## PAMPAS CAT WORKING EROUP







## Thankfull for another inspirational year

As we look back on another year of unwavering commitment to Pampas cat conservation, we are filled with gratitude and excitement. The Pampas Cat Working Group continues to expand its efforts, with ongoing projects in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. This year, we celebrate the launch of several new initiatives, strengthening our mission to protect small wild cats across South America.

While the five species of Pampas cats remain at the heart of our work, our focus extends to all small wild cats and the communities that share their landscapes. Many of these communities face economic hardships and live near fragile ecosystems, where human-wildlife conflict is a daily reality. Our conservation strategies address these challenges by integrating solutions that protect both wildlife and livelihoods, from building secure chicken coops to mitigating roadkill and reducing disease transmission.

In this report, we continue to highlight the dedication and impact of our partners, who work tirelessly to drive conservation forward. Many of them conduct this work as volunteers, so we really appreciate their effort! Though we cannot capture every story, we aim to showcase the passion behind each initiative and recognize the individuals leading the way.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, collaborators, and supporters who make this work possible. A special acknowledgment goes to Jim Sanderson, whose enduring leadership and vision continue to inspire and strengthen our conservation network. Thanks to all of you, we are creating meaningful change, one project, one community, and one species at a time. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure a future for small wild cats.

Cindy Hurtado & Alvaro García
Coordinators
Pampas Cat Working Group

## Contents

•	Where we work	4
•	Pampas cat Cheat sheet	5
•	Snapshot in Nine Lives: Our Key Highlights	6
•	Conservation activities in numbers	7
	Chicken coops to the rescue of Pampas cats and other small carnivores	9
•	Reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions is a process with many players	13
•	Exploring small wild cat habitats	17
•	Vaccinations and neutering are keeping the forest disease free	21
•	Small wild cat conservation is about people	24
•	Protecting critical Desert Pampas cat habitat in Peru	29
•	A united effort protecting Pampas and Geoffroy's Cats	30
•	Pampas cats and Tiger cats: An integrated conservation alliance	33
•	Bringing together small wild cat conservationists from Latin America	34
•	In action!	35
•	In the news!	43
•	Our donors, partners, and local collaborators	47
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## Where we work



### Pampas cat Cheat sheet

Look for the beautiful spots Find the black boots

Spotless fur







Desert Pampas cat Leopardus garleppi

Savanna Pampas cat Leopardus braccatus

Pajeros cat Leopardus pajeros





Colocolo cat

Leopardus colocola

#### Faint lined pattern



Pampa cat Leopardus munoai





## Snapshot in Nine Lives: Our Key Highlights

- 2 new projects joined the PCWG
- 3 projects actively surveying unexplored forests
- 6 projects working on conflict reduction
- 8 projects working on roadkill prevention
- 8 projects protecting wild cats from diseases through dog and cat vaccinations and neuterings
- **10** projects training new conservationists
- 12 projects working on environmental education activities
- 13 and community engagement
- 16 projects monitoring the progress of their interventions through camera trapping

## Conservation activities in numbers along 2024



273



Hen houses builded

Young chickens delivered



Dogs and cats neutered

1295



Dogs and cats vaccinated

35



Wildlife crossing sings installed

1685



Kids and adults on workshops



## Conservation activities in numbers along 2024

27

132



Talks to the general public and scientists Camera traps installed



Automated artificial water ponds monitored 10



Fox Lights delivered

195

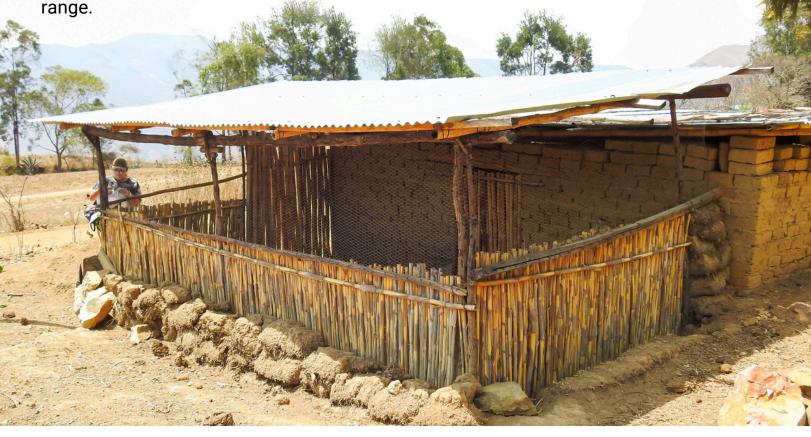
Rural families committed to wild cats conservation



