



# MBZSCF – Report I – 2025 Proyect #252537240



صندوق محمد بن زايد  
للمحافظة على  
الكائنات الحية

The Mohamed bin Zayed  
SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND



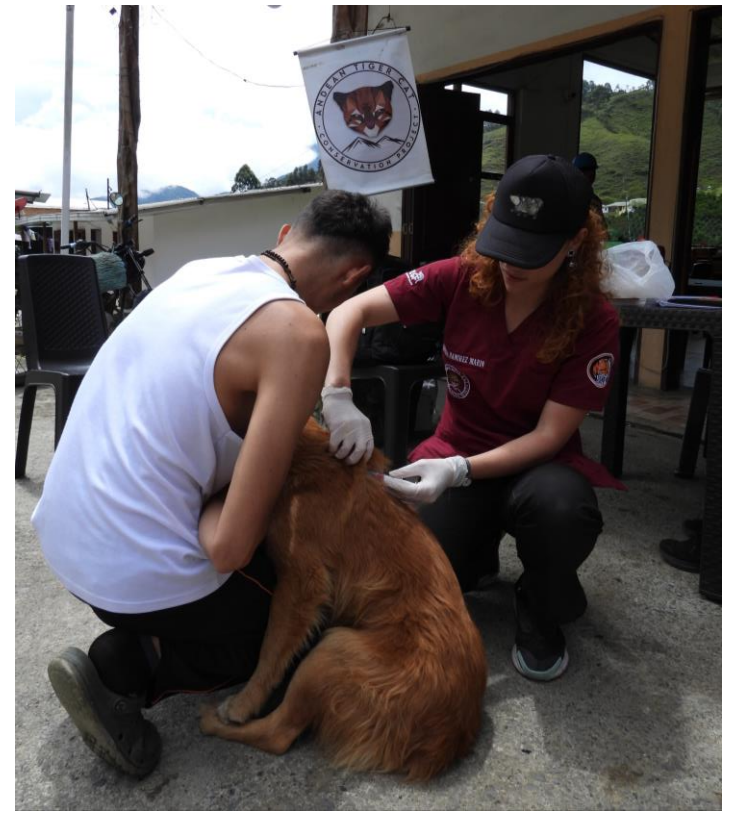
## Juan Camilo Cepeda Duque

# Threat mitigation actions:

57 animals neutered (29 dogs and 28 cats)  
158 dogs vaccinated

We collaborated with the Ciudad Bolivar mayor's office, which donated the supplies to neuter cats







**Mitigation of attacks to poultry**



**Since october 2025, we started to monitor two chicken coops with reported carnivore attacks  
No detections of attacks by native carnivores so far**



**Members of the local NGO Millenaria were helping us to monitor chicken coops in their landscape**

**Preliminary local interviews suggest tolerance towards wildlife-induced attacks, since they are considered relatively rare. Yet, we keep monitoring the chicken coops.**

# Spreading the message of clouded tiger-cat protection with our coloring books at rural schools of Barbas-Bremen





# Finishing the preparations to perform the puppet show in rural schools: children are waiting for us!



We have puppets of children (2)  
adults (2), clouded tiger-cats (2),  
dog (1), mountain tapir (1),  
screwworm (1), chestnut-naped  
antpitta (1), puma (1)

We have 11 puppets and one mini-theatre, you can have access to the script of the story [here](#)

The script has three main pillars:

i) **Sharing aspects about clouded tiger-cat natural history**

(activity, habitat use, diet)

ii) **Discussing relevant threats affecting clouded tiger-cat survival in the landscape**

(roadkill, poaching, habitat loss, dog attacks and diseases, attacks to chicken coops)

