



Jaguar in Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park

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### Highlights

#### Total Area

- Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park 34,400 km<sup>2</sup>
- San Miguelito Ranch and private reserves 400 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Habitat Types

- Chaco dry forest
- Chiquitano and Cerrado dry forests
- Palm savannas
- Seasonal wetlands

#### Wildlife Present

##### Birds

- Blue-fronted Amazon
- Chachalaca
- Rhea

##### Mammals

- Jaguar, puma, ocelot
- White-lipped and collared Chacoan peccaries
- Guanaco
- Tapir
- Giant armadillo

##### Plants

- Cactus
- Bromeliad
- Tوبرochi

#### WCS involvement

- Since 1991

## JAGUAR SURVEYS IN KAA-IYA

Argentina

Belize

**Bolivia**

Brazil

Costa Rica

Guatemala

Guyana

Honduras

Mexico/U.S.

Nicaragua

Panama

Peru

Venezuela

WCS has worked with the Izoceño Guaraní organization CABI since 1991, a partnership resulting in the creation of the Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park in 1995. Kaa-Iya is the largest protected tropical dry forest in the world, and the most bio diverse and well-preserved portion of the Gran Chaco ecoregion. WCS supports CABI in administering the vast park and in promoting biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources on neighboring indigenous communal lands. WCS also supports wildlife-compatible ranching around Bolivia's first private reserves at San Miguelito, and provides assistance to the Chiquitano Forest Conservation Foundation.

### The Human Aspect

Three indigenous groups—the Izoceño Guaraní, Chiquitano, and Ayoreo—inhabit areas surrounding the Kaa-Iya National Park. They hunt and fish for subsistence purposes, cultivate small-scale plots, and migrate to seasonal labor opportunities in large-scale ranching and farming enterprises. Principal regional economic activities are commercial farming by Mennonite colonists and international agro-industry, and cattle ranching. A national land reform process is underway to title all regional lands outside protected areas to indigenous groups, communities, or private land-owners.

### Threats

The principal threat to jaguar conservation in the region is unmanaged land settlement and resource use. Extensive free-range cattle ranching leads to conflicts between ranchers and jaguars, and forest





Cattle kill at San Miguelito

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conversion to agriculture reduces available habitat and prey.

### WCS Activities

In 2002, WCS initiated systematic camera trap surveys at four long-term research camps in Kaa-Iya National Park, surveying each site in both wet and dry seasons. The camps represent the principal dry forest vegetation systems of the park. Jaguar densities range from 1.8-5.3/100 km<sup>2</sup>, and the park's estimated 1000 jaguars represent the single largest protected jaguar population anywhere. Surprisingly, the highest densities occur in the driest field site, which receives only 500 mm of rainfall annually. Puma densities slightly exceed jaguar densities, while ocelots' numbers are roughly 10 times higher. Pressure on jaguar habitat and prey is increasing on nearby rangelands.

An additional survey in the San Miguelito Private Reserve indicates that this small protected area within a fragmented agricultural landscape is utilized by six jaguars and seven pumas. This remarkable site is the first in Latin America to confirm the presence of six sympatric cat species: jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, Geoffroy's cat, and jaguarundi. Unfortunately, jaguars continue to prey on cattle, despite efforts to increase prey abundance and to protect livestock.

The Kaa-Iya landscape spans vast national parks, indigenous territories, as well as private ranches and reserves. WCS is collaborating with these regional actors as well as the gas pipeline company Gas TransBoliviano to promote jaguar conservation across the landscape.

### Important Next Steps

- Survey the final extensive landscape system within the Kaa-Iya National Park, and support WCS-Brazil efforts to survey jaguars in the Pantanal shared by Bolivia and Brazil.
- Implement WCS rancher outreach program activities on rangelands surrounding the Kaa-Iya National Park.
- Evaluate the conservation value of private reserves in the region through radio-telemetry and health research on jaguars and white-lipped peccaries at San Miguelito.
- Explore the value of certified forestry concessions for jaguar conservation in Bolivia.

WCS researchers estimate that over 1,000 jaguars are protected in the dry forests of the Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park.

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### Mission

The Wildlife Conservation Society's International Conservation program saves wildlife and wild lands by understanding and resolving critical problems that threaten key species and large, wild ecosystems around the world.

### WCS Strategies

- Site-based conservation
- Research
- Training and capacity-building
- New model development
- Informing policy
- Linking zoo-based and field-based conservation

### Support this Project!

Donations can be sent to:  
The Jaguar Conservation Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society

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