# Chicken coops to the rescue of Pampas cats and other small carnivores



For rural communities, chickens are not just a source of protein but also an important source of income. However, how they are kept **can determine whether poultry farming is a wildlife-friendly activity or a serious threat to carnivores.** To tackle this challenge, conservationists from the Pampas Cat Working Group have made chicken-coop building the foundation of conflict mitigation efforts across Pampas cat distribution



In northern Peru, **Zoila Vega** from the **Peruvian Desert Cat Project** has spent the past three years working with rural communities to build secure chicken coops. So far, she have reached six villages and supported 76 families. This approach **goes beyond simply constructing coops**, it includes training families to recognize common poultry diseases and gradually introducing chicken breeds better suited for enclosed spaces.



Looking ahead, the project aims to expand into more villages within key Pampas cat habitats. After reaching 100 families, the next step will be to introduce **small-scale business** training to help communities establish cooperatives that generate additional income.





In Ecuador, the **Japu Foundation**, led by Cristian Barros, has adapted this strategy, working with 10 families over the past year to build chicken coops, provide new chickens, and train communities in proper poultry care. Follow-up assessments showed that eight of these families **continue to keep their chickens safely** enclosed, with zero losses reported









In southern Peru, **Pro Carnívoros** led by Garbiel Llerena has been actively working to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and promote carnivore conservation. But they are also facing conflict with pumas. This year, they trained 107 local authorities, park rangers, and police officers in **conflict management strategies** and carnivore identification, strengthening local capacity to protect wildlife.



To support ranchers facing livestock predation by carnivores, Pro Carnívoros has provided 10 Fox Lights, a non-lethal deterrent designed to keep predators away from enclosures at night. Additionally, they assisted ranchers in vaccinating and deworming 923 cattle and alpacas, as well as 12 livestock guardian dogs.

Thanks to these efforts, **no further attacks** have been reported within nocturnal enclosures, demonstrating the effectiveness of these mitigation strategies. As a result, ranchers have begun to **appreciate and respect carnivores**, recognizing that coexistence is possible when proper conflict-prevention measures are in place.



# Reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions is a lengthy process with many players



In Peru, **Pedro Heredia**, founder of the Milpuj Conservation Area, **has taken the initiative** to tackle the issue of wildlife-vehicle collisions. A few years ago, he created an informative poster highlighting this problem and installed a few road signs near his lodge. With the support of the PCWG, he then installed **10 additional road signs to alert drivers about Pampas cats**. Additionally, he designed reflective bumper stickers that read "Slow down for them," featuring images of the species most commonly affected by vehicle collisions in Amazonas Region.

Inspired in Pedros's ideas, the **Peruvian Desert Cat Project** has been monitoring roadkill hotspots
since 2020, identifying six critical areas. In 2024,
they **installed nine wildlife crossing signs** and
engaged 135 people in road safety initiatives.

Additionally, the PDC formed an important alliance with the local government of Madre de Dios to improve roadkill reporting. They partnered with the municipality to develop educational materials featuring local wildlife and conducted outreach activities, particularly targeting drivers. Next steps include installing more road signs and assessing the feasibility of canopy bridges where necessary.



## ATROPHIAMENTO

Una nueva amenaza para la fauna en el Perú

Está demostrado científicamente que el atropellamiento de fauna contribuye a la disminución de la población de muchas especies amenazadas, las cuales son importantes para el mantenimiento de los bosques y los ecosistemas.

Reporta enviando una fotografía del animal atropellado junto con la ubicación WhatsApp o una referencia del lugar.



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Tu reporte ayuda a identificar los puntos críticos y las especies más afectadas, para poder proponer estrategias que protejan a la fauna silvestre del Perú.















