

# IT IS NOT EASY BEING A CAIMAN



EDITORS: Leonardo Merçon e Yhuri Cardoso Nóbrega  
TEXTS: Fernanda Correia Silva Rochinski e Bárbara Nedelly Mello Silva  
ILLUSTRATION & DESIGN: Luiza Tanaka Paganotti

# It is not easy being a Caiman

Dados Internacionais de Catalogação-na-publicação (CIP)

---

R672i      Rochinski, Fernanda Correia Silva, 1987-  
              It is not easy being a caiman [recurso eletrônico] / Fernanda  
Correia Silva Rochinski, Bárbara Nedelly Mello Silva. - Dados  
eletrônicos. - Vitória (ES) : Instituto Marcos Daniel, 2020.  
              17 p. : il.

ISBN: 978-65-896-6904-3

Modo de acesso: [www.imd.org.br](http://www.imd.org.br)

1. Mata Atlântica. 2. Jacaré-do-papo-amarelo. 3. Projeto  
Caiman. 4. Armadilhas para animais. 5. Animais - Filhotes. 6.  
Espírito Santo (Estado) I. Silva, Bárbara Nedelly Mello. II. Título.

CDU: 574

---

Elaborado por Cynthia Bachir – CRB-6 ES-000485/O

# 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 trains 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](http://www.imd.org.br)



@ Projetocaiman



/ Projetocaiman

# 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...



On a beautiful sunny day, the researcher from the Caiman Project went to the lagoon to check the nests of the caimans. When he arrived, he found Jaque crying.

Jaque, what is going on?  
Why are you crying?





I went fishing and when I came back to see my babies, I couldn't find two of them.





Have you found out what happened to them?

Baby caimans have many predators. Birds, lizards and even large fish can feed on the young. Especially just after they have been born, as they are just slightly larger than a tablespoon.








I told them that. That's why they always stay together and call me if they are afraid of any animal. But this time, the culprit was a poacher. One of the babies told me that he saw his two brothers get caught up in a trap and that's why they were unable to call me.






Oh no! That is so sad, only a few baby caimans manage to reach adulthood because of the predators. And to make matters worse, poachers hunt and kill the rest. That's not fair!

Yes, my babies did not know about the trap and became easy prey. And the worst is the suffering that they went through when they got caught by the hook and were unable to free themselves until the poacher returned.





That's a bummer! Did you find any more of these traps around here?

I haven't looked for them yet. I was worried about my babies and I called them back to be close to me.


You did the right thing. I am going to look for those traps and wait until the poacher appears. This time, when he arrives, I will call the police myself!




The Caiman Project researcher searched all around the lagoon and he found a trap well hidden between the bushes and the water. He hid behind the bushes and called the police.





A man with a dark beard and glasses is shown from the chest up, holding a silver mobile phone to his ear. He has a surprised or concerned expression. He is wearing a dark green t-shirt. The background behind him is a stylized landscape with green hills and a blue body of water.


Hello, is this the environmental police? I'm calling to let you know that I found a gator trap for caimans here at the pond. I'll be on the look-out waiting for the poacher to appear and as soon as he arrives, I'll call you.

A man with a brown complexion is shown from the chest up, wearing a green camouflage military cap and a matching green camouflage shirt. He is wearing black sunglasses and holding a blue mobile phone to his ear. He has a serious expression.

Hello, a police round is happening around this neighborhood. So, as soon as you call, we'll be able to get there very quickly.

Thank you for the warning!






The researcher waited until nightfall. That's when he heard footsteps breaking sticks and crushing leaves on the ground. Upon seeing the poacher, the researcher called the police.

Hello, police?





I'm looking forward to seeing if I managed to catch a big caiman today. The two caimans from yesterday were very small. They served only as an appetizers, and I won't even be able to use their leather! They were too small and the leather was not thick or resistant enough.

Oops! I think I arrived on time! It looks like a caiman fell into my trap!


I need to save this caiman, hopefully the police will arrive soon!



Look at what we have here, an adult caiman!  
It looks like it's almost 2 meters long! I'll be able to  
make some bags out of this leather! Mua ha ha! I will  
hold that line and wait for it to get tired and stop  
struggling, since it's very strong.








Stop right there, poacher! What do you think you're doing? Don't you know that hunting wild animals is a crime?

But I was not hunting, I was trying to set it free.

That's a lie, I was hiding here and I saw everything. You said you were going to turn this caiman into bags.

