



Ocelot Working Group

GRUPO DE TRABAJO PARA EL OCELOTE

Ocelot Working Group

Report 2024



2024 MAIN MEASURABLE GOALS

8 Chicken coops will be repaired or provided to prevent poultry predation and, hence, retaliatory killings of small feline species in Quintana Roo and Chiapas.

An **emergency fund** co-managed with the communities will be piloted to compensate for losses caused by small wild cats.

220 Vaccinations and **7 neutering campaigns** will be sponsored to reduce the risks posed by feral and free-ranged domestic animals for small cats and other native carnivores.

6 Wildlife water stations and **5 rainwater harvesting systems** will be installed in apiaries to foster coexistence between beekeepers and wild cats, and reduce the negative effects of severe draughts, such as dehydration, for small cats and other local species.

22 Workshops will be conducted in the local communities to raise awareness about the importance of responsible domestic fauna ownership (including dogs, cats, and poultry), the benefits of coexisting with wild cats, and the strategies to prevent human-wildlife conflicts arising from water scarcity.

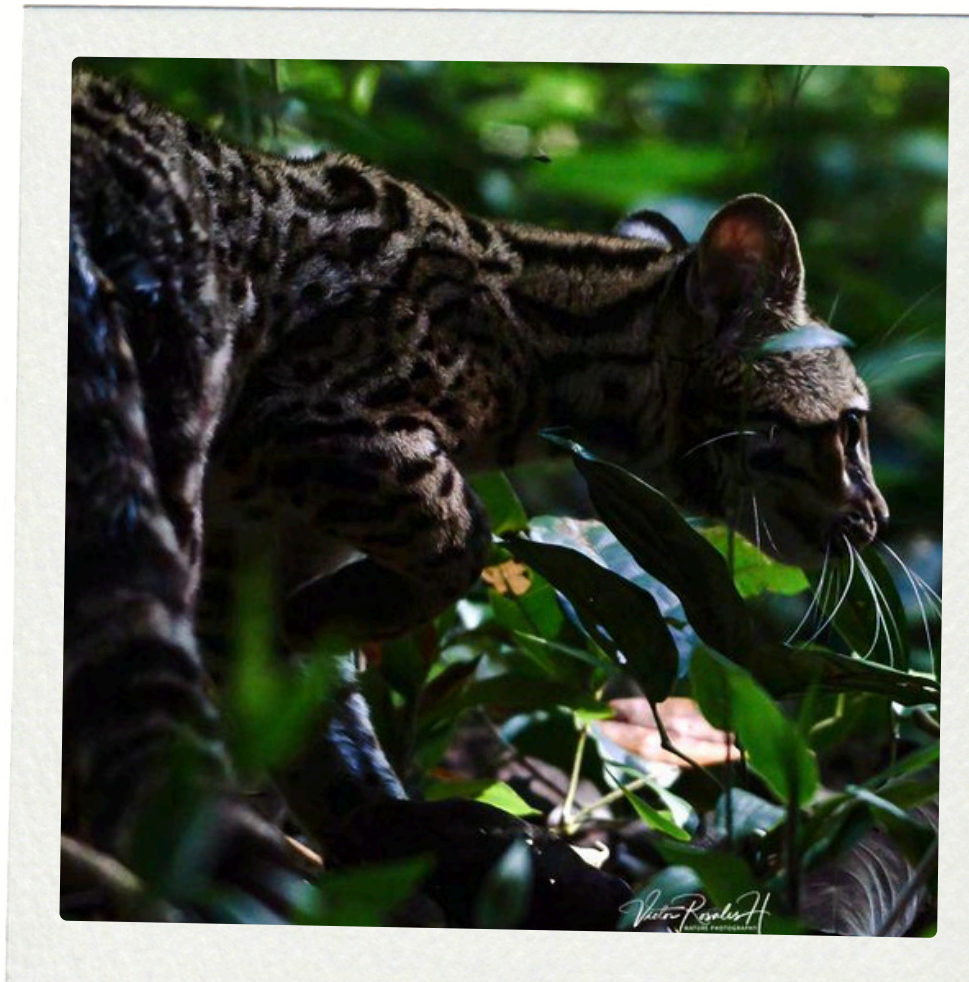
Outreach and dissemination materials will be tailored to the local context and the need to reinforce the workshop objectives. Some of these materials include developing and distributing comic books, painting murals in public spaces, and designing and placing posters in strategic communal spaces.