In Chile, **Con Garra** leaders Melanie Kieser and Patricio Muñoz have made remarkable progress in wildlife-roadkill mitigation, securing **partnerships with three government agencies**. Thanks to these collaborations, they have installed 12 Pampas cat road signs and an additional 67 road signs about other wild felids in Chile. Their **"Slow for Wildlife" compaign** has gained national attention, being



All of these efforts in Peru and Chile have required collaboration with municipalities, road designers, communities, students, transport companies, and conservationists. Depending on the location, some signs can be installed quickly, while in other cases, obtaining permits and approvals has taken more than six months. Each sign that goes up tells a unique story—a testament to persistence, partnership, and the ongoing fight to prevent wildlife loss on South America's roads





## Exploring small wild cat habitats

Our partners are constantly searching for new Pampas cat populations, especially in areas with information gaps. Alongside these efforts, we are also identifying key threats to develop conservation activities.

In central Peru, Renzo Ojeda from the Peruvian Desert Cat Project set up camera traps in Calipuy National Sanctuary, a protected area in the central Andes of Peru. The cameras confirmed the presence of Desert Pampas cats, though no Andean cats were detected, a species the team hopes to document in future surveys.











In Bolivia, Viviana Albarracín from **Yukumari Conservation Program** is currently conducting camera-trap surveys and community interviews in Santa Cruz. While results are still pending, Paola Nogales from the **Bolivian Felids Research Programme** recorded a Savanna Pampas cat at the Ecological Research Center "Chiquitos", an area within the Chiquitano Dry Forest, one of Bolivia's most endangered ecosystems. Unfortunately, another Savanna Pampas cat was found as roadkill in the San Borja community, Beni Region. Across Bolivia, road collisions and free-ranging dogs have emerged as significant threats to this species.









In Paraguay, we launched a pilot distribution assessment in the Humid Chaco ecosystem, an endangered dry forest threatened by fragmentation. Partnering with a local family led by **Chiara Correa**, whose owns 4200 hectares of land used for cattle ranching, but with **an interest in conservation**, we installed 10 camera traps to monitor wildlife diversity, focusing on the Savanna Pampas cat. The cameras captured **jaguars**, **pumas**, **ocelots**, **and jaguarundis**, demonstrating the area's rich biodiversity.



However, after four months of monitoring, no Savanna
Pampas cats were detected.
Despite this, more than 20 species of medium- to large-sized mammals were documented, highlighting the ecological importance of this fragmented landscape. Our next steps include assessing local threats and advocating for legal protection of the remaining forested areas.





# Vaccinations and neutering are keeping the forest disease free



All our members recognize the impact of humans on the planet. However, in South America, the negligence to which people treat their "best friends", is causing dogs and cats to negatively impact wildlife.

Because of the generalized problem of free-ranging and domestic dogs and cats, most of our members have implemented vaccinations and neutering campaigns as a method to reduce pet-related diseases in wild populations.



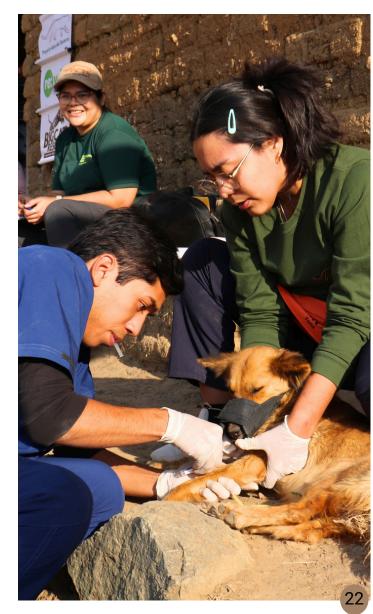
Vaccinations for dogs are relatively straightforward, once a dog is vaccinated, it returns to its owner with no follow-up needed until its second dose, if necessary. However, **neutering poses a bigger challenge**. Surgery and post-operative care require additional resources, which can be difficult in rural communities where pet health is often not a priority. This year, our partners focused on piloting neutering campaigns and finding effective ways to safely neuter dogs in these areas.





In Ecuador, **Japu Foundation used a mobile clinic** to neuture 71 dogs and 29 female cats. Alongside sterilization efforts, they vaccinated 671 dogs against rabies and distemper in six towns during 2024, reducing disease risks in both domestic and wild animals.

In northern Peru, the Peruvian Desert Cat (PDC) Project partnered with the Illescas Reserve Zone to vaccinate 75 dogs and sterilize 16 female dogs in the reserve's buffer zone. This initiative is part of a broader goal to vaccinate and sterilize over 100 dogs in Cajamarca and Piura Regions. The PDC project also expanded these efforts to San Felipe town, ensuring that the same communities benefiting from chicken coops also received support to manage their dog populations.



