

An endangered species makes a comeback



American crocodiles range in color from gray-yellow to brown, can grow up to 15 feet long and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds. They can be found in fresh or brackish water

of river estuaries, coastal lagoons and mangrove swamps, where they feed on small mammals, birds, fish and crustaceans.

Endangered American crocodiles can be found throughout their range in southern Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and northern South America.

The American crocodile is considered endangered or threatened throughout much of its range. FPL partners with federal and state conservation agencies to help with crocodile restoration efforts. At our Turkey Point Power Plant in southern Miami-Dade County, we have worked for years to help this species rebound from the brink of extinction. This work includes preserving and creating habitat for crocodile nesting and basking; conducting surveys to document population size, activity, growth and survival; constructing ponds to help provide sanctuary to hatchlings and relocating hatchlings to refuges to increase survival rates. In 2007, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the listing status of the American crocodile in Florida would be improved from endangered to threatened.

Breeding season

The American crocodile’s breeding season runs from January through February. Females can lay between 30 to 50 eggs, which they monitor during incubation. Like some other reptiles, the gender of hatchlings is determined by nesting temperature. Hatchlings emerge from their shells between July and August. The mother scoops hatchlings up in her mouth and carries them to the water. There is generally no additional parental care once the young crocs are transported to the water.

Differences between crocodiles and alligators

Although alligators and crocodiles are both from the reptilian order Crocodylia, American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*) and American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) do have several anatomical and physiological differences, for example:

- » Crocodiles are much less cold tolerant than alligators, which is why they are only found in Southern Florida
- » Alligators tend to be darker in color than crocodiles, often nearly black
- » The fourth tooth in crocodiles is visible when the mouth is closed, which cannot be seen in alligators



The American crocodile has a longer and narrower snout than the American alligator.

Our environmental promise

At FPL, we understand that caring for the environment is just as important as providing customers with affordable, reliable power, now and in the future.

This is reflected in our efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water and land we use and the plants and animals that share our planet. As a clean-energy company, we’re committed and dedicated to minimizing our impact on the environment and the place we all call home.

FPL and the NextEra Energy family of companies embrace an environmental policy that is part of a company-wide Code of Business Conduct & Ethics. Every year, company officers and managers reaffirm this pledge in writing.

Our promise in action

Our passion for protecting the environment is very personal. After all, we live here too. That’s why we work closely with federal, state and community organizations to help minimize impacts on natural resources and protect the Sunshine State’s wild treasures.

In addition, we’re constantly working to improve our standards by building cleaner power plants.

Through our environmental programs, we’re helping to minimize habitat loss from construction and reduce water use. We work every day to make Florida a better place for all of us, including our wild treasures like the American crocodile.

For more information on the American crocodile, please visit:

 Florida Power & Light Company by email: ptn-crocodile-program@fpl.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service www.fws.gov

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission www.myfwc.com



American Crocodile

Changing the way
we can all help protect
Florida’s wild treasures



Habitat

Crocodile Facts

- ✦ Since it was first classified as endangered in 1975, the American crocodile population in Florida has more than doubled
- ✦ The American crocodile is the only crocodile found in the U.S.
- ✦ Florida is the only place in the world where crocodiles and alligators coexist in the wild

www.FPL.com/crocodiles

Timeline

FPL Turkey Point Monitoring Program

1974
Cooling canals created

1985
123 crocodile hatchlings tagged since the monitoring program began

1978
First crocodile nest documented with the beginning of the monitoring program at Turkey Point

1995
1,311 crocodile hatchlings tagged since the monitoring program began

2005
3,729 hatchlings tagged since the monitoring program began

2008
Most documented nests in one season with 28

2012
6,168 hatchlings tagged since the monitoring program began

2007
Crocodiles downlisted from 'endangered' to 'threatened'

2009
548 hatchlings recorded, the most in one season



Photos courtesy of Mario Aldecoa