FOSTER COEXISTENCE

MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS FOR SMALL CATS

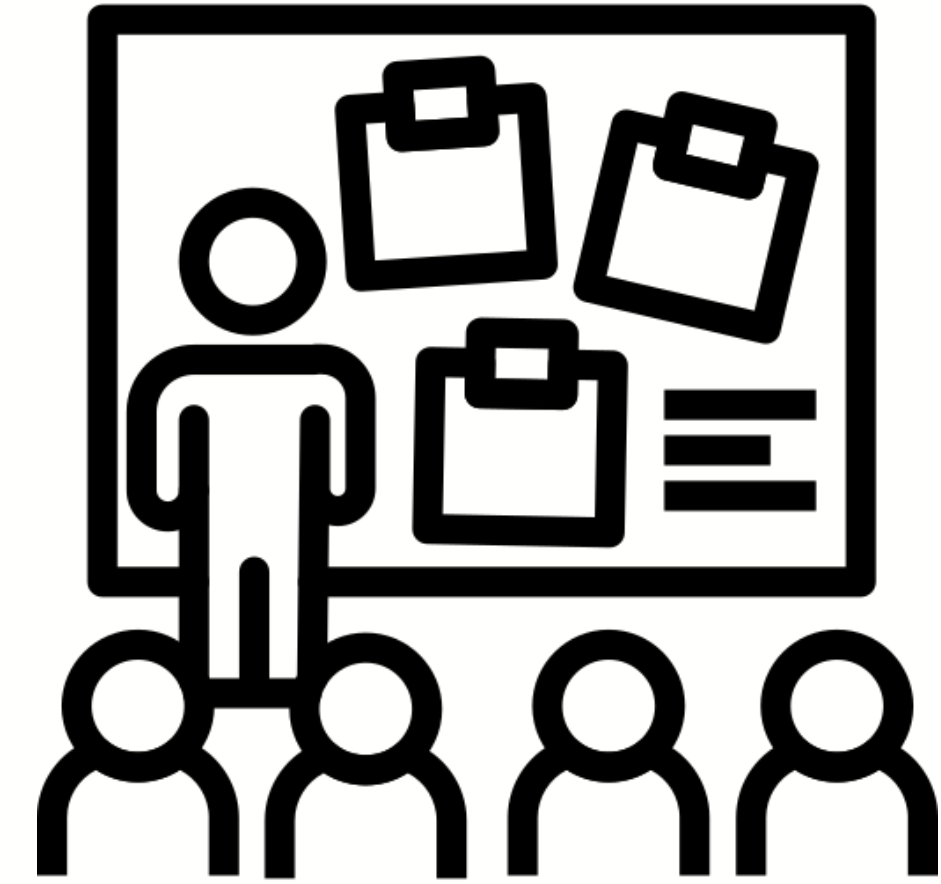
REDUCE THREATS FROM DOMESTIC FAUNA

FACILITATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



RESULT SUMMARY OCT 2024

28
Community
workshops facilitated



448
Dogs and Cats
neutered



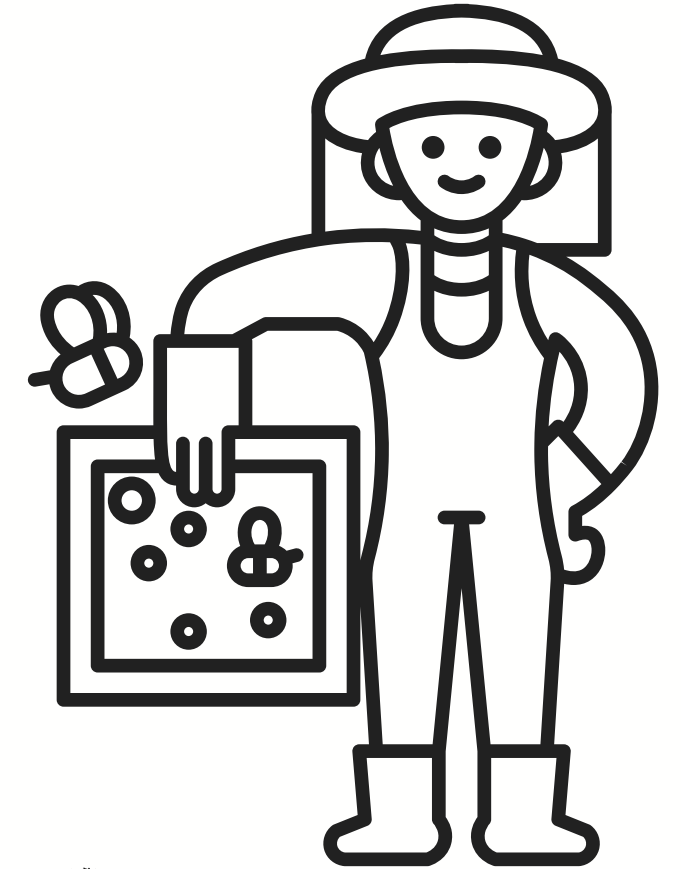
96
Dogs vaccinated against
canine distemper and
rabies



RESULT SUMMARY OCT 2024

12

Beekeeper families
benefitted from our
project in Calakmul



407

People attending our
workshops



2000

COMIC BOOKS WERE PRINTED



2

MURALS WERE PAINTED

RESULT SUMMARY OCT 2024

4

Repaired or installed
chicken coop in Chiapas



Water troughs
installed in Calakmul



Rainwater harvesting
systems installed in
Calakmul



Camera traps were installed
in Morelos and Calakmul to
monitor the projects

PROJECTS AND ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS



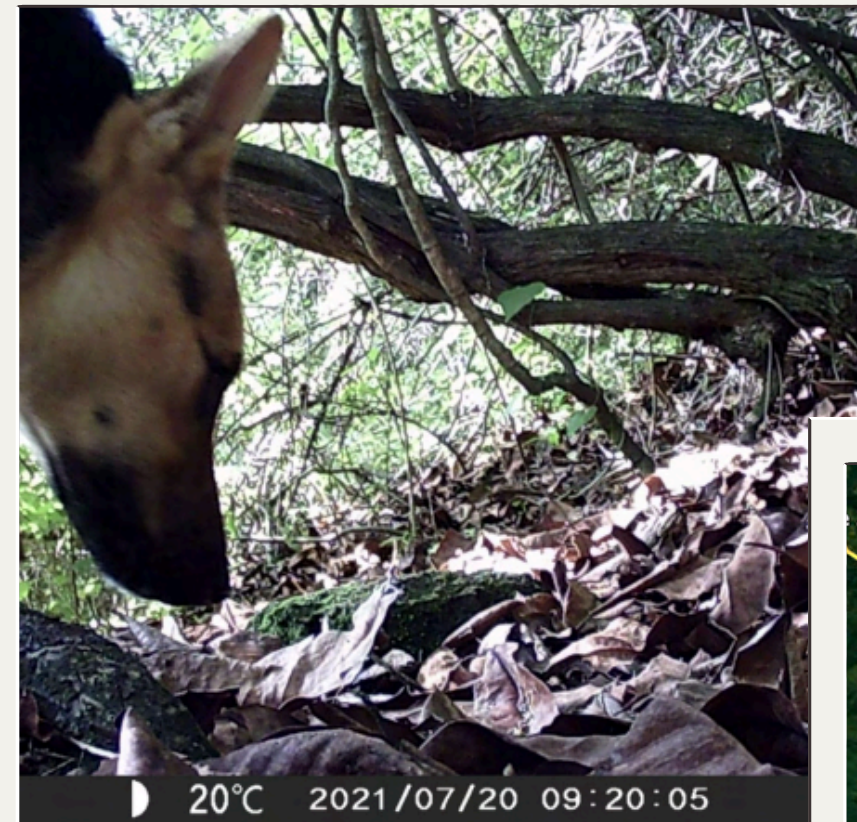
PROJECT HUELLA DE TIGRILLO

PARTNERS: Okapia and Cámara Salvaje

LEADERS: Marco Landaverde, Miguel Torres

 **Ahuatepec, Morelos**

LOCAL THREAT: Presence of dogs in areas with small wild cats (margays and bobcats). Illegal hunting.



Okapia
Conservación & Educación



CÁMARA SALVAJE

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the threats to small wild cats from free-range dogs by implementing vaccination and sterilization campaigns.
2. Facilitate workshops to promote behaviour change through responsible dog ownership.
3. Engage with the community to mainstream small cats, as well as to understand the local perception of small cats and detect if conflict is happening.
4. Create scientific baseline information of local margay populations and monitor the impact of our actions with camera traps.

ACTIVITIES

Vaccinations
Sterilization campaigns
Baseline surveys
Community workshops
Camera trap monitoring.

