

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CAIMAN



JACARÉS DA MATA ATLÂNTICA

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Dedication

To environmental educators who continuously show society the importance of the environment and the path to a sustainable future.

Marcos Daniel Institute

Marcos Daniel Institute is a non-profit civil society organization recognized by the Ministry of Justice as a Civil Society Organization of Public Interest (OSCIP). It was founded in 2004 and is located in Vitória, Espírito Santo. It is involved with the environmental field of work, developing projects on conservation and biodiversity, wildlife health monitoring projects and environmental education projects. The Marcos Daniel Institute raises awareness and trainees people to work with conservation. IMD works on the hope of building a society with a brighter future for man and other species. We don't expect the ecosystems to go back to what it once was, but we work to make it the best it can be, for us and future generations. Restoring the ecological functions of biodiversity is the best way to build a sustainable society and, to do so, we need to find a path of coexistence and tolerance between man and biodiversity. There are plenty of evidence that we need to increase the pace of changes leading to a more sustainable attitude and, at the same time, we need to race against time to avoid environmental degradation to be the end of human society in a near future.

To know more go to:

Site: www.imd.org.br

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Últimos Refúgios Institute

The Últimos Refúgios Institute is a non-profit, socio-environmental and cultural institution, founded in 2006 and it became an institution in 2011. Their motto is "People only protect what they know". The institute has an important role in the preservation of green areas of Vitória, working to raise environmental awareness through cultural photographic and audiovisual records of natural areas in order to propose and disseminate a conscious relationship between man and nature. It has produced several books, video documentaries, TV and internet series, photographic exhibitions and presentations at public schools. It has participated of national and international awards, performed work for household names, such as photographer Sebastião Salgado (Terra Institute). It has carried out projects with the municipal, state and federal government, as well as partnerships with state and country NGOs, always with the support of volunteers who believe in the cause, as financial resources are limited.

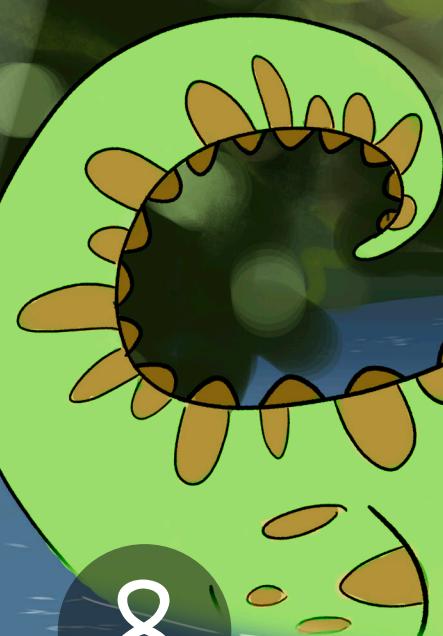
Are you ready?

Then let's get started...

This story takes place in a forest known as the Atlantic Forest, in Brazil.



A forest full of flowers, butterflies, bees, birds, fish, jaguars, skunks and our friend the caiman.



I am Jaque, a broad-snouted caiman. I live in the Atlantic Forest and I have two houses...



one on the land...





... and another one in the lagoon.



In Brazil, there are six species of caimans...

Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman

Paleosuchus palpebrosus



spectacled caiman

Caiman crocodilus

yacare caiman

Caiman yacare





black caiman

Melanosuchus niger

smooth-fronted caiman

Paleosuchus trigonatus



broad-snouted caiman

Caiman latirostris



... but we are disappearing,
and we need help.

I met the Caiman Project and we became great friends working together for caiman conservation.





Hello, Jaque! It is a beautiful day today, isn't it? I feel very happy to be here with you.

We have gone through a lot of good and bad times fighting poachers. And what will today bring us?

Oh no, not the two of you again!?
You are always bothering me and
messing up my plans.



I came here to
set traps and
catch caimans.

We have already warned you that in Brazil this is a crime and some day, if the police find you, you will end up in jail.



Furthermore, when you come into contact with caimans from illegal wildlife trade you might catch diseases that they carry. You could become very sick and even die.



Yes, but I love the meat from the caiman's tail! And I sell the leather on the illegal market. It is very dangerous and the police are always after me, but so far I have managed to run away from them.

Speaking of the police, I'm hearing sirens, it's time to go.





Phew, we managed to
dodge his bullet today!

Yes, we were lucky
that the police showed
up. Now that the
danger is over you can
go back to the lagoon
with your friends and
have fun in peace.



Thank you very much!! I am very lucky that the Project Caiman is always here for me, helping me to survive. Now I'm going to rest in the lagoon, it was a very busy day. See you later alligator!

CREDITS

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THE CONSERVATION OF THE BROAD-SNOUTED CAIMAN IN THE ATLANTIC FOREST

Projeto Caiman is an initiative from the Instituto Marcos Daniel, in partnership with ArcelorMittal Tubarão. It is a project that works towards the conservation of broad-snouted caiman populations in the Atlantic Forest. Espírito Santo is part of the species distribution area, in Brazil.

Over the years, Projeto Caiman has contributed to the conservation of broad-snouted caimans, by promoting health and viability of their populations, as well as the conservation of Atlantic Forest aquatic environments. Thus, Instituto Marcos Daniel stands out in the systematic study of crocodilians in the Atlantic Forest, generating technical-scientific data on health and ecology of the *Caiman latirostris* species. Projeto Caiman - Jacarés da Mata Atlântica is one of the main research and conservation initiatives on Brazilian caimans. Activities include research projects, environmental education, training of young researchers, rescue and rehabilitation of caimans, scientific diffusion and public policies formulation towards conservation.

The life of a female broad-snouted caiman is not limited to swimming in beautiful lagoons, in order to ensure her survival, she faces many daily challenges. This tale highlights one of the several obstacles to caiman conservation in Brazil: poaching of wild animals.

To learn more:



@Projetocaiman / Site: www.imd.org.br

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