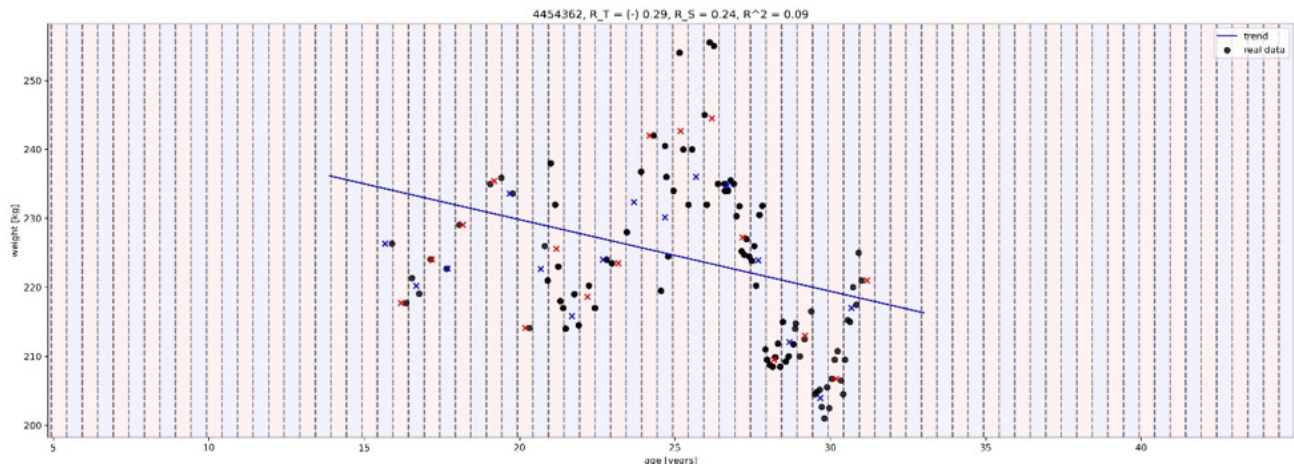


Supplementary Figure 1. Gompertz growth models (green line) fitted to the age-specific body mass data of females and males of zoo-kept hippos species. For a description of the model parameters, see Table 1.



Supplementary Figure 2. Example for the visual display of body mass development in a pygmy hippo *Choeropsis liberiensis*. Note a general trend of body mass decline with age, an irregular change of body mass in cycles spanning several years, and several instances of a seasonal (annual) fluctuation.