



TIGER CATS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Range-wide threat mitigation and population monitoring of the tiger-cats' species complex (*Leopardus tigrinus/guttulus/pardinoides*) in their key conservation areas in South America: a continental approach towards small cats' conservation

Re:wild – SMA-Goo-GG-0000000160
Midterm Report 2024



TCCI TARGETS



Ensure long-term population viability of tiger cats & small felids: threat reduction and mitigation.



Partnerships with landowners to protect habitat patches within their properties and to keep their animals indoors.



Environmental education and community involvement in conservation practices.



Monitoring population trends of tiger cats and other small felids.



Habitat monitoring.



Establish a permanent neutering and vaccination program.



Training of professionals and non professionals: creating a new generation of conservationists.



TCCI GOALS

Our actions are built upon "**Action**" (conservation action taking to reduce threats) and "**Vigilance**" (monitoring population trends in key conservation areas), with the main goal of **minimizing the risk of disease transmission by domestic animals and monitoring the trends of key populations of threatened tiger cats and other small cat species at a continental level**. Additionally, we target different local threats at each site (e.g., traffic, conflict mitigation, road-kills) and work on the rehabilitation/training of apprehended small cats for future reintroduction. The project's conservation activities also include environmental education issues, working with the local community, and human perceptions. The ultimate goal is to guarantee long-term (1,000 years) population safe-havens for all tiger-cat species.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To consolidate disease mitigation actions especially where there are ongoing outbreaks of distemper and other diseases.
2. To expand our rehabilitation of wild cat specimens caught on the wildlife trade back into nature, as well as minimizing retaliation for livestock depredation, and road-kills around key conservation areas.
3. To conduct a detailed range-wide threat assessment evaluation of the tiger-cats in South America.
4. To continue and expand the population monitoring of clouded, savanna and Atlantic Forest tiger-cats and other felids (margay, jaguarundi, black footed [Pampas] cat and ocelot) in key protected areas (public and private) at a continental level in tropical South America, through camera trapping, also taking into account the effectiveness of measures currently being implemented).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

All activities were intended to be continuous along the year throughout the sites, especially immunization of domestic dogs/cats (and hopefully in years to come too). All of the proposed activities are being fulfilled as predicted. Our grant timeline started March–April/2024 with the agreement signing, and the timeline for the use of the funds only on June 6th, 2024 (due to Brazil's Central Bank and Banco do Brasil bureaucracy).

Please note that the specific timeline for each site might be different from one another, due to their specificities. Nevertheless they'll all cover their expected action taking.

PARTIAL RESULTS TO DATE



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



1,541

**DOSES OF VACCINES
APPLIED**



876

ANIMALS VACCINATED



60

ANIMALS NEUTERED

In addition to the various vaccination campaigns of each project separately, carried out throughout the year, we joined forces to promote **TCCI's 4th Intercontinental Vaccination Campaign** in September. This collective effort brought together participating projects from across the group to carry out simultaneous vaccination campaigns throughout the Americas, increasing visibility and awareness of combating the silent threat of communicable diseases.





Our neutering is concentrated as much as possible on females and it is still limited due to some technical problems with one of our main partners, UEMA (university) Veterinary Hospital.

VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS





4 INTERCONTINENTAL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN






OCTOBER 24
TAKING INTEGRATED ACTIONS FOR SMALL-CATS
CONSERVATION ACROSS THE AMERICAS

4 INTERCONTINENTAL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TOGETHER FIGHTING AGAINST
THE INVISIBLE THREAT OF DISEASES!









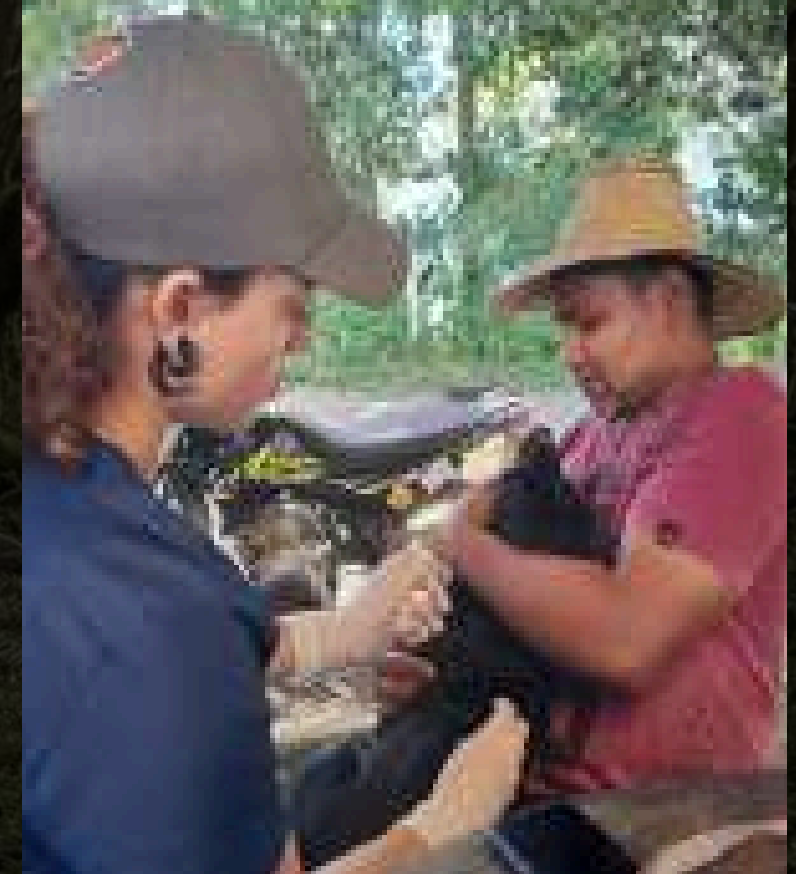
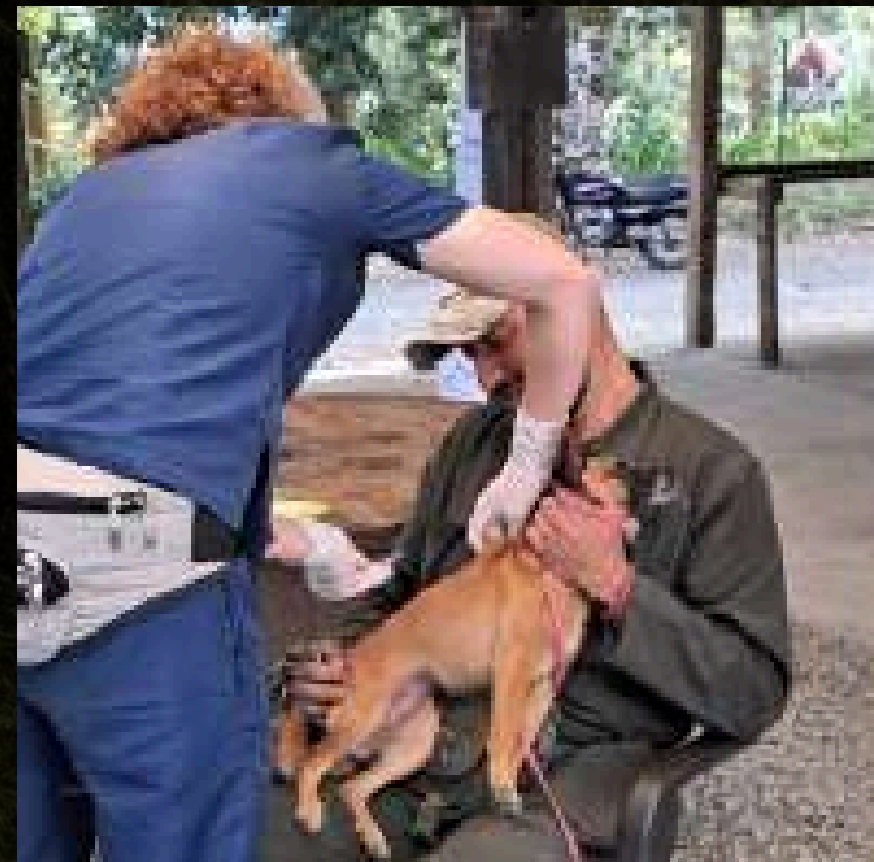
VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



