

PANTHERA

THE JAGUAR CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

Creating Safe Passage for Jaguars Now and into the Future



Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative is a road map into tomorrow, and a vision for the future.



THE VISION

Jaguars, like many large, free-ranging wildlife species, are not constrained by political boundaries, nor are they as challenged as we might think by physical ones. Jaguars use and require protected areas, where their core populations can thrive. But they move beyond protected areas, through landscapes, across rivers and canals, over hills and mountain passes; even through marginally developed areas, in search of food, space, and security, and in order to breed, to pass along their genes, into the future.

A jaguar corridor is a cattle ranch, a citrus plantation, someone's backyard – a place where jaguars can pass through safely and unharmed. Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative seeks to realize this vision of linking core jaguar populations within the human landscape from northern Argentina to Mexico, preserving their genetic integrity so that jaguars can live in the wild forever. Through multilateral partnerships, government support, and local buy-in, Panthera is the driving force behind this unique initiative, ensuring safe passage for the majestic and mysterious jaguar across its entire range.

Saving jaguars range-wide is a winning strategy for conserving vast landscapes and ecosystem functions, and preserving human health and livelihoods. While Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative is streamlined and focused on jaguars, the impacts go far beyond.

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THE PROBLEM

The jaguar is the largest and most iconic cat in the Western Hemisphere. Human societies and cultures across the region have evolved for centuries with the jaguar, a charismatic species that has inspired rich myths and legends, and today serves as a national symbol for several Latin American countries. But while people continue to be awed and intrigued by the jaguar, many live in fear and are intolerant of this large and wild cat especially as forest cover is depleted, forcing jaguars to be in closer contact with humans.

While the jaguar remains the top predator in the region, and serves as a sign of healthy ecosystems, it is by no means out of harm's way. The jaguar is currently threatened throughout its range because of three main reasons:

- *Dramatic habitat loss and fragmentation from the conversion of wild lands to agriculture and other development – jaguars run the risk of being confined to isolated patches, increasing the risk of extinction;*
- *Direct hunting by people, such as ranchers, who view jaguars as a threat to their livelihoods;*
- *Lack of natural prey, like deer and wild pigs, from overhunting by humans and habitat loss, forcing jaguars to prey on domestic animals, fueling conflict.*

These threats jeopardize the jaguar's long-term future, and are a recipe for disaster not just for this species, but for entire ecosystems.



