

## Project Update: March 2017

Activities already accomplished for the period:

Paper entitled “Mitogenomic investigation reveals a cryptic lineage of *Crocodylus* in Cuba” submitted to the special issue of the Bulletin of Marine Science on Cuban Marine Ecology and Conservation.

PhD thesis by Yoamel Milián-García on Conservation Genetics of Cuban crocodiles successfully published as a book by the Spanish Academic Editorial (Cover view attached).

Research stay at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) with the goal to genetically and morphologically characterize the current subfossil record of Cuban *Crocodylus* (*C. rhombifer*) using genomic and morphometric approaches. All the samples analysed were previously deposited at the AMNH from the type locality of the Cuban crocodile: Ciego Montero (Cuba)

Field trip to Zapata Swamp as part of the population monitoring programme in the wild.

Interactions with local community members at Zapata Swamp, increasing awareness of the threats affecting the populations of Cuban crocodiles. This task was completed jointly with specialists of the National Enterprise for the Protection of Flora and Fauna in Cuba. It included distribution of posters in the area with designed messages revealing the severity of the causes of population reduction.

News: Interview offered by Yoamel Milián-García about the work completed so far on Cuban crocodile conservation was highlighted at the especial exhibit on Cuba opened to the public at the AMNH in New York.

News: Postgraduate student Jessica Castellanos Labarcena took part at the international training on Conservation Genetics organized by the Latin American Network of Conservation Genetics (Acronym in Spanish ReGeneC).



Cuban crocodiles (*Crocodylus rhombifer*) in the protected area of Zapata Swamp. Photos by YMG.



Yoamel Milián-García holding the largest skull of the Cuban crocodile deposited at the AMNH portrait at the special exhibit on Cuba at the ANMH.



Fragment of skulls of the Cuban crocodile deposited at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), NY.



Yoamel Milián-García holding the largest skull of the Cuban crocodile deposited at the AMNH portrait at the special exhibit on Cuba at the ANMH.