3,444

**CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS REACHED
THROUGH OUR ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION ACTIONS**



76

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

Building the next generation of **conservation-minded people** is essential for a **sustainable future**. Today's children will be leaders tomorrow, and it is essential to involve them from an early age in actions that awaken their interest in and care for their environment.

By directing our efforts to educate and raise awareness among the new generations, we are **planting seeds of responsibility and respect for nature**. By understanding the importance of conservation, they become **agents of change**, ready to protect biodiversity, and ensure that natural resources and ecosystems are preserved for **future generations**.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



One of our most recent project,
fullfilling its mision from an early age

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

MURAL IN LOCAL SCHOOL



EDUCATIVE MATERIAL



+ 4,611

**EDUCATIVE MATERIAL
PRINTED AND PRODUCED**

Community work to build a **conservation mindset**: We developed a series of games, books, booklets, leaflets, pamphlets, stickers, etc., with a special focus on children of various ages.

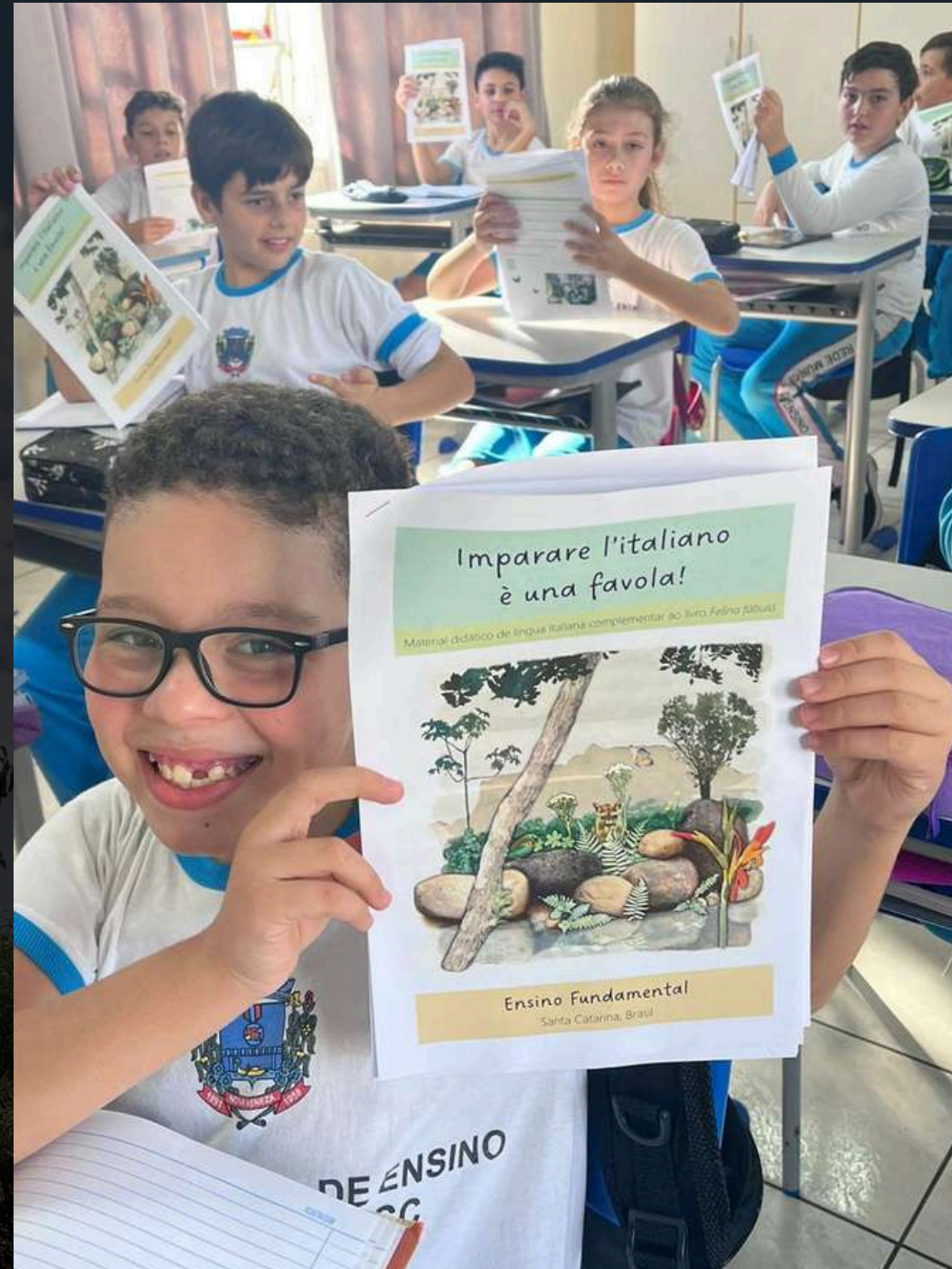
Imparare l'italiano è una favola!