In **Chile**, Con Garra and Colocolo Project are also working to reduce disease transmission from domestic animals to wildlife. **Con Garra** vaccinated 131 dogs and 71 cats and neutered 10 cats in rural communities near Pampas cat habitat. They even secured support from a mining company to expand their campaigns. Meanwhile, the **Colocolo Project** vaccinated 200 dogs and sterilized 52 pets in Vilches Alto, a town bordering a protected area.





In Bolivia, the **Bolivian Felids Research Programme** reached an important milestone by conducting the first vaccination and deworming campaign for domestic dogs and cats in the **Chiquitano Dry Forest**. This area is home to indigenous communities and seven species of felids, including the Savanna Pampas cat.



All the projects also collaborated with local municipalities, increasing their reach and utilizing schools as surgery venues, improving access to sterilization procedures. These interventions took place in communities near forests, where reports of sick dogs entering conservation areas highlight the urgent need for action.

## Small wild cat conservation is about people

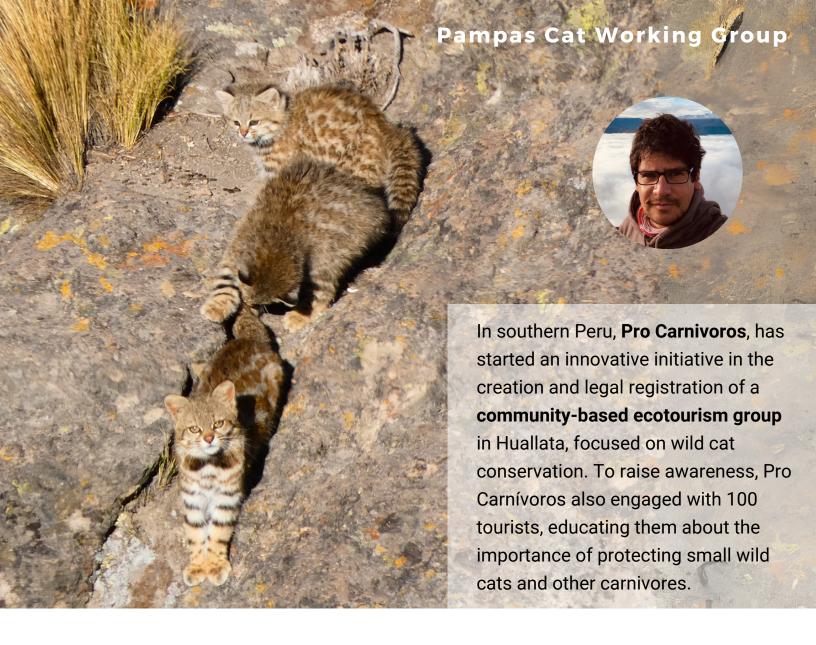


Gone are the days when isolated researchers worked alone with notebooks and ideas to protect a species. With biodiversity loss accelerating, saving even a handful of species now requires a collective effort. **Conservation is most effective when it empowers communities**, addressing their needs and equipping them with the skills to tackle conservation challenges.

One inspiring example is the Quechua Women for Conservation Group, which has completed four murals depicting their deep connection and commitment to protecting small wild cats. Also, their expertise in weaving with alpaca wool led them to create handmade stuffed Pampas and Adenan cats and fabric bags for sale, merging traditional crafts with conservation efforts. Looking ahead, they plan to build an interpretation center in the Andean town of Licapa, Ayacucho Region.







While scouting for viewpoints for the ecotourism project, the team had remarkable wildlife encounters. They were thrilled to observe a female **Desert Pampas cat with two kittens**, followed just days later by the sighting of a female **Andean cat with her kitten**. These sightings highlight the potential for sustainable wildlife tourism and reinforce the importance of protecting these rare and elusive species.





Beyond rural communities, our partners also engage with urban audiences. For example, the Peruvian Desert Cat Project participated in **Expo Gato 2024**. Now in its fourth year at the event, the project used this massive platform (with over 13,500 attendees in Lima) to educate cat enthusiasts about Pampas cats, the threats they face, responsible pet ownership, and the importance of pet vaccinations and neutering.









