

Project Update: April 2022

Interviews

We released an online interview to scout for knowledge on fauna from northwestern Chubut. We asked people about different species present in the area and particularly if they knew the kodkod *Leopardus guigna*. We completed this task by the end of 2021, obtaining a total of 212 answers. Next, some details of the results allowing a general characterisation of those who answered, and the level of knowledge about the local fauna. Regarding sex, 60% women and 40% men answered. Regarding ages, only 1.4% were under 15 years, 12.2% between 16-25, 23.6% between 26-35 years, 28.3% between 36-45, 19.8% between 46-55, 9.9% between 56-65 and 3.3% were over 66, while 1.4% of the sample did not answer. Regarding education, 2.8% finished elementary school, 23.11% high school, 24% had associate degrees, 43.86% had bachelor's degrees, and 6.13% did not answer. Finally, 9.43% of the people had lived in the region for less than 5 years, 11.8% between 6-10 years, 36.32% for over 10 years, and 42.45% had lived in the region their entire lives.

Regarding knowledge of local fauna, only the 40% identified the kodkod as a member of local fauna, while almost 90% identified the introduced wild boar *Sus scrofa*. Interestingly, when we asked particularly if they knew the kodkod, 50% answered that they did. When we asked what kind of animal, they thought a kodkod was, 66% answered a "cat", while 29% answered a "bird" and almost 2% a "lizard". Of the 50% that claimed to know the kodkod, 52% correctly identified it from pictures, while almost 30% confused it with the Geoffroy's cat *Leopardus geoffroyi*, almost 15% with the pampas cat *Leopardus colocolo* and 1.4% with both a domestic cat *Felis catus* and puma *Puma concolor*.

By December 2021, we were involved in a short section of a radio program "La Aristocracia" (from Radio Nacional Esquel), where we talked about the interview. We are currently preparing a flyer with all the correct answers, to distribute among the people that answered. We also aim to perform a new contact with the radio programme to keep developing the knowledge, and to provide the answers to the interview in different media.

Camera Trapping

On November 10, 2021, we set up 14 camera traps (CTs) using rechargeable batteries and 32GB memory disks, all bought using Rufford funds, around Menéndez Lake (Figure 1). This lake holds a particularly restricted category of conservation within Los Alerces National Park, and thus it's challenging to access this area (Figure 2). We were able to control the CTs only by mid-March 2022, and the pictures are still being processed. Of the 14 CTs, two malfunctioned: one did not take any pictures while the other activated continuously and ran-out of batteries in just a couple of days. During the control, we replaced all batteries and memories with new ones, and left the CTs in the same locations, except some minor changes due to differences in water level.

Although the information is still being processed, a first glance of several CTs show us several pictures of the vulnerable kodkod (Figure 3). Further analysis of temporal and spatial use of habitat will be developed and presented in further updates. We also got

information on the vulnerable pudu *Pudu puda* (one of the smallest deer species of the world, Figure 4), puma *Puma concolor* (Figure 5), Andean fox *Lycalopex culpaeus* (Figure 6), and introduced American mink *Neogale vison* (Figure 7), among others.