Material didático de língua italiana complementar ao livro *Felina fábula*



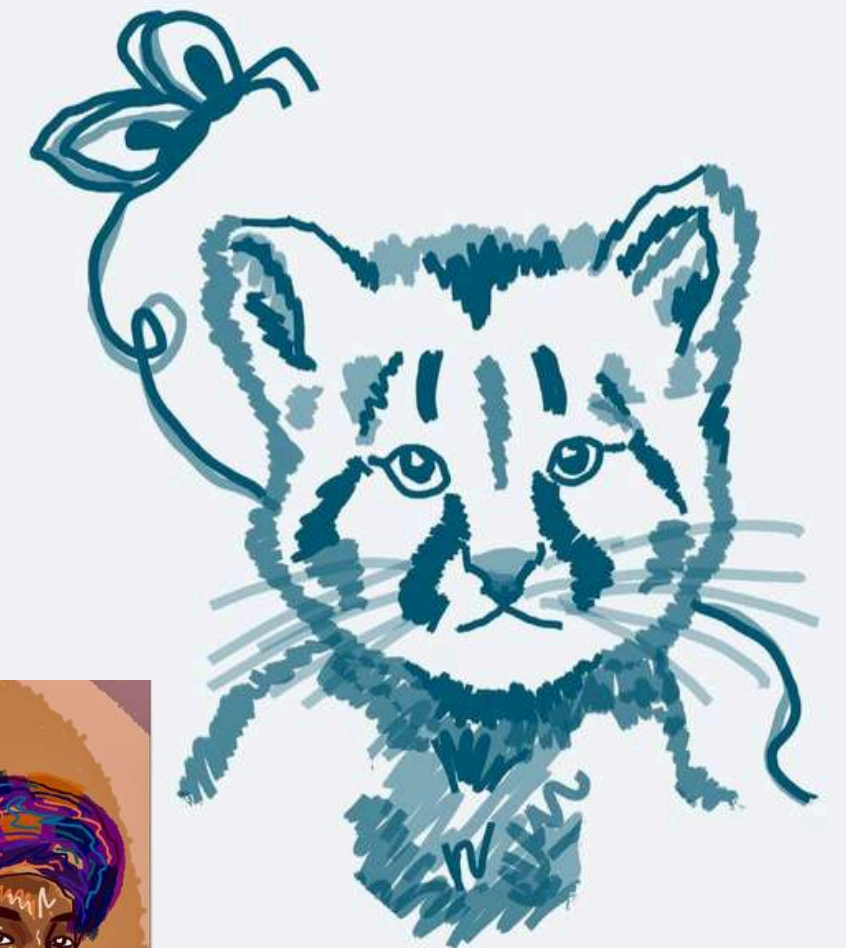
Ensino Fundamental

Santa Catarina, Brasil



Capítulo 4

**Felina fábula: literatura e arte no
Ensino Fundamental para a educação
linguística e socioambiental**



DIVERSIDADE BIOCULTURAL NA ESCOLA

Volume 2: Relatos de
experiências e sugestões
de atividades práticas

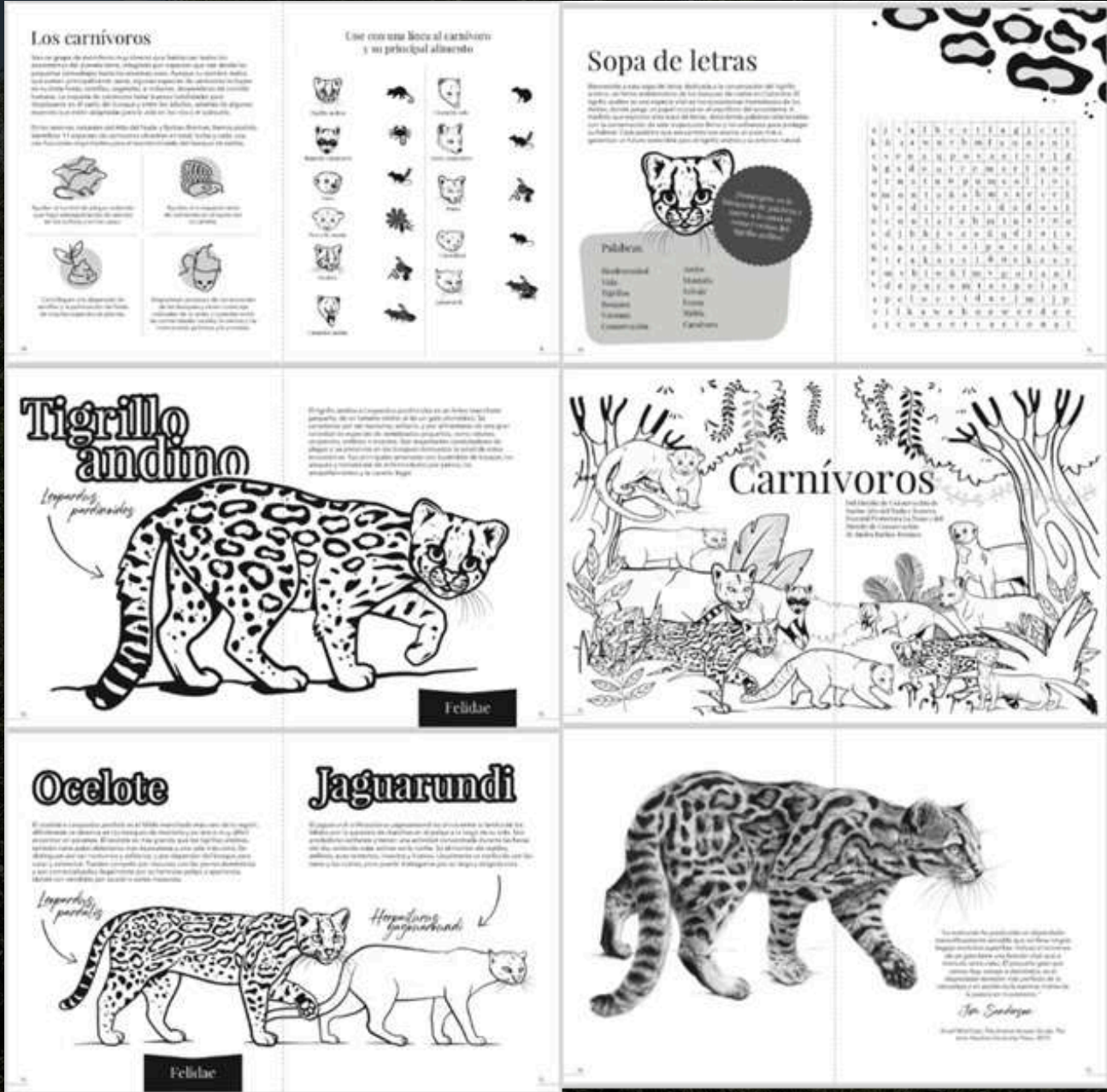
Organizadores:
Mariana Cristina Gonçalves
Rafaela Helena Lubinski
Mayana Lacerda Leal
Sofia Zachi
Nivaldo Peroni
Natalia Hanzaki

Ilustrações:
Letícia Lúcia Vohlski



editora | sbec

LEARNING CAN BE FUN!



