OCELOT AND OTHER WILD CATS CONSERVATION PROJECT RANCHO EL ZARCO, TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

Sociedad Civil

CONSERVACION Y DESARROLLO DE ESPACIOS NATURALES. S.C.

Simón Castro #619 Nte,Col. Jesús Luna Luna, Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas. Tel: (833)162-30-46,Cel: (833)202-95-87

Email: CDEN.SC@gmail.com

www.cdensc.com

MEXICO / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA POPULATION RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE, Lepidochelys kempii, ON THE COASTS OF TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

2012, 2013, 2014, 2015





SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES











ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES ADJACENT TO THE SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION CAMPS IN TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



MONITORING OF A BLACK-SPOTTED NEWT, Notophthalmus meridionalis, POPULATION AT THE INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO DE ALTAMIRA UNIVERSITY IN ALTAMIRA, TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO.













ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION OF WILD CATS OF TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

2015



(Tigre, Panthera onca)

Llegando a pesar más de 110 kilos y medir casi 2 metros de largo, el jaguar es el felino más grande de América. Es bajo y fornido con extremidades muy musculares y una larga cola. Su piel es tipicamente color marillo-café con manchas negras, y su vientre es color pálido. Un felino solitario y territorial, el jaguar prefiere 12 cm cazar en tierra. Escondiéndose en la presas que incluyen jabalies, venados y guajolotes. Es más activo durante al amancer y el atardecer.

Jaguarundi

(Onza, Puma yagouaroundi)

Ocelote (Tigrillo, Leopardus pardalis)

El soltario ocelote es muy reconocido por su hermoso pelaje amarillo-café marcado con rosetas y manchas que tiendem a correr en líneas paralelas a lo largo de su cuerpo. Pesa de 11 a 15 kilos y medio y llega a medir de 60 a 90 centimetros de largo, sin incluir su larga cola. Con sus bigotes, grandes oregias y visión 6 veces mejor que la de un humano, el ocelote rastrea roedores, tacuaches, armadilos y otros pequeños animales durante sus patrullajes nocturnos en el bosque.

Comparándolo a otras especies de gatos, el jaguarundi tiene las patas más cortas, cuerpo y cola más largos, y

3.5 cm

la cabeza más pequeña con orejas redondeadas. Su piel es de color sólido, con tres colores registrados: anaranjado-rojizo, café-grisáceo, y negro con un vientre

más claro. El jaguarundi puede medir de 45 a 75 centimetros de largo y pesar de 4 kilos y medio a 9

kilos. Principalmente terrestre y más activo

durante el crepúsculo, su dieta consiste de

pequeños mamiferos, aves, reptiles, ranas,

e insectos

Puma

(León, Puma concolor)

El puma es un felino de color sencilo, que va de gris plateado, a leconado a roizo. La piel de los cachororos está ligeramente motoada. El puma es el segundo felino más grande de América, pesando hasta 45 kilos y legando a medir hasta casi dos metros. Con un territonio grande, el puma es principalmente nocturno y más activo durante el atardecer y el amanecer. Es un depredador solitario cuyas presas incluyen venados, jabalies, conejos, aves y otros animales.

Gato Rabón

Este solitario gato tiene collares faciales, mechones en las orejas, puntos blancos cerca de las puntas de las crejas y una conta cola nabona. Pesa de 4 kilos y llega a medir de medio metro a un metro de largo. Su piel es de color gamuza a catif, a veces con tintes su marcaje le ayuda a camufajearse entre las rozas arbustos y la densa vegetación cuando caza conejos, roedores y otras presas pequeñas usualmente al amancer y el tardocer.



GATOS SALVAJES













A STUDY OF THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF THE OCELOT, *Leopardus pardalis*, IN THE SOUTHERN COAST OF TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



OCELOT STUDY PROJECT SUMMARY

This study began in the third week of August 2012. Resources for field work as well as the vehicle and equipment needed, including the camera traps, memory cards, and GPS units, were obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) / the Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, the Gladys Porter Zoo, and the San Antonio Zoo. The field work was carried out by Biologists and Field Technicians from CDEN (Conservación y Desarrollo de Espacios Naturales), an NGO from Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Analysis of the data obtained support the viability of translocation of a female ocelot from the Tamaulipas population to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, with no adverse effects on the Tamaulipas population.





OCELOT STUDY

PHASE ONE

From August to September 2012, ranch workers and/or owners in 9 locations in the Municipality of Soto La Marina, Tamaulipas, Mexico were contacted and interviewed. In all locations, the people contacted and or interviewed confirmed the presence of felines in their properties.

PHASE TWO

By mid-January of 2013, three locations were selected for monitoring: El Tigre, Montañitas, and El Centenario. The study area now consisted of 4,867 acres (19.7 KM²).

