



# JAGUAR NEWS

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## Jaguar Distribution in Guatemala, Central America

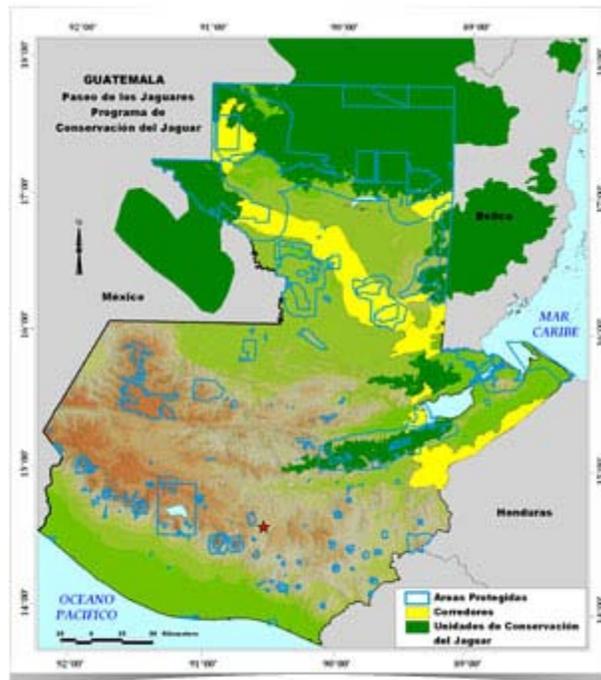
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The first attempt to define jaguar distribution in Guatemala was conducted in 1998 (McNab & Polisar 2002). Through a rapid participatory method two areas were identified that retained a high probability of maintaining viable jaguar populations over the long-term; (a) Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) and (b) the complex of protected areas around Lake Izabal, including Sierra de Las Minas, Sierra de Santa Cruz.

McNab and Polisar proposed investigation of sites where jaguars were rumored to exist, or land cover analyses suggested that jaguar populations might well be present. Subsequently, Hermes (2000) confirmed the presence of jaguar in Laguna Lachuá National Park, and Estrada & Juárez (2003) confirmed the presence of jaguar in the Río Sarstún area. Currently, studies are planned to evaluate the possibility of jaguar presence in Visis Caba Biosphere Reserve (Amarilis Gómez, pers. comm.) and Xutilhá Wildlife Refuge (WCS and CONAP).

In 2006, an updated review by K. Marieb of the first evaluation of the



Guatemala Jaguar Conservation Units and its corridors (Marieb 2006)

state of the jaguar across its entire range entitled "Jaguars of the New Millennium" (Sanderson et al., 2000), identified four Jaguar Conservation Units (JCUs) within Guatemala. JCUs are areas considered to have a high probability of containing at least 50 jaguars for 100 years. This conclusion differed from the 1998 estimate of jaguar distributions in that the Maya Biosphere Reserve block originally identified by McNab and Polisar had fragmented into two blocks due to habitat loss between Sierra del Lacandón National Park and Laguna del Tigre National Park.



Male jaguar caught by phototraps in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Petén, Guatemala.

In addition to the four JCUs identified, five other sites in Guatemala were highlighted as containing important jaguar habitat, and contributing to JCUs in Mexico or Belize.

Lastly, Sanderson et al. (1999) and Marieb (2006) also proposed key jaguar corridors to assure the genetic flow between the Guatemala JCUs and the JCUs from México, Belize and Honduras. Currently, these corridors are being evaluated by ground-truthing teams supported by the WCS Jaguar Conservation Program (JCP) and Panthera.

After investigating these corridors, and surveying for presence of jaguar populations in Sierra de Las Minas, Sierra Santa Cruz, and Xutilhá, management initiatives will be developed with the support of the JCP and Panthera to maintain these corridors and promote jaguar conservation in priority areas.

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#### [ARTICLE]

## Importance of Maintaining Forest Fragments on Private Properties for Conservation of the Jaguar

# and its Prey in the Region of Aruanã, Goiás, Central Brazil

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The Cerrado biome has been pointed out as one of the richest and most threatened biomes of the world, and is therefore considered one of the global hotspots for biodiversity conservation (Myers et al., 2000). Among the primary threats to its integrity is the fragmentation and loss of habitat. For species conservation, it is fundamental to understand how different populations respond to these profound changes caused by direct and indirect human actions. With this objective, we implemented a systematic study with 44 camera traps to evaluate the influence of fragmentation on the richness and distribution of mammals that occur in the surroundings of the city of Aruanã, Goiás.



Jaguar recorded by camera trap in one of the fragments sampled in Aruanã region, Goiás, Brazil.

We chose 11 fragments larger than 100 ha in an area adjacent to the Araguaia River.

Until now, we have already registered jaguars and 15 medium to large sized prey species. These preliminary results indicate that the forest fragments still retain sufficient quality to maintain species with high ecological demands like the jaguar. Incorporating these areas, even though fragmented, in a landscape management plan for the Araguaia River can be strategic for conservation of the jaguar and other species. The survey of scientific data in combination with the participation of NGOs, politicians and society, in particular the owners of farms that are being established, are of fundamental importance for effectiveness of the Araguaia Biodiversity Corridor (Van Der Windt & Swart, 2008). This fact is already becoming apparent in the region of Aruanã.

\*\* This study is part of Analice Calaça's Master's thesis that will be finalized in 2009. Field activities were supported by the Jaguar Conservation Fund.