LEARNING CAN BE FUN!



LEARNING CAN BE FUN!

WORKSHOPS



Workshops are essential for raising awareness and building **partnerships in the conservation of small wild cats**. Together, we can protect and coexist with these incredible species!

WORKSHOPS



Natural history, conservation and identification of small cats of tropical America, Bogota, Colombia



ICURSO BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

HISTORIA NATURAL, CONSERVACIÓN E IDENTIFICACIÓN DE PEQUEÑOS FELINOS DE AMÉRICA TROPICAL

Taxonomía, linajes evolutivos, ecología, identificación de felinos, conservación y fototrampeo para felinos

📍 **COLEGIO SANTA MARÍA** | **12-15 DE JUNIO** | **30 HORAS**
CARRERA 11 #185B-17 | **8:30 - 17:30**

cursofelinosbogota@gmail.com

\$ 420.000 COP

PHD TADEU GOMES DE OLIVEIRA

Logos: Uema, Andean Tiger Cat Conservation Project, Tiger Cats



WORKSHOPS



Participation in the workshop '**Criteria and Prioritization for the Creation of Federal Conservation Units**,' organized by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation. In this workshop, through the efforts of biologist and Prof. Dr. Paulo Marinho, a member of the **Tiger Cat Conservation Initiative**, the processes for establishing at least **four federal conservation units** in the Caatinga regions of Rio Grande do Norte and Bahia were initiated. These are key areas for the **conservation of threatened small wild cats** such as *Leopardus tigrinus* and *Herpailurus yagouaroundi*.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS



Tiger Cats Conservation's participation in events is essential to **expanding the reach of conservation actions**, strengthening partnerships, and promoting the protection of small wild cats.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS





Conozcamos al **Tigrillo Nebuloso**: El centinela de los bosques Andinos



Fecha: 27 de octubre
Hora: 2:00 pm
Lugar: Distrito de Paz,
Stand 45 de Save the Children

Entrada libre





Conozcamos al **Tigrillo Nebuloso**: El centinela de los bosques Andinos



Juan Camilo Cepeda Duque
Biólogo
Andean Tiger Cat
Conservation Project



Katherine Pérez Gómez
Bióloga
Fundación Galictis



Camilo Fernández Rodríguez
Biólogo
Fundación Galictis

Entrada libre





PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS



ROADKILL SIGNS



Installation of signage for conservation awareness and prevention of wildlife roadkills.

STAYING VIGILANT: POPULATION MONITORING

INSTALLED AND MONITORED DRINKING STATIONS IN DRYLANDS



44 °C 111 °F 13/10/2024 13:32:07 0653

Monitoring of artificial drinking stations managed by the administration of the Jamacaii Refuge Private Natural Heritage Reserve (RPPN)

STAYING VIGILANT: POPULATION MONITORING

INSTALLED AND MONITORED DRINKING STATIONS IN DRYLANDS



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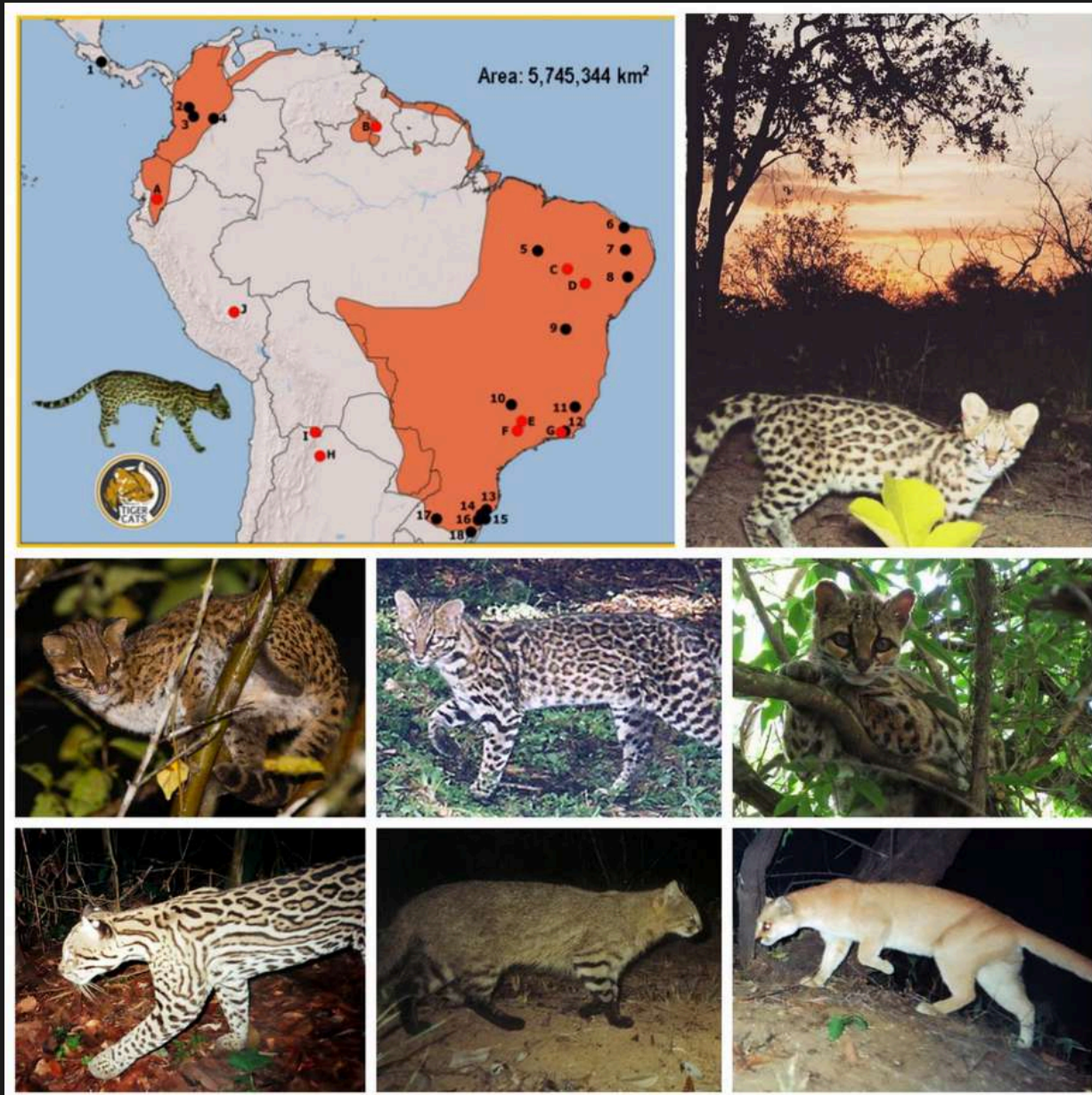


