

THE CAIMAN FAMILY



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The Caiman Family

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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...

It's another beautiful day at Jaque's lagoon. She is lying on the water's edge, sunbathing and enjoying nature.



Wow, what a warm day! The sun is very good for my skin, it gives me energy to keep warm and stay healthy.



Hello, Jaque.
How are you
today?

I feel great! Earlier today, I made a nest. There are 40 little eggs that I covered with leaves, sticks and earth to protect them and to make them warm, so the babies will be able to grow strong inside their eggs.

You can see them,
they are right there!



Congratulations!
Did you find a
nice place to
make the nest?



Yes, I did ! I made the
nest under a tree that
had a wasp nest! They
will help me to
protect the eggs for
the next 3 months,
until they hatch.

You were very lucky. Wasps have become very difficult to find around here. Humans are afraid of them because they have stingers just like bees, so they always try to destroy their homes.



And they frequently use insecticides, which are very bad for all forest insects.





That is really sad. I am glad I managed to find them. I am very protective of my eggs. I will always be around to make sure that nothing happens to them.

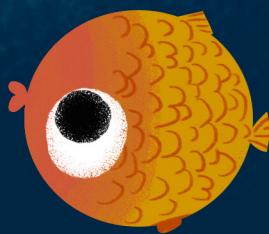
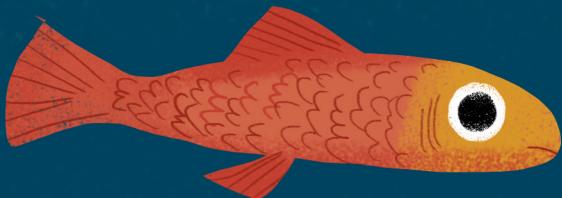
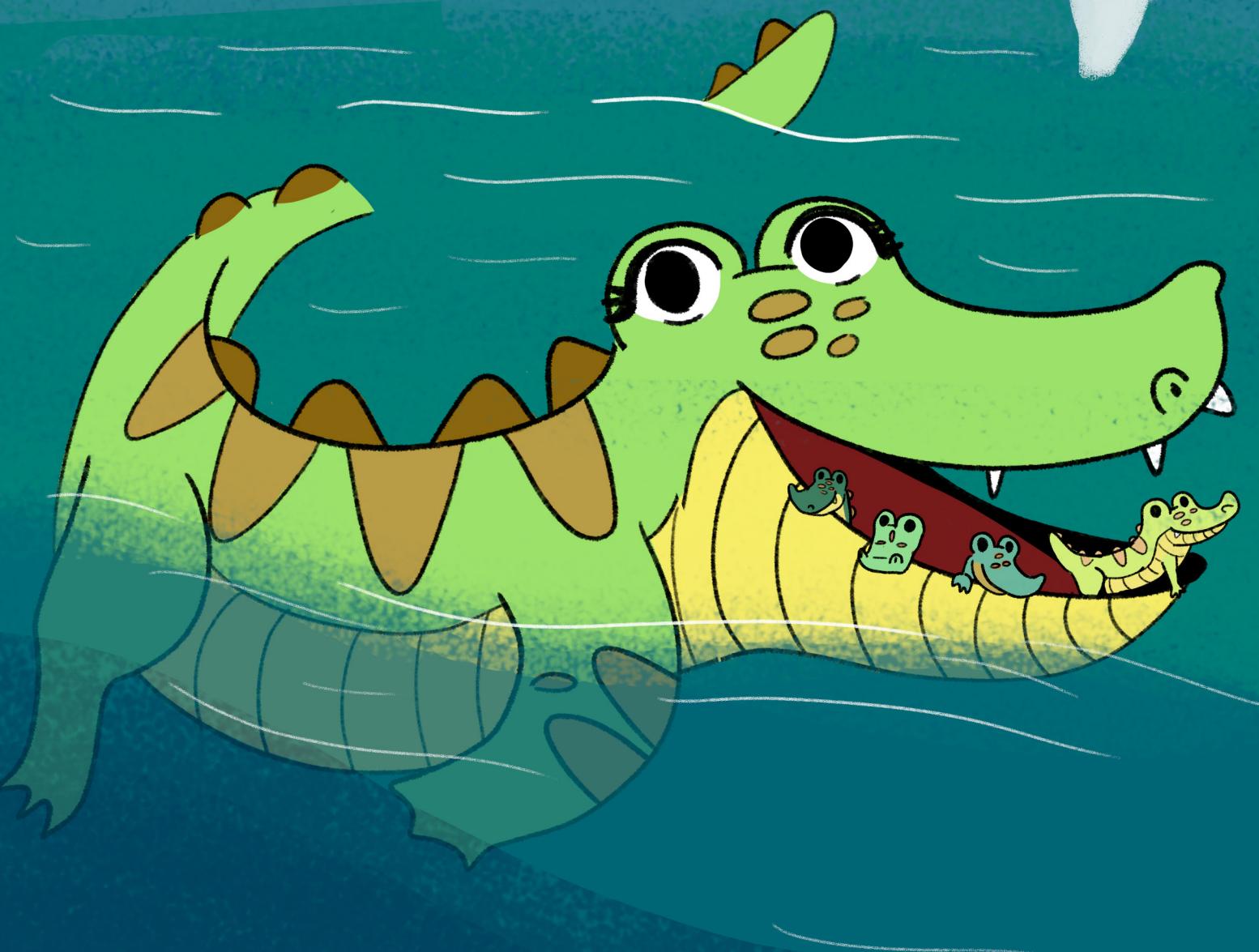
Is it the first time
you made a nest?



Yes, it will be my first
time being a mom! I
can't wait to hear their
call when they're ready
to hatch.



I will pick them all up with my mouth and take them back to the lagoon, where I will protect them. I will stay with them for a year, until they are used to their new home.



Are there a lot of snails in your pond? Baby caimans love to eat snails!

Yes, there are! I have got to tell you, that even nowadays, I am very fond of eating snails.



In addition to snails, there are many tadpoles and small fish in my pond and there are several insects, such as ants, on the water's edge. My babies will have a lot of food to become very strong.



That is great! So they will be able to grow and will start eating bigger fish, frogs, birds, freshwater turtles, snakes and skunks.





In addition to food, it is important to teach them about humans, too.



Yes, this is true. I will teach them that not all human beings are good.



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Many are just curious and really want to see us.



But there are also poachers
who want to hurt us.

Unfortunately, there are still many poachers out there, but with the help of the Caiman Project, more people are getting to know, respect and love caimans!



And that is great news! The more people like us, the more we will feel protected and happy in our lagoons.



It's true, Jaque. More and more people are calling to warn us when a caiman shows up in their neighborhood. And, when we get there to rescue them, everyone is very happy with our presence.





We perform rescues throughout the year in cities such as Vitória, Serra and Vila Velha, in the State of Espírito Santo. Summer is the peak season for caiman rescues.

Oh yes, during the summer the temperature increases and we become more active. Moreover, at this time, we are looking for partners to have babies. That's why we move around more and, sometimes, we end up getting lost in the city.





Hello, there is another caiman that needs to be rescued? Okay, I'm on my way! Jaque, a friend of yours showed up by the beach. Our chat has been great, but I have to go and rescue it. Sea water is not going to do the caiman any good.



Alright, good luck with the rescue and see you next time!

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.

This tale shows the ecological aspects and natural history of broad-snouted caimans, such as: thermoregulation mechanism, reproductive cycle, food chain and ecological interactions enchanting the infant readers.

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ÚLTIMOS REFÚGIOS

Realization