INDICATORS

- The number of dogs vaccinated and neutered.
- The number of dogs registered in natural protected areas.
- Number of people attending the workshops.
- Enhanced perception of small cats and native wildlife.
- Increased awareness of the importance of responsible ownership.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

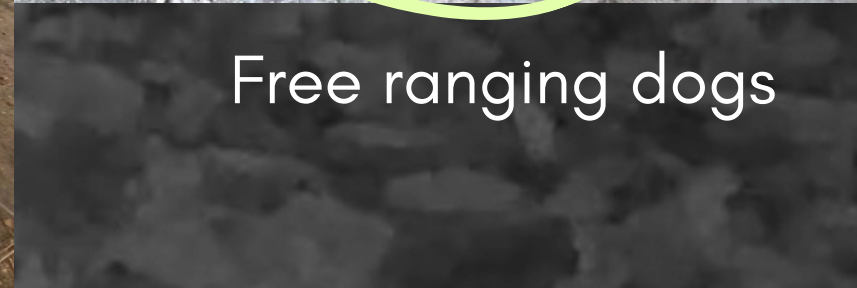
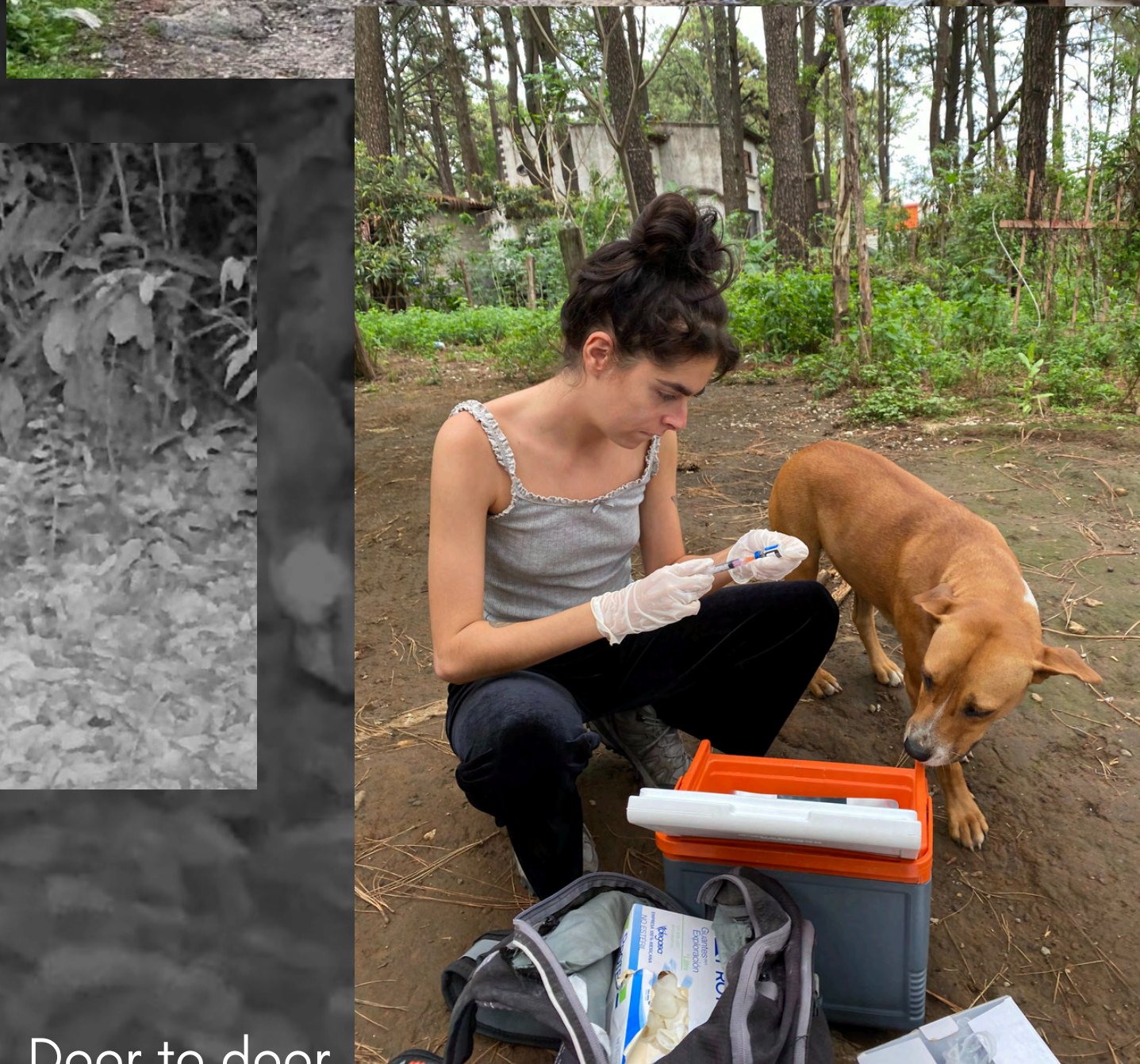
- We have given three workshops for 160 people focusing on responsible dog ownership.
- 160 dogs and 124 cats were neutered in our two free campaigns in Ahuatepec.
- 70 dogs were vaccinated against parvovirus, distemper, and rabies at the perimeter where we detected margays.
- Community monitoring with camera traps has registered more margays in the area.
- Two new margays were registered.
- We installed one mural at the local primary school.





Neutering campaigns





Door to door
vaccination campaigns

Free ranging dogs

Second new margay
register

Second new margay
register

WORKSHOPS



Objective:

- Share knowledge on local biodiversity, its importance, and the conservation work being done.
- Discuss specific threats, listen to community observations and concerns, and seek collaborative solutions.

Community Participation:

- Attended by community leaders: Comisario team, Ayudante team, Telesecundaria parent committee, and forest workers ("Ardillas").
- Supported by UAEM's psychology committee working with the Telesecundaria, the school's director, lead teachers, and local ambassadors (Don Poncho, Doña Martina).



WORKSHOPS

Nature Walk and Forest Cleanup:

- *Organized to help youth enjoy and appreciate nature, giving back with a meaningful forest cleanup as a gesture of gratitude.*

Activities:

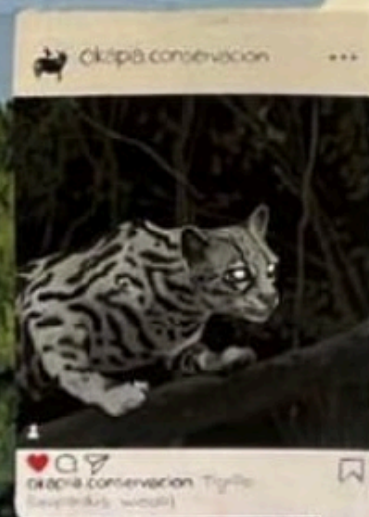
- *In addition to the walk and cleanup, a surprise activity involved setting up a camera trap in the forest behind the school with 2nd and 3rd graders.*
- *Students were introduced to this tool, which aids in understanding and conserving local wildlife.*



MURAL IN LOCAL SCHOOL

Mural
"Pequeños felinos
silvestres"