24 °C 75 °F 06/10/2024 06:33:09 0193



36 °C 96 °F 25/09/2024 10:04:46 0051

STAYING VIGILANT: POPULATION MONITORING



Ocelot: 25
Margay: 20
Jaguarundi: 23
Clouded tiger-cat: 09
Savanna tiger-cat: 12
Atlantic forest tiger-cat: 13
Cerrado black-footed cat: 02
Pampa-cat: 01
Geoffroy's cat: 03



108 partial estimates of relative abundance

10 species of small cats being monitored + jaguar, puma as bycatch

STAYING VIGILANT: POPULATION MONITORING

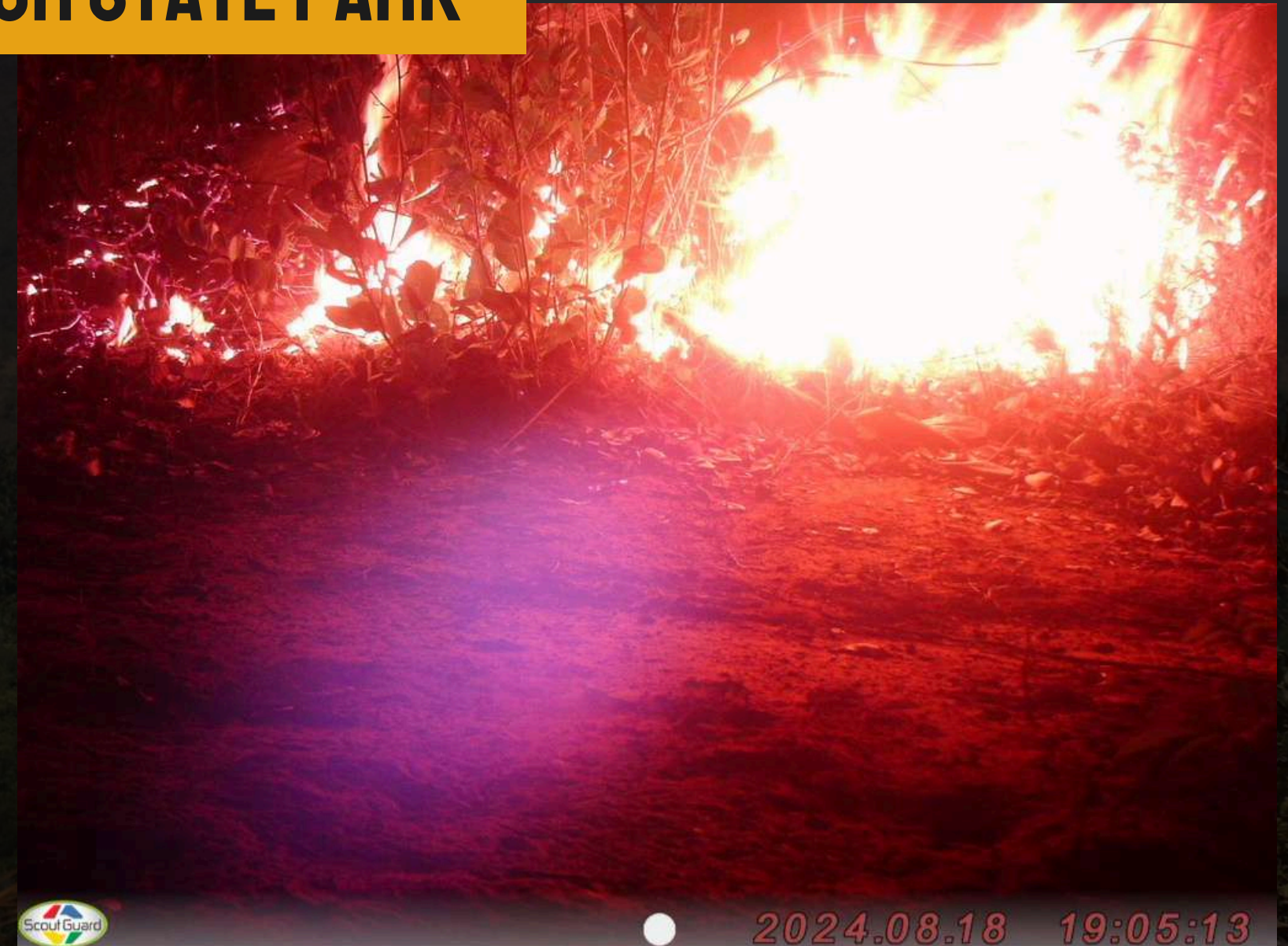
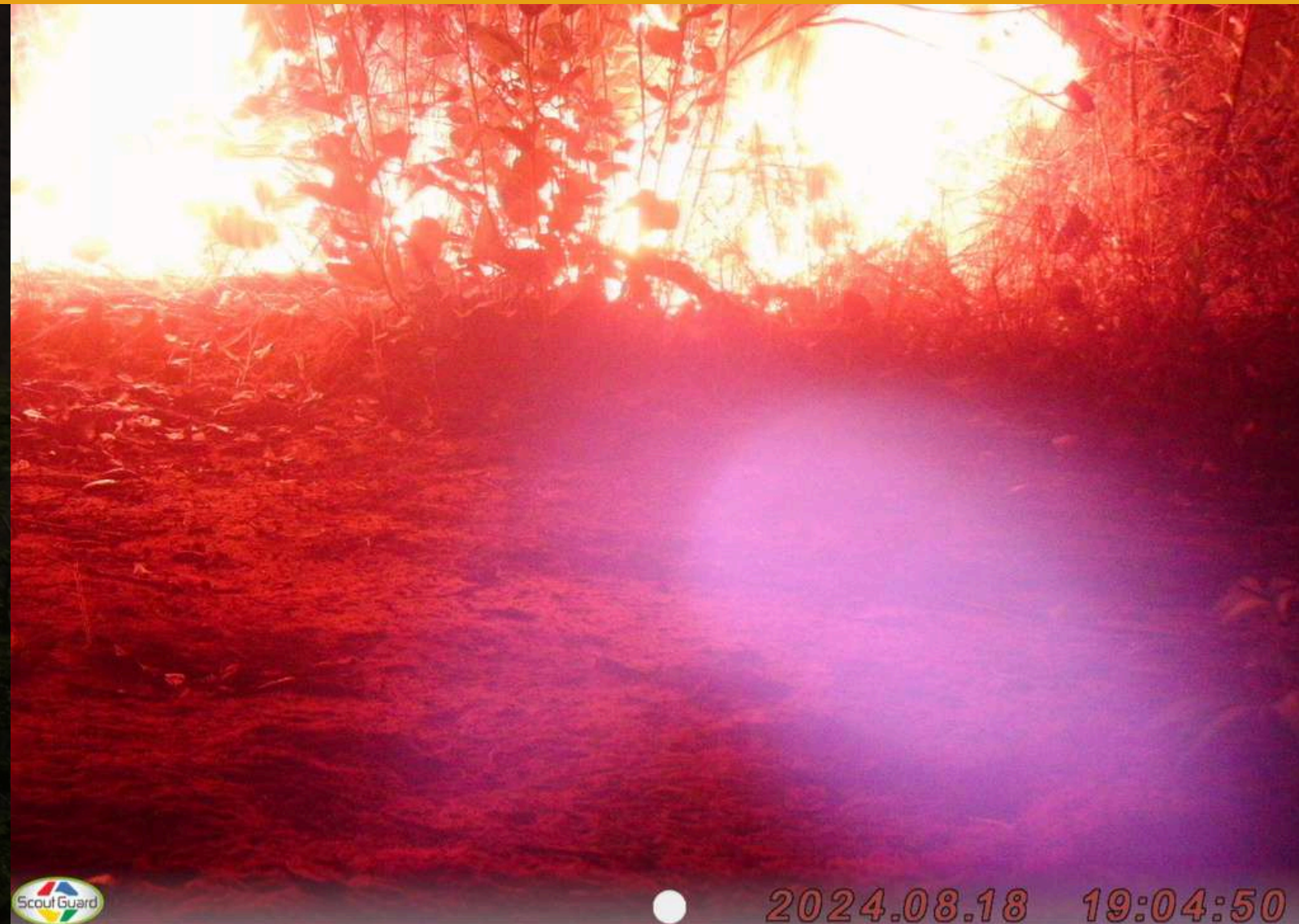