Environmental education is another powerful tool our partners use to foster conservation awareness. In Chile, the Colocolo Project has successfully launched the "Colocolo Camp," an initiative that takes children to natural habitats where Colocolo Cats live. In 2024, schoolchildren from Vilches Alto, a town next to Altos de Lircay National Reserve, learned about small wild cats, conservation threats, and field research techniques like camera trapping. The experience was enriched by a conversation with a local rancher, who shared his perspective on coexisting with wild carnivores.

Similarly, Con Garra actively involves local communities in a variety of creative conservation activities. Their efforts include training school teachers on threat mitigation, painting murals to inspire environmental stewardship, training future engineers to install wildlife road signs, organizing a wild cat sound imitation contest, speaking with mining companies about reducing their impact on wildlife, among others.

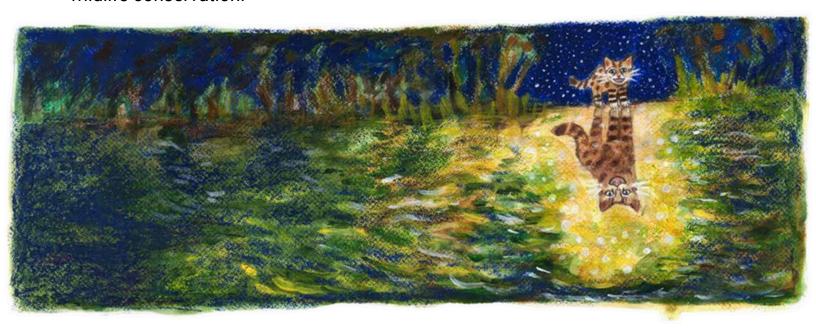


# MISHO EL GATITO QUE NO CONOCES MANA RIQSISQAYKI MICHICHA SWECF BISSAT

#### Pampas Cat Working Group

In Peru, Pedro Heredia from Milpuj
Conservation Area, takes a creative
approach by crafting an illustrated
storybook for children titled "Misho,
the kitten you fon't know", available in
both Spanish and Quechua. This
heartwarming tale follows Misho's
journey and highlights the threats
faced by Pampas cats. The book
serves as an engaging tool to educate
children about the challenges these
felines encounter, fostering early
conservation values.

We are pleased to share that **one thousand books** have been printed and distributed to some PCWG partners. We hope these books serve as valuable tools in fostering **environmental education and inspire** meaningful conversations about wildlife conservation.



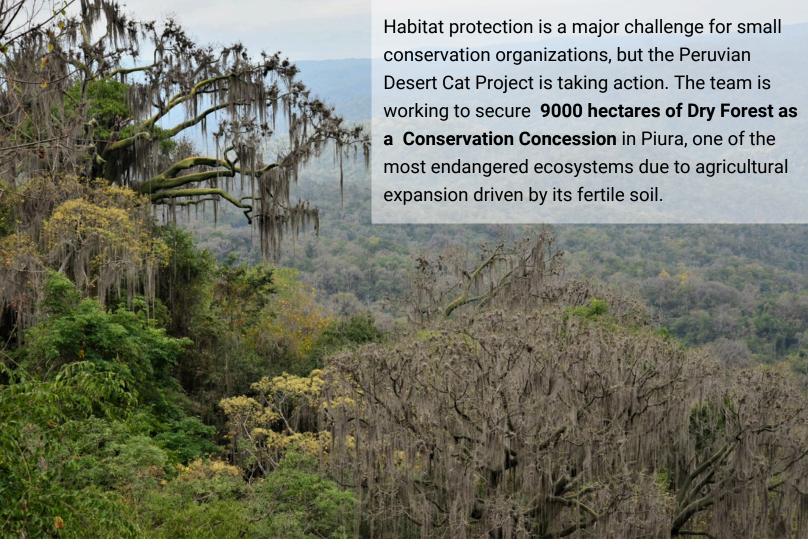
 ${\rm i}$ Qué susto tan grande! Pero Misho que era valiente, se repuso pronto y siguió caminando.

Por fin llegaron a la orilla. Parado frente al agua abrió la boca para ver sus flamantes colmillos. ¡Eran preciosos! ¡Mancharichiwanchis! Ichaqa Mishoqa allinta qharichakuspa puririllan.

Mayu patanman aswan chayarunku. Unuq chinpanpi allinta sayaykuspa, siminta kichayrukuspa waqra kirunkukunata qhawarirukun. ¡Ima munay kasqanta!

