



THE WILD FELID MONITOR

The Newsletter of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association

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Human-Wildlife Interactions

Does killing wild carnivores raise risk for domestic animals?

Lessons of a Fish & Wildlife Commissioner

A New Era of Human-Carnivore Coexistence

Wind farms: a new challenge in the conservation of big cats in the Brazilian semiarid region

Community-based jaguar conservation in the State of Guerrero, Mexico

How can we mitigate puma-livestock conflicts in Central Argentina?

Jaguars Without Protection in Western Mexico

Carnivores in central Chile: facing a growing peri-urban interface

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*denotes article in both Spanish and English

WFA logo designed by Ben Wright, ben@bwrightimages.com

Front cover: A male mountain lion in a cave in Torres del Paine National Park. Photograph by Prof. C. Bonacic, Fauna Australis, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Wild Felid Monitor encourages submission of articles and information on ecology, research, management and conservation of wild felid species, and particularly of those species native to the Western Hemisphere. Preferred length of submissions is about 750 words. Submissions of photos, drawings and charts are encouraged. **Please send photos, graphics and tables as separate files suitable for portrait page formatting. Graphics must be suitable for grayscale reproduction.** Electronic submissions to wfawildfelidmonitor@gmail.com are preferred; otherwise mail to the address above. For more information on formatting requirements, go to <http://www.wildfelid.org/monitor.php>. The WFA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit submissions. The photos and artwork are copyrighted – please do not reproduce without permission.

Jaguars Without Protection in western Mexico

Víctor H. Luja and María G. Zamudio

Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit / Jaguares Sin Protección

Western Mexico is an important area for jaguar conservation because it connects populations from the central and northern Pacific across the coastal plain and the Sierra Madre Occidental (Ceballos et al. 2018). Since 2015, we started monitoring 368 hectares of “La Papalota”, an Area Voluntarily Destined for Conservation (ADVC) in collaboration with ADVC staff and the non-governmental organization, Pronatura Noroeste, in Nayarit, western Mexico. La Papalota, a small fragment of natural vegetation within a severely human-modified landscape, is crucial for ecological processes, connectivity, and regional biodiversity conservation (Lindenmayer 2019; Wintle et al. 2019, Luja et al. 2017). We utilized camera traps to monitor wildlife with a focus on the resident, breeding population of jaguars. Overall, we recorded four cat species: the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*), along with 10 other mammal species that are common prey for these cats. In 2019, we started the project, “Ecology and conservation of the jaguar and its potential prey outside Natural Protected Areas (ANP) of Nayarit, Mexico”, funded by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT). The main objectives were to evaluate the presence, habitat use, and activity patterns of jaguars and their potential prey inside and outside the ANP in Nayarit. We also aim to understand the perspective of communities outside the ANP towards the jaguar and to implement environmental education activities to increase knowledge about jaguars in the surrounding communities.

In 2019 and 2020, we installed 169 camera-trapping stations in four ecological sites in the state, encompassing an area of 212 km² and resulting in a sampling effort of 9,102 camera-days. We obtained a total of 46,732 photos that consisted primarily of: humans = 5,670 (50.6%), cows = 2,882 (25.7%), and jaguars = 210 (1.8%). The remaining photos were of 12 potential prey species of which white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and coatis (*Nasua narica*) were the most numerous. Jaguars were recorded in all four sampled areas. The coastal plain and Sierra de Vallejo had the highest jaguar densities of 5.3-6 jaguars/100km² with evidence of reproduction, whereas, in the lowlands of the Sierra Madre Occidental and the western face of Sierra San Juan, we could not estimate jaguar densities due to insufficient data. Seventy-five percent of jaguar photographs were taken outside the ANP. We captured five individual jaguars on camera in the Coastal Plain. We also collared four of these jaguars and found that 70% of their locations were outside the ANP. The average home range size was only 71.9 km². We interviewed 228 rural residents to gauge public perception of the jaguar.

Results indicated a wide array of perspectives, ranging from admiration to negative feelings due to little information and due to problematic depredation behavior. To address these perceptions, we developed activities including workshops, talks, screenings and even field work with people from the communities in rural areas. We had two Jaguar Carnivals in Tepic, Nayarit with participation of rural and urban residents interested in jaguar conservation. Social participation was key in this project. Now, residents are discussing jaguar conservation issues in their communities.

We found that both jaguars and prey are distributed outside ANPs despite extremely high levels of human activities. Since they are present and frequently photographed, this suggests the potential capacity to adapt to transformation of their environment. In Sierra de Vallejo in 2019 and 2020, we had 5 jaguars and 3 pumas killed by ranchers, representing a great threat in mountain areas. In the Coastal Plain, habitat loss and fragmentation, due to the boom of shrimp farms is a great threat for carnivores in the area.



MC Mari Zamudio carrying out socio-environmental work with children from Boca del Asadero, Nayarit

“We continue to monitor wild cats and their prey in different communities in the State in collaboration with residents and share our information to continue to raise awareness about the importance of biological conservation and a sustainable use of resources.”