STAYING VIGILANT: POPULATION MONITORING



STAYING VIGILANT: HABITAT MONITORING – FIRE

FIRES CAUGHT ON OUR CAMERA-TRAPS AT MIRADOR STATE PARK



We are monitoring the extent of fires in one of our main areas in the Cerrado savanna's of Mirador State Park: **485 fire spots** to date, we are proceeding to estimate the total extent of burnt areas by the end of the year.

SAVANNA TIGER-CAT TAKING CENTRAL STAGE IN THE ELABORATION OF MIRADOR STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN.

▪ O “gato-do-mato/pintadinho” (*Leopardus tigrinus*)

Figura 8 RVF *Leopardus tigrinus* (gato-do-mato/pintadinho)



Legenda: (A) *Leopardus tigrinus* (pintadinho ou gato-do-mato-pequeno).
Fonte: Tadeu Oliveira (Pró-Vida Brasil).

O Parque Estadual de Mirador detém posição estratégica mundial na conservação do gato-do-mato/pintadinho (*Leopardus tigrinus*), uma espécie globalmente ameaçada de extinção. É a única unidade de conservação do mundo capaz de sustentar, por si só, populações ecologicamente viáveis a longo prazo (1.000 anos) desta espécie. Nenhuma outra unidade de conservação brasileira apresenta a mesma relevância para a conservação de quaisquer espécies de pequenos felinos no país. Assim sendo, o Parque Estadual de Mirador em condições ambientalmente adequadas funciona como uma “apólice de seguro” contra a extinção desta espécie.

SAVING THE PARK

estão em unidades de conservação. Já uma nota da Secretaria do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais do Maranhão (Sema/MA), de setembro, afirma que ela é crucial para o gato-do-mato-pintadinho (*Leopardus tigrinus*).

“A espécie está na lista brasileira de espécies ameaçadas de extinção. O Parque Estadual de Mirador é a unidade de conservação mais importante do mundo para essa espécie, pois é a única área capaz de sustentar, por si só, populações ecologicamente viáveis a longo prazo”, diz o documento.