## Protecting critical Desert Pampas cat habitat in Peru





This area is a critical habitat for the **Desert Pampas cat** and other native and endemics species, making its protection vital for biodiversity conservation. The PDC Project is currently **awaiting government approval** to begin consultations with local stakeholders and develop a strategic plan to ensure long-term conservation within the concession.



#### A united effort protecting Pampas and Geoffroy's Cats

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In Argentina and southern Brazil, members of the Geoffroy's Cat Working Group are actively working to also study and protect the Pajeros and Pampa cat, implementing research and conservation strategies across different regions.



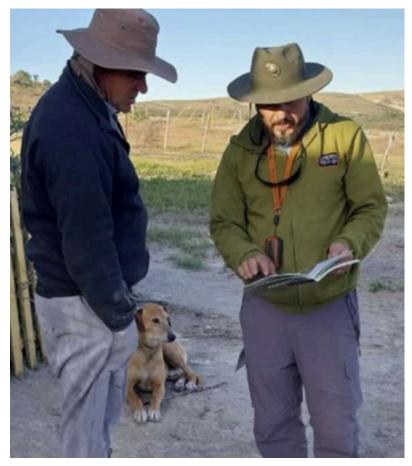


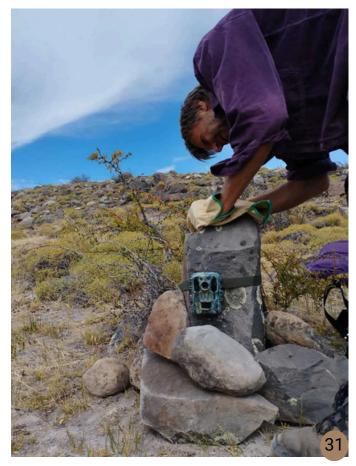


In Mendoza, Soledad Albanese, leader of the Felinos de Tierras Secas project, is tackling multiple threats through a comprehensive approach. In collaboration with local institutions and government agencies, her team conducts vaccination and neutering campaigns for dogs and cats while also leading workshops on responsible **pet ownership** and zoonosis prevention. Additionally, they are installing wildlife crossing signs to reduce roadkill incidents and engaging schoolchildren and adults in environmental education initiatives.

Further south, in Patagonia, Mauro Lucherini and his team at the **Patagonian Cats Project** are using camera traps across vast landscapes to study the distribution, abundance, and threats affecting Pajeros cats (*L. pajeros*), Geoffroy's cats, and other carnivores. Their work extends beyond research—they are **engaging with ranchers to understand human-carnivore** conflicts and exploring ways to promote coexistence. Additionally, their outreach includes **educational workshops** for children, fostering an early appreciation for the importance of small wild cats in the ecosystem.









In southern Brazil, Flavia Tirelli, coordinator of the **Geoffroy's Cat Working Group**, along with Marina Favarini and Felipe Peters from **Felinos do Pampa**, is leading efforts to conserve the Geoffroy's Cat and Pampa Cat (*L. munoai*).

To address poultry predation, they are building and reinforcing chicken coops in local communities. Recognizing road mortality as a another threat, they have also begun installing wildlife crossing signs and billboards about these two species.

Additionally, they are tackling disease transmission from domestic pets to wildlife by organizing **vaccination**, **deworming**, **and sterilization campaigns** in towns near forest patches and protected areas.





Understanding that community engagement is key to conservation, they conduct environmental education workshops for schoolchildren and have partnered with a local community of artisans, ensuring that conservation efforts are both sustainable and inclusive.

Flavia also published a comic book titled "Pampinha, the Power of Invisibility".

This story is about a Pampa cat that aims to inspire children to value and protect wildlife for future generations.





lasting solutions.

Across Latin America, conservationists from different Working Groups are uniting under a shared vision, adapting and scaling up these proven strategies to protect all small wild cats. Every action, from empowering local communities to monitoring with camera traps, strengthens our collective impact. Together, we are not only preventing conflicts but also creating a future where small wild cats and people can thrive side by side.



are not just mitigating threats, they are building

## Bringing together small wild cat conservationists from Latin America



In June 2024, the Pampas Cat Working Group (PCWG) organized the **II Small Wild Cat Conservation Regional Meeting – Latin America** in Santo Domingo, Ecuador. This gathering brought together conservationists from the Pampas Cat, Ocelot, Guigna, Tiger Cat, and Geoffroy's Cat Working Groups at La Hesperia Reserve. The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of **Big Cat Rescue**, **Wildlife Conservation Network**, **Rufford**, **Panthera**, and **Small Wildcat Conservation Foundation**.