SU HOGAR, NUESTRO HOGAR



MITIGATING FELINE-HUMAN CONFLICT IN BEEKEEPING SYSTEMS IN CALAKMUL, MEXICO

LEADERS: Carlos Mauricio Delgado Martínez and Thelma Arenas Rodriguez

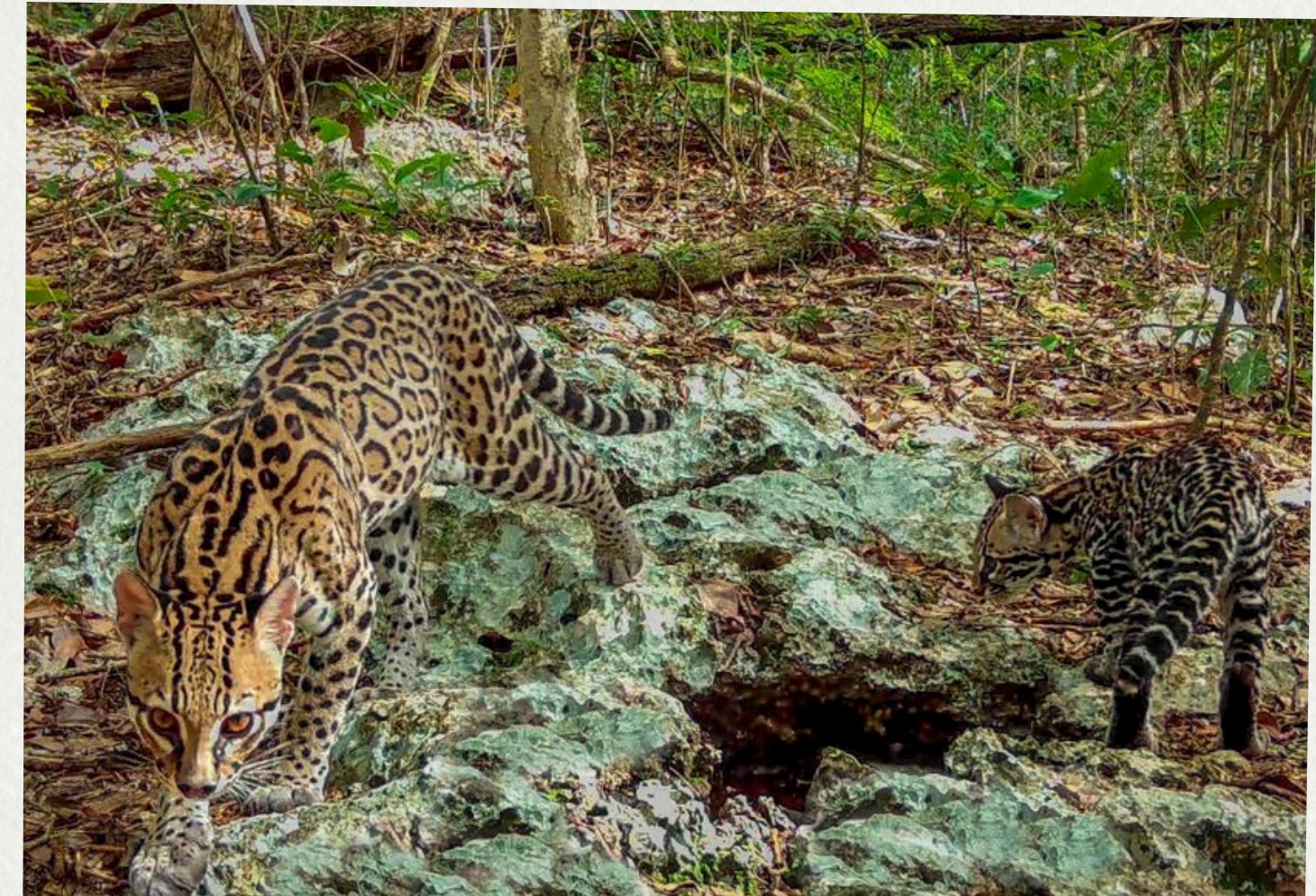
 **Calakmul, Campeche**

LOCAL THREAT: Climate change and hunting for retaliation.

JUSTIFICATION: Climate change causes severe droughts in Calakmul, drying out native wetlands and forcing small cats to seek water in nearby communities. This generates human-wildlife conflict with bee farmers. Installing artificial water fountains can help mitigate the adverse effects of droughts and facilitate coexistence, but financial aid is scarce.

OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the negative effects of severe draughts, such as dehydration, for small cats and other local species.
- Reduce human-wildlife conflicts in bee farms.
- Designed tools according to the local context and tailored to the needs of the project to support the aims of enhancing perception, increasing tolerance and reducing HWC.



ACTIVITIES

1. Installation of artificial water fountains.
2. Installation of trap cameras in the artificial fountains.
3. Applying surveys to evaluate the conflict and perception of wild cats within the community.
4. Implement workshops to enhance beekeeping techniques to reduce and prevent conflict with fauna.

INDICATORS

- The number of water fountains installed.
- Number of incidents with bee hives since water fountains were installed.
- Registers of small cats using artificial water fountains.
- Bee farmer's perception of conflict reduction.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Installation of Rainwater Harvesting Systems:

- Four out of five rainwater capturing systems have been installed.
- A rainwater collector was installed in a prioritized site based on previous feline records at a watering spot.

Installation of Drinking Stations:

- Four out of six drinking stations have been installed.
- A jaguarundi was recorded using the drinking stations for the first time.



Monitoring of New Apiaries:

- Monitoring began for two new apiaries, expanding project reach in the region.
- One apiary includes a rainwater harvesting system installed by the landowners.
- This addition benefits three new families within the project

Collaboration with Local Beekeepers:

- Agreement established with three additional beekeepers for the construction of catchment surfaces (using zinc sheet roofs).
- Installation of rainwater systems planned for the coming weeks.
- Two out of four workshops facilitated with local beekeepers.
- Ten monitoring stations with camera traps installed and managed by beekeepers.
- Painted and inaugurated one mural.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS



Wild cats using the water troughs



Carlos interviewing one of our new beekeepers



WORKSHOPS AND SURVEYS



The water troughs are also used by the bees which is convenient for the beekpeers production and keeps them engage with the project

Four cisterns we bought for the rain capturing systems



WORKSHOPS

Workshop in Conhuás, Campeche:

- Focused on making candles, lip balms, and soaps from hive-derived materials (honey, beeswax).
- High participation, especially from women and curious children.

Environmental and Economic Impact:

- Beekeeping supports conservation without deforestation, aiding in preserving small felines in Calakmul.
- Promoting hive-based products supports biodiversity and provides economic benefits for local communities.

Community Engagement:

- Participants expressed strong interest, looking forward to similar future activities.
- Awareness was raised about the link between beekeeping, conservation, and the region's iconic species.



WORKSHOPS



By collecting rainwater, we ensure they have access to fresh water year-round. This way, we protect the rainforest and support beekeepers! By providing alternative water sources away from apiaries, we minimize the chances of wild animals approaching hives in search of water, reducing the risk of attacks and losses for beekeepers. The implementation of these systems is being done with the help of beekeepers from the Conhuas community in Campeche.

RAIN WATER CAPTURING SYSTEMS



RAIN WATER CAPTURING SYSTEMS



MURAL



We created and inaugurated this mural, painted in the local primary school of Xpujil, the capital of Calakmul municipality. The mural reflects our efforts to foster coexistence with the local beekeepers.