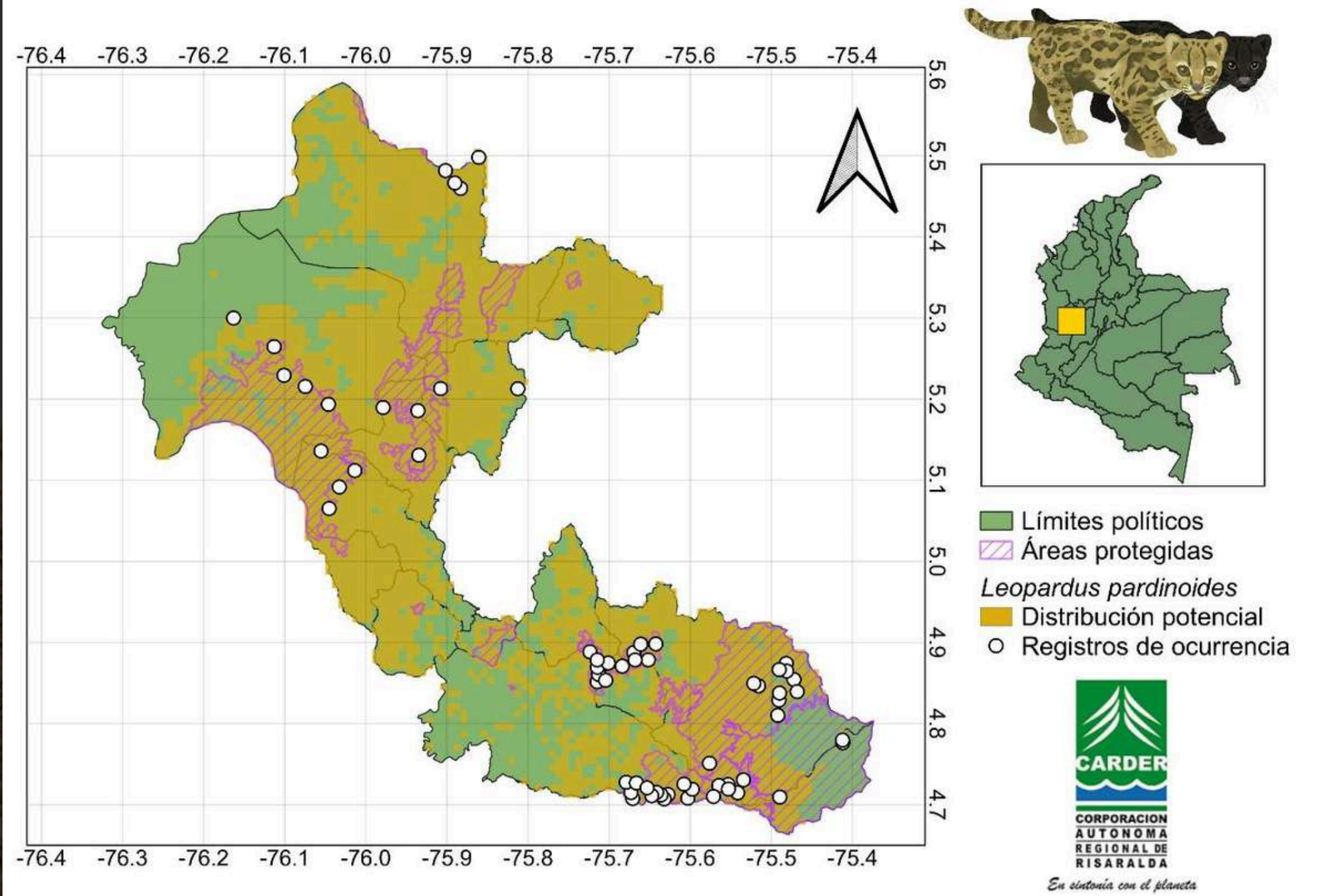
área capaz de sustentar, por si só, populações ecologicamente viáveis a longo prazo”, diz o documento.



O *Leopardus tigrinus* está na lista brasileira de espécies ameaçadas de extinção. Foto: Animalia/Tambako the Jaguar/Creative Commons.

The savanna tiger-cat is being used as a **flagship species** in the legal action of Maranhão State Environmental Secretariat and the state's Legislative Assembly, in order to prevent the proposed changes of a Deputy to alter the boundaries of Mirador State Park, by using as one of the main argument of the park as the area of greatest relevance for the worldwide conservation of this endangered small cat.

ESTABLISHING PRIORITY AREAS: CLOUDED TIGER-CAT IN CUDINAMARCA, COLOMBIA



APPROACHES TO CHICKEN DEPREDATION



So far we manage to build only one **henhouse** in southern Brazil. There is another one that could not be built to date due to lack of local expertise. We curbed this problem by taking an expert to go there in December/2024.



We have also been applying **reimbursement** for confirmed **chicken depredation** in the area of Mirador State Park and in the Taquari Valley

REHABILITATION AND RELEASE



Through the **Renaturalization Program** of the Instituto Felinos do Aguai, another rehabilitation process has been **successfully completed**. A male Atlantic forest tiger-cat (*Leopardus guttulus*) received care for several months and showed he was ready to return to his natural habitat. The release took place at the São Francisco Reserve. Each step towards reintegrating these animals is **crucial** for directly contributing to the **preservation** of local wildlife.

