

Final Evaluation Report

| Your Details | |
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| Full Name | Siavash Ghoddousi |
| Project Title | The role of tourism on human-jaguar coexistence in Pantanal |
| Application ID | 39848-1 |
| Date of this Report | 4/8/2024 |

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

| Objective | Not achieved | Partially achieved | Fully achieved | Comments |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Identifying different stakeholders in nature-based tourism, human-wildlife conflict, and conservation using stakeholder analysis | | | | In collaboration with local experts and conservation scientists, we conducted a stakeholder mapping exercise for jaguar conservation and tourism project in the northern Pantanal. Following a comprehensive introduction on stakeholder mapping theory and methodology, we engaged in a brainstorming session to compile a list of key stakeholders based on the team's collective experience. Subsequently, through extensive discussions about the roles and influence of each stakeholder, we strategically positioned them in graphical templates. This process provided deep insights into the dynamics of tourism and human-wildlife conflict, emphasising the importance of understanding the interests and impacts of key stakeholders in the Pantanal region. |
| Data collection on attitudes towards jaguars and quantify the power relations between different actors in the region | | | | We conducted 40 in-depth interviews with environmental researchers, government organisations, tourists, guides, eco-lodge owners, and local communities. We assessed how the actions of tourists and tour operators impact the behaviour |

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| | | | | and habitat of jaguars, and how this in turn affects the behaviour and livelihoods of local communities. Additionally, we collected data to understand how the power relations influence conflicts over access and power around the protected area and how this impacts different stakeholders at various scales. |
| Participatory mapping with local communities | | | | I chose to implement participatory mapping with children from different schools in the region. This collaborative approach empowered the children, encouraging them for the creation of maps to represent their perspectives and experiences related to coexisting with jaguars and jaguar tourism industry in the region. |
| Engagement with local communities and children education | | | | The project engaged local communities in different ways, such as participatory mapping and interviews. |
| Result outreach | | | | The results of this study will be shared in two scientific publications as well as through my PhD thesis. Additionally, will share the main results with the stakeholders in simple language in workshops. |

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a) One of the project's most significant achievements was the establishment of a robust network encompassing a diverse array of stakeholders in the region. This network spanned across various levels, from national and provincial organisations such as IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) and SEMA (the central agency of the State Environmental Protection System), to local NGOs, the municipality of Pocone, and initiatives like the SABA project, Panthera Brazil, Jaguar ID project, ECOA, and AECOPAN. Additionally, the network

was engaged with different tour operators, guides, indigenous community leaders, and numerous researchers active in the region. The networking provides opportunities for capacity building and professional development for different stakeholders in the next stages of the project.

b) Based on the findings of the project through participant observation, stakeholder mapping, in-depth interviews, and participatory mapping exercises, we identified key challenges and opportunities associated with jaguar tourism and conservation efforts in the region. This includes issues such as rapid tourism growth, social inequalities, habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict, and the habituation of jaguars to human presence. Through these findings, we can develop policy recommendations and conservation strategies aimed at addressing the identified challenges and promoting sustainable human-jaguar coexistence in the Pantanal. These recommendations may include measures to regulate tourism activities, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, enhance community involvement, and protect critical jaguar habitat.

c) In addition to understanding the distribution of power among conservation and tourism actors, the project also focused on elucidating the role of jaguars in shaping these power dynamics. By conducting in-depth interviews with researchers, indigenous community leaders, and other stakeholders, we explored how jaguars are perceived, valued, and managed within the context of tourism and conservation efforts. Through participant observation and engagement with local communities, we documented the interactions between jaguars and human activities, including tourism operations and land-use practices. Furthermore, stakeholder mapping exercises and participatory workshops provided insights into the ways in which jaguars are positioned within broader networks of power and influence, highlighting the complexities of human-jaguar coexistence. By integrating the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, including those of jaguars themselves as non-human actors, the project aimed to foster a more holistic understanding of the intricate relationships between humans, jaguars, and the environment in the Pantanal.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

One of the project's objectives was to conduct two workshops aimed at engaging interested tour operators and guides in discussions about the updated code of conduct for jaguar tourism. However, due to the project's timing coinciding with the high season for jaguar tourism in September, most tour operators were occupied with their daily operations, making it challenging to convene them during the day. As a solution to this logistical constraint and to advance the project's capacity-building phase, an alternative approach was adopted. The decision was made to

organise workshops with school children from two different localities. To overcome this issue the follow-up fieldtrip will be planned in low season.