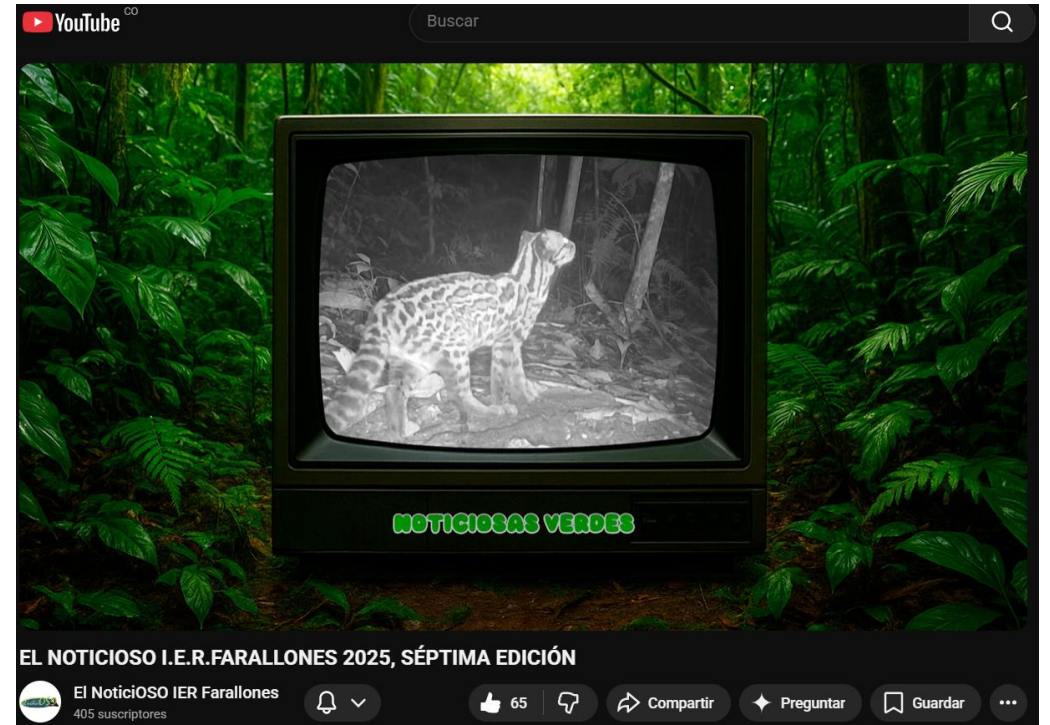
iii) **Sharing conservation actions that can be done by children and their families to safeguard clouded tiger-cat populations**

(neutering/vaccination of pets, reporting poaching, antipredatory chicken coops)



If you want to see an example of the later, visit our Instagram to see a reel we made with the clouded tiger-cat puppet

# Local initiatives that fill our hearth



**Teachers from local schools create outreach material focused on highlighting threats and natural history aspects of clouded tiger-cats in creative ways, ranging from notes on the newspaper 'El NoticiOso' to the posts created by the Instagram account of the rural school 'IER Farallones Sede El Empuje'.**

**What make these actions so special is that they emerged from the pure initiative of local teachers from Farallones del Citará, a sincere demonstration of commitment to protect the cat of the clouds**

**While preparing the puppet show, we visited several schools with Tupac, our first clouded tiger-cat puppet, it was amazing to see how it helped us to spread the puppet fever in our children!**



**We invite you to see [this article](#) from the school newspaper of the Farallones del Citará Educational Institution called 'El NoticiOso' which was dedicated to our efforts in the area. Here, the students created a clouded tiger-cat puppet and recited a poem about the species and its habitat.**

## ALERT!! ALERT!!

The puppet fever even spread up to the Pereira Municipal Council, which invited us to celebrate the acceptance of the **Project Law Number 53** which commemorates the Mountain Tapir Day on April 27th in the city and impulse conservation actions in the species.

The next step is to extend this type of legislation to recognize a commemorative day for clouded tiger-cats, but the puppet fever continues its invading stage...



**¡Una gran noticia para la Danta y para la ciudad!**

Se aprobó por parte del Concejo Municipal de Pereira, el proyecto de acuerdo N. 53 de 2025, por medio del cual se institucionaliza la Danta o Tapir como especie de relevancia ecológica, ambiental y cultural para la ciudad.

**SE CONMEMORA EL DIA DE LA DANTA, EL 27 DE ABRIL 🐾**

# We reached 1.7k followers on Instagram!



Nota...

179

publicaciones

1,698

seguidores

304

seguidos

## Andean Tiger Cat Conservation Project

Realizamos acciones de conservación para el tigrillo andino y otras especies amenazadas 🐅

[news.mongabay.com/2024/04/a-tiger-cat-gains-new...](https://news.mongabay.com/2024/04/a-tiger-cat-gains-new...)



ArcGIS StoryMaps



## You can also check our story map!

### Andean Tiger Cat Conservation Project

We make conservation actions on the threatened Andean tiger cat in the cloud forests of Northwestern Colombia.