Over seven days, 19 partners presented their work, sharing insights into the conservation efforts aimed at protecting the 16 species of small wild cats found across Latin America. Beyond presentations, the meeting featured engaging discussions, hands-on workshops, and a field trip, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among experts.

This meeting was a key milestone for our network, strengthening alliances with partners and donors, sparking new ideas and strategies, and highlighting shared challenges and opportunities in wild cat conservation.









#### In action!



Cindy Hurtado presenting the II Small Wild Cat Conservation Regional Meeting – Latin America. *Santo Domingo, Ecuador.* 



Alvaro Garcia with one of the beneficiarias of a chicken coop. *Guayaquil, Ecuador.* 

## In action!



Zoila Vega talking to local women about chicken coops. *Cajamarca*, *Peru*.

Tadeu de Oliveira getting ready for a vaccination campaign. *Maranhão, Brazil*.





### In action!

Chiara Correa setting a camera trap in the Chaco Dry Forest. *Concepción, Paraguay.* 





Merinia Mendoza teaching how yo use a camera trap to a Quechua woman from the high Andes. *Ayacucho, Peru.* 

## In action!



Pedro Heredia taking care of his nurturing plants to reforest key areas of Milpuj Conservation Area. *Amazonas, Peru.* 



Carlos Castro just before vaccines a dog close the Altos de Lircay National Reserve. *Maule, Chile.* 

### In action!

Mauro Lucherini setting a camera trap to register small carnivores. *Patagonia, Argentina*.



Flavia Tirelli and Marina Favarini at the launch of Pampinha's book and pocket guide of Felines of Rio Grande do Sul. *Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.* 







#### Pampas Cat Working Group

In action!



Gabriel Llerena with a rancher who received a Fox Light. *Arequipa*, *Peru*.

Cristian Barros delivering a farm chicken to one of the beneficiaries of the chicken coops. *Guayaquil, Ecuador.* 





#### Pampas Cat Working Group

#### In action!



Patricio Muñoz with a child in an environmental education activity. *Chile*.

Soledad Albanese talking about small wild cat during an outreach activity. *Mendoza, Argentina*.





#### Pampas Cat Working Group

#### In action!



Paola Nogales with veterinarians on a vaccination campaign.
Concepcion, *Bolivia*.

Viviana Albarracin setting a camera trap. *Santa Cruz, Bolivia*.















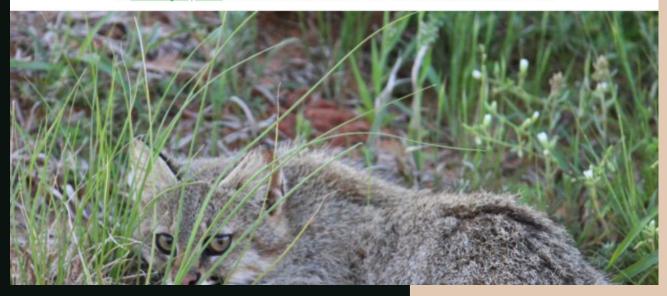




## Gato-palheiro-pampeano corre risco de desaparecer devido ao 'descampamento'

Perda de vegetação nativa coloca a biodiversidade do bioma em risco. Iniciativas atuam para estimular preservação dos campos

Por Micael Olegário | ODS 15 • Publicada em 4 de setembro de 2024 - 10:21 • Atualizada em 9 de novembro de 2024 - 09:44





# Agrupación busca salvar al gato Colo Colo: Su relación con el Cacique y su origen mapuche

El nombre Colo Colo está enraizado a nuestra cultura. El Lonco Mapuche es el reflejo en el cual se inspiraron los rebeldes para bautizar al club, mientras el felino se ganó su denominación por tener el mismo carácter que el Cacique araucano.

- La historia de ídolo de Colo Colo que costó un terno y seis pelotas
- La visita ilustre que tuvo Colo Colo en el Monumental previo a Fortaleza





#### **YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**









🚆 😿 🗗 صندوق محمد بن زاید للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية









The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND





## **GROUP EFFORT**



























# THANKS TO OUR LOCAL COLLABORATORS