CONSERVATION OF WILD CATS IN WESTERN MEXICO.

PARTNERS: Proyecto Jaguar A. C.

LEADER: Rodrigo Nuñez Perez

 **Jalisco, Cabo Corrientes**

LOCAL THREAT: Zoonosis and loss of natural prey due to hunting and transformation of the landscape.



Foto: Proyecto Jaguar
A.C.

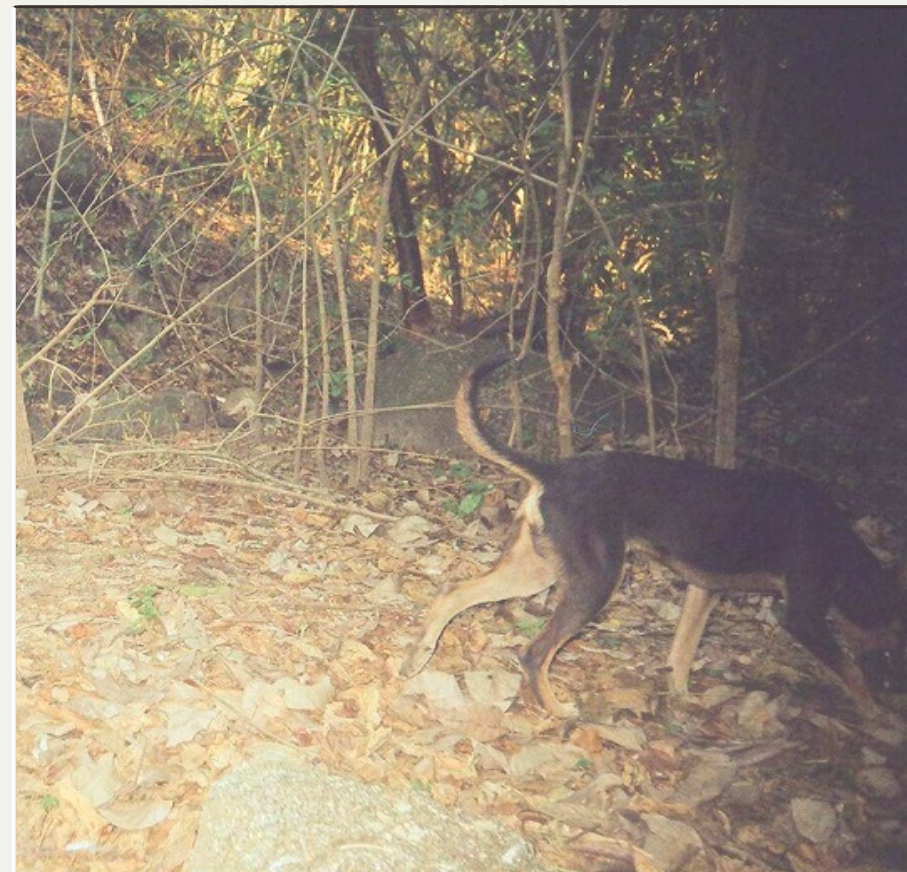


Foto: Proyecto Jaguar
A.C.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the threats to small wild cats from free-range dogs by implementing vaccination and sterilization campaigns.
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4. Create scientific baseline information of local margay populations and monitor the impact of our actions with camera traps.

ACTIVITIES

Vaccinations
Sterilization campaigns
Baseline surveys
Community workshops
Camera trap monitoring.



INDICATORS

- The number of dogs vaccinated and neutered.
- The number of dogs registered in natural protected areas.
- Number of people attending the workshops.
- Enhanced perception of small cats and native wildlife.
- Increased awareness of the importance of responsible ownership.

This picture shows one ocelot visiting a few km away from the community of el Tuito where we are implementing our project. a



These pictures show the presence of dogs in the same places where we have registers of the ocelots.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

- We neutered 42 dogs in two communities of Cabo Corrientes Jalisco.
- We also printed and gave out 500 comic books.
- The neutering campaigns were covered by the local newspaper.





5. PROJECT: "PEQUEÑOS FELINOS DE MORELOS", TEPETZINGO, MORELOS

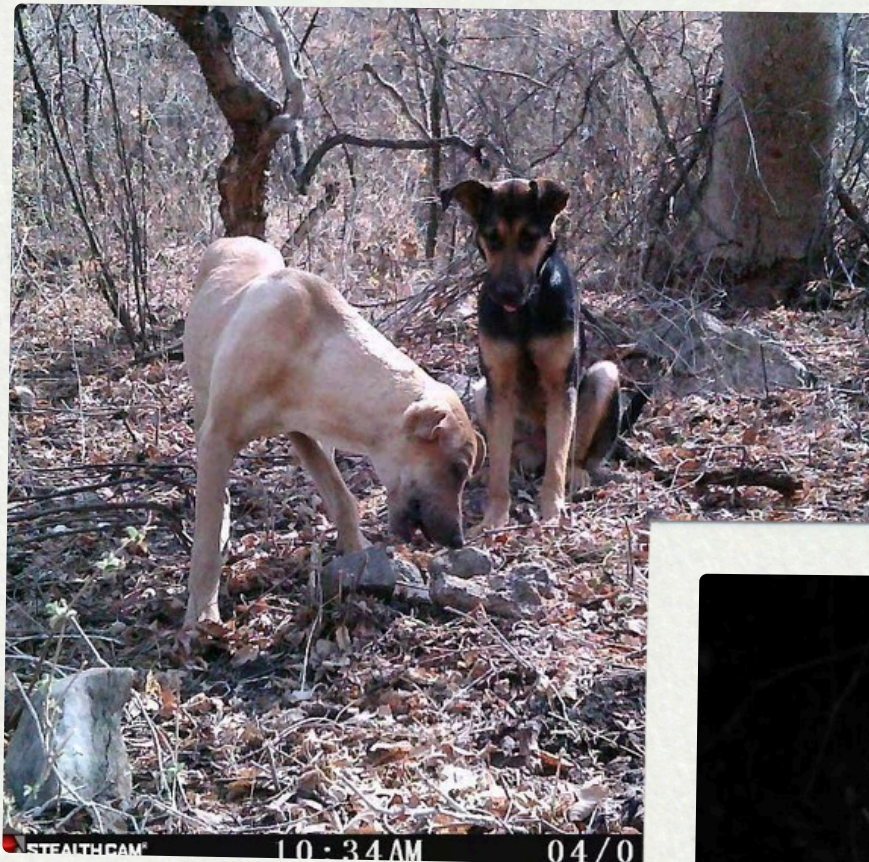
PARTNERS: COESBIO

LEADER: Mariam Weston

Tepetzingo and Sierra de Monte Negro Reserve, Morelos



Dogs are present in areas with small wild cats (margays). Illegal hunting and fires.





ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the threats to small wild cats from free-range dogs by implementing vaccination and sterilization campaigns.
2. Facilitate workshops to promote behaviour change through responsible dog ownership.
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4. Create scientific baseline information of local margay populations and monitor the impact of our actions with camera traps.