A total of 22 camera traps were placed in 11 locations distributed in the three ranches from January to March, 2013.





OCELOT STUDY

PHASE THREE

The study area is located in the Municipality of Soto La Marina, Tamaulipas, Mexico in the mountain range of San Jose de las Rusias at a maximum elevation of 350 MASL, and, as mentioned above, comprises large portions of two ranches, El Centenario and El Zarco. With the ranches adjacent to one another, the total extension of the study area is of almost 6,800 acres.

Of these 6,800 acres (27.5 KM²), an estimated 57% is pristine low elevation deciduous forest with a mild temperate/mesothermal climate with an annual median temperature of 68° F.

For the purposes of more accurately determining the density of ocelots, 32 paired camera stations (64 total cameras) were located approximately 700-1000m apart from one another using a hand-held GPS unit to provide 1-2 camera stations within the minimum home ranges reported for ocelots. From March-2013 to March-2014.





OCELOT STUDY From March-2014 to March-2015.



Ranch	Acres Total: 6,794.22	Km² Total: 27.49	Has Total: 2,749
El Centenario	2,052.08	8.3	830
El Zarco	4,742.14	19.19	1,919
UMA El Zarco	2,470	10	1,000



OCELOT STUDY

2012-2013

The study registered 20 ocelots in a relatively small area, equating to a density of 1 ocelot/4.92km².

An estimate of the surrounding ocelot habitat and an extrapolation of the ocelot density provided a very conservative estimate of 117 ocelots in the metapopulation of the surrounding area.

The camera trap data and images from the monitoring surveys provided vital information that will help in the planning of recovery and field management strategies in Texas and Tamaulipas for the critically endangered ocelot.

The study also produced a visual record of the rich biodiversity that can be still be found in Tamaulipas.





RESULTS 2012-2013

During a period of almost 500 days, from August 2012 to December 2013 (22 camera traps) registered two species of reptiles, fifteen species of birds, and twenty-three species of mammals, including five wild cat species, were documented. Out of the five feline species, ocelots had the highest relative abundance, followed by jaguars, jaguarundis, bobcats, and pumas.

Ocelots were registered at 83% of all survey sites.









From August 2012 to September, 2013 were identified in the study area twenty Ocelots (9 males, 9 females and 2 bodies whose sex could not be determined). With an effective sampling area total of 98.43 km2 total density of 1 ocelot / 4.92Km2 was obtained.











From September 2013 to March 2015 were identified (spot pattern) in the study area **forty-eight (48) Ocelots** (25 males, 23 females). With an effective sampling area total of 27.49 km2 total density of 1 ocelot / 0.57Km² was obtained.



What's next?



OCELOT AND OTHER WILD CATS CONSERVATION PROJECT, RANCHO EL ZARCO, TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

To establish a Management Unit for the Conservation of Wildlife (UMAS) to SEMARNAT to have a Management Plan Approved by DGVS and comply with legal requirements to access permissions to translocate other individuals ocelot populations for restocking, reintroduction and conservation of the species.

The landowner has agreed to assign 1,000 hectares of his property to Register UMA for conservation of ocelots and other wild cats., with the overall goal of protecting wild cats that exist in the Management Unit for Conservation UMA Rancho El Zarco: ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), and Jaguarundi (*Puma yagouaroundi*) through actions of protection, management, research, environmental education and sustainable use. This is intended that this population can be used to obtain "founding bodies" that allow repopulation where so required. All this under the applicable legal framework.



- 1 Actively seek collaborative partners both in the US and Mexico to continue monitoring of the study area, as well as other potential sites in Tamaulipas, through the Wild Cats of Tamaulipas Binational Conservation Program.
- 2 Standardization of camera trap surveys.
- 3 Continue developing partnerships with AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums), institutions such as the ones already in place with the Gladys Porter Zoo and the San Antonio Zoo.













- 4 Utilize vegetation maps to locate possible biological corridors that wild cats may be using and identify stakeholders/landowners in those areas.
- 5 Through direct conferences with the stakeholders/landowners and the local livestock associations, create awareness among the ranchers, the neighboring communities, local authorities, and the general population about the presence and importance of wild cat populations.





- 6 Develop a library of digital images showcasing the biodiversity still present in Tamaulipas with special emphasis on wild cats providing content for social media outlets such as CDEN, GPZ, SAZ and AZA's Felid TAG websites.
- 7 Create a Wild Cats of Tamaulipas Environmental Education and Awareness Program.











8 Monitoring of road mortality in Tamaulipas.



Road Mortality registered by CDEN at 2014: 5 ocelot, 1 bobcat, 1 jaguarundi



















IMAGES OF CAMERAS TRAP OCELOTS

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IMAGES OF CAMERAS TRAP OTHER WILD CATS

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Thank You