# Camera trap monitoring



**More than 12 volunteers were helping us in the field, several of them which were victims of the armed conflict in recent times. Now they are conservation warriors!**

40 sampling stations

Sampling effort: 3160 trap-nights

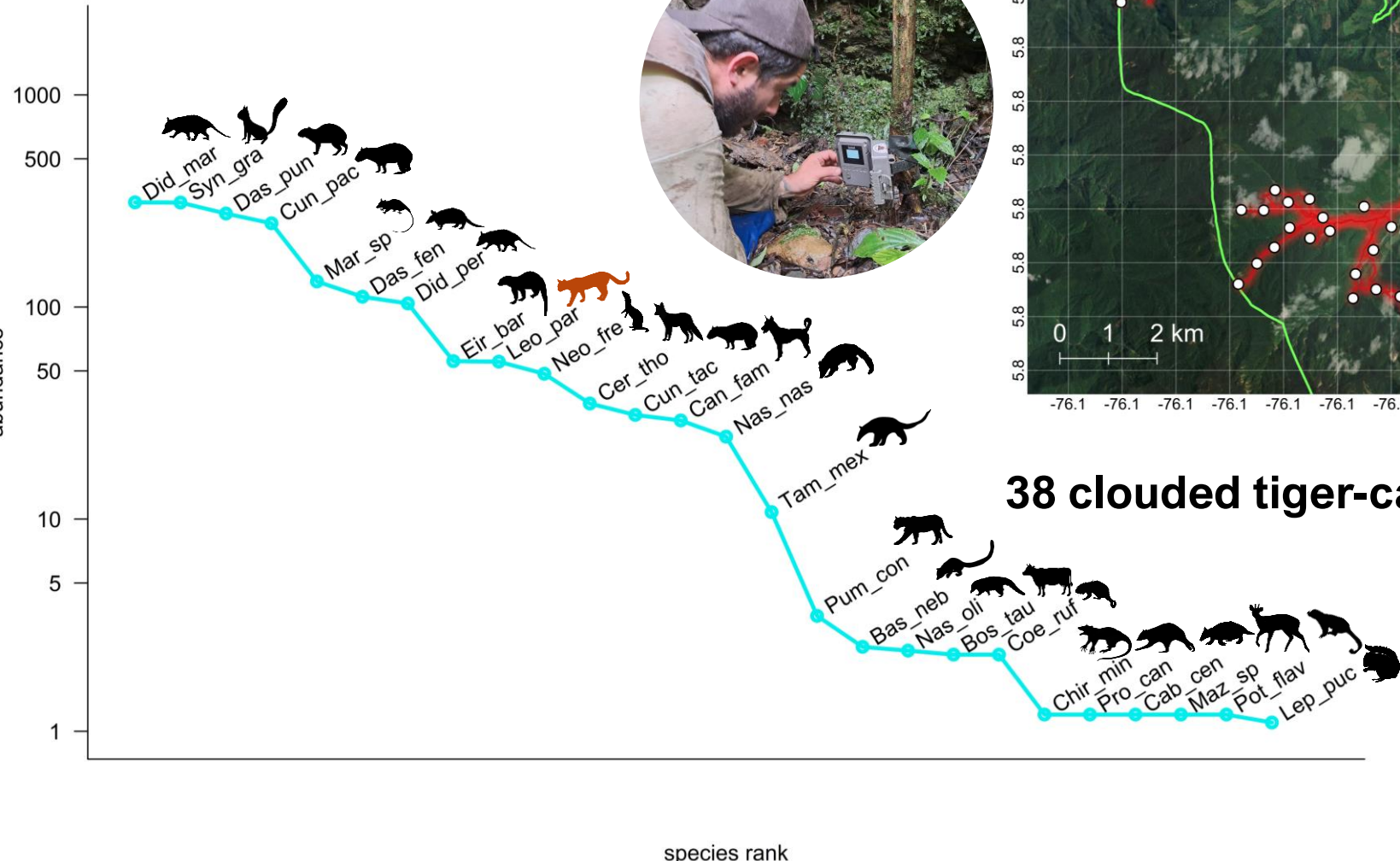
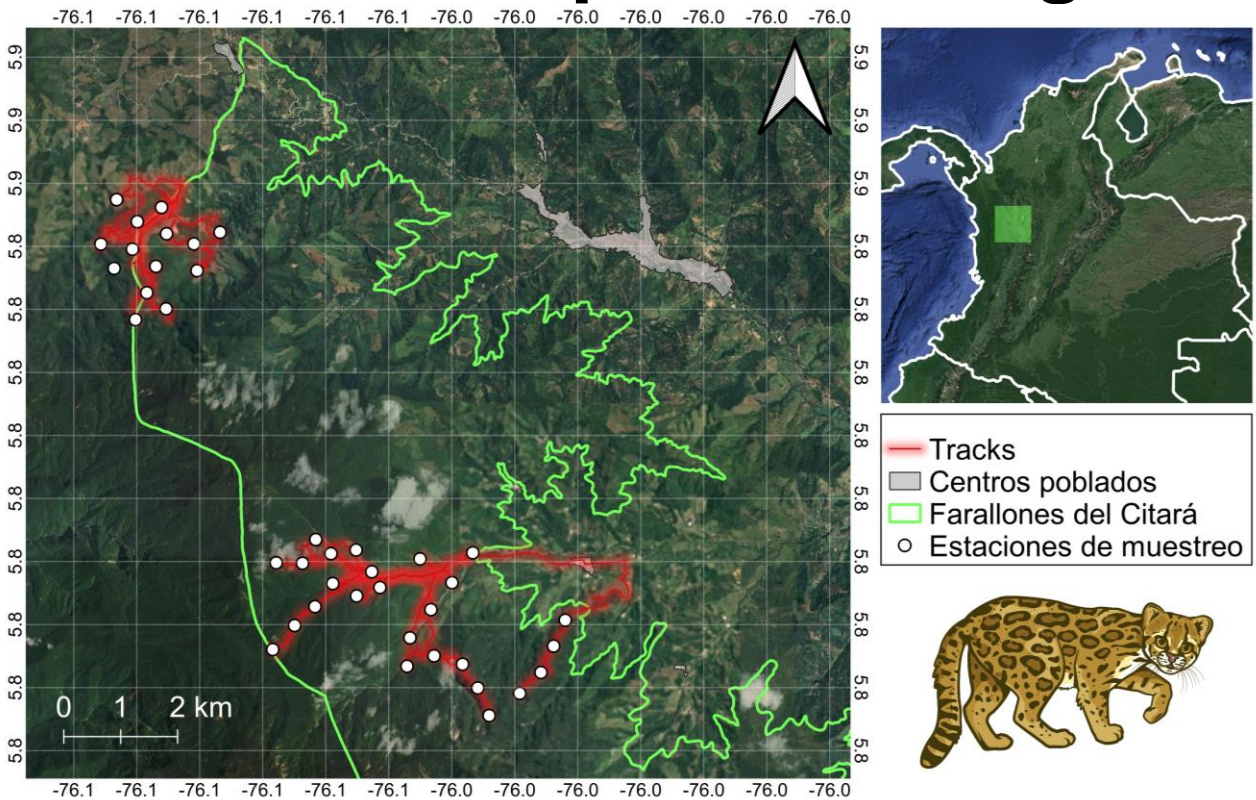
Surveyed area: 60.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Camera trap spacing: 500m