Vaccinations
Sterilization campaigns
Baseline surveys
Community workshops
Muralism
Camera trap monitoring and scientific research and reporting

INDICATORS

- The number of dogs vaccinated and neutered.
- The number of dogs registered in natural protected areas.
- Number of people attending the workshops.
- Enhanced perception of small cats and native wildlife.
- Increased awareness of the importance of responsible ownership.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

- We held three neutering campaigns in Tepetzingo and one in Tetecalita, both adjacent communities to the Sierra de Montenegro Reserve.
- One of these neutering campaigns took place at an illegal dump site, where we neutered feral dogs.
- We collected blood samples from all the dogs that we vaccinated.
- We acquired 50 vaccines against canine distemper and successfully vaccinated 26 dogs.
- We continued our school program for behavior change, promoting small cat conservation and responsible dog ownership at the primary school in Tepetzingo, benefiting over 180 children.
- As part of our outreach activities, we organized a small cat costume contest.



*Total campaigns: 4
Total of dogs Neutered: 80
Total of cats Neutered: 84*

Total of neutered animals in seven months: 164

Total of vaccinated dogs: 26

NEUTERING AND BLOOD SAMPLING IN TETECALITA



29 dogs and 59 cats were neutered



**DOOR TO DOOR VACCINATION
CAMPAIGNS**



OTHER NEUTERING CAMPAIGNS



EDUCATION PROGRAMME

FOSTERING COEXISTENCE IN CHIAPAS

*Project Leader Name:
Christian Oswaldo Aguirre Solórzano.*

*Municipality of Marqués de Comillas,
Chiapas, Mexico; in the Lacandon Jungle
Region within the Lacantún River Sub-
basin*

Detected Threats in the Area for
Small Felines:

- Hunting in retaliation for
poultry predation.

Main Activities for Project
Implementation:
Construction of anti-predation
chicken coops for the nocturnal
enclosure of poultry.



OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent and reduce retaliatory hunting of ocelots, jaguarundis and margays.
2. Assist in rescuing injured small wild cats.
3. Promote coexistence through community workshops.

INDICATORS

1. The number of chicken coops installed.
2. Presence or absence of predation.
3. Enhance the perception of small cats and increase tolerance to conflicts.
4. Number of people attending the workshops.

ACTIVITIES

- Reinforce or build chicken coops to prevent backyard birds from being preyed on by cats at night.
- Facilitate education workshops for young people in local schools and the community.
- Elaboration of outreach and dissemination materials
- Surveys will be used to measure the indicators to monitor, and evaluate the project's results and outcomes.

2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Chicken Coops Construction:

- Built two 4x4 m coops in the Ejido Boca de Chajul, each housing around 80 chickens and tailored to family needs.
- Example: Lombera Lombera family coop was divided to separate juvenile and adult birds.
- Coops are fully enclosed at ground level and overhead to prevent predators (e.g., ground-digging and climbing animals, bats, and raptors).

Additional Coop Improvements:

- Enhanced two other coops in Boca de Chajul and Flor de Marques to address high predation rates by margay, jaguarundi, opossums, and vampire bats.
- Improvements included adding mesh to uncovered areas and fully enclosing structures.

"Work was conducted in various ejidos in the Marques de Comillas region, Chiapas, adjacent to the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve."



CHICKEN COOPS



WORKSHOPS

Invitation Process:

- Invitations were delivered door-to-door, prioritizing those who had previously participated in a poultry predation diagnosis.
- Announcements were also made via community loudspeaker services before the workshop.

Workshop Activities:

- Presentation of Results: Shared key findings from the prior diagnosis.
- Identification of Loss Causes: Participants identified loss causes (predators, diseases, etc.) by placing markers on images. Frequency and intensity of losses were quantified.
- Current Prevention and Mitigation Practices: Illustrated cards were used to identify actions participants already take for damage prevention.
- Potential Prevention and Mitigation Practices: Explored feasible actions for loss reduction, with participants marking preferred and viable options on cards.
- Discussion: Open discussion on the advantages and challenges of proposed practices, allowing participants to exchange feedback.



A collage of four photographs documenting bird conservation workshops. The top-left photo shows a hand pointing to a card of a 'Murciélago vampiro' (Vampire bat) on a table. The top-right photo shows three blue cards hanging from a string with handwritten text about bird safety. The bottom-left photo shows a hand holding a blue balloon over a table with bird cards. The bottom-right photo shows a hand pointing to a card of a 'Murciélago vampiro' on a table.



WORKSHOP'S FINDINGS

We conducted three workshops in Boca de Chajul, Reforma Agraria, and Galacia, with the highest attendance in Boca de Chajul. A total of **37 people attended**.

Key Findings on Causes of Losses:

- Identified causes include wild and domestic predators, diseases, and other factors.
- Disease-related losses tend to occur seasonally, while predator-related losses happen frequently.

Current Practices for Loss Reduction:

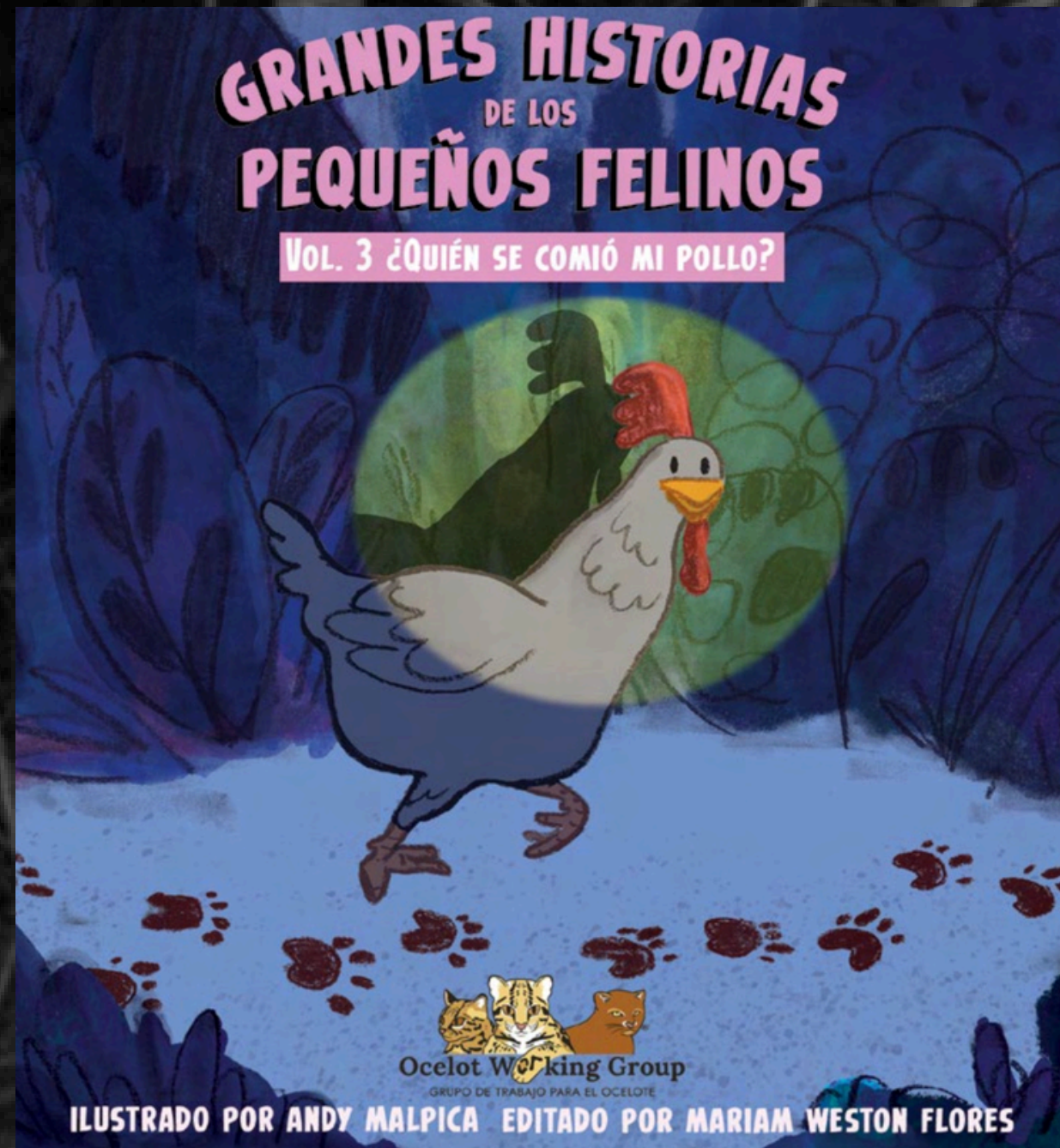
- Common practices: clearing brush, disposing of dead birds (burying/burning), and predator hunting.
- Clearing brush is mandated by community agreements to prevent small felines from approaching residences.
- Disposal of dead birds helps prevent disease spread and reduces attraction for scavenging predators.
- Concern noted over predator hunting as a primary solution.

Proposed Practices:

- Emphasis on disease prevention: vaccinations, enclosure cleaning, and care for sick birds.



NEW COMIC BOOK



We produced a new comic book in collaboration with Andy Malpica, featuring chicken predation, the reasons why it happens, and solutions to prevent it and coexist with small cats. We printed 1,000 copies.



VISIT FROM DR. JIM SANDERSON TO OUR PROJECTS IN MEXICO

We had the incredible honor of hosting Dr. Jim Sanderson, founder and director of the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation, at our conservation projects in southern Mexico and Morelos.

During his visit:

- Morelos: We showcased our initiatives in neutering and vaccinating dogs to reduce threats to local wildlife.*
- Mahahual: We visited Victor's work preparing chicken coops and noted significant progress, with positive feedback from families who reported no predation attacks since the coops were installed.*
- Calakmul: We explored our rainwater harvesting systems and innovative self-filling drinkers.*



VISIT FROM DR. JIM SANDERSON TO OUR PROJECTS IN MEXICO





ANNUAL DRAWING CONTEST

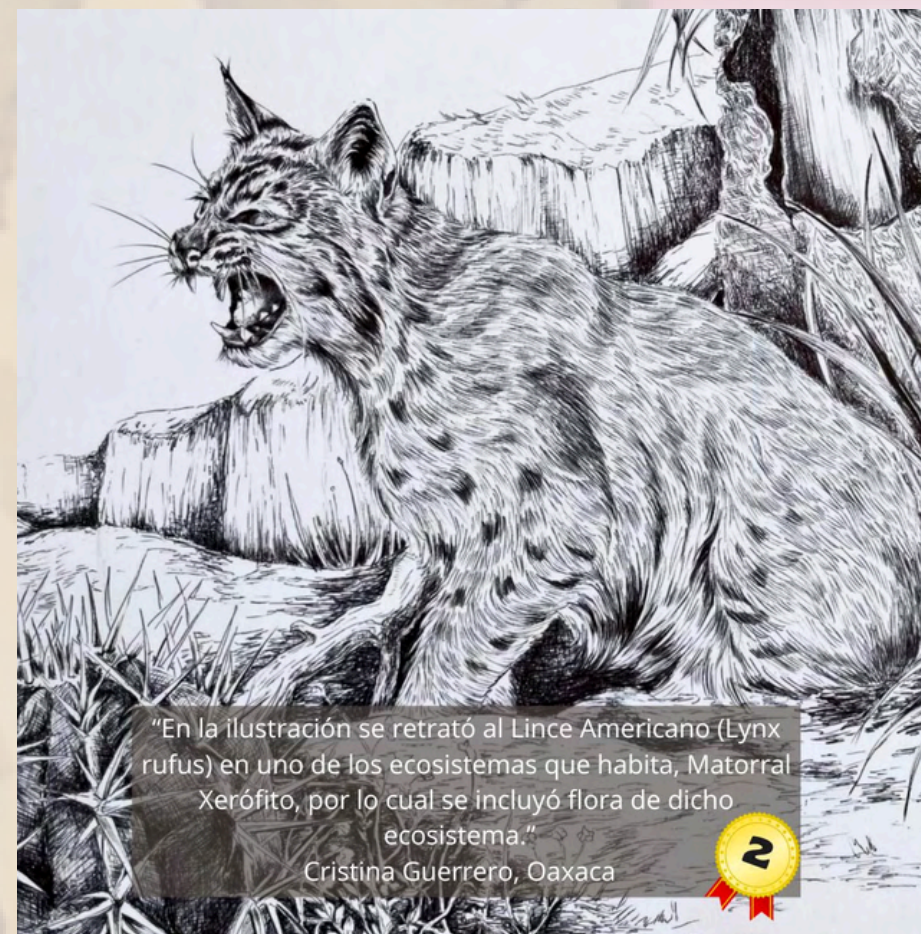
ANNUAL DRAWING CONTEST

- *We received over 100 entries, each showcasing incredible talent, creativity, and powerful conservation messages that deeply moved us.*

