

Workshop on camera trap methodologies for surveying and monitoring jaguars and their prey in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico

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The Red de Reservas Privadas y Sociales de la Península de Yucatán (RRPSPY) seeks to consolidate a network of community and private protected areas along key biological corridors within the Yucatan Peninsula. The long-term viability of wildlife species with extensive habitat requirements (such as jaguars, white lipped peccaries, and migrant birds) as well as the maintenance of hydrological processes will depend, to a large extent, on our capacity to work with land owners to integrate a mosaic of protected lands that ensure ecosystem connectivity between the major protected areas in the Yucatán Peninsula. One of our main objectives is to generate technical information, through short and long term monitoring of jaguars and their prey, as well as key species of migrant and resident birds.

For this reason, we held the Workshop on Camera-Trap Methodologies for Surveying and Monitoring Jaguars and their Prey in the Yucatan Peninsula from March 24 to 26, 2015, in Merida, Yucatán. The workshop brought together 25 people from 10 national NGO's, 2 international NGO's, 4 academic institutions (including one from Ecuador), one environmental consultant and one federal government authority. Participants included experts on camera-trap monitoring and data analysis. To define the most appropriate methods for monitoring jaguars and prey, previous efforts made in Mexico and Latin America were reviewed, as they apply to the eco-geographic characteristics of the peninsula. Participants sought to develop standards for different objectives and levels of sampling, including determination of occupation by jaguar; estimation of abundance of jaguars and prey and assessment of changes in the abundance of these species over time as related to environmental and anthropogenic factors. We generated the following products and agreements:

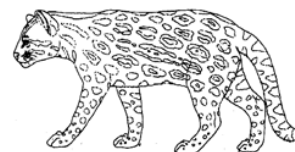
- I. Design procedures for monitoring jaguars and their prey at several scales in the Yucatan Peninsula. A brief manual is being prepared.
- II. Create a database of geographic information where camera trap census and monitoring efforts have been implemented in the Yucatan Peninsula over the last 12 years.
- III. Collaborative agreement among institutions to generate a joint effort for the census of jaguar and prey in the Yucatan Peninsula, over the next two years.
- IV. Long-term monitoring program to generate strategic information to maintain faunal connectivity and ecosystem health in the Yucatan Peninsula.
- V. A collaborative agreement between Guatemala (Defensores de la Naturaleza) and Mexico (Instituto de Ecología, UNAM) for joint jaguar research and conservation efforts across the Usumacinta River basin in the Lacandon Rainforest shared by both countries.

A major next step will be to link land owners with the project, thus building a conservation culture and a platform for regional biodiversity, land use, and climate change monitoring at the peninsular level.

We would like to recognize the special participation of Leonardo Maffei from the Wildlife Conservation Society, Cuauhtémoc Chávez from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Campus Lerma, Heliot Zarza from the Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, and Patricia Oropeza from the Dirección General de Especies Prioritarias para la Conservación, CONANP. Our network is part of a larger alliance, Itzincab, which is focused on sustainable development in the Yucatan Peninsula, with the support of The Claudia and Roberto Hernández Foundation, The



Participants at the Workshop from left to right back to front: Ricardo Pasos, Pepe Patron, Braulio Argüelles, Alonso Serna, Marco A. Lazcano-Barrero, Markus Telkamp, Pablo Navarro, Juan Carlos Faller, Luis Pereira, Abraham Angulo, Barbara Mackinnon, Christian Martínez, Rebeca Escobar, Patricia Oropeza, Heliot Zarza, Leonardo Maffei, María Andrade, Cuauhtémoc Chavez and James Callaghan.



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Cover: Camera trap activities along the Arizona-Mexico Border. University of Arizona/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Back Cover: Ocelot with black iguana. Rodrigo Nuñez

The Wild Felid Monitor

is the biannual newsletter of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association.

The publication is provided to current Association members. To join, renew your membership, or to obtain back-issues of the newsletter, please visit our website at www.wildfelid.org.

PO Box 486, Hillsboro NM, 88042, USA

E-mail: wildfelidmonitor@gmail.com Website: www.wildfelid.org

ISSN 2167-3861 (print), ISSN 2167-387X (online)

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THE WILD FELID MONITOR

The Newsletter of the Wild Felid Research and Management Association

Winter 2016, Volume 9, Issue 1



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