



Orinoco crocodile or "caimán llanero" (Crocodylus intermedius)

Orinoco Crocodile (*Crocodylus intermedius*) Conservation Project in the Colombian Llanos

**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED SPECIES.
LET'S SUPPORT ITS
CONSERVATION.**



The Orinoco crocodile (known as the "caimán llanero" in Colombia) is only found in the region of the Llanos in Colombia and Venezuela. Males could reach about 7 meters long. At present, the species is considered **Critically Endangered**. Less than 150 adult specimens are estimated to remain in the wild in Colombia with approximately 1,700 individuals in Venezuela.

The largest females reach about 3.5 meters. They usually lay between 20 and 70 eggs in a nest excavated on sandy beaches or riverbanks between December and February. The eggs remain buried between 80 and 120 days. After that time, between March and May, the neonates hatch, with 25-30 cm long. The Orinoco crocodile feeds mainly on fishes, although it can also hunt birds, mammals and other reptiles. Hatchlings feed mainly on insects, amphibians and crustaceans.

The crocodile's function within the "Llanos" ecosystems is important: they can control the carnivorous fishes' populations, provide nutrients to the water, prevent the blocking or sedimentation of creeks and deep pools, and maintain the balance of the trophic system.

Furthermore, the Orinoco crocodile is a resource that, if conserved and managed appropriately, could become an important eco-tourism attraction and provide benefits to local human populations through its sustainable use. However, first we need to assure the conservation and stability of the species and the habitats where it is found.

**LET'S HELP CONSERVE
THIS LEGENDARY AND
EMBLEMATIC SPECIES
OF THE COLOMBIAN
AND VENEZUELAN LLANOS**