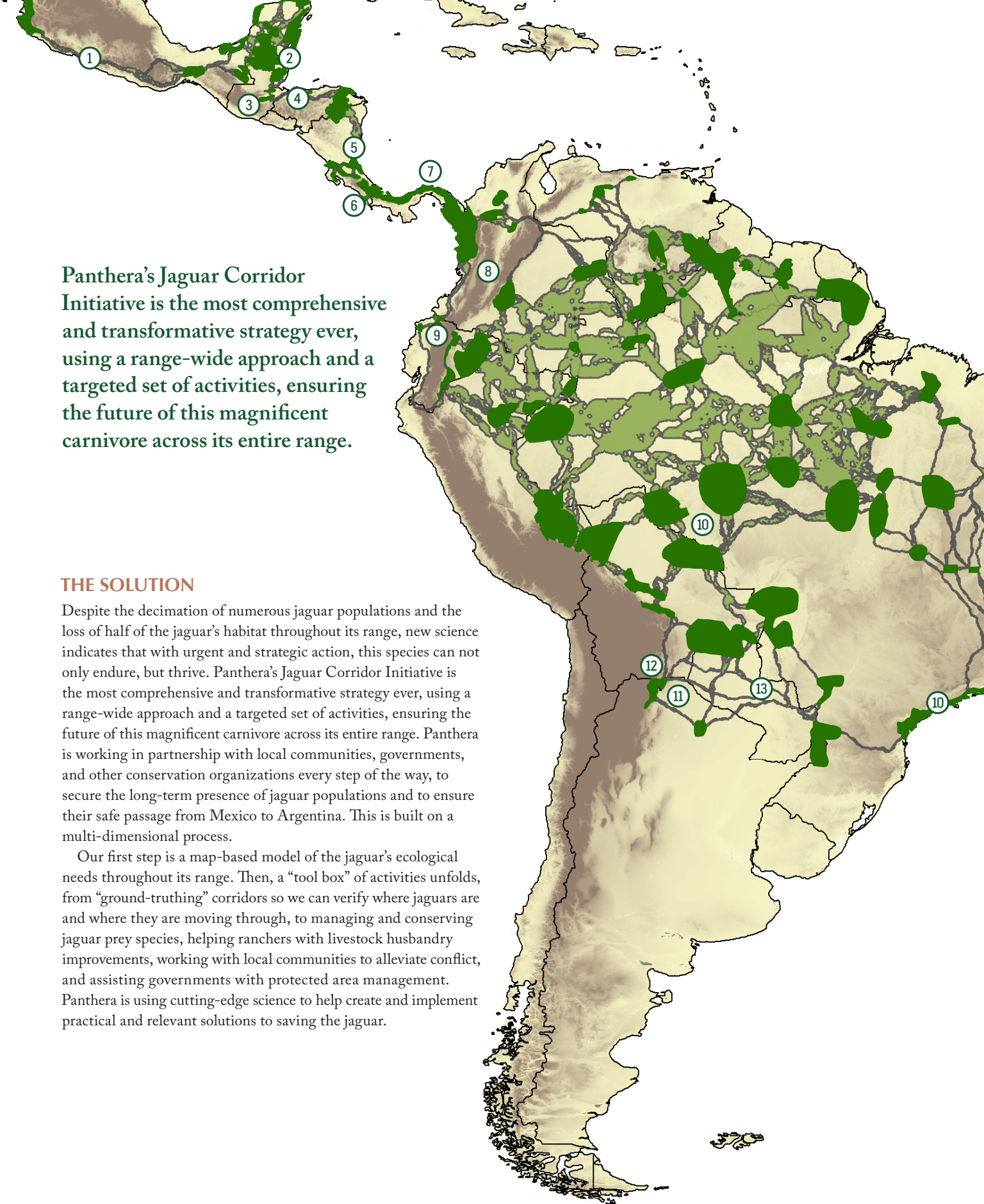
Front cover: A jaguar estsa longt her iveri nt he Pantanal, Brazil. **Opposite page top:** A jaguar walks along a path in the Pantanal; A rancher rounds up cattle; White-lipped peccaries, the jaguar's wild prey, were brought here to rest on the Pantanal. **Above right top:** A plantation in Brazil; Conversion of jaguar habitat for human development; Skulls of hunted jaguars; Many children old people symbolize the jaguar.

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THE SOLUTION

Despite the decimation of numerous jaguar populations and the loss of half of the jaguar's habitat throughout its range, new science indicates that with urgent and strategic action, this species can not only endure, but thrive. Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative is the most comprehensive and transformative strategy ever, using a range-wide approach and a targeted set of activities, ensuring the future of this magnificent carnivore across its entire range. Panthera is working in partnership with local communities, governments, and other conservation organizations every step of the way, to secure the long-term presence of jaguar populations and to ensure their safe passage from Mexico to Argentina. This is built on a multi-dimensional process.

Our first step is a map-based model of the jaguar's ecological needs throughout its range. Then, a "tool box" of activities unfolds, from "ground-truthing" corridors so we can verify where jaguars are and where they are moving through, to managing and conserving jaguar prey species, helping ranchers with livestock husbandry improvements, working with local communities to alleviate conflict, and assisting governments with protected area management. Panthera is using cutting-edge science to help create and implement practical and relevant solutions to saving the jaguar.



PANTHERA'S JAGUAR FOOTPRINT

Jaguars exist today in 18 countries; Panthera currently works, through partnerships and grantees, in 13 countries, with plans to move into an additional two countries in the next year.

Some highlights include:



