



INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION JAGUAR CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Pantaneiros on a traditional cattle move

Highlights

Total Area

- 96,525 mi²
- 250,000 km²

Habitat Types

- tropical wet savannah

Wildlife Present Birds

- hyacinth macaw
- jaburu stork
- jacana

Mammals

- jaguar
- puma
- tapir
- anteater
- armadillo
- marsh deer

Reptiles

- caiman
- anaconda

Plants

- ipe tree
- Copernicia alba

WCS Involvement

- since 1973



Jaguar Track Measurements in Belize

Jaguars and Peccaries in Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica

Monitoring Jaguars in the Cockscomb Basin, Belize

Movements, Habitat and Prey Relations of Jaguars in SE Sonora, Mexico

Jaguar-Livestock Conflict in NE Sonora, Mexico

Subsistence Hunting in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala

Jaguar Monitoring in Belize

Borderlands Jaguar Detection, Mexico/U.S.

Livestock Depredation in the Pantanal, Brazil

Impact of Jaguars at the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras

Jaguar and their Prey, Guatemala

Human-Jaguar Conflict, Belize

Community Outreach and Education, U.S.

Jaguars on Private Lands, Venezuela

Rancher Outreach Program, Brazil

The Jaguar Conservation Program is one component of the Global Carnivore Program

WCS in Brazil

The Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world, straddling the borders of Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay, and spanning an area the size of California or the United Kingdom. It forms the most significant window for evaporating freshwater in the world and supports a diversity of wildlife rivaling the plains of eastern Africa. Approximately 670 species of birds, over 450 species of fish, and 64 mammals are known here. For the threatened jaguar, the Pantanal forms one of the last remaining strongholds for survival. The Pantanal is home not only to wildlife: 98% of the area is privately owned and sustains several million head of cattle.

The Human Aspect

Human-wildlife conflict occurs wherever people co-exist with animals that destroy crops, kill livestock, or pose a direct threat to our safety. In Latin America, jaguars are often blamed for the loss of cattle and are shot on sight. Research has shown that, in areas like the Pantanal, improved livestock management can increase cattle productivity so that the losses to jaguars can become tolerable.

Threats

The most acute threat to the survival of jaguars is conflict with farmers. In the Pantanal, over hunted wild prey often drives jaguars to predate on cattle. Although the jaguar is fully protected by law, it is often persecuted and shot. If another jaguar later fills the ecological gap it, too, is shot. Jaguars



Ranchers from the Fazenda Rio Vermelho Ranch

continue to be eliminated at an alarming rate, while ranchers receive little or no help in analyzing and resolving this lose-lose pattern.

WCS Activities

In May 2001, the WCS Jaguar Conservation Program brought together conservationists and ranchers from the Pantanal region to exchange views and ideas on jaguar conflict and lay the foundations for a joint program. Now, the Rancher Outreach Program is working to establish a long-term alliance between the ranching and conservation communities. To achieve this, the program is taking a highly participatory approach, where WCS scientists work on Pantanal ranches to learn about the issues at stake and encourage ranchers to develop their own conservation strategies. Many ranchers are, for example, interested in becoming involved in small-scale ecotourism or experimenting with various methods of non-lethal predator control.

Important Next Steps

- Establish ranch-based projects in the Pantanal for jaguar deterrents and improved cattle management.
- Implement a monitoring plan to assess the effects of experimental jaguar control measures.
- Conduct a second WCS Rancher Workshop in the llanos of Venezuela.
- Collect data and geographical information about jaguar/human conflict regions.
- Expand the program to other regions of conflict using the models and experiences from Brazil and Venezuela.

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Photography

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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

