

Project Update: July 2016

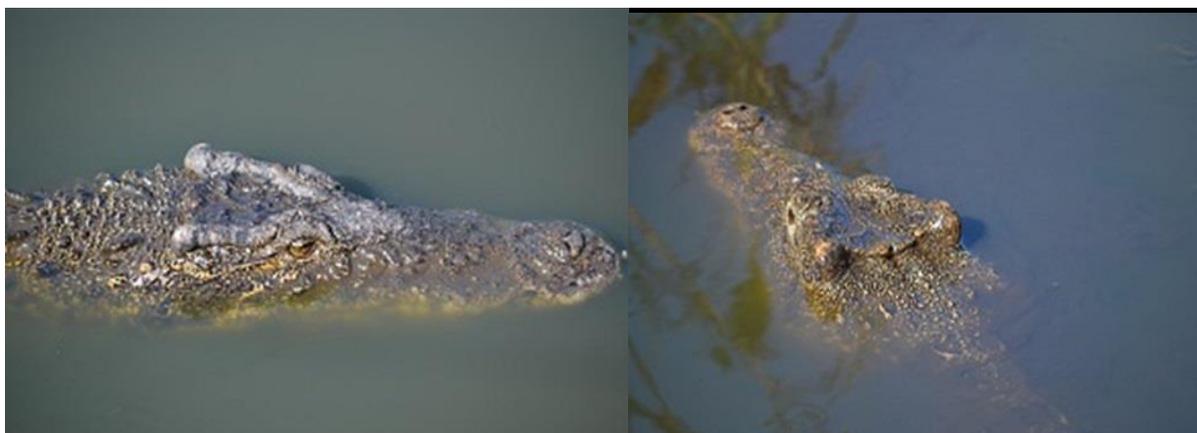
Activities already accomplished for the period:

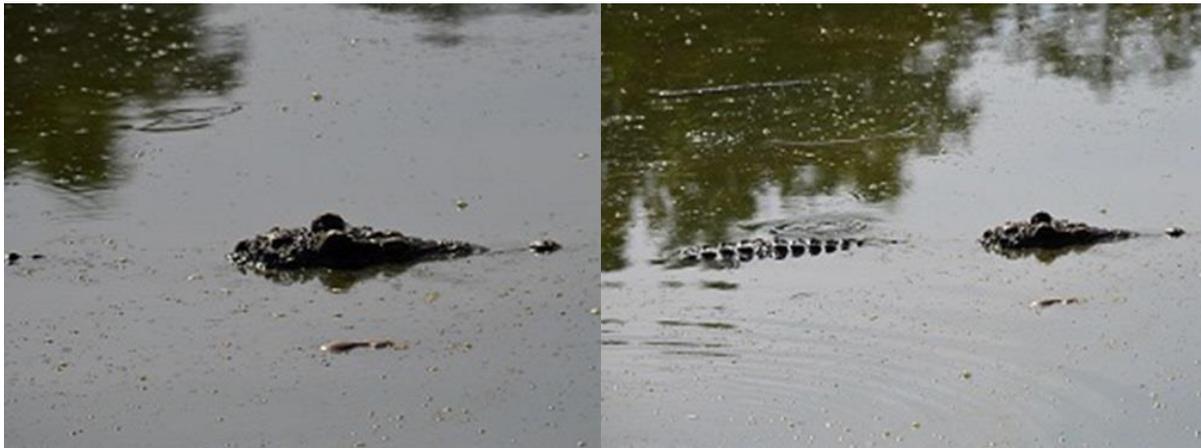
- Field trips to Zapata Swamp for the reintroduction of Cuban crocodiles (first time), interaction with local community and population monitoring programme, jointly with specialists of the National Enterprise for the Protection of Flora and Fauna in Cuba.
- Sample collection for genetic analysis.
- PCR standardisation for the amplification of the mitochondrial genome of the American crocodile that inhabits Cuba. A set of primers were developed *de novo* and tested to cover the entire mitochondrial genome.
- Partially sequencing the mitochondrial genome of the American crocodile, using for the first time a sample of a Cuban-American crocodile sampled in the wild.
- Bachelor thesis successfully defended by an undergraduate student of the Faculty of Biology under the supervision of YMG (the student graduated with honors at the University of Havana in the current academic course 2015-2016).
- Paper submitted to the Journal Amphibia-Reptilia entitled: “Genetic evidence for multiple paternity in the critically endangered Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*)”

News 1: The bachelor thesis on mitogenomics of Cuban *Crocodylus* has been successfully presented in the Student Research Forum, obtaining the award of the section of Molecular Biology for undergraduate students.

News 2: PhD thesis by YMG entitled: “Genetic characterization of the genus *Crocodylus* (Crocodylia: Crocodylidae) in Cuba employing molecular markers” has been awarded with the “Felipe Poey” Award. This is a recognition of the Cuban Society of Zoology for the contribution of Cuban scientists to the conservation of Cuban nature.

News 3: Two presentations on Molecular Systematics of Cuban *Crocodylus* were accepted for the International Workshop to be held at the University of Informatics Sciences (Acronym in Spanish, UCI) <http://www.uci.cu/taller-de-bioinformatica-sobre-evolucion-viral-y-epidemiologia-molecular-en-la-uci-0>





Reintroduction of Cuban crocodiles for the first time in the wild Zapata Swamp.



Cuban crocodiles at Zapata Swamp.