

Wild Cats of Brazil: “Long-term monitoring and threat mitigation of Northern Tiger Cat at its worldwide key protected area of Mirador State Park, Brazil” – Project 182517790

Tadeu G. de Oliveira

Summary of Conservation Actions

Below some of the conservation actions that we have already done with support of The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Raising awareness about wildlife conservation:

We have sponsored two wildlife conservation photo exhibitions at São Luís’ two largest shopping malls.

The first conservation photo exhibition titled “In the Eye of Extinction,” was held in Shopping da Ilha, which is the largest one in São Luís. The exhibition had the goal of bringing the issue of extinction to the public, thereby raising awareness about the importance of threatened species conservation. The focus was on the cats, but other threatened species were also featured. Actions such as this one are very important in order to bring these issues to the general public. The exhibition was done with the support of Biology undergraduates from the Maranhão State University (UEMA).

After the success of the first photo exhibition, we sponsored the second photo exhibition at the Rio Anil Shopping, the second largest. As in the first exhibition, undergraduate biology students from Maranhão State University were in charge of presenting about conservation to the wider public. This exhibition was also a success!



Education and outreach:



Doing research is very important, but conveying the results of such research directed towards conservation to the wider public is often overlooked. We recognize the importance of talking about conservation and outreach to non-scientists. This is why we have done numerous workshops at Maranhão State University, particularly targeted at middle and high school students. In these workshops, we talk about conservation, with a focus on the small felids. We also demonstrate on the typical duties of a field conservation biologist's studying and protecting cats and wildlife in general. This has also begun to be done at the local schools in towns around the Park.

We also visit local schools and do workshops and presentations, including those located in the surroundings of the Park, bringing conservation issues directly to the students. We consider that change starts with the younger generations, which is why we acknowledge the importance of talking about wildlife conservation to students regardless of their background. We recently ran workshops at two schools with the participation of hundreds of children and teenagers.



Talking and approaching the Park's adult resident is being our main challenge. With the results found on the potential high threat of disease transmission to wildlife, we are adjusting the environmental education approach to emphasize on this topic.

Cat Conservation Material:

We have already the pamphlets to use specifically for cat conservation awareness (see attached).

Mentoring students:

An integral part of our project is to train a new generation of wild cat biologists and conservation. This is why we are supervising theses and dissertations of undergraduate and graduate students. Most of these projects deal with ecology and conservation of small cats, and other carnivores. We have also received students from abroad, to do internships and get hands-on experience on small cat conservation. Despite limited funding, we consider training students a priority for long-term small cat research and conservation.



Undergraduate students Jan Geisler and Richard Robold came from Hogeschool Van Hall Larenshtein University of Applied Science from the Netherlands for a five-month training internship. They came to work with us in order to learn field techniques such as camera trapping and how to analyze data from field studies with small cats. They were also exposed to the conservation issues and its local intricacies. They have since gotten back to their university with the training needed.



Social Media:

We have also been active on social media, committed to sharing our science and conservation actions with the public. We currently have accounts on two social media platforms: Instagram and Biofaces. On both of these, we make regular postings about cats and other wildlife. This is very important as we are able to reach a far larger audience in all corners of the world. Furthermore, the Research and Conservation Program “Gatos do Mato – Brasil / Wild Cats of Brazil,” which also includes the part funded by MbZSCF has an English website, which is constantly being updated: <https://www.wildcatsbrazil.com/>