- 1 **MEXICO** Conducting surveys of jaguars that show they are living outside of protected areas in good numbers. The results have also helped identify some important and understudied areas for jaguars in western Mexico.
- 2 **BELIZE** With field surveys, landowner assistance, and training, we are identifying and securing the Central Belize Corridor, the critical and only link between the jaguar population in Mexico and Guatemala, and all other jaguar populations south of Belize.
- 3 **GUATEMALA** “Ground truthing” the Guatemala border with Belize to understand and alleviate impacts of illegal settlements on jaguars and their habitat; and seeking solutions for sustainable resource management, such as controlled xate palm extraction for the international floral industry.
- 4 **HONDURAS** Hosting meetings with ranchers to help mitigate jaguar conflict. We are also “ground truthing” the western corridor to understand and alleviate impacts of heavy truck traffic from the ports, that could sever a key jaguar corridor link.
- 5 **NICARAGUA** Completing interviews with local people throughout the remote and unexplored northern corridor to verify jaguar presence; Nicaragua contains expansive tracts of core jaguar habitat, but keeping connections intact will be key to jaguar survival.
- 6 **COSTA RICA** Providing biodigesters, which convert organic waste into liquid fertilizer and gas, to help mitigate jaguar conflicts with indigenous communities. Maintaining pigs in enclosures protects them from jaguars and provides communities with alternative energy and fertilizer.
- 7 **PANAMA** Finalizing an agreement with the Panamanian government to work on a national strategy for jaguar conservation and rancher conflict mitigation; we are participating in the development of a country-wide jaguar conservation strategy, and moving toward recognition of the jaguar corridor in 2010.
- 8 **COLOMBIA** Collaborating with the Ministry of the Environment in re-delineating forest reserves and helping define conservation objectives in key national parks. Our involvement has brought new knowledge about conservation threats and produced fine-scale maps of uncharted areas in the northern part of the country.
- 9 **ECUADOR** Exploring the potential for jaguar passage from the Pacific coast populations through the Andes and into the Amazon basin; as well as measuring and monitoring the bushmeat market and mitigating road impacts.
- 10 **BRAZIL** Creating a living model of a productive and economically viable cattle ranch that is compatible with jaguar conservation; and delivering basic health care to the underserved communities living in these areas. We are also surveying the Atlantic coast to determine the boundaries and densities of core jaguar populations.
- 11 **ARGENTINA** Helping ranchers better manage their livestock to protect them from jaguars.
- 12 **BOLIVIA** Developing a distribution map for jaguars, and identifying important corridors for them between existing protected areas.
- 13 **PARAGUAY** Collecting valuable data on livestock depredations to understand the scope of the problem and determine conservation actions; and analyzing genetic data of jaguars from an understudied area.

■ JAGUAR POPULATIONS
■ JAGUAR CORRIDORS

0 500 1,000 Kilometers





PANTHERA'S EXPERTISE AND APPROACH

Panthera is the world's leading wild cat conservation group and a pioneer in range-wide initiatives. We are committed to conserving the jaguar in a manner and on a scale that has not yet been attempted by any conservation organization, and we are positioned to do so based upon our expansive network of on the ground experts and decades of expertise.

In the late 1970's, Dr. George Schaller, now Vice President of Panthera, and Dr. Howard Quigley who currently directs Panthera's jaguar programs, initiated the first comprehensive, ecological study on wild jaguars in the wetlands of the Brazilian Pantanal. In the 1980's, Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, President and CEO of Panthera, followed suit by capturing and radio-collaring the first jaguars in the rainforests of Belize, eventually using that research to establish the world's first jaguar reserve.

Today, Panthera employs the greatest number of jaguar experts under any organizational roof, and the Jaguar Corridor Initiative is at the forefront of landscape analysis, corridor sampling, training of field personnel, bridging the human-jaguar divide, and turning science into effective conservation actions.

Panthera works from both directions: bottom up with local communities, local governments, park guards, teachers and others; and top down with policy makers, heads of wildlife and environment agencies, presidents and prime ministers. We are teaming up with local partners and providing them with the training and the assistance they need to effect conservation in their own countries, a vital component of any long-term conservation strategy.



Above from top: Birds taking flight in the Pantanal, Brazil; Kathy Zeller and Alan Rabinowitz looking at a roseate spoonbill; Alan Rabinowitz takes measurements of a jaguar's paw; Sandra Avalanti and Guy Balme affix a radio collar to a jaguar in the Pantanal.



JAGUARS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative is a plan born out of hope and optimism, rooted in science and expertise, and it addresses the human component of the conservation equation. Panthera is making this grand vision a reality. But in order to take it to scale and deliver the impact that is required to truly save jaguars, we need your help.

Join us in securing these linkages and alleviating the jaguar's critical threats, so they can continue to live in the wild today, tomorrow, and long into the future.

Panthera is a U.S.-based, 501(c)3 public charity. Donations, of any denomination, are tax deductible. Making your gift online is an efficient way to support Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative. 100% of your donation will go directly to the field, where your contribution matters most and has the greatest impact.

To support our work, please visit us at www.panthera.org. To inquire about other ways to donate, or how you might be able to help, please contact us at info@panthera.org or +1 (646) 786-0400. We would love to hear from you.

While Panthera works with an extensive and important group of local, national and international partners on the jaguar corridor initiative, we would like to particularly thank the **Liz Claiborne Art Foundation** and the **American Museum of Natural History** for their continued support and collaboration.

Above: A jaguar resting on her back in the Pantanal. **Back Cover:** A jaguar, captured by a camera trap, moving through the dense vegetation of the Pantanal.

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