

Project Update: January 2023

Main objective

The conservation landscape of the mountain range of Tartagal (CLT) in north-western Argentina has a high richness of mammal species, many of them rare and poorly studied. The Conservation Management Plan of the CLT lacks specific and updated information around mammal species population status and defined areas of conservation importance for maintaining mammal populations. For this reason, we will generate a baseline that can be used in future monitoring and conservation programmes.

As proposed, when the funds were received the first thing to do was to get the equipment. We got a notebook that was crucial for many tasks, from mapping and planning the camera sites to processing the field data.

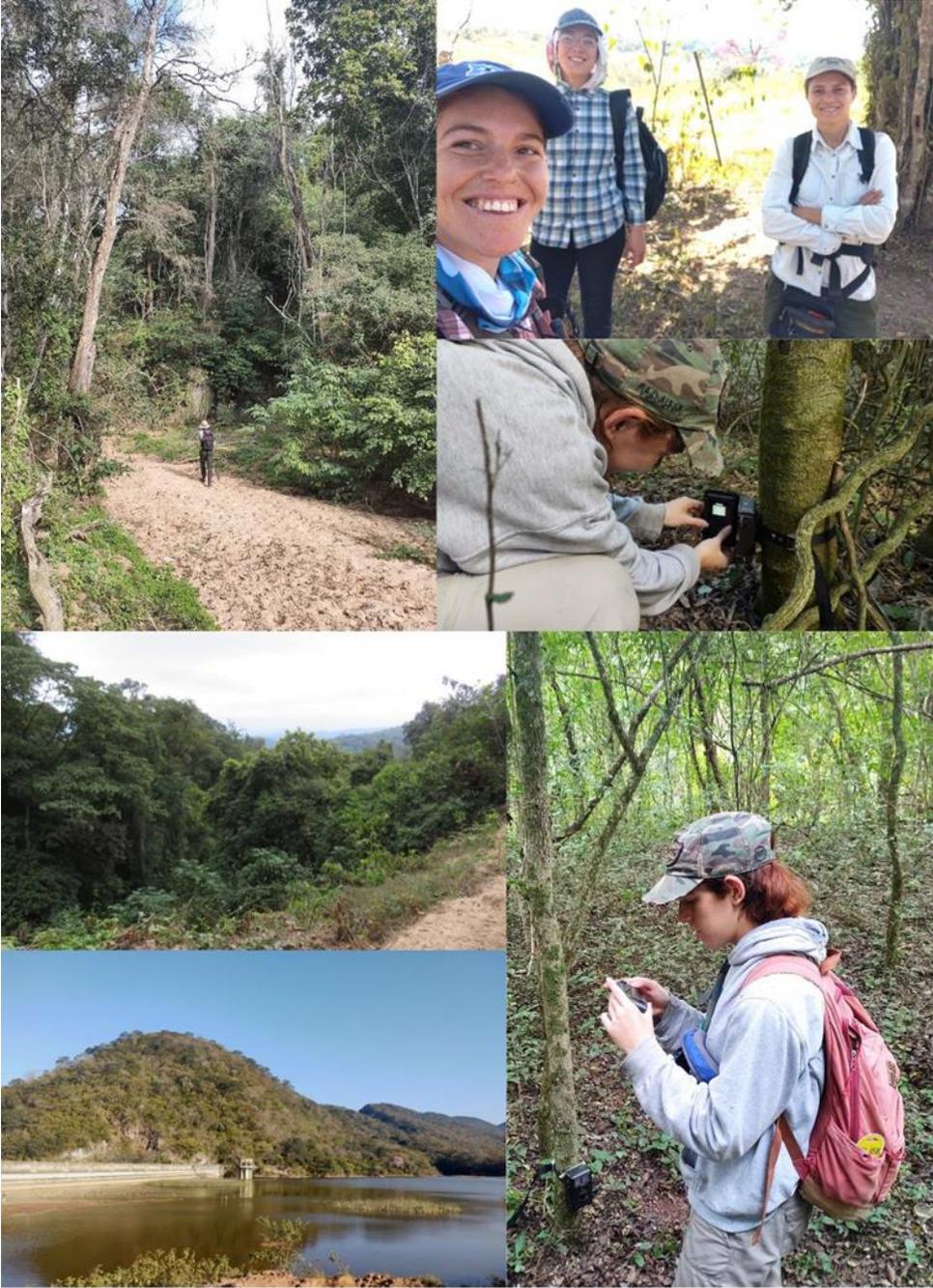
We carried out three field trips, in July, August and October 2023. We set a total of 31 cameras on randomly selected sites in the CLT area with the collaboration of the park rangers from Acambuco Provincial Park. CEBio's field technician, Agustina Muñoz, also participated in these field trips. Her work was very valuable as she knew the different areas of the park and she made use of her remarkable skills with horseback riding (which was very necessary for most of these trips). We also received help from locals during the fieldwork and had a very interesting exchange of information. They provided us with horses to get to the furthest sites.



Getting ready to go to the furthest sites by horse.



Pictures of the field trip: Sitting under the welcome sign of Acambuco Provincial Park (up). Bushnell camera trap set up (middle). Making our way to one of the camera sites (down).