Jaguares Sin Protección en el occidente de México

Víctor H. Luja and María G. Zamudio

Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit / Jaguares Sin Protección

El occidente de México es importante para la conservación del jaguar ya que mantiene la conectividad entre las poblaciones del pacífico-centro con las del pacífico-norte a través de la Planicie Costera y de la Sierra Madre Occidental (Ceballos et al., 2018). Desde 2015 realizamos monitoreo de jaguar utilizando cámaras trampa en Nayarit, occidente de México. Iniciamos monitoreando las 368 hectáreas del Área Destinada Voluntariamente a la Conservación (ADVC) “La Papalota” en colaboración con personal de la ADVC y Pronatura Noroeste, Registramos una población residente y reproductiva de jaguares, pero también ocelote (*Leopardus pardalis*), lince (*Lynx rufus*), yaguarundi (*Puma yaguaroundi*), y al menos 10 especies de presas de las cuales estos felinos se alimentan. Los pequeños fragmentos de vegetación natural como La Papalota inmersos en paisajes altamente modificados por actividades humanas, son cruciales para la conservación de la biodiversidad a nivel regional, ya que pueden ser toda la vegetación que queda en ausencia de parches grandes, mantienen los procesos ecológicos ausentes en la matriz (Lindenmayer, 2019; Wintle et al., 2019), y actúan como stepping-stones promoviendo la conectividad (Luja et al., 2017). En 2019 iniciamos el proyecto “Ecología y conservación del jaguar y sus presas potenciales fuera de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (ANP) de Nayarit, México”, financiado por el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT). Los objetivos principales fueron: evaluar la presencia de jaguares y sus presas potenciales, así como determinar las zonas que utilizan y patrones de actividad en sitios que no son ANP en Nayarit; comparar los patrones de presencia y uso de hábitat de los jaguares dentro y fuera de las ANP; conocer la perspectiva que tienen hacia el jaguar las comunidades fuera de las ANP y realizar acciones de educación ambiental para incrementar el conocimiento del jaguar entre las comunidades que no pertenecen a un ANP.

En 2019 y 2020 se instalaron 169 estaciones de fototrampeo en cuatro zonas ecológicas en el estado, abarcando un área de 212 km² y un esfuerzo de muestreo de 9,102 días cámara. En total, se obtuvieron 46,732 fotos y los resultados fueron: humanos= 5,670 (50.6%), vacas= 2,882 (25.7%); jaguar= 210 (1.8%) y 12 presas potenciales, destacando en abundancia el venado colablanca (*Odocoileus virginianus*) y el coatí (*Nasua narica*). Se registró jaguar en las cuatro zonas muestreadas; la Planicie Costera y Sierra de Vallejo tuvieron las mayores densidades de jaguares de 5.3-6/100km² con evidencia de reproducción, mientras que, en las tierras bajas de la Sierra Madre Occidental y en la cara occidental de Sierra San Juan no se pudo estimar la densidad debido al bajo número de registros. El 75% de las fotografías de jaguar se obtuvieron fuera de las ANP. Se capturaron jaguares en 5 ocasiones en la Planicie Costera, se colocaron 4 collares que mostraron el 70% de las ubicaciones fuera de las ANP y con estos datos estimamos un ámbito hogareño de tan solo 71.9 km². Se aplicaron 228 entrevistas a pobladores rurales, los resultados indicaron que sus perspectivas incluyen apreciar la belleza de la especie pero tienen poca o falsa información sobre el jaguar, prevaleciendo la cultura problemática de depredación. Se realizaron talleres, pláticas, proyecciones e incluso trabajo de campo con personas de las comunidades en áreas rurales así como dos Carnavales del Jaguar, realizados en Tepic Nayarit, contando con la participación de habitantes de localidades rurales y urbanas interesados en la conservación del jaguar. La participación social fue clave y son estas personas quienes ahora comunican temas de conservación del jaguar en sus comunidades.

Los resultados de este proyecto muestran que tanto jaguares como presas se distribuyen fuera de las ANP, a pesar de los niveles extremadamente altos de actividades humanas. Las poblaciones de felinos silvestres y sus presas se encuentran sometidos a grandes presiones antropogénicas en las cuatro regiones estudiadas. Sin embargo, aún están presentes y en algunos casos son abundantes, lo que sugiere cierta capacidad de adaptación a la transformación de su entorno. La cacería y el envenenamiento de carnívoros por parte de ganaderos (tenemos evidencia de al menos 5 jaguares y 3 pumas asesinados en sierra de vallejo en 2019 y 2020) representan una gran amenaza en zonas de sierra, mientras que la pérdida de hábitat y fragmentación, en particular el auge del establecimiento de granjas de camarón, lo es para los carnívoros en la Planicie Costera.



MC Mari Zamudio realizando trabajo socioambiental con niños de Boca del Asadero, Nayarit.