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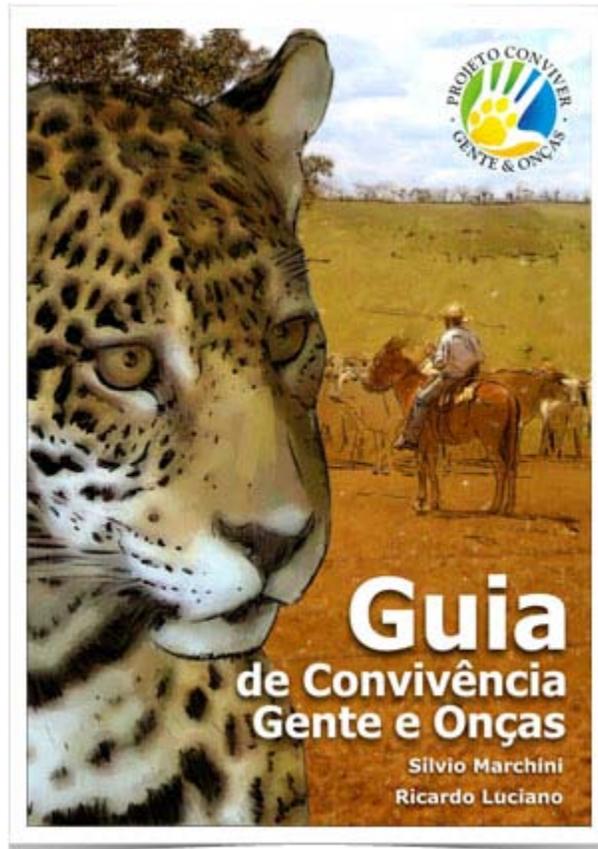
Van Der Windt, H. J., Swart, J. A. A. 2008. Ecological corridors, connecting science and politics: the case of the Green River in the Netherlands. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 45: 124-132.

# Guidelines for the Coexistence of People and Jaguars

By: Silvio Marchini [silvio.marchini@linacre.ox.ac.uk](mailto:silvio.marchini@linacre.ox.ac.uk)

The Project Coexistence People and Jaguars (Projeto Conviver Gente & Onças) recently published the "Guidelines for the Coexistence of People and Jaguars". The book's objective is to disseminate information about jaguars, eliminate preconceptions regarding the species and, consequently, increase tolerance for jaguars. With 38 richly illustrated pages, the book is dedicated to the general public and particularly those that share space with jaguars. It is divided into the following chapters:

- *Jaguars: What they are and how they live.* Basic information about the biology and ecology of the jaguar.
- *Jaguars: are they a problem for us?* Attacks on domestic livestock and humans in this context.
- *Jaguars: we are the problem!* Our threats to jaguars: destruction of habitat, elimination of its natural prey species, and indiscriminate killing.
- *Reasons to coexist with jaguars.* Ecological, economical, legal, cultural, emotional and ethical reasons.
- *How to coexist with jaguars.* Protection of its habitat, solution for livestock predation problems, and, above all, more tolerance.
- *Apart from coexistence: learn more and enjoy jaguars.* Jaguars in books, journals, websites, videos and documentaries. How to find and identify jaguar signs. How and where to hear, see and photograph jaguars.



The Project Coexistence People & Jaguars is realized by the Cristalino Ecological Foundation (Fundação Ecológica Cristalino - FEC) and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) of Oxford University. The project's objective is to understand how beliefs, perceptions, attitudes and social norms determine hostility towards jaguars and, based on results, develop educational and communicational interventions to promote the coexistence between people and jaguars.

To download a copy of the book, follow the link:

[http://www.escoladaamazonia.org/html/html\\_br/resultados/publicacoes\\_quiagenteoncas.php](http://www.escoladaamazonia.org/html/html_br/resultados/publicacoes_quiagenteoncas.php)

[PICTURE OF THE MONTH]



After visiting the site of Pacú Gordo, where in June a fisherman was attacked and killed by a jaguar while sleeping in his tent, I and Silvio Marchini, researcher from the Fundação Ecológica Cristalino (FEC), crossed the Ecological Station of Taiamã, where we saw this jaguar. In spite of the supposed habituation of jaguars to humans caused by fishing and tourism in the region, the photographed animal vanished as soon as it perceived our boat coming closer. The observation lasted mere seconds, but was long enough for pictures and memories that won't be forgotten soon.

14th of September 2008, 14:40, Ecological Station of Taiamã, in Cáceres, Mato Grosso, Brazil, more precisely at 16°52'35.5" S and 57°25'23.8" W.

Edson Grandisoli, biologist and photographer. [edson@escoladaamazonia.org](mailto:edson@escoladaamazonia.org)

If you have a picture catching a glimpse of a jaguar's life in the wild and want to distribute it through our newsletter, please send it to [jaguar@jaguar.org.br](mailto:jaguar@jaguar.org.br) with a description of the location, date and credits of the picture.

If you don't want to receive this newsletter, please send a cancellation email to [jaguar@jaguar.org.br](mailto:jaguar@jaguar.org.br)

The Jaguar Conservation Fund is not responsible for the content of texts written by members of other institutions.

"Our mission is to promote the conservation of the jaguar, its natural prey and habitat throughout the species geographical range, as well as its peaceful coexistence with man through research, management and conservation strategies."

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