Mammal species richness: 24

Bird species richness: 56

# Camera trap monitoring



38 clouded tiger-cat detections – 9th ranked species

**Commonest species:**

Common opossums  
(*Didelphis marsupialis*)

**Rarest species:**

Andean squirrel  
(*Leptosciurus pucheranii*)

Threatened bird and mammal species detected in our camera trap survey at Farallones del Citará between September and December 2025



*Odontophorus hyperythrus*



*Iridisornis porphyrocephalus*



*Diglossa gloriosissima*



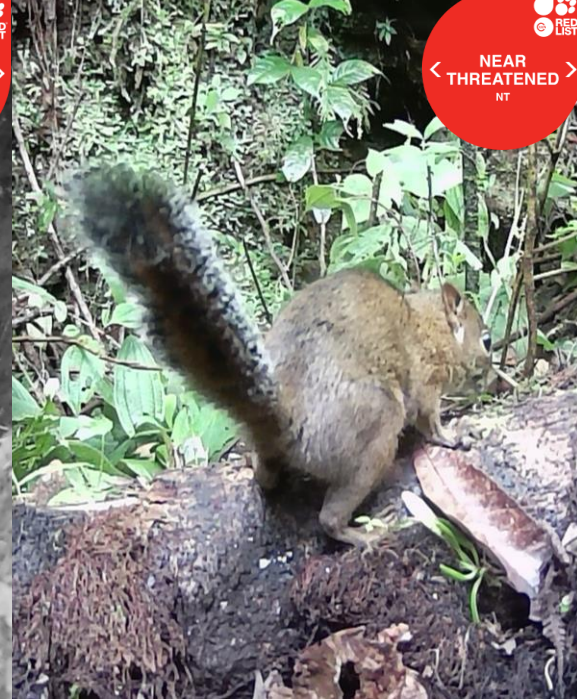
*Leopardus pardinoides*



*Bassaricyon neblina*



*Nasuella olivacea*



*Leptosciurus pucheranii*

**! CONSERVATION ALERT !**

We also obtained several detections of **cattle** and **dogs** inside the clouded tiger-cat habitat in Farallones del Citará, highlighting potential threats on this small cats and other native wildlife of conservation concern

