

Jaguar Program – Costa Rica

The Jaguar Program (JP) is an adjunct research program of the Instituto Internacional en Conservación y Manejo de Vida Silvestre (International Institute of Conservation and Management of wildlife) of the Universidad Nacional (UNA) of Costa Rica. The JP aims to lead the generation and the transmission of knowledge for the conservation of the jaguar, puma and prey associated with their natural environments. Also, generate information of the conservation status of wild populations, assist protected areas and decision makers.

These species are indicators of our ecosystems integrity, and play an important role maintaining the balance within it, however wild populations of these two predators have declined significantly over the past 50 years throughout its range.

Our research is focused on pragmatic conservation. Utilizing human talents of monitoring wild populations through camera traps, survey tracks, satellite telemetry monitoring, education and training programs for forest rangers on big cats through the implementation of monitoring programs.

Our principal program “Program for the conservation of the jaguar, other wild cats, habitats and natural prey in Costa Rica” has projects that include “*The Local perceptions of wildlife: Factors that influence attitudes towards jaguar conservation among indigenous and not indigenous people in Costa Rica*” is one that’s in its second phase of Monitoring Populations of medium and large mammals in the Cordillera de Talamanca (Parque Nacional Barbilla and surrounding areas).

Benefits

Now in the Caribbean side with the Our Planet Foundation support we want to implement a similar program that we’re doing in Santa Rosa National Park (Fig 1), where we have a female Jaguar marked with a satellite collar where we’ve have been able to determine and estimate the necessary areas to meet all biological needs such as food groups, habitats and ranging corridors in this specific area of the country.

Our results have been estimated in an approximate area of 80 km², which is comparable with large jaguars that live in places like Brazil and Mexico.

We’re striving **to** verify how much land is needed in the Caribbean mountains and where the cats are moving on.

Required equipment and costs

Equipment	Cost \$	Unid	Total \$
Collar lotek Iridium	2500	1	2500
Drop off system	400	2	800
VHF alarms	250	4	1000
Snaer trap	200	4	800
Antenna yagi VHF	300	1	300
VHF receiver	1500	1	1500
Anesthetics	200	1	200
Darts 5 cc Dan-Inject	70	5	350
Needle for dart	12	5	60
Medicines	100	1	100
Darts pistol	3500	1	3500
Total			11110



Figure: (A) November 2014 the radio collar installed in a female Jaguar “María” at Santa Rosa National Park

Figure: (B) February 2019 Maria is still. – Photos by: Alonso Sanchez