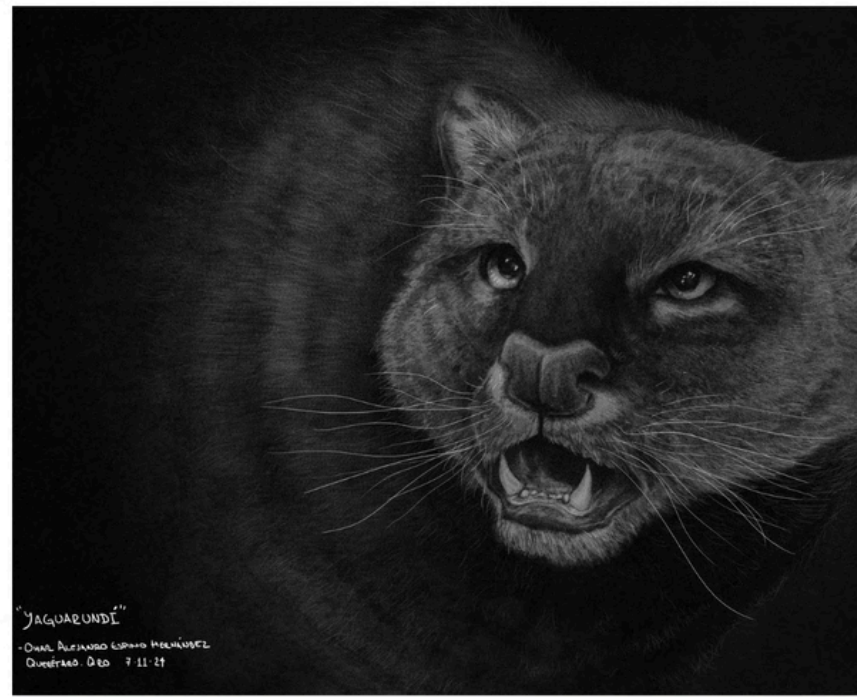
Winners:

- *First Place: Ángel García (Sonora)*
- *Second Place: Cristina Guerrero (Oaxaca)*
- *Third Place: Libertad Valdovinos*

These winning pieces stood out for their technique, creativity, and impactful conservation messages.



ANNUAL DRAWING CONTEST



Jaguarundi,
Omar Alejandro Espino Hernández,
Querétaro



La niña sostiene al ocelote con fuerza, como si fuera lo único real en ese mundo desmoronado. Su otra mano, alzada, crea una barrera de energía, algo que nunca ves en las calles, pero ahí está, brillante, contra el aire seco y el suelo partido. El terreno es solo un montón de terrones rotos, igual que todo lo que vamos dejando. Ella, pequeña y decidida, parece un milagro en medio del desastre. No una heroína, pero casi, como si con su amor por ese animal pudiera desafiar al mundo que se cae a pedazos.

Rafael Vázquez Orozco, Jalisco.



Esta obra vemos a un cachorro de Yaguarundi, a pesar de ser tan joven forma parte de una especie amenazada, corre el peligro de desaparecer, para ser olvidado.

Elias Uriel Torres, Jalisco

We received over 100 submissions from more than 20 states, and the quality of the artwork was truly impressive. In previous years, this contest was exclusively for children, with participation consistently ranging between 100-200 entries annually. Additionally, to amplify engagement this year, we partnered with four influencers in Mexico. Their posts encouraging participation garnered significant attention and positive feedback, helping spread the conservation message even further.

RESOURCES AND PRESS:



FeaturesVideosPodcastsSpecialsArticlesShorts

Donate

Elusive jaguarundi inspires biologists to share data across Latin America



RUTH KAMNITZER

30 MAY 2024CENTRAL AMERICAALMOST FAMOUS ANIMALS

Comments

Share article



Mongabay.



THE PURR-FECT PARTNERSHIP: CREATIVE OUTREACH FOR WILD CAT CONSERVATION

Join us for an inspiring webinar on the transformative power of storytelling and interdisciplinary collaboration in conservation. We'll explore the art of designing communication tools that not only raise awareness but also help drive coexistence and conservation. Also Discover Kaab the Jaguar - a children's book, comic series - Big Stories of Small Wild Cats, and more!

Our hosts for this webinar are:

Mariam Weston: Sustainable Development Engineer with an MPhil in Conservation Leadership from the University of Cambridge and Coordinator of the Ocelot Working Group.

Andy Malpica: Freelance illustrator based in Mexico City. She recently completed an MA in Children's book illustration from Cambridge School of Art.

Isabel Serrano: Biologist and PhD candidate at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur in Mexico.

WEBINAR

29TH NOV 2024
2PM GMT

with **Mariam Weston,**
Andy Malpica &
Isabel Serrano





InicioGobiernoLa Tierra que nos UnePrensaTrámites y ServiciosAtención Ciudadana

Apoga Secretaría de Desarrollo Sustentable acciones para proteger la fauna silvestre en la Sierra de Montenegro

Fotonota 0181
Emiliano Zapata, Morelos; 05 de diciembre de 2024
DGCS del Gobierno del Estado de Morelos



Morelos government

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Participatory research and technological tools for global insights on the jaguarundi

MARIAM WESTON FLORES^{1,2*}, JOSÉ D. RAMÍREZ-FERNÁNDEZ^{2,3} AND ARTURO CASO³

We conducted a questionnaire using the Participatory Research approach on Google Forms to collect information and data on the jaguarundi *Herpailurus yagouaroundi* for the IUCN Red List Assessment RLA. We collected information on ecological and conservation aspects from 69 participants from 18 countries, covering most of the species' range and gathering novel information. The method proved to be efficient in collecting the needed data for the RLA. Although this technique will be improved over time and with more experience, we encourage researchers dealing with similar situations to consider this method as an additional source to obtain data from species where scientific or published information is scarce.



Fig. 1. The implemented methodology was used for the IUCN RLA of the jaguarundi (Photo A. Caso).

One of the most difficult tasks in conservation strategies on focal species with a broad distribution range is to obtain data from researchers who work in different areas or countries within this range. However, current technology provides more effective ways to gather unpublished data from different people and countries quickly, effectively, and inexpensively. In addition, opportunistic data, if properly assessed, provides valuable information from areas or species where there is scarce scientific research (van Strien et al. 2013, Mass et al. 2015). Thus, accessing opportunistic data through simple, well-designed questionnaires could be a way to compile it.

For the re-assessment of the jaguarundi (Fig. 1) for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, we implemented a Participatory Research PR approach aiming to collaborate with as many actors (e.g. researchers, practitioners, citizen scientists, and community monitors) that could contribute relevant data to enhance and increase the information on the species' distribution and population size, but also novel information on its ecology, threats and conservation needs. Therefore, PR involves designs, methods, and frameworks that use systematic inquiry in direct collaboration with individuals who are not necessarily trained in research, but represent the interests of the research focus (Vaughn & Jacquez 2020). Hence, PR naturally fits into Red List Assessment RLA processes as those require the par-

Cat news

Conservation Optimism

RESOURCES AND PRESS:

Website:

<https://ocelotworkinggroup.wixsite.com/website>

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/ocelot_wg/

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wDcHJJuRvU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lCMvP4uL94>



Printed press in Vallarta Opina



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PROYECTO JAGUAR AC



CÁMARA SALVAJE



Comisión Estatal de Biodiversidad, Morelos.

Andy Malpica

Ilustración



TIERRA ALTA



BEHAVIORAL ECONOMIST



V. I. D. A.

Vida, Derecho del Animal A.C.



OUR FINANCIAL SPONSORS



Thanks to Mr. Jon Ayers & Barrett Foundation

IN KIND SPONSORS





Ocelot Working Group

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Thank you!
¡Gracias!