**! CONSERVATION ALERT !**

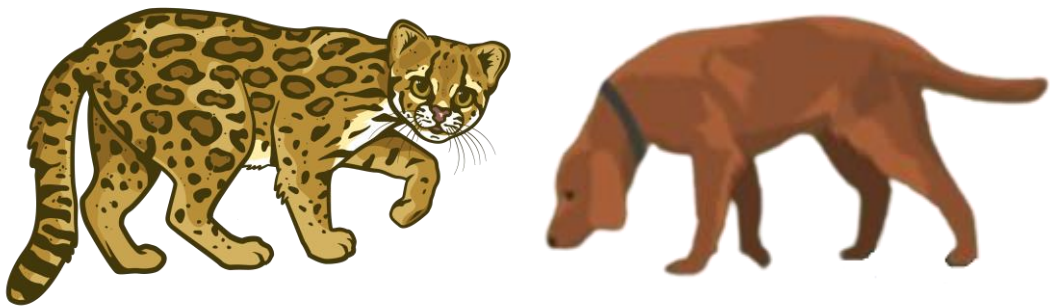


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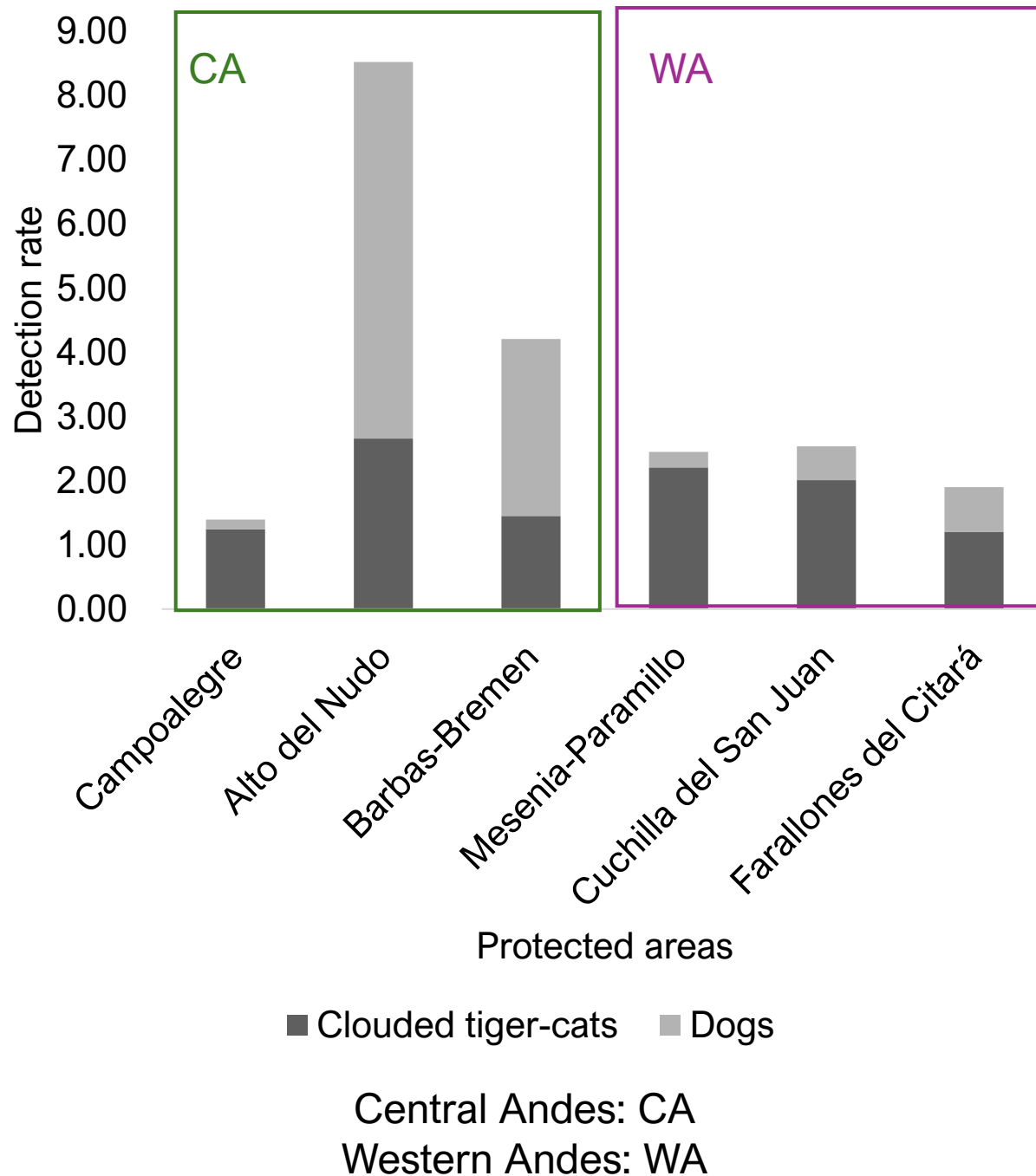
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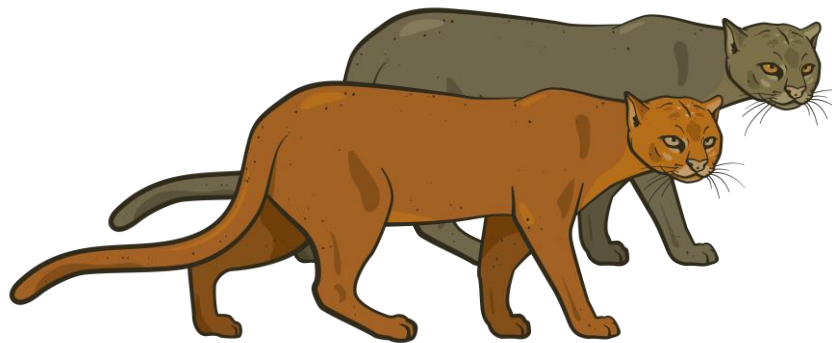
# Encounter rates of clouded tiger-cats and dogs in Farallones del Citará compared to other areas we surveyed



Protected area	Effort	Clouded tiger-cats	Dogs
Campoalegre	14245	177	22
Alto del Nudo	9078	241	533
Barbas-Bremen	4206	61	116
Mesenia-Paramillo	9066	200	22
Cuchilla del San Juan	2838	57	15
<b>Farallones del Citará</b>	<b>3160</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>

Greater encounter rates of clouded tiger-cats ( $1.38 \pm 2.02$ ) compared to those of dogs ( $0.73 \pm 3.08$ ) in Farallones del Citará, a consistent tendency of protected areas in the Western Andes

