

Project Update: March 2021

To date, we have achieved the following objectives (two of three): 1. identify and confirm species of wild carnivores that inhabit the patches of dry forest around the San José district, some of which may be future conservation objects for communities and local governments; and 2. quantify the habitat overlap of wild and domestic carnivores in conservation area "Bosque El Cañoncillo" and the unprotected dry forest patches around there. We have confirmed the presence of sechuran fox (*Lycalopex sechurae*) (Image 1) an endemic fox of the south of Ecuador and central coast of Perú, the pampas cat (*Leopardus colocola garleppi*) (Image 2), which has never been described before in the San José dry forest, thus increasing their distribution range. and the striped hog nosed skunk (*Conepatus semistriatus*) (Image 3). Furthermore, we have identified for first time the presence of the northern mountain Viscacha (*Lagidium peruanum*) (Image 4), an opossum (*Didelphis sp.*) (Image 5) and the false monitor or brown iguana (*Callopistes flavipunctatus*) (Image 6), which is an important predator in the equatorial dry forest. We have found a moderate temporal overlap between sechuran fox and domestic carnivores (dogs and cats) (Image 7 and 8), pampas cat and domestic cats, hog-nosed skunk and domestic cats, and low temporal overlap between pampas cat and domestic dogs, hog-nosed skunk and domestic dogs.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic we had some drawbacks with our activities. We had to reduce the number of grids and the assessment period from 10 to 6 months. Now, we have 10 2 km² grids in a total area of 2000 km² respecting the Rovero's methodology (2016). We had problems in two grids because people didn't allow us to get into their area, maybe due to fear of COVID-19. So, we ended with a total of eight grids, with one camera trap in each. Each camera trap site was named as BC followed the number of the grid. We changed the location of the station BC01 because we obtained poor activity during the first month. Also, we couldn't recover the images of BC06 for the last month, because a wildfire burned our camera (Image 9 and 10). We also had to hire a private transportation to avoid contact with people in public transportation and improve the biosecurity to ensure the rural community health.



Image 1.- Sechuran fox (*Lycalopex sechurae*) eating a *Capparis scabrida* fruit.



Image 2.- Pampas cat (*Leopardus colocola garleppi*)



Image 3.- Striped hog nosed skunk (*Conepatus semistriatus*)



Image 4.- Northern Mountain Viscacha (*Lagidium peruanum*)



Image 5.- Opossum (*Didelphis* sp.)



Image 6.- False monitor (*Callopistes flavipunctatus*)



© CORE_CAM

61F 16C ●

08-25-2020 07:58:17

Image 7.- Domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*)



© CORE_CAM

69F 20C ●

08-24-2020 18:05:25

Image 8.- Domestic cat (*Felis catus*)



Image 9.- Camera trap burned by wildfire