Pictures of the field trip.

The camera survey effort was 900 camera nights and registered many medium and large mammals, including the critically endangered Yaguareté (*Panthera onca*) and other threatened species such as *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* and *Tapirus terrestris*.



Photo taken by camera trap of a "zorrito de monte" (*Cerdocyon thous*).



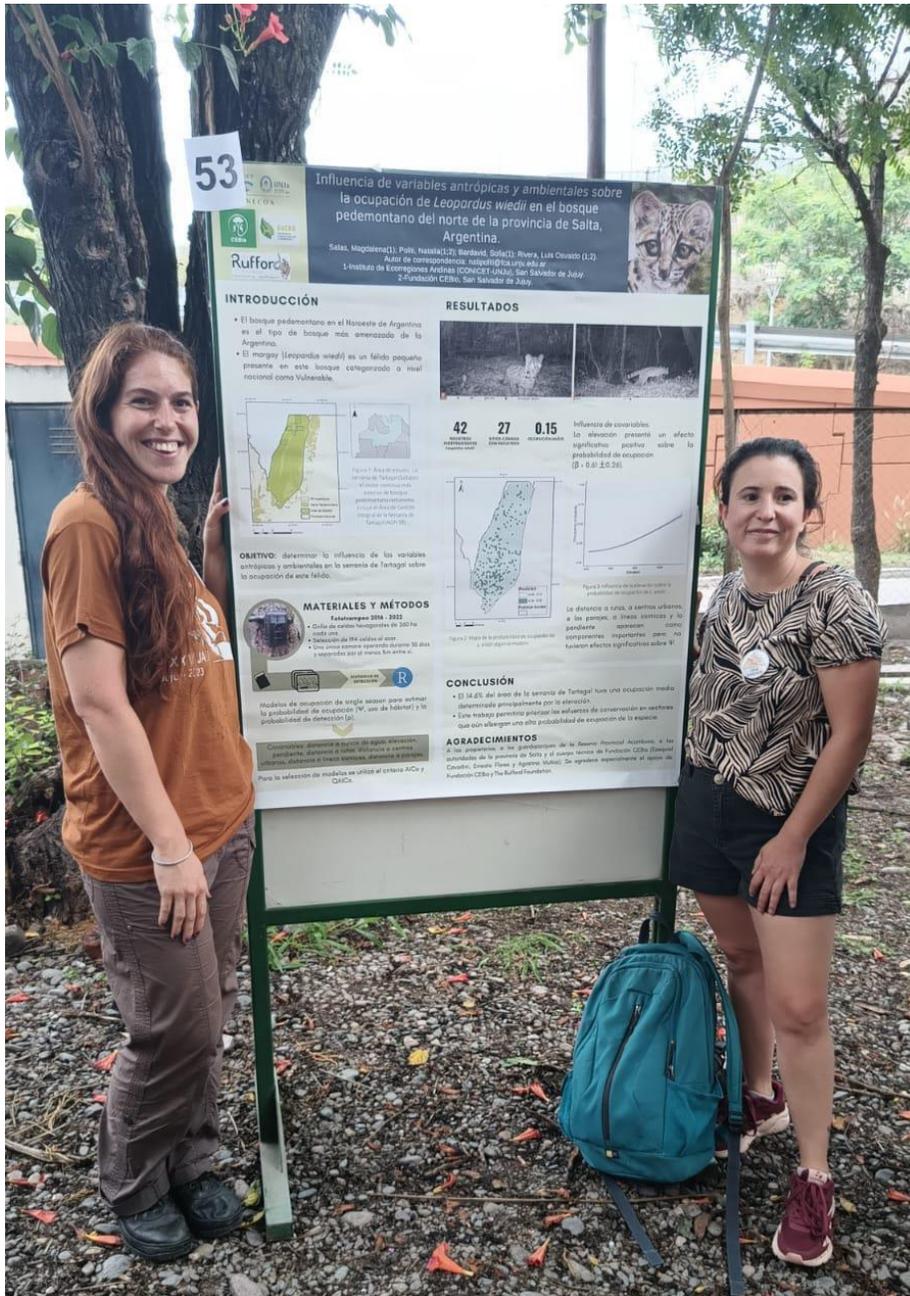
Photo taken by camera trap of "yaguareté" (*Panthera onca*).



Photo taken by camera trap of a "corzuela parda" (*Mazama gouazoubira*) and its calf.

Unfortunately, we had an unexpected technical problem with the van in September 2023 and we were not able to carry out a camera survey that was going to cover a major area in CLT with approximately 30 camera sites. This camera survey was rescheduled for the first month of the dry season, in May 2024.

Finally, in November 2023 we presented a poster in the "Jornadas Argentinas de Mastozoología (JAM)" of the Sociedad Argentina para el Estudio de los Mamíferos (SAREM) that was held in Jujuy province. In this instance, we presented the influence of anthropogenic and environmental variables on the occupancy of margay (*Leopardus wiedii*).



Poster presentation during the "XXXIV Jornadas Argentinas de Mastozoología (JAM)" in Jujuy province, Argentina.