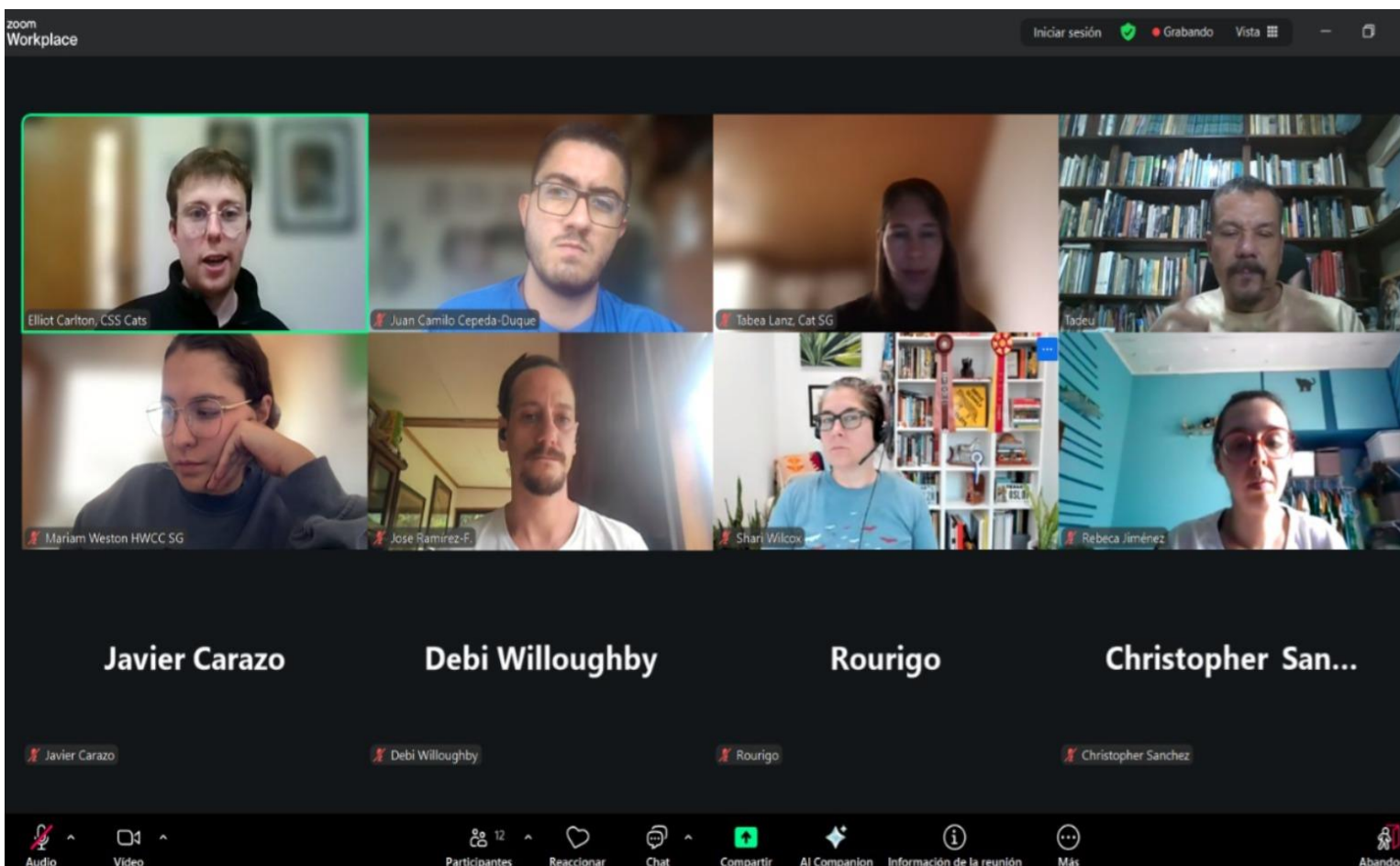




# Contributions to updating the Red List and Green List Assessments for the jaguarundi

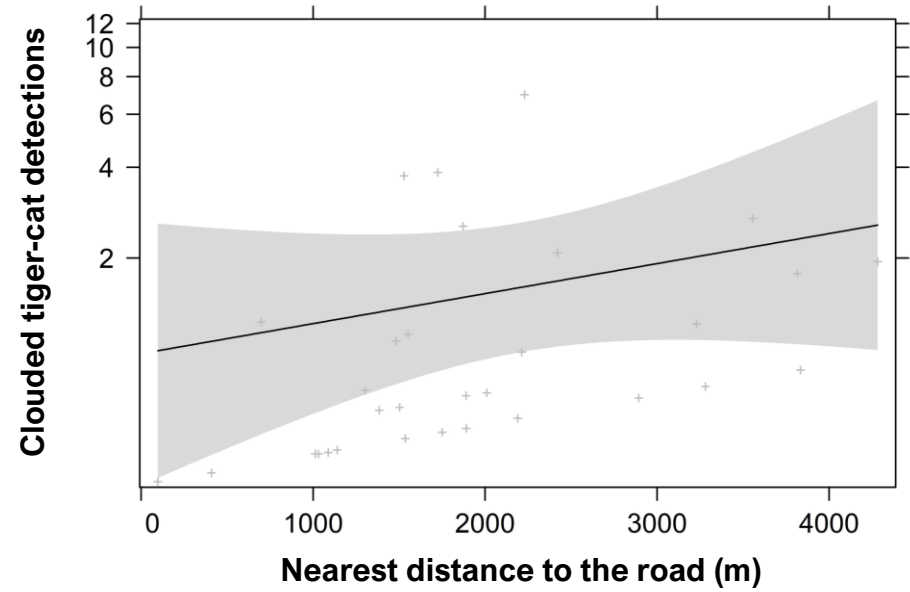
We contributed data on the distribution, ecological roles, local perceptions, and threats affecting jaguarundi populations to inform the design of global conservation strategies for the species.