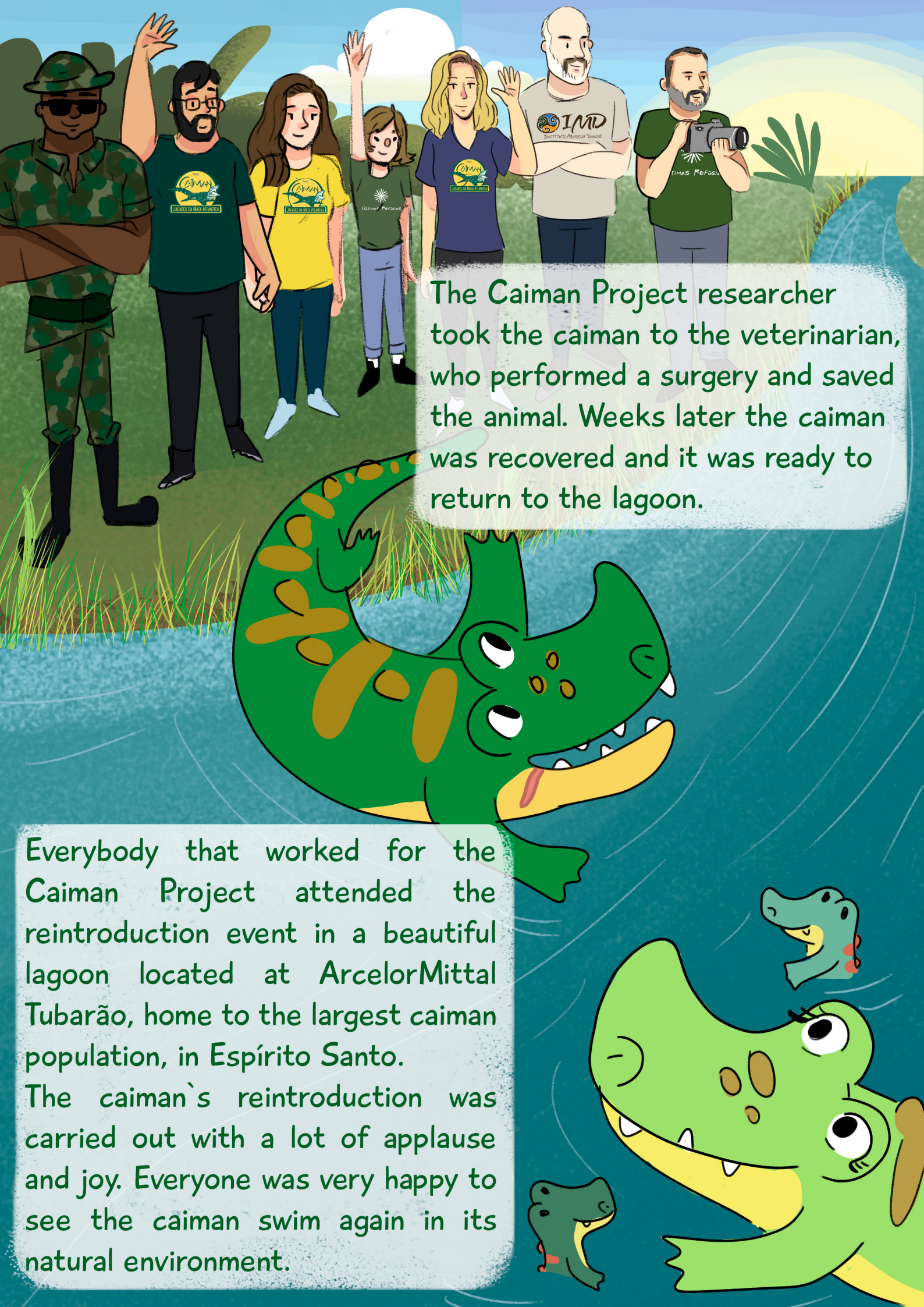




Poacher, you'll come with us to the police station. We have to find out everything that happened here.

I need to help the caiman. It will need surgery to remove the hook it has swallowed with the bait that got stuck in its throat.





The Caiman Project researcher took the caiman to the veterinarian, who performed a surgery and saved the animal. Weeks later the caiman was recovered and it was ready to return to the lagoon.

Everybody that worked for the Caiman Project attended the reintroduction event in a beautiful lagoon located at ArcelorMittal Tubarão, home to the largest caiman population, in Espírito Santo. The caiman's reintroduction was carried out with a lot of applause and joy. Everyone was very happy to see the caiman swim again in its natural environment.

# CREDITS

*PRESIDENT of INSTITUTO MARCOS DANIEL:*

Marcelo Renan de Deus Santos

*PROJETO CAIMAN GENERAL COORDINATOR:*

Yhuri Cardoso Nóbrega

*PROJETO CAIMAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR:*

Bárbara Nedelly Mello Silva

*EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION:*

Yhuri Cardoso Nóbrega

*EDITORS:*

Leonardo Merçon

Yhuri Cardoso Nóbrega

*TEXTS:*

Fernanda Correia Silva Rochinski

Bárbara Nedelly Mello Silva

*ILLUSTRATION & DESIGN:*

Luiza Tanaka Paganotti

*REVIEW:*

Marcos Eduardo Coutinho

Marcelo Renan de Deus Santos

Yhuri Cardoso Nóbrega

*ENGLISH TRANSLATION:*

Fernanda Correia Silva Rochinski





## THE CONSERVATION OF THE BROAD-SNOURED 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 covers several themes about the life of the broad-snouted caiman such as food chain, poachers and their traps, the environmental police role and its importance, rescue, rehabilitation and release of caimans back to their environment.

To learn more:



@ Projetocaiman / Site: [www.imd.org.br](http://www.imd.org.br)

Sponsor



Support



Partnership



Realization