These workshops centred on participatory mapping and involved interactive discussions with the children about their first-hand experiences living in the Pantanal and their perspectives on coexisting with jaguars amidst tourism activities. Ethical considerations were carefully prioritised throughout the planning and implementation of the workshops to ensure the wellbeing and respectful treatment of all participants.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

In my project, engagement with local communities went beyond traditional research methods and implementing the following activities:

- 1- By participating in daily activities such as wildlife monitoring, tour operations, firefighting, and cattle grazing, and attending a variety of events, I immersed myself in the lives of local people in this project. This hands-on involvement allowed for genuine interactions, building trust and rapport with community members. These interactions provided opportunities to listen to community perspectives, concerns, and aspirations related to jaguar tourism and coexistence.
- 2- By conducting 40 in-depth interviews with a diverse range of participants, including local communities, this project provided a platform for community members to share their insights. This approach ensured that the voices of community members were heard, and their perspectives were considered in the overall analysis.
- 3- By involving communities in stakeholder mapping exercises, we acknowledged their role as key stakeholders. This process involved discussions about their interests, concerns, and influence in the context of jaguar tourism and jaguar conservation.
- 4- By engaging children in participatory mapping exercises in schools in Pocone and Porto Jofre, we engaged with the community in an educational initiative.
- 5- By interviewing Indigenous community members as well as research experts, the project gained valuable insights into various the perspectives, experiences, and challenges faced by the Indigenous groups living in the Pantanal.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We aim to continue our work in different ways. Firstly, we aim to delve deeper into the intricate relationships between various stakeholders and jaguars, unravelling complexities and identifying areas for collaboration in other areas in northern

Pantanal such as Parque Sesc Baia das Pedras and Parque Nacional do Pantanal Matogrossense. Secondly, our focus will shift towards mitigating the pressures of tourism on jaguars and other species in the region, exploring sustainable solutions to minimise environmental impact. We intend to build a model of nature-based tourism through public-private partnerships. Additionally, we are committed to enhancing education on sustainable coexistence with jaguars, empowering local communities with knowledge and tools for conservation efforts. Furthermore, an essential aspect that emerged during our project is the exploration of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) regarding the coexistence between local communities and jaguars. To delve into this further, we intend to leverage our network with community leaders, Indigenous experts, and researchers in the region, facilitating deeper insights and understanding into this significant aspect of conservation.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We have planned several ways to share the findings of our work:

1-We will write a comprehensive report to share with relevant policymakers such as governmental and non-governmental organisations operating in the area, including IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources), SEMA (the central agency of the State Environmental Protection System), the municipality of Pocone, the SABA project, Panthera Brazil, Jaguar ID project, ECOA, and AECOPAN. This report entails key findings and outcomes of the project, recommendations and implications, next steps, and follow-up activities.

2- An article titled "The role of tourism on human-jaguar coexistence in northern Pantanal, Brazil: A conceptual framework in political ecology and more-than-human perspective" has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. Additionally, we intend to publish at least two papers from our project outputs in international, peer-reviewed journals to reach a wider scientific audience.

3- We plan to present our project findings at international conferences, providing an opportunity to engage with experts and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and share insights garnered from our research. Also, the fieldwork conducted as part of this project will serve as a cornerstone for my PhD thesis at the University of Lisbon.

4- The results of the project will share in series of workshops with local communities in the follow-up stage of the project.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

In the Porto Jofre area, one critical concern is the escalating human pressures, particularly from tourism, on jaguars. The influx of boats and tourists continues to rise

without sufficient measures to regulate visitation rates. Addressing this issue necessitates collaboration among various stakeholders, as well as the development of educational initiatives, guidelines, and models. Additionally, the limited engagement of local communities in tourism activities and decision-making processes poses a significant challenge. Empowering these communities and facilitating their active involvement in both tourism and conservation efforts are essential steps toward addressing this issue effectively.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We prominently featured the Rufford Foundation's logo in our educational materials and made sure to acknowledge their support during our interactions and fieldwork activities. Children who participated in our workshops received certificates with the Rufford Foundation's logo as a token of encouragement. Additionally, the foundation will be duly acknowledged in the scientific papers resulting from our research, thereby amplifying its visibility and recognition within the scientific community and beyond.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Core members:

1-Dr. Rafael Chiaravalloti: His role in this project is to strengthen the project through his experiences and knowledge of working and studying for years with local communities and social-ecological systems in the Pantanal.

2-Dr. Fernando Tortato: one of the world's leading jaguar specialists and wildlife tourism experts based in the Pantanal. He supports this research by assisting with expert advice in the region and also coordinating and networking with main stakeholders in the region during fieldwork.

3-Prof. Eduardo Brito-Henriques: He will support the project with his expert advice on research techniques and qualitative methods.

4-André Luiz Siqueira: The chairman of ECOA, he supported the project by local advice and providing logistical facilities

5-Dr. Arash Ghoddousi: He supports various stages of the project from study design to data analysis.

6-Prof. Margarida Queiros: Her large collaborative network of scientists supported the project.

Additional members:

Flávio Aparecido: He is the director of the Saba project NGO. He assisted as a translator and building networks with organizations and local communities and also the coordination and logistics of the workshop in Pocone.

Raíssa Sepulvida: As a well-known wildlife conservationist with speciality on cats, she supported projects in various ways. She actively participated in the field activities as a guide and translator and also providing logistics and expert advice.

Abigail Martin: As the founder of jaguar-ID project, she supports the project by providing facilities to monitor tourism activities in the region and expert advice.

10. Any other comments?

I am grateful for the support provided by the Rufford Small Grant. This funding has been instrumental in advancing our project.