REHABILITATION AND RELEASE



Savanna tiger-cat



REHABILITATION AND RELEASE

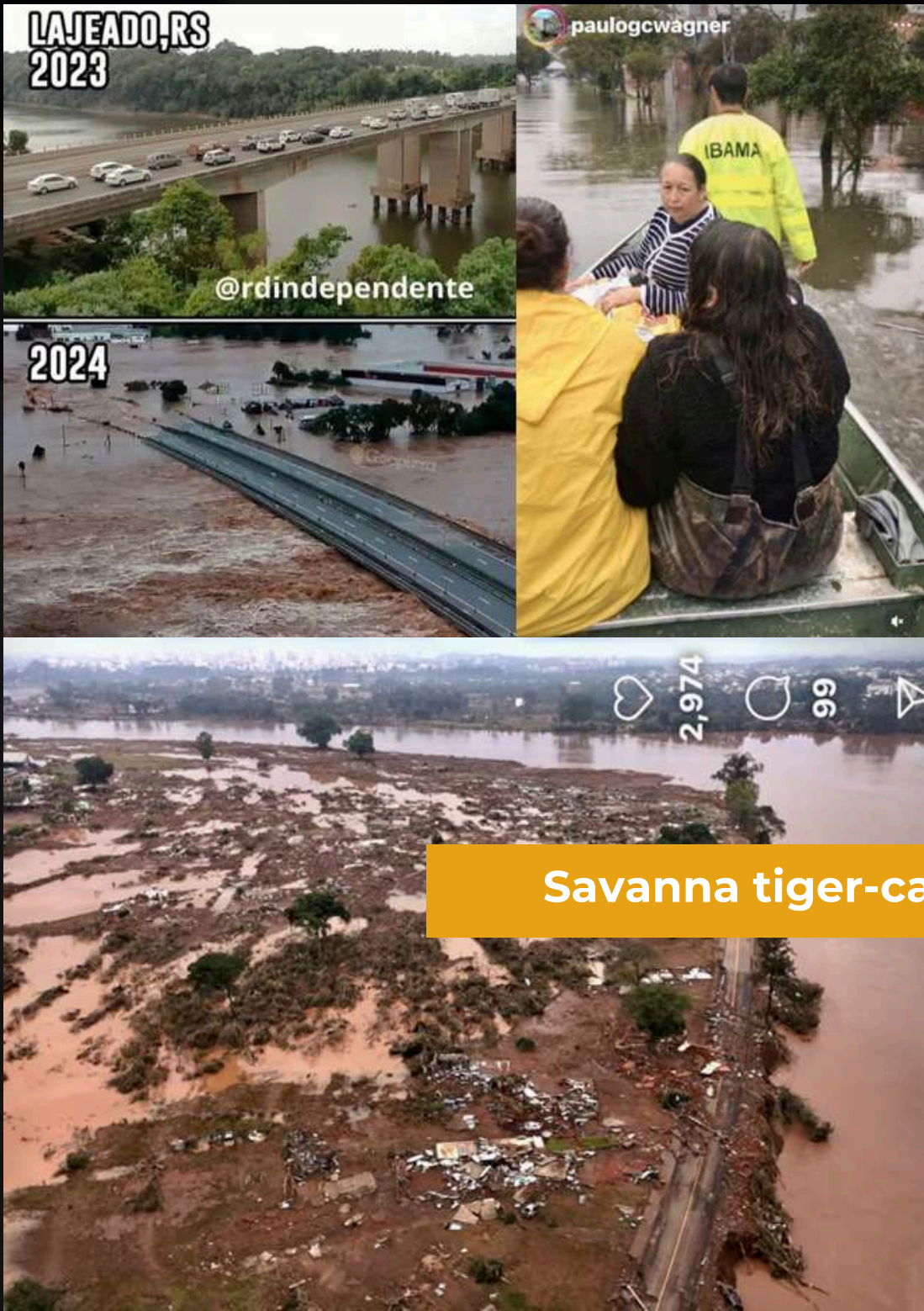


Jaguarundi

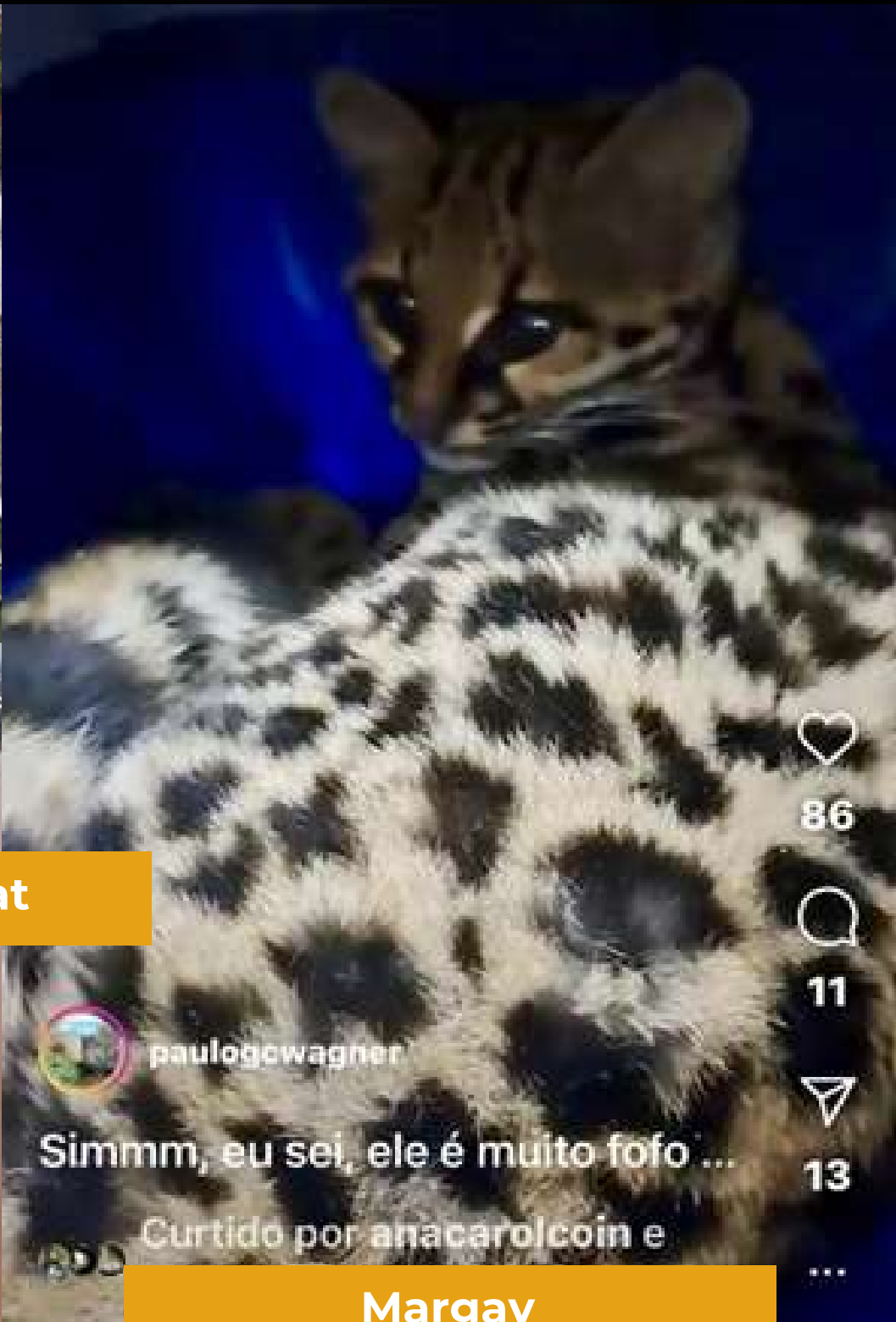


For the savannas and semi-arid Caatinga shrub-woodlands we currently have on rehab for future release and monitoring 8 specimens of savanna tiger-cats and 2 jaguarundis

RESCUE DURING THE CATASTROPHE - RIO GRANDE DO SUL (BRAZIL)



Savanna tiger-cat



Margay



Atlantic Forest tiger-cat

RESCUE DURING THE CATASTROPHE - RIO GRANDE DO SUL (BRAZIL)



Margay rescued, rehabilitated, released and monitored during the floods: faring well – photographed days later with preyed dove. Through our partnership with CETAS/IBAMA-RS

MAIN CHALLENGES

The most challenging aspect relates to the **allocation of funds for the number of participating projects (> 50) and the ever-increasing need for conservation action**. We have managed this with some local-level partnerships, usually with local authorities in the vaccination campaigns, where we sometimes managed to get some vaccines and due to some funding from specific projects. However, there is still one major problem: **the astonishing numbers of dogs and cats that reach the outskirts of some of our monitoring sites**. In only one of these, the total number of doses exceeded 600!

Another setback we had related to internal problems with the Veterinary Hospital of UEMA, which supplies us with surgical equipment and personnel to conduct the surgical procedures because of the momentary lack of personnel, which is being solved for the second half of the grant.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT



All resources were applied according to prediction. However, we were only able to accomplish all that was reported through additional funds from several partners, notably SWCCF, The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and Panthera, through funds for specific projects/sites that are part of the TCCI network (<https://www.tigercatsconservation.com/about-us>). Several Brazilian partners, such as CETAS/IBAMA, contributed immensely through equipment and logistical support to some specific projects/sites, while additional partnerships gathered us with logistical support, vaccines and other supplies, and personnel.

OUR PARTNERS





**OBRIGADO!
GRACIAS!
THANK YOU!**