This input was provided through participation in IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group meetings held between December 2025 and January 2026, coordinated by Elliot Carlton and Tabea Lanz



# Empowering local NGOs to engage private companies in the mitigation of roadkill events to clouded tiger-cats in Barbas-Bremen protected area

We used Generalized Linear Models to assess the effect of the nearest distance to the road where the roadkill event occurred and the clouded tiger-cat detections, finding that greater detections of the species occurred in the cameras more distant to the road



We facilitated an in-person meeting between Organización Chinampa and Autopistas del Café S.A.S., presenting direct evidence of road-related mortality of clouded tiger-cats and proposing targeted mitigation actions. We are currently awaiting the company's response.

This process highlights our project's commitment to empowering local NGOs to engage effectively in species conservation.



# Our clouded tiger-cat monitoring efforts delivered vital information on mountain tapir ecology and threats. Mountain tapirs are the most endangered mammal in the clouded tiger-cat habitat

## ORNITOLOGÍA COLOMBIANA



Entre el mutualismo y el comensalismo: relaciones potenciales entre dantas de montaña y tres especies de aves en un bosque nublado de la cordillera Central de los Andes colombianos

Between mutualism and commensalism: potential relationships between mountain tapirs and three bird species in a cloud forest in the Central Cordillera of the Colombian Andes

Juan Camilo Cepeda-Duque<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Eduven Arango-Correa<sup>1</sup>, Germán Darío Gallego-Chica<sup>5</sup>, Christian Frimodt-Møller<sup>1</sup> & Diego J. Lizcano<sup>6</sup>

Mammalian Biology  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-025-00529-4>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Influential drivers in the occupancy and activity of the last megaherbivore from the Northwestern Andean cloud forest of Colombia

Juan Camilo Cepeda-Duque<sup>1,3,4,7</sup> · Valentina López-Velasco<sup>2</sup> · Eduven Arango-Correa<sup>3</sup> · Álex M. López-Barrera<sup>3</sup> · Lester A. Fox-Rosales<sup>3,5,7</sup> · Diego J. Lizcano<sup>1,6</sup>

RESEARCH LETTERS

## New World Screwworm Infestation in Wild Mountain Tapirs, Central Andes Mountains, Colombia

Juan Camilo Cepeda-Duque, Leidy Johana Cano-González, Gerardo Elejalde, Juan Camilo Mantilla, Diego Álvarez-Arellano, Julio Cesar Gómez-Salazar, Victoria Rodríguez, Diego J. Lizcano, Jesús Alfredo Cortés-Vecino, Álvaro A. Faccini-Martínez, Thiago Fernandes Martins, Jacob Owens, Jordan Davis-Powell, Liza Dadone, Carlos Galvis, Budhan S. Pukazhenth, Juliana Vélez

Authors affiliations: Tiger Cats Conservation Initiative, Dosquebradas, Colombia (J.C. Cepeda-Duque); Organización Ambiental Chinampa, Pereira, Colombia (J.C. Cepeda-Duque, L.J. Cano-González, J.C. Mantilla); International Union for

The New World screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is an obligate parasite that requires a living host for larval development (1). NWS is endemic in countries in the Caribbean region and in South America, and cases have spread north to Central America (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm>). Thus, risk for re-introduction of NWS from South America to NWS-free areas in Central and North America is constant (2). Because of its substantial effects on livestock, wildlife, and human health, NWS infection is reportable in Colombia (1,3). However, reports of this parasite affecting the mountain tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*), an endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List (<https://www.iucnredlist.org>), have only been anecdotal. Here, we describe 2 cases of myiasis caused by NWS infestation in mountain tapirs in a protected area of the Central Andes of Colombia.



# What is next?

Continue neutering and vaccination campaigns in Farallones del Citará  
Debut with our puppet show in rural schools of Farallones del Citará and other protected areas.

Continue collecting more data about small wild cat populations and their threats in keystone areas.

Engaging local authorities to have a better baseline of small wild cat attacks to poultry.

Continue in the search for funding and engagement of organizations on both public and private sectors to expand the impact of our actions.

