

Tegu/Nile Monitor/Chameleon/Caiman EDRR Planning

Objective: Determine the objectives of a continued effort to assess the impact and spread of nonnative lizards and crocodylians in South Florida. Discuss the results of efforts to date, future needs, and discuss the usefulness of pursuing chameleons and caimans.

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- Need to establish well-clarified objectives on how to address additional nonindigenous reptiles in southern Florida

Tegu Summary

- Plans moving forward to make increased effort to trap tegus in and around ENP, continued trapping efforts in current populations
- Additional tegu work:
 - USDA: evaluating traps and lures for effectiveness
 - comparison of baits, variations on the trap
 - Would like to expand their pen trials into field trials
 - Suggestion of testing how far away tegus can detect eggs, and how far down (buried) can they can find eggs.
- ENP has team and resources allocated to run a set of traps within the Tegu range (not just in park) before brumation
- All cooperators building on the framework developed in the last few months, so can be as effective as possible next season

Caiman

- Concern that restoration efforts may increase connectivity between current caiman populations and rest of CERP footprint
 - Interactions with crocs and alligators
 - Evaluation of potential for caiman spread and habitat use
 - Great deal of uncertainty, risk assessment for management recommendations
- New populations discovered
 - May be a good candidate for eDNA to assess presence

Chameleons

- Continued issue with individuals being moved to new areas
 - Difficult issue to address
 - Request help from LE, and how we can help them
- Continued efforts for removal
 - Permission for lands with Veiled Chameleons
 - Restart standardized surveys in areas of established populations (FWC)
 - Interest in survey participation tends to decline over time, how to prevent
 - Protocol for body management (UF and ZOO Miami)
- Chameleons may serve as a good species to develop a unbiased statistical estimate of abundance
- Can chameleons serve as a case study for successful eradication?