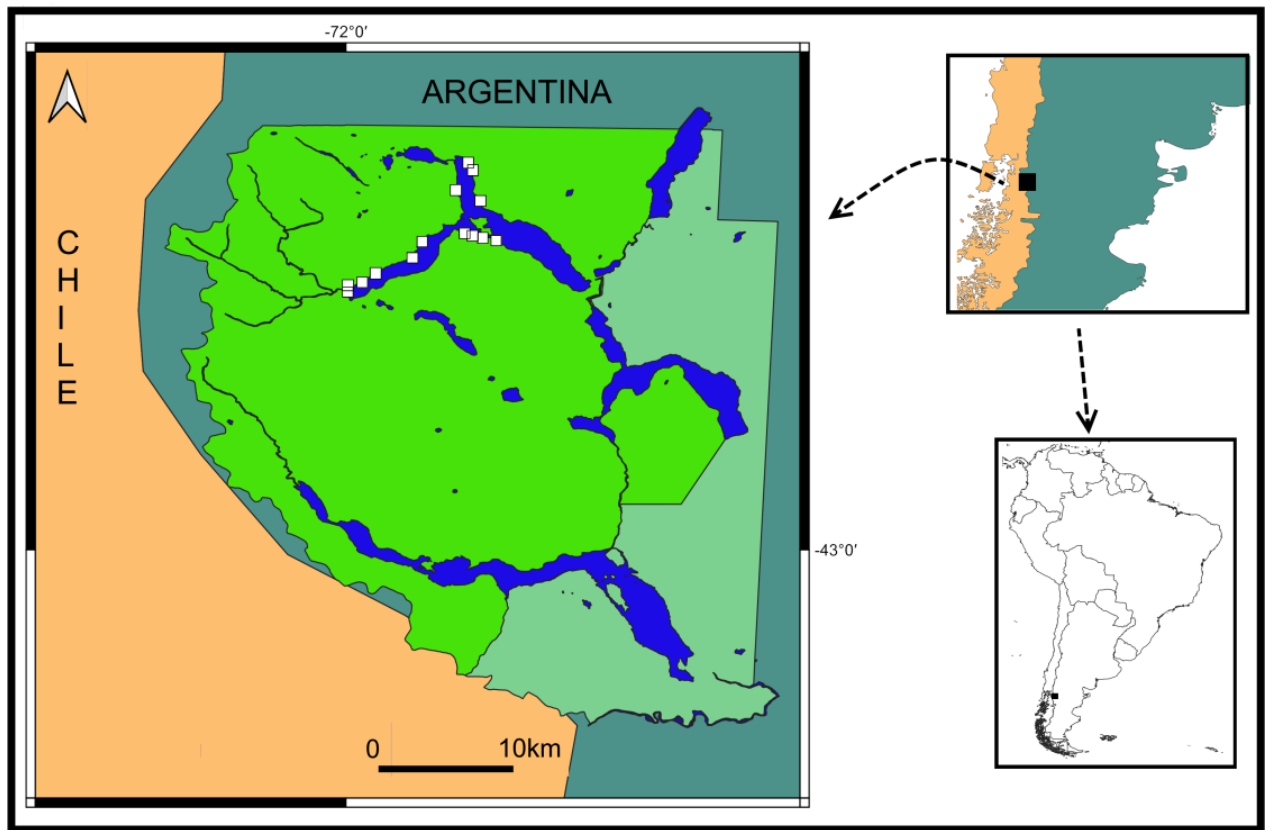


Figure 1. Map of Los Alerces National Park (light and dark green) showing the restricted area (dark green). Each white square represents the location where a CT was deployed in Menéndez Lake.

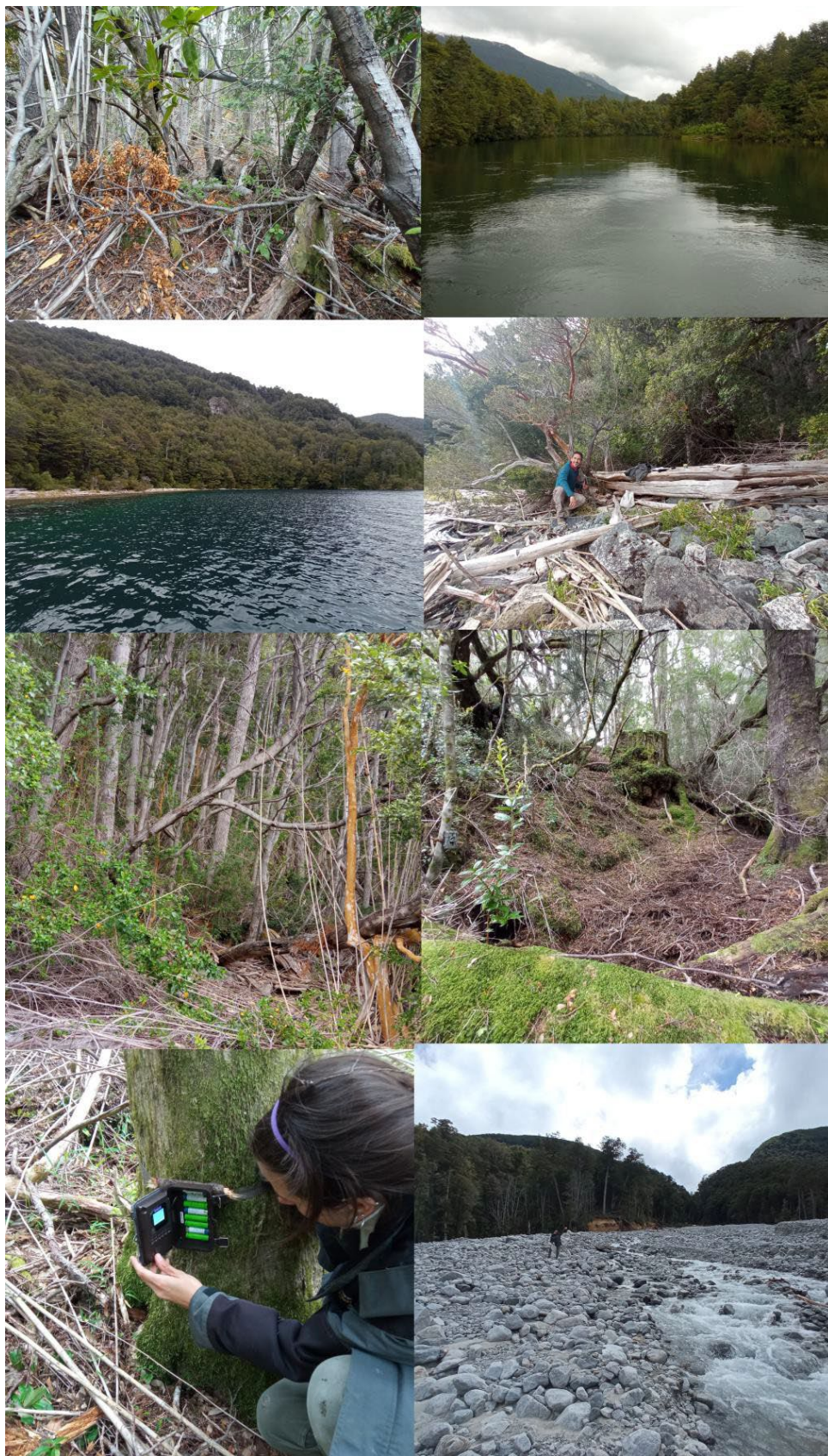


Figure 2. Pictures of the study area, in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 3. Pictures of kodkod *Leopardus guigna* taken in several CTs in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 4. Pictures of pudu *Pudu puda* in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 5. Picture of puma *Puma concolor*, in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 6. Pictures of Andean fox *Lycalopex culpaeus*, in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 7. Picture of introduced American mink *Neogale vison*, in Menéndez Lake, Los Alerces National Park.

Advancements in novel graphic

We are currently working with the graphic novel about kodkod. We have several drafts (Figure 8) and a main text, that we hope to finish in the coming months. We also begin to acquire budgets to press the novel.



Figure 8. Drafts of the graphic novel about kodkod.