: Research team looking for crocodiles at the Wildlife Refuge Monte Cabaniguán - Ojo de Agua, Southeastern Cuba – Photo by